

June 7, 2021

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 7, 2021

The Committee on Accreditation of Educational Programs for the EMS Professions (CoAEMSP) Board of Directors met via Zoom on May 7, 2021. 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 44 programs for initial accreditation, continuing accreditation, and progress reports.
2. **By the Numbers.** At the time of the board meeting there were **637 CAAHEPⁱ accredited** Paramedic programs and **86 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>. In addition to these numbers, there are 11 programs seeking the Letter of Review and hold no status with CoAEMSP or CAAHEP.
3. **Virtual Learning.** CoAEMSP is hosting monthly virtual accreditation workshops and monthly webinars. Each of the virtual accreditation workshops is well attended.
4. **ACCREDITCON**, the annual conference / collaborative for advancing excellence through accreditation, was held virtually on June 2, 3 and 4. The 2022 and 2023 conference will be held in Louisville. For more information, visit www.accreditcon.org.
5. **Virtual Site Visits.** CoAEMSP continues conducting virtual site visits through 2021.
6. **Governance**
 - a. **Celebrated Outgoing Board Members.** Deb Cason, representing the National Registry of EMTs, retired from the board after more than 13 years. She also previously served on the board in the 1990s. Dr. Eric Bentley, representing the American College of Surgeons, is retiring after 13 years on the board. Deb and Dr. Bentley will be missed; they each contributed greatly to Paramedic education nationally and are leaving a tremendous mark on the CoAEMSP.
 - b. **Board Appointment.** Dr. Kim McKenna was appointed to complete the term vacated by Deb Cason.
7. **Assistant Director of Accreditation Services.** On August 1, 2021, the CoAEMSP will welcome its new Assistant Director of Accreditation Services. Dr. Mike Miller was hired after an extensive national search. Dr. Miller is currently Director of EMS Education and Associate Professor at Creighton University, where he has been on the staff since 2002. He also serves on the CoAEMSP Board of Directors and is a site visitor for the CoAEMSP.

May 7, 2021

8. **Standards Revision.** The CoAEMSP has initiated the formal review of the CAAHEP *Standards* for Paramedic educational programs, which is undertaken every 5-10 years. The CAAHEP *Standards* are the minimum standards of quality used in accrediting programs that prepare individuals to enter the Emergency Medical Services professions. Standards are the minimum requirements to which an accredited program is held accountable. Each of the communities of interest, including each sponsoring organization of CoAEMSP, the programs, and the public will have the opportunity to review and comment on the revisions. When the draft is complete, it will be made available via e-newsletters and on the website.
9. **Policies and Procedures for Programs.** The policy manual for programs is continuously reviewed, as revised as necessary. The policies revised or added include:
 - a. Introduction to Policy Manual, clarifying the CoAEMSP and CAAHEP Policy Manuals collaboratively work together (new language)
 - b. Publishing of Program Accreditation Status (revised language)
 - c. Alternate Locations & Satellite Locations (added language)
 - d. Assess how to charge for a site visit that is only for alternate or satellite locations
10. **Audit.** The audit was completed for fiscal year the 2019-20 fiscal year was completed with no opinions, cautions, or concerns.
11. **AEMT Accreditation.** The CoAEMSP is studying the feasibility of providing accreditation services to AEMT educational programs in accordance with the recommendation made in the National EMS Scope of Practice (2019). Accreditation of AEMT educational programs would be voluntary; however, there may be states that require accreditation of the AEMT programs. The next steps include completing a survey of the State Office of EMS Officials, providing a public comment period for programs, then presenting findings in open forum to the entire national EMS community seeking input on AEMT programmatic accreditation by CAAHEP. The study has been placed on pause due to COVID-19 and will reconvene in 2021.
12. **Student Minimum Competency (SMC),** formerly referred to as Appendix G, is under review in collaboration with NREMT because of the role they play with the Portfolio and Practice Analysis. The intent is to make clearer the Student Minimum Competency and to determine what is the best method to assess competency.
13. **CAAHEP,** which is the single national programmatic accreditation organization for Paramedic educational programs, is seeking re-recognition from CHEA, the Council on Higher Education Accreditation. Much like a Paramedic Program Director seeking accreditation of the program, CAAHEP must participate in a parallel process with CHEA. CoAEMSP has continued to support CAAHEP's efforts for the re-recognition.
14. **Next Meetings:**

2021: August 6 web meeting
November 5 web meeting

2022: February 3-4-5 Austin TX
May 6 web meeting
July 28-29-30 Albuquerque NM
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]