

coaemsp.org

December 7, 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 – November 6, 2020

The Committee on Accreditation of Educational Programs for the EMS Professions (CoAEMSP) Board of Directors met via Zoom on November 6, 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 34 programs for initial accreditation, continuing accreditation and progress reports.
2. **By the Numbers.** At the time of the board meeting there were **641 CAAHEPⁱ accredited** Paramedic programs and **77 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.
4. **Virtual Learning.** CoAEMSP is hosting virtual workshops on accreditation and monthly webinars. Each of the virtual accreditation workshops sell out.
5. **Virtual Site Visits.** CoAEMSP is conducting virtual site visits until restrictions are lessened by national, state, and local authorities, employers, and schools offering Paramedic programs.
6. **ACCREDITCON** is the annual conference focused on the accreditation standards, which was held for the first time in 2019. CoAEMSP is moving forward with ACCREDITCON in 2021, with the in-person conference occurring June 2-6 in Louisville, then later that month a virtual offering of ACCREDITCON.
7. **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 CAAHEP *Standards and Guidelines* document and are subject to change by

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CoAEMSP. The Board continually updates the interpretations to provide better clarity. The interpretations approved include:

- Standard I.C. Responsibilities of Sponsor
- Standard III.B.3.a. Associate Medical Director Responsibilities
- Standard III.B.3.b. Associate Medical Director Qualifications
- Standard III.B.5.b. Faculty / Instructional Staff Qualifications
- Standard III.B.6.a. Lead Instructor Responsibilities
- Standards V.A.1. & V.A.3. Publications and Disclosures
- Standard V.B. Lawful and Non-Discriminatory Practices
- Standard V.D. Student Records
- Standard V.E. Substantive Change

To view the CoAEMSP Interpretations, visit www.coaemsp.org > Accreditation > Standards and Guidelines > Standards and Guidelines Interpretations.

8. **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 include completing a survey of the State OEMS Directors, providing a public comment period for programs, then presenting 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.
9. **Policies** were approved for:
- a. conducting a preliminary site visit to programs seeking the CoAEMSP Letter of Review, which is a precursor to seeking CAAHEP accreditation;
 - b. assessing a site visit fee for the LoR preliminary site visit; and
 - c. defining an alternate location for programs.

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

10. **Status of Paramedic Programs.** In October, CoAEMSP conducted a survey with all of the CoAEMSP Letter of Review and CAAHEP Accredited Paramedic Programs to learn the status of each as it related to educating students. [Access the results of the study.](#)
11. **Election Results.** Directors' elections occur every summer, approximately one-third of the board members positions are elected. One election was not completed this summer; however, was finalized during the November meeting:

American College of Cardiology	Dr. Meera Kondapaneni
National Association of EMTS	Mr. D. Troy Tuke

12. **Next Meetings:**

2021: February 5	web meeting	2022: February 3-4-5	TBD
May 7	web meeting	May 6	web meeting
August 5-6-7	Albuquerque, NM	July 28-29-30	TBD
November 5	web meeting	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.

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]