

[coaemsp.org](http://coaemsp.org)

August 31, 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 – July 31, 2020

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The Committee on Accreditation of Educational Programs for the EMS Professions (CoAEMSP) Board of Directors met via Zoom on July 31, 2020. Prior to the face-to-face meeting, the board members met in smaller teams via web meeting for several hours each to review programs' accreditation records. Additionally, subcommittee meetings were held in advance. 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 33 programs for initial accreditation, continuing accreditation and progress reports.
2. **By the Numbers.** At the time of the board meeting there were **643 CAAHEP<sup>i</sup> accredited** Paramedic programs and **71 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>.
3. **Impact of COVID-19.** The CoAEMSP is extending the original guidelines to permit the use of alternative evaluation methods to include scenarios, case studies, and simulation as well as the adjustment of minimum competencies to satisfy the requirements of the accreditation standards for Paramedic educational programs **through July 1, 2021**. (The original date was October 31, 2020). This update supersedes any prior guidance by CoAEMSP. For the complete statement, it is posted on the home page of [www.coaemsp.org](http://www.coaemsp.org).
4. **Virtual Learning.** CoAEMSP cancelled its in person meetings, workshops and conferences in 2020. To meet the programs' needs, a series of webinars are being offered and virtual accreditation workshops.
5. **Virtual Site Visits.** In response to the coronavirus pandemic, the CoAEMSP has postponed all on-site evaluations until further notice. With the number of programs that are in queue for a site visit, the CoAEMSP is conducting a pilot of virtual site visits. CoAEMSP is identifying and inviting specific programs to participate in the initial offering.
6. **CoAEMSP Interpretations of the Standards.** The CAAHEP *Standards and Guidelines* are used for the development, evaluation, and self-analysis of Paramedic programs. There is a companion document, CoAEMSP Interpretations of the CAAHEP *Standards*, that contains the interpretations of those *Standards* as adopted by CoAEMSP through policies. The interpretations are not part of the *Standards and Guidelines* document and are subject to change by CoAEMSP. During its May board meeting, the board approved a policy that it will obtain public comment on proposed interpretations – new and revised. These policies will be announced in September, providing programs the opportunity to provide comment on the changes.

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To view these policies and all other policies programs are required to follow, visit [www.coaemsp.org](http://www.coaemsp.org) > Accreditation > Standards and Guidelines > Standards and Guidelines Interpretations.

7. **AEMT Accreditation.** CoAEMSP is studying the feasibility of providing accreditation services to AEMT programs. Accreditation of AEMT programs would be on a voluntary basis, follow the National EMS Education Standards, and provide the public with an opportunity to comment. The next steps are to complete a survey of the State OEMS Directors, then provide a public comment period for programs, then present findings in open forum to entire national EMS community seeking input on AEMT accreditation. The study has been placed on pause and will reconvene in 2021.
8. **Election Results.** Directors' elections occur every summer, approximately one-third of the board members positions are elected. Those (re)elected this year, with their term effective immediately:

AAP	Saranya Srinivasan (re-elected)
ACEP	Shira Schlesinger (re-elected)
ACOEP	Herbert N Schiffer
IAFF	Jeff Sadtler (re-elected)
NAEMSP	Ritu Sahni (re-elected)
NAEMT	No one, did not receive a majority vote for either nominee
Public Member	Renee Barrett (re-elected)

Executive Committee elections occur every two years. All of the members were re-elected, with their term effective January 1, 2021:

Chair	Paul Berlin (IAFC)
Vice Chair	Lori Burns (AAA)
Treasurer	David Becker (IAFC)
Member-at-Large	Drew Harrell (ACEP)
Immediate Past Chair	Tom Brazelton (AAP)

9. **Next Meetings:**

<b>2020:</b>	November 6	web meeting
<b>2021:</b>	February 5	web meeting
	May 7	web meeting
	August 5-6-7	Albuquerque, New Mexico
	November 5	web meeting
<b>2022:</b>	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. **CoAEMSP provides 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.

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**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]