

coaemsp.org

June 1, 2020

TO: Sponsoring Organizations for the CoAEMSP
CoAEMSP Board Members

FROM: Paul Berlin, MS, NRP, Chair, CoAEMSP Board of Directors
George W Hatch, Jr., EdD, EMT-P, LP, Executive Director, CoAEMSP

RE: Highlights from the CoAEMSP Quarterly Board Meeting – May 1, 2020

The Committee on Accreditation of Educational Programs for the EMS Professions (CoAEMSP) Board of Directors met via Zoom on May 1, 2020. Prior to the face-to-face meeting, the board members met in smaller teams via web meeting for several hours each. The members of the CoAEMSP Board of Directors are dedicated and give a great deal of their talents to advancing the mission of the CoAEMSP and the education of future Paramedics. Each board member has stated that it has taken them two to three years to feel comfortable with the business of the board and to feel as though they are ramped up. The CoAEMSP is grateful for each board member's dedication to the mission – to advance the quality of EMS education through accreditation.

The highlights from the meeting:

1. **Program Actions.** Reviewed 50 programs for initial accreditation, continuing accreditation and progress reports.
2. **By the Numbers.** At the time of the board meeting there were **640 CAAHEPⁱ accredited** Paramedic programs and **68 programs** that hold the **CoAEMSP Letter of Review (LoR)**; the LoR is the precursor to CAAHEP accreditation. For a current list of Paramedic programs, visit <https://www.caahep.org/Students/Find-a-Program.aspx>.

ACCREDITCON. The second ACCREDITCON conference was cancelled due to COVID-19. ACCREDITCON was scheduled to take place May 27-31, in Louisville. ACCREDITCON supports the CoAEMSP's mission "to advance the quality of EMS education through accreditation" and responding to the needs of nearly 700 Paramedic educational programs.

4. **Impact of COVID-19.** In response to the coronavirus pandemic, the CoAEMSP has cancelled ACCREDITCON; postponed all on-site evaluations scheduled through June 30, 2020; suspended the coordination of future site visits until further notice; extended the deadline for Annual Reports to June 30, 2020; extended the deadline for all Self-Study Reports due April 1, May 1, or June 1 until July 1; and waived late fees for unpaid accounts as of March 15, 2020. Several statements have been published, giving guidance to programs. The current statement is on www.coaemsp.org.

Additionally, the CoAEMSP will not be hosting any in person meetings, workshops or conferences in 2020. This includes the summer board meeting, which is traditionally face-to-face. The board meeting will be decreased from 2 days to 1 day and will be held via web meeting.

5. **Site Visit & Visitor Committee** is researching the feasibility of conducting virtual site visits (v-SV) and another initiative is working toward improving the site visitor inter-rater reliability.
6. **Governance Committee** is restructuring its charges and focusing on the redevelopment of the Board of Directors' Policy Manual. Additionally, it refined the nominations and elections process for board of directors, executive committee, and public members.
7. **Finance Committee** proposed and ultimately approved an amended budget for fiscal year 2020-21 to address the impact COVID-19 will have on the CoAEMSP operations.

CoAEMSP Quarterly Board Meeting Highlights

May 1, 2020

8. **Program Policy Committee** continues to review the Program Policy Manual. The policies approved by the Board included the complaints about accredited programs and seeking public comment on interpretations of the CAAHEP Standards.

To view these policies and all other policies programs are required to follow, visit www.coaemsp.org > Accreditation > Policies and Procedures.

9. **Quality Improvement & Annual Reports Committee** is managing the annual report process. The annual report deadline was extended from March 31, 2020 to June 30, 2020.
10. **CAAHEP Liaison** reported that CAAHEP held its annual meeting virtually. The commissioners approved bylaws changes, which will decrease the size of the board from 14 to 9. Starting with the April 2021 annual meeting, the Annual Business meeting of Commissioners, which is required by the Bylaws to be held every April, be held online via electronic means. Agenda items that traditionally have been on the April Annual Meeting program move to the January Leadership conference, beginning with January 2021. This would include items like the Keynote Address, Washington Update, Awards Luncheon, and Q&A sessions with CoAs.

This impacts each of the CoAEMSP's sponsoring organizations, like those reading these highlights, because each sponsor also has a commissioner appointed to the CAAHEP Commission.

11. Next Meetings:

2020:	July 31	web meeting
	November 6	web meeting
2021:	February 5-6-7	Austin, Texas
	May 7	web meeting
	August 5-6-7	Albuquerque, New Mexico
	November 5	web meeting
2022:	February 3-4-5	TBD
	May 6	web meeting
	July 28-29-30	TBD
	November 4	web meeting

Communication Protocols for the CoAEMSP

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.

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** of the CoAEMSP

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

The **Vision Statement** of the CoAEMSP

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

The **Core Values** of the CoAEMSP: **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.

Accountability: Advancing the mission of the CoAEMSP with integrity, honesty, professionalism and high ethical standards.

Respect: Honoring the perspective of any individual or organization.

Integrated: Carrying out the work of the CoAEMSP in collaboration with EMS stakeholders.

Quality: Consistently meeting or exceeding established standards and expectations in all CoAEMSP activities.

The **Goals** of the CoAEMSP

GOAL #1: To conduct scholarly inquiry of relevant topics related to accreditation and EMS Education.

GOAL #2: Foster diverse instructional methodologies.

GOAL #3: Explore expanding scope of quality assurance/improvement activities to EMT and AEMT and internationally.

GOAL #4: Continue to strengthen the engagement and effectiveness of the CoAEMSP Board of Directors.

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 31 health science professions. [caahep.org]