



Highlights from the CoAEMSP Board Meeting, May 2-3, 2024

Released June 4, 2024

TO: Sponsoring Organizations for the CoAEMSP
CoAEMSP Board Members

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The Committee on Accreditation of Educational Programs for the EMS Professions (CoAEMSP) Board of Directors met May 2-3, 2024. The Board has adopted protocols that permit more predictable, consistent, and deliberate communications with sponsors about the board's work. 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 31 programs for initial accreditation, continuing accreditation, and progress reports.
2. **By the Numbers.** At the time of the meeting, there are 756 programs that hold a status.

633 CAAHEP accredited Paramedic programs and
123 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. **Professional Development.** To support individuals' growth and appreciate their fiduciary responsibility as board members, the board engages in professional development at each face-to-face board meeting. Two sessions were conducted: one led by two board members on best practices for reviewing a program seeking accreditation and one led by staff detailing the path a program follows to seek and maintain accreditation. Each of these sessions enhances the board members' knowledge of accreditation and better supports their sound decision-making.
4. **Data Committee.** The Data Committee is working on two projects, developing a data infrastructure and the technical requirements that will lead to selecting an accreditation management system (AMS).

5. **Program Director Focus Group (PDFG).** Members of the PDFG provide expertise and insights to the CoAEMSP Board of Directors, especially regarding day-to-day operational aspects of CAAHEP-accredited and CoAEMSP Letter of Review paramedic programs. The PDFG is a volunteer group that serves for one year. It is not a governing body, does not set policy, and does not participate in accreditation decisions.

The inaugural year showed the overall themes of thinking long-term, concern for program director recruitment, desire to make the accreditation process more efficient, and concern for the new NREMT examination. The PDFG's feedback on the fee announcement strategy proved largely successful. The program directors feel the PDFG accomplishes their desire to have their voices heard by CoAEMSP.

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. On June 1, 2024, all documents were released for programs wishing to submit their self-study report after January 1, 2025. For more information, please www.coaemsp.org/aemt.

7. **ACCREDITCON Committee.** The event is on track to be the highest-attended ACCREDITCON, with more than 563 people. The 2024 event was May 29-June 2, in Oklahoma City. Site selections have been made for 2025-2029, including Anaheim, New Orleans, and Atlanta. Four sponsors of the CoAEMSP are exhibiting, including AAP, NAEMSE, NAEMT, NREMT, and CAAHEP.

As a sponsoring organization of CoAEMSP, you are invited to exhibit. The booth space is complimentary. If you would like to exhibit in 2025, please email jennifer@coaemsp.org.

8. **Finance Committee.** Reviewed the preliminary third quarter-end financials for the fiscal year starting July 1, 2024. The budget was approved for fiscal year 2024-2025.

The auditors presented the preliminary 2022-2023 audit report on behalf of the organization. The organization's investment firm presented the annual review of the portfolio, including market trends and a fiduciary analyst report.

9. **Governance Committee.** Reviewing the policies developed for the Board and identifying revisions or additions. Developed a policy related to recusals with the goal of providing flexibility for board member and site visitor participation.

10. **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.

The 2023 CAAHEP *Standards and Guidelines* went into effect on January 1, 2024. A companion document, the CoAEMSP Interpretations of the CAAHEP Standards, was approved. The companion document provides further guidance to programs on how to demonstrate that they are meeting the accreditation standards.

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

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

11. **Quality Improvement & Site Visits Committee.** The CoAEMSP is increasing its cadre of site visitors and recently trained 27 Paramedic educators. Continuing the open dialogue with site visitors and serving as consultative, supportive peer reviewers, the CoAEMSP hosts quarterly Conversations with Site Visitors. To support program directors with the site visit process, an Orientation to Site Visits is held regularly to provide guidance to a successful site visit.

12. **Program Director Work Group.** The work group was established to lead one of the strategic goals, to develop resources and programs to support (new) program directors with the accreditation process. The work group is designing a program director development workshop, which will be rooted in accreditation.

13. **Strategic Plan.** Assessed progress toward achieving the 2022-2025 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.

14. **Future Board Meetings**

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