

December 6, 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 – November 5, 2021

The Committee on Accreditation of Educational Programs for the EMS Professions (CoAEMSP) Board of Directors met via Zoom on November 5, 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 33 programs for initial accreditation, continuing accreditation, and progress reports.
2. **By the Numbers.** At the time of the board meeting there were **636 CAAHEPⁱ accredited** Paramedic programs and **92 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 15 programs seeking the Letter of Review and hold no status with CoAEMSP or CAAHEP.
3. **ACCREDITCON**, the annual conference / collaborative for advancing excellence through accreditation, is planned for June 1-5, 2022, in Louisville, Ky. Registration opened on November 1, and registration will be limited. For more information, visit www.accreditcon.org.
4. **Site Visits.** CoAEMSP continues conducting virtual site visits and is making plans to add on-campus visits in 2022. Delaying the increase in the site visitor cadre for now due to timeline for returning to on-campus site visits. To provide additional support and guidance for programs hosting a site visit, an orientation via Zoom with all programs scheduled for a site visit in the next 3-6 months.
5. **Audit.** Reviewed RFPs for the next audit and determined to remain with the same audit firm that was contracted with last year, which was the first time CoAEMSP contracted with it.
6. **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). Collaborating with The National Registry to identify Student Minimum Competency for the AEMT level. Accreditation of AEMT educational programs would be voluntary; however, there may be states that require accreditation of the AEMT programs.

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7. **Policies and Procedures for CoAEMSP.** Approved several revised policies for programs, which are available in their entirety at <https://coaemsp.org/policies-procedures>, including:
- I.A.3. Letter of Review (LoR) Process
 - I.B.3. During the Letter of Review (LoR) Period - Suspension, Revocation, Voluntary Withdrawal or Suspension of the Letter of Review
 - I.B.3.d. Voluntary Suspension
 - I.C. Reapplication Process
 - III.C. Accreditation Statuses and Actions – Probationary Accreditation
 - III.H. Accreditation Statuses and Actions – Inactive Status
 - IV.D. Maintaining Accreditation – Annual Report
 - VII. Complaint Process
 - X.A.1. Accreditation Fees - Letter of Review (LoR) Application Fee

8. **CAAHEP Standards Revision.** The CoAEMSP Board approved the draft of the CAAHEP *Standards* for Paramedic educational programs, which is undertaken every 5-10 years. This approval occurred after receiving comments from the public, Paramedic education programs, and sponsors of CoAEMSP. The next step is to send the draft to the CAAHEP Standards Committee.

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 can review and comment on the revisions.

9. **Data.** NAEMSP accepted a proposal for an oral presentation by NREMT/CoAEMSP on simulation, *Prevalence and Effect of Simulation Substitution on Paramedic Educational Program Success: A National Examination*. Data collected via the CoAEMSP annual report is valuable and resulting in oral presentations and peer review journals.

10. **Annual Report / Quality Improvement.** Each May programs that are accredited by CAAHEP or hold the Letter of Review by the CoAEMSP are required to submit an annual report. Following is the summary statistical data from 2019 Annual Report

- 81% of programs met/exceed threshold
- 129 programs did not meet Retention for 2019
- 3-year trend reflects decrease in number of programs not meeting threshold
 - 2017 – 166
 - 2018 – 139
 - 2019 – 129
- CoAEMSP Board approved 2020 and 2021 ARs will be “by-year”; 3-yr trend monitoring re-starts with 2022 annual report
- Continued discussion on the three identified thresholds (Retention, Written Exam, Positive Placement) and would probation be considered for either Retention or Positive Placement
- Reviewed what constitutes positive job placement on Annual Report

11. **Next Meetings:**

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

Attachment: CAAHEP *Standards & Guidelines for the Educational Programs in the EMS Professions* draft

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.

iCAAHEP = 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]