



December 3, 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 – November 6, 2015

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The Committee on Accreditation of Educational Programs for the EMS Professions (CoAEMSP) Board of Directors met via GoToMeeting on November 6, 2015. The highlights from the meeting:

1. **Program Actions.** Reviewed 85 programs for initial accreditation, continuing accreditation and progress reports.
2. **By the Numbers.** Currently there are **481 CAAHEP<sup>i</sup> accredited** Paramedic programs and **212 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; the final one is in Chicago on December 3-5.

In 2016, the CoAEMSP will host three Accreditation Workshops, which will focus on the 2015 CAAHEP *Standards* and the new self study report templates. The workshop is geared toward program directors of all levels of experience.

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*; they take effect January 1, 2016.
5. **Adding Public Members to the Board.** Soon 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).
6. **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.

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.

## CoAEMSP Board Meeting Highlights

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November 6, 2015

7. **Site Visitor Training.** With the increase in Paramedic programs and the natural attrition of volunteer site visitors, 24 people participated in the latest Site Visitor Workshop, which was held October 26-27, 2015. Attendees were by invite only.
  
  8. **Next Meetings:**

<b>2016:</b>	February 5-6	San Diego
	May 6	web meeting
	July 29-30	TBD
	November 4	web meeting
  
  9. **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 its Committees on Accreditation. CAAHEP currently accredits over 2000 educational 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]