



Committee on Accreditation
of Educational Programs for the EMS Professions

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TO: Sponsoring Organizations for the CoAEMSP
FROM: Doug York, NREMT-P, PS, Chair, CoAEMSP Board of Directors
RE: Highlights from the CoAEMSP Quarterly Board Meeting – February 1-2, 2013

The Committee on Accreditation of Educational Programs for the EMS Professions (CoAEMSP) Board of Directors met in Grapevine, Texas February 1-2, 2013. The highlights from the meeting:

1. **Program Actions.** Reviewed 51 programs for initial accreditation, continuing accreditation, and progress reports.
2. **By the numbers.** Currently there are 343 CAAHEP accredited Paramedic programs and 207 programs that hold the CoAEMSP Letter of Review. The LoR is the precursor to CAAHEP accreditation.
3. **Accreditation Update.** CoAEMSP will cosponsor with the National Association of EMS Educators (NAEMSE) two workshops: CoAEMSP/CAAHEP Accreditation Update and Evaluating Student Competency on February 28-March 2, 2013, in Atlanta. A similar workshop will be offered in April, too; however, the location has not yet been decided.
4. **Strategic Plan.** CoAEMSP revised its mission and vision and identified its core values and goals. Attached are these items.
5. **CAAHEP Standards Revision:** The Commission on Accreditation for Allied Health Education Programs (CAAHEP) requires the CoAEMSP to review its Standards at least every 5 years. Due to the NREMT's accreditation initiative, which required all paramedics wishing to take the NREMT-P be graduates of a CAAHEP-accredited Paramedic program as of January 1, 2013, CAAHEP waived the 5 year requirement. The last time the CAAHEP *Standards* were reviewed was in 2005. The revision process will be transparent, and each sponsor organization will be asked to review and comment on each draft. Once the draft is final, each sponsor organization will be asked to endorse the Standards. With the endorsement of the 14 organizations that sponsor the CoAEMSP, then it can be presented to CAAHEP for final approval.
6. **Engagement of Board Members.** The Board addressed the engagement of Board members and the expectations of a CoAEMSP Board Member. The CoAEMSP has 14 sponsors, each with 2 representatives on the Board, resulting in a 28-person Board. In addition, with the advent of unprecedented number of programs, Board members will need to be more engaged with the business of the Board. CoAEMSP policy for a Board member's absence:

Excessive Absence

The Chair will notify the appropriate sponsor if its appointed member misses two (2) consecutive regular meetings in a row with justifiable cause. A member who misses three (3) consecutive regular meetings without justifiable cause will be considered as having voluntarily resigned and the appropriate sponsor will be, asked to appoint a replacement.

CoAEMSP Board Meeting Highlights

February 1-2, 2013

7. **Airway Management Competency.** The CoAEMSP clarified its recommendation for defining competency of airway management:

The paramedic student should establish airway competency by mastering the following:

1. Adequately assess, establish, and maintain and monitor the airway throughout patient contact.
2. Perform competent airway management using basic maneuvers and airway adjuncts.
3. Prepare and perform advanced airway management.
4. Demonstrate psychomotor skill proficiency.
5. Perform in various environments: hospitals, ambulatory centers, and the field.
6. Verify correct placement of airway devices utilizing the following assessments and adjuncts: direct and indirect visualization (preferred), capnography (preferred), chest sounds, abdominal sounds, oxygen saturation, changes in level of consciousness, skin color, and vital signs.
7. Demonstrate critical thinking and clinical judgment about backup plans and decision making.

The paramedic student should be successful in **any** combination of live patients, high definition fidelity simulations, low fidelity simulations, **or** cadaver labs in all age brackets (neonate, infant, pediatric, and adults). High definition simulation, defined by SimMan, METMan, etc., is highly recommended but optional. Low fidelity simulation is defined by traditional simulation heads, such as Larerdal, etc. Paramedic students should have exposure to diverse environments of learning, including but not limited to hospital units (e.g., operating rooms, emergency departments, intensive care units), ambulatory centers, and out of hospital settings (e.g., ambulance, field, home) and laboratories (floor, varied noise levels, varied lighting conditions).

Based on current research, the paramedic student should have no fewer than 50 attempts at airway management across all age levels (neonate, infant, pediatric and adult). This should be accomplished utilizing live patients, high fidelity simulations, low fidelity simulations, or cadaver labs.

The paramedic student should demonstrate competency in airway management in their last twenty (20) attempts. The majority of airway attempts should be accomplished with live patients, realistic simulation labs, or both. As with all other required skills, terminal competency including airway management must be determined and approved by the Medical Director and Advisory Committee.

8. **Next Meetings:**

May 3	web meeting
August 2-3	Minneapolis-St. Paul
November 1	web meeting

The CoAEMSP holds its quarterly Board meetings the first full weekend of the month on Friday & Saturday (February and August) and on Friday (May and November).

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

CAAHEP = Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs. CAAHEP accredits Paramedic programs, as well as 23 more professions. www.caahep.org. CoAEMSP operates under the auspices of CAAHEP.

For a complete list of the 14 sponsors of the CoAEMSP, visit <http://www.coaemsp.org/Sponsors.htm>.

Mission Statement

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

Vision Statement

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

Core Values / CLARITY

- Commitment:** Dedication of time, talent and resources toward the achievement of CoAEMSP's mission.
- Leadership:** Inspiring others to advance the vision and goals of the CoAEMSP.
- Action-oriented:** Advancing the goals and projects of the CoAEMSP through timely, deliberate and thoughtful decision-making and effective implementation.
- Respect:** Honoring the perspective of any individual or organization.
- Integrity:** Carrying out the work of the CoAEMSP with honesty, professionalism and high ethical standards.
- Quality:** Consistently meeting or exceeding established standards and expectations in all CoAEMSP Activities.

Strategic Goals

GOAL #1

Developing a high level process for the collection and analysis of data for the purpose of improving EMS Education

GOAL #2

Restructure Board/Staff to meet the needs of the growing organization and EMS profession. Improve Board engagement and effectiveness.

GOAL #3

Position CoAEMSP to effectively respond to and manage trends in EMS Education including developing competent evaluative processes especially for Distance Education.

