

June 6, 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 – May 6, 2022

---

The Committee on Accreditation of Educational Programs for the EMS Professions (CoAEMSP) Board of Directors met via web meeting on May 6, 2022.

The highlights from the meeting:

1. **Program Actions.** Reviewed 24 programs for initial accreditation, continuing accreditation, and progress reports.
2. **ACCREDITCON**, the annual conference / collaborative for advancing excellence through accreditation, was June 1-5, 2022, in Louisville, Ky. Registration was strong, exceeding expectations. More than 500 guests, exceeding previous years.
3. **By the Numbers.** At the time of the board meeting there were  
**634 CAAHEP<sup>i</sup> accredited** Paramedic programs and  
**98 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 25 programs, an increase of 11 since the last quarterly report, seeking the Letter of Review and hold no status with CoAEMSP or CAAHEP.

4. **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.***

A town hall conversation was held at ACCREDITCON to hear public feedback.

5. **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 web meeting and have transitioned back to on-campus visits.
6. **Governance.** Due to the structure of the organizations, approximately one-third of the seats are elected each year. This year there are seven board members' seats due for (re)election. Additionally, this year officer elections will be held.

7. **Policies for Programs.** One policy was approved, focused site visits.

**Focused Site Visits**

A focused site visit is an evaluation of limited scope that examines specific aspects of a program relating to CAAHEP *Standards* and policies and occurs between comprehensive evaluations.

Focused visits are typically conducted by a team of two peer reviewers for two days. While the specific areas of focus will depend on the reason for the visit, the team will evaluate specific developments and changes to the program or follow up on concerns identified through a previous evaluation process. The team is expected to provide CoAEMSP with a report on such developments or concerns.

The reason for the site visit will determine the documentation the program is required to submit.

8. **Diversity, Inclusion, and Equity.** The CoAEMSP Affective Behavioral Tool was updated with an additional section about cultural awareness (or competence or humility). Additionally, looking at developmental opportunities to educate the board and staff on diversity, equity, and inclusion in accreditation and higher education; anticipate a session during the July 2022 Board meeting. CHEA released revised recognition criteria surrounding diversity, equity, and inclusion that accreditation organizations are required to meet.

CHEA = Council for Higher Education Accreditation. CHEA recognizes CAAHEP, the accreditor for Paramedic programs.

9. **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.

10. **Board Meeting Format.** The format of the board meetings is shifting. The February and July meetings will be held the first Friday of the month via a web meeting. The May and November meetings will be held in person, based on the first Friday of the month.

Currently the face-to-face meetings are Thursday with committee meetings and Friday all day and Saturday half-day with the board meeting. Will shift to Wednesday-Thursday-Friday.

With the change in meeting format, the annual meeting will change from the summer meeting to the November meeting effective 2023.

11. **Next Meetings:**

<b>2022:</b>	July 28-29-30	Albuquerque NM			
	November 4	web meeting			
<b>2023:</b>	February 3	web meeting	<b>2024:</b>	February 2	web meeting
	May 3-4-5	location TBD		May 1-2-3	location TBD
	August 4	web meeting		August 2	web meeting
	November 1-2-3	location TBD		November 6-7-8	location TBD

## 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]