

March 7, 2022

**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 – February 4-5, 2022

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The Committee on Accreditation of Educational Programs for the EMS Professions (CoAEMSP) Board of Directors met in a hybrid meeting on February 3-4-5, 2022. On February 3 committee meetings were held; each board member is assigned to at least two committees. On February 4 & 5, the board meeting was held, with 7 board members physically present in Austin and 15 joining via Zoom. The individuals attending via Zoom were impacted by covid-restrictions or travel disruption due to the winter storm blanketing the south with ice and snow.

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. **COVID-19:** The Board voted to extend the use of alternative evaluation methods through December 31, 2022.

The waiver guidelines are associated with CAAHEP Standards III.A.2. Hospital/Clinical Affiliations and Field/Internship Affiliations and III.C.3. Curriculum: 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 these standards for Paramedic educational programs.

2. **Professional Development.** The Board and the staff participated in a professional development session focused on (re)orientation of board members. The objectives of the session: Describe the purpose of accreditation, Describe the relationship of CoAEMSP and CAAHEP, and Define the role and responsibilities as a board member. Professional development occurs at least two times each year, at the face-to-face meetings.
3. **Program Actions.** Reviewed 19 programs for initial accreditation, continuing accreditation, and progress reports.
4. **ACCREDITCON**, the annual conference / collaborative for advancing excellence through accreditation, is planned for June 1-5, 2022, in Louisville, Ky. Registration is open and is limited due to a smaller footprint for educational activities. For more information, visit [www.accreditcon.org](http://www.accreditcon.org).
5. **Governance.** Discussed the idea of staggering the officer terms, so two seats are elected each year. Currently the officers are elected in even-numbered years. This would require a bylaw change. Seven board members' seats are due for election at the 2022 annual board meeting.

6. **By the Numbers.** At the time of the board meeting there were

**635 CAAHEP<sup>i</sup> accredited** Paramedic programs and **97 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 14 programs seeking the Letter of Review and hold no status with CoAEMSP or CAAHEP.

7. **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. ***The exploration of AEMT accreditation is at the request of several State Offices of EMS.***

The updated timeline:

March 2022

- Present findings in open forum to entire national EMS community seeking input on AEMT accreditation (close of comments June 15, 2022)

May 2022

- AEMT presentation during ACCREDITCON
- Hold an open forum for comments (close of comments June 15, 2022)

July 2022

- AEMT Planning Subcommittee meets prior to the Board meeting and include Site Visit Subcommittee chair and staff liaison. (AEMT Planning Subcommittee consists of committee chairs from Budget/Finance, Policy, QI/AR, Interpretations, Executive Committee, Physician, and EMS Program Directors.)

February 2023

- Recommend to Board to implement AEMT accreditation or to not implement for a January 2024 start date
- Upon Board approval, announce decision and disseminate accreditation materials once developed
- Completed AEMT materials for review and presentation to the Board by the respective subcommittees

April 2023

- AEMT materials available

May 2023

- Upon Board approval of AEMT accreditation launch, hold AEMT accreditation workshop

January 2024

- Upon Board approval from February 2023 meeting, AEMT accreditation launch (January 1, 2024)

8. **Site Visits.** CoAEMSP is increasing its site visitor cadre and will host a site visitor workshop June 28-29, 2022, near DFW airport. Site visits are conducted via Zoom and will be transitioning to on-campus visits at the end of March 2022. If you know anyone who might be interested, please visit <https://coaemsp.org/site-visitors>.

9. **Inclusion, Diversity, Equity.** Discussing opportunities to collect and analyze equity, inclusion, and diversity data from programs. Additionally, exploring ways to engage in development activities around common language and common concept. A future professional development session will focus on the constructs that underscore the different perspectives and common terminology related to diversity.

The new EMS Education Standards, released in November 2021, includes diversity, equity, and inclusion. To build off these standards, a move to incorporate DEI into preceptor training and into the CoAEMSP Affective Behavioral Tool an additional section about cultural awareness (or competence or humility)

10. **Policies and Interpretations for Programs.** Approved revised policies for programs [[www.coaemsp.org/policies-procedures](http://www.coaemsp.org/policies-procedures)] and interpretations [[www.coaemsp.org/caahep-standards-and-guidelines](http://www.coaemsp.org/caahep-standards-and-guidelines)] of the accreditation standards, which are available in their entirety at including:
- a. [policy] XIII.B. & C. Campus-Based Program, Alternate Locations & Satellites
  - b. [policy] XVI.C. Personnel Changes - Change of Program Director (specifically Interim Program Director)
  - c. [interpretation] Defining 'public member' (Standard II.B.)
  - d. [interpretation] Airway management interpretation is removed, no longer relevant to the Student Minimum Competency (Standard III.A.2.)
  - e. [interpretation] Preceptor orientation/training topics need to include cultural humility (effective with the new CAAHEP Standards & Guidelines) (Standard III.B.1.a.6. Program Director Responsibilities)
  - f. [interpretation] Clarified the qualifications for Assistant Medical Director Qualifications. The question arose from a request for the Assistant Medical Director telemedicine (Standard III.B.4.b.)

11. **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. Currently the CAAHEP Standards Committee is reviewing the document. After their approval, each of the CoAEMSP's 12 sponsors will be asked to endorse the accreditation standards.

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.

12. **Student Minimum Competency.** Simulation guidelines were approved, which provides programs components to consider when assessing the appropriate incorporation of simulation as a learning and evaluation tool. The decision on when and how to incorporate simulation in the curriculum should be a deliberate part of the instructional design. Visit the CoAEMSP Resource Library for these guidelines.
13. **Strategic Plan.** The Board assessed its achievement of the current strategic plan, which was approved in 2017. The Board will move forward with engaging in its next strategic plan.

14. **Next Meetings:**

2022: 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.

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**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]