



Committee on Accreditation  
of Educational Programs for the EMS Professions

8301 Lakeview Parkway, Suite 111-312  
Rowlett, TX 75088  
Main 214-703-8445  
Fax 214-703-8449  
www.coaemsp.org

February 20, 2012

TO: Sponsoring Organizations

FROM: Doug York, NREMT-P, PS, Chair, Board of Directors

RE: Highlights from the CoAEMSP Quarterly Board Meeting – February 3-4, 2012

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The Committee on Accreditation of Educational Programs for the EMS Professions (CoAEMSP) Board of Directors met February 3-4, 2012, in San Antonio. The highlights from the meeting:

1. **Program Actions.** Reviewed 62 programs for initial and continuing accreditation.
2. **IAFF.** Guests from the International Association of FireFighters attended the meeting. The IAFF will be presented to the CAAHEP Commission during CAAHEP's Annual Meeting April 29-30 for membership. The CoAEMSP must have 2/3 majority approve the IAFF's sponsorship.
3. **Accreditation Workshops.** In 2012 CoAEMSP is conducting 3 accreditation workshops in Dallas, Pittsburgh, and Orlando. Attendance at the workshops continues to be excellent and the feedback continues to support the benefit of offering the workshops. Attendees comments include:
  - Thanks to all you have done to make this monster of a process become our friend. It seems like a bad thing to start with. After this conference I can see where this will benefit me and my program a lot!!! – *Atlanta attendee*
  - The workshop was definitely worth the investment. It gave you a perspective that you would not have gotten otherwise. It was nice having Dr. Hatch and Mr. York give their thoughts and experience to a process that will mean so much to our Paramedic Program. Thanks. – *Atlanta attendee*
  - Thank you for your dedication to the profession. We will all be better off in the future when programs have national benchmarks and accountability to turn out professionals that are competent and applicable to the profession. – *Dallas attendee*
4. **Treasurer's Report/Governance Committee.** The Finance Committee is looking at restructuring site visit fees and assessing a flat fee. Currently, programs are invoiced for the actual expenses incurred by the site visitors. The Finance Committee will develop specific upfront cost of a site visit and implement immediately. The actual expenses will be assessed if the program's site visit expenses exceed the flat amount by 15%, or if a visit to satellite locations or additional site visitors are required. The report from the Governance Committee meeting was discussed with plans for another meeting co-located with CAAHEP.

## CoAEMSP Board Meeting Highlights

February 3-4, 2012

5. **Site Visits and Visitors.** In 2011, there are 113 site visits conducted, of which 60 were for new programs. The 2012 schedule currently has 114 site visits scheduled, and the number is expected to significantly increase. On average, 5 – 10 programs are submitting their initial-accreditation self study reports (ISSR) each month! The roster of active site visitors includes 151 site visitors. Site visitors are either paramedic educators or physicians.
6. **Letter of Review.** The CoAEMSP is implementing the Letter of Review (LoR) process which is the precursor to CAAHEP accreditation in order for programs to meet the NREMT mandate. Based on the programs currently in the accreditation process, more than 82 programs have been reviewed for eligibility of the LoR status. This is in addition to the 62 accreditation actions the Board took during its meeting. To educate the programs and State EMS Offices, two webinars are being offered.
7. **Distance Education.** A task force will be convened to look at distance education for paramedic programs. The task force will be composed of representatives from, but not be limited to, NASEMSO State Medical Directors and EMS Directors, CoAEMSP, CAAHEP, and potentially NAEMSE. The task force goals will be to identify concerns and potential problems for DE for Paramedic programs.
8. **Pediatric Task Force.** The pediatric task force met to discuss data collection on pediatric patient encounters by Paramedic students. The goal is to provide a recommendation to programs for what the number of minimum encounters should be for each student with each of the pediatric age subgroups.
9. **Interpretations Committee.** Additional suggestions for interpretations of the CAAHEP Standards were reviewed and refined. The final language will be finalized prior to approval and posting on the website. The interpretations include additional information on student counseling and what it should include; the acceptable use of a classroom for lab and didactic; and what constitutes adequate validity and reliability on tests. Program director qualifications will be a future interpretation; however, prior to developing an interpretation, CoAEMSP will collect data on what site visitors are not seeing and what the Board is accepting and not accepting for evidence for qualifications.
10. **Bachelor's Degree Variance Committee.** The committee made recommendations to the Board that will provide a time frame for a program to temporarily waive this while the program is looking for a fully qualified program director.
11. **Tools for Program Directors.** The Quality Assurance Subcommittee continues to create tools for use by program directors. The tools are made available on [coaemsp.org](http://coaemsp.org) and announced via the monthly eUpdate.
12. **Next Meetings:**

May 4, 2012	via GoToMeeting
August 3-4	Washington, DC
November 2, 2012	via GoToMeeting

The CoAEMSP holds its quarterly Board meetings the first Friday or Friday/Saturday in February, May, August, and November.

*The mission of the CoAEMSP, under the auspices of CAAHEP, is to continuously improve the quality of EMS education through accreditation and recognition services for the full range of EMS professions.*

CAAHEP = Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs. CAAHEP accredits Paramedic programs, as well as 22 more professions. [www.caahep.org](http://www.caahep.org). CoAEMSP operates under the auspices of CAAHEP.