



September 1, 2015

TO: Sponsoring Organizations for the CoAEMSP  
CoAEMSP Board Members

FROM: Tom Brazelton, MD, MPH, FAAP, Chair, CoAEMSP Board of Directors  
George W Hatch, EdD, EMT-P, LP, Executive Director, CoAEMSP

RE: Highlights from the CoAEMSP Annual Board Meeting – July 31-August 1, 2015

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The Committee on Accreditation of Educational Programs for the EMS Professions (CoAEMSP) Board of Directors met via GoToMeeting on May 1, 2015. The highlights from the meeting:

1. **Program Actions.** Reviewed 77 programs for initial accreditation, continuing accreditation and progress reports.
2. **By the Numbers.** Currently there are **474 CAAHEP<sup>i</sup> accredited** Paramedic programs and **217 programs** hold the **CoAEMSP Letter of Review (LoR)**; the LoR is the precursor to CAAHEP accreditation. For a current list of Paramedic programs, visit <http://www.caahep.org/Find-An-Accredited-Program/>.
3. **Workshops & Webinars.** CoAEMSP continues to sponsor workshops with the National Association of EMS Educators (NAEMSE) focusing on Evaluating Student Competency. In 2015 there are 3 educational offerings.

In addition, CoAEMSP has conducted two webinars *Written Exams & Item Analysis*. Webinars are complimentary to anyone who wishes to attend. The next webinar will be on the Annual Reports that are required by CAAHEP.

4. **2015 CAAHEP Standards Effective January 1, 2016.** The CAAHEP Board of Directors voted on May 15 to approve the 2015 CAAHEP *Standards and Guidelines for the EMS Professions*. The new CAAHEP *Standards* take effect Jan 1, 2016.
5. **CoAEMSP Interpretations of the CAAHEP Standards.** The CoAEMSP continuously develops interpretations of the CAAHEP *Standards* to assist programs in applying the CAAHEP *Standards*. The recently approved interpretations include further clarifying the Advisory Committee for the Paramedic program; responsibilities of the program director specifically with preceptor training; student evaluation; outcomes reporting; and publications and disclosures for the program. View the document [here](#).
6. **Annual Report.** The CoAEMSP will develop its inaugural corporate Annual Report. The Annual Report will be distributed directly to its sponsoring organizations, programs, and made available on the website, [www.coaemsp.org](http://www.coaemsp.org).
7. **Research Projects.** The CoAEMSP is working toward becoming more evidenced based. To advance the strategic goal, the CoAEMSP is engaging in or supporting several research projects.
8. **Policies.** Approved a policy on the destruction of reports and material by volunteers of the organization.
9. **Adding Public Members to the Board.** This Fall the CoAEMSP will formally announce it is accepting applications for two public members to serve on its Board. Public members of the CoAEMSP will serve three-year terms, with eligibility for a maximum of three consecutive terms of service. Public members will begin serving immediately following their election (expected to be by August 2016).

## CoAEMSP Board Meeting Highlights

July 31-August 1, 2015

10. **Nomination and Election of Future Board Members.** With the new bylaws that were formally approved earlier this year, they provide a more formal structure for the nomination and election of Board members. Sponsoring organizations are asked to advance two (2) nominees for each open seat and provide an opportunity for the Board to be part of the vetting process for new members. The Board's needs for specific skills and experience, related both to accreditation decisions and governance matters, can now be part of the overall consideration in seating new Board members. This, together with new provisions for public members on the Board, support independence in accreditation decision-making that is required for CHEA<sup>ii</sup> recognition.

In September those sponsors of the CoAEMSP that have an upcoming open seat will be notified. The communication will go directly from the CoAEMSP Executive Director to the chief staff person of the sponsor organization.

11. **Site Visitor Training.** With the increase in Paramedic programs and the natural attrition of volunteer site visitors, 25 people have been invited to participate in the next Site Visitor Workshop, which will be held will be trained October 26-27, 2015. Attendees are by invite only.

12. **Next Meetings:**

<b>2015:</b>	November 6	web meeting
<b>2016:</b>	February 5-6	San Diego
	May 6	web meeting
	July 29-30	Boston
	November 4	web meeting

13. **Communication Protocols.** The Board has adopted protocols that permit more predictable, consistent, and deliberate communications with sponsors about the work of the Board. The Board will continue to provide official updates via the Board Highlights to sponsors within 30 days of each Board meeting.

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**CAAHEP** = Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs

**CoAEMSP** = Committee on Accreditation of Educational Programs for the Emergency Medical Services Professions

**The Mission Statement for the CoAEMSP**

The mission of the CoAEMSP is to advance the quality of EMS education through CAAHEP accreditation.

**The Vision Statement for the CoAEMSP**

CoAEMSP is recognized as the leader in evidence based standards for accreditation.

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<sup>i</sup> **CAAHEP** = Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs.

CAAHEP is a programmatic postsecondary accrediting agency recognized by the Council for Higher Education Accreditation (CHEA) and carries out its accrediting activities in cooperation with 23 review committees (Committees on Accreditation). CAAHEP currently accredits over 2100 entry level education programs in 28 health science professions. [caahep.org]

<sup>ii</sup> **CHEA** = Council for Higher Education Accreditation.

CHEA recognizes CAAHEP as an accrediting agency. Like Paramedic programs that must meet the CAAHEP *Standards* to be awarded accreditation, CAAHEP must meet recognition criteria. Recognition is the scrutiny and affirmation of the quality of regional, faith-related, career-related and programmatic accrediting organizations. CHEA is the only nongovernmental higher education organization in the United States that undertakes this scrutiny. The federal government, through the U.S. Department of Education, conducts governmental recognition reviews. [chea.org]