



Highlights from the CoAEMSP Board Meeting, February 2, 2024

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TO: Sponsoring Organizations for the CoAEMSP
CoAEMSP Board Members

FROM: Lori Burns, MSN, RN, Chair, Board of Directors
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The Committee on Accreditation of Educational Programs for the EMS Professions (CoAEMSP) Board of Directors met via web meeting on February 2, 2024. The Board has adopted protocols that permit more predictable, consistent, and deliberate communications with sponsors about the work of the Board. CoAEMSP provides official updates via the Board Highlights to sponsors 30 days following each Board meeting. The highlights from the board meeting follow.

1. **Program Actions.** Reviewed 50 programs for initial accreditation, continuing accreditation, and progress reports.
2. **By the Numbers.** At the time of the meeting, there are 767 programs that hold a status.

649 CAAHEP accredited Paramedic programs and
118 programs that hold the **CoAEMSP Letter of Review (LoR)**; the LoR is the precursor to CAAHEP accreditation.

For a current list of Paramedic programs, visit [here](#).

3. **Data.** The strategic plan has spurred activity in the data and research arena. Presented the research poster in partnership with NREMT utilizing data from the CoAEMSP Annual Report presented at the NAEMSP Annual Meeting January 2024 titled: *Impact of the COVID-19 Pandemic on Paramedic Educational Programs in the United States*.

CoAEMSP Program Director Experience Survey launched and received robust feedback. Themes include that the CoAEMSP website is a valuable resource and that most program directors find the accreditation process manageable.

4. **Finance.** Reviewed the preliminary second quarter-end financials for the fiscal year starting July 1, 2024.

The CoAEMSP Board launched a rigorous process to study the organization's fee model and expenses, including significant increases in site visit travel costs. A subcommittee of the Board, with representatives from diverse elements of the EMS profession, met for two days to develop a consensus vision for the future and a fee structure to support it. Their recommendation was approved by the Board on February 5, 2023.

CoAEMSP has not increased site visit fees since 2012 and annual fees since 2017, thus forgoing significant funding from fees over a decade. While this policy was intended to benefit Paramedic education programs, over time, it has undermined CoAEMSP's ability to operate and innovate. Currently, fees do not cover the organization's actual costs, forcing CoAEMSP to rely on reserve funding. This is not a sustainable financial model. To change this dynamic and ensure sufficient resources exist to effectively serve Paramedic education programs, CoAEMSP will increase fees.

5. **Program Director Focus Group (PDFG).** Members of the PDFG provide expertise and insights to the CoAEMSP Board of Directors, especially relating to day-to-day operational aspects of CAAHEP accredited and CoAEMSP Letter of Review paramedic programs. Members of the group are volunteers and serve for one year. The PDFG is not a governing body, does not set policy, and does not participate in accreditation decisions. Applications for the 2024-25 PDFG are now being accepted.

At the most recent meeting, presentations were made by Dr. Gina Scarboro, CAAHEP Executive Director, and Dr. Paul Rosenberger, Examinations Content Manager for the NREMT. Dr. Scarboro spoke about the relationship between the CoAEMSP, CAAHEP, and CHEA; Dr. Rosenberger spoke about the changes to the examination process.

CoAEMSP [posts summaries of the PDFG quarterly meetings.](#)

6. **Voluntary Accreditation Services for AEMT Programs.** To advance the recommendations of the 2019 [National EMS Scope of Practice Model](#) and the 2021 [National EMS Education Standards](#), CAAHEP will launch a voluntary programmatic accreditation at the Advanced Emergency Medical Technician (AEMT) level by January 1, 2025, and the CoAEMSP will provide the accreditation services. For more information, please www.coaemsp.org/aemt.
7. **Quality Improvement & Site Visits.** The CoAEMSP is increasing its cadre of site visitors and has invited 30 Paramedic educators to the next Site Visitor Workshop, which will be held at ACCREDITCON-2024. Continuing the open dialogue with site visitors, serving as consultative, supportive peer reviewers, the CoAEMSP hosts quarterly Conversations with Site Visitors, and supporting program directors with the site visit process, an Orientation to Site Visits is held regularly to provide guidance to a successful site visit.

8. **ACCREDITCON.** The 2024 event is May 29-June 2, in Oklahoma City. Site selections have been made for 2025-2029, including Anaheim, New Orleans, and Atlanta.

As a sponsoring organization of CoAEMSP, you are invited to exhibit. The booth space is complimentary. This year, the following sponsors of the CoAEMSP and CAAHEP will have a presence: AAP, NAEMSE, NAEMT, and NREMT.

If you would like to exhibit, please email jennifer@coaemsp.org.

9. **Policies and Interpretations for Programs.** The CoAEMSP is one of 25 Committees on Accreditation in CAAHEP. The policies for CAAHEP-accredited Paramedic programs are in alignment with and must comply with CAAHEP policy. One policy that was recently revised at the CAAHEP level, and required review at the CoAEMSP policy was the Complaint Policy. This policy creates the process followed when investigating complaints against programs. A reviewed policy was reviewed.

The 2023 CAAHEP *Standards and Guidelines* went into effect on January 1, 2024. A companion document, called the CoAEMSP Interpretations of the CAAHEP *Standards*, was approved. The companion document provides further guidance to programs on how to demonstrate a program is meeting or exceeding the accreditation standards.

The CoAEMSP Policy Manual with changes is available [here](#).

The CoAEMSP Interpretations of the CAAHEP *Standards* is available [here](#).

10. **Strategic Plan.** Assessed progress toward achieving the 2022 Strategic Plan:

- Goal #1: Expand accreditation services with the implementation of voluntary AEMT accreditation → implementing on January 1, 2025
- Goal #2: Develop an overarching data management strategy that results in efficiency and value for staff and constituents → developing technical requirements
- Goal #3: Develop resources and programs to support (new) program directors with the accreditation process → exploring resources to support new program directors. Data from the survey is being reviewed.
- Goal #4: Launch a communications program that promotes and strengthens relationships through a variety of targeted interfaces → introduced a refreshed logo and website on January 1, 2024; hosting Town Halls and the Program Directors Focus Group each quarter for exchange of information, meeting with stakeholders

- Goal #5: Provide accreditation services for paramedic educational programs globally, taking deliberate action to market our services to an international audience → examining and developing CoAEMSP policy to ensure alignment with CAAHEP’s policy for international programs.

11. Future Board Meetings

2024	May 1-2-3	Seattle	2026	February 6	web meeting
	August 2	web meeting		April 29-30-May 1	TBD
	November 6-7-8	Anaheim		August 7	web meeting
				November 4-5-6	TBD
2025	February 7	web meeting	2027	February 5	web meeting
	April 30-May 1-2	Minneapolis		May 5-6-7	TBD
	August 1	web meeting		August 6	web meeting
	November 5-6-7	New Orleans		November 3-4-5	Atlanta