



May 20, 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 Quarterly Board Meeting – May 1, 2015

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 61 programs for initial accreditation, continuing accreditation and progress reports.
2. **By the numbers.** Currently there are **473 CAAHEPⁱ accredited** Paramedic programs and **207 programs** hold the **CoAEMSP Letter of Review (LoR)**; the LoR is the precursor to CAAHEP accreditation. An additional 26 programs are On Hold and do not hold either status, which brings the total number of programs to 706 programs.
3. **Workshops & Webinars.** CoAEMSP continues to sponsor workshops with the National Association of EMS Educators (NAEMSE) focusing on Evaluating Student Competency. In 2015 there will be 3 educational offerings: March in Dallas, August in Nashville, and December in Chicago.

In addition, the CoAEMSP will hold a webinar on June 30 on *Written Exams & Item Analysis*. Webinars are complimentary to anyone who wishes to attend.

4. **CAAHEP Standards Revision.** The CAAHEP Board of Directors voted on May 15 to approve the proposed CAAHEP *Standards and Guidelines for the EMS Professions*. The revision of the *Standards* has taken place over the past two years. CAAHEP requires that the CoAEMSP review the *Standards* at least once every five years.
5. **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 CHEAⁱⁱ recognition.

When a sponsor of the CoAEMSP has an upcoming open seat, the sponsor will be notified at least 16 months in advance of the vacancy. The communication will go directly from the CoAEMSP Executive Director to the chief staff person of the sponsor organization.

6. **Site Visitor Training.** With the increase in Paramedic programs and the natural attrition of volunteer site visitors, up to 30 new site visitors will be trained October 26-27, 2015. Applicants will submit an application packet that will include two letters of recommendation, an application, and take a quiz. The CoAEMSP will pay for lodging and meals; site visitor applicants will be responsible for their own travel.

CoAEMSP Board Meeting Highlights

May 1, 2015

7. Next Meetings:

2015:	July 31-August 1	Minneapolis
	November 6	web meeting
2016:	February 5-6	TBD
	May 6	web meeting
	July 29-30	TBD
	November 4	web meeting

8. **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.

ⁱ **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]

ⁱⁱ **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]