

March 3, 2023

TO: Sponsoring Organizations for the CoAEMSP
CoAEMSP Board Members

FROM: Lori Burns, MSN, RN, Chair, CoAEMSP Board of Directors
George W Hatch, Jr., EdD, EMT-P, LP, Executive Director, CoAEMSP

RE: Highlights from the CoAEMSP Board Annual Meeting – February 3, 2023

The Committee on Accreditation of Educational Programs for the EMS Professions (CoAEMSP) Board of Directors met via a web meeting on February 3, 2023. The highlights from the board meeting:

1. **Program Actions.** Reviewed 33 programs for initial accreditation, continuing accreditation, and progress reports.
2. **By the Numbers.** At the time of the meeting, there are 751 programs that hold a status:

632 CAAHEPⁱ accredited Paramedic programs and
119 programs that hold the **CoAEMSP Letter of Review (LoR)**; the LoR is the precursor to CAAHEP accreditation.

In 2022, there were 29 new programs that previously did not hold a status of any kind and gained the CoAEMSP Letter of Review.

For a current list of Paramedic programs, visit <https://www.caahep.org/students/find-an-accredited-program>.

3. **ACCREDITCON.** The annual collaborative is May 31-June 4, 2023, in Louisville. The event is focused on the accreditation standards, providing Paramedic educators and administrators with resources, tools, and information to support their success in achieving and maintaining accreditation for their Paramedic program.

As a sponsoring organization of CoAEMSP, you are invited to exhibit. The booth space is complimentary. If you would like to, please email jennifer@coaemsp.org.

4. **AEMT Accreditation.** The National EMS Scope of Practice document calls for AEMT accreditation to be made available by 2025. The CoAEMSP is developing the framework to support this. A working group of staff and board members met February 13-15 to develop the framework and business plan. Seeking accreditation by an AEMT program is voluntary; any requirement for accreditation will come from the individual states. CoAEMSP will have an update on the voluntary AEMT accreditation process in May and will communicate all developments to its stakeholders.
5. **Research.** The CoAEMSP and the National Registry of Emergency Medical Technicians (NREMT) collaborated on two research projects that were recently published:
 - a. Rates and Reasons for Attrition in Accredited Paramedic Educational Programs
 - b. National Evaluation of Advanced EMT Certification Programs in the U.S.
6. **Program Policy & Interpretations of Standards.** The Policy & Procedures Manual for Programs will be updated one time per year, following the May board meeting. Additional revisions may be released when emergent.

February 3, 2023

7. **Governance.** The Board and Staff have embarked on strategic planning; the current strategic plan was developed in 2017. The plan in development will support CoAEMSP's strategic efforts through 2025. The anticipated launch date of the strategic plan to the CoAEMSP's stakeholders, including the public, is June 2023.

Effective in 2023, the elections for Executive Committee Officers and Member-at-Large will be staggered. The Chair and the Vice Chair are elected in even-numbered years, and the Secretary/Treasurer and the Member-at-large are elected in odd-numbered years.

8. **IDEA Working Group.** Reviewed the consensus statement, led by the National Association of EMS Educators (NAEMSE) and written in conjunction with several national EMS organizations, including NAEMSE, NREMT, CoAEMSP, NAEMT, IAFC, and IAFF. The CoAEMSP Board formally endorsed the consensus statement.

CoAEMSP has active participation with the NREMT's Inclusion, Diversity, Equity, and Access in EMS (IDEA) Task Force. The Task Force is transitioning to an industry-wide task force, and its Chair will rotate among the member organizations.

Reviewed the diversity, equity, and inclusion statement released by the National Association of EMS Physicians (NAEMSP), which focuses on workplace and patient outcomes.

9. **Quality Improvement & Site Visits.** The frequency of site visits is increasing. Site Visits, by the numbers:

- in 2023: 150+ site visits projected
- in 2022: 80 site visits
- in 2021: 36 site visits
- in 2020: 14 site visits
- in 2019: 84 site visits
- in 2018: 141 site visits

To strengthen the Site Visit program, communication with site visitors has increased with quarterly education and conversations with site visitors, biannual orientation with program directors preparing to host a site visit, and offering one-on-one meetings to support program directors preparing for the site visit.

10. **Program Director Advisory Group.** Approved the creation of the Program Director Focus Group (PDFG), which is a consultative group offering expertise and valuable input to the CoAEMSP Board of Directors. The role of the PDFG is not a governing body and does not set policy. In its consultative role, the Group offers feedback and perspective to the CoAEMSP Board, Committees, and staff, especially relating to day-to-day operational aspects of CAAHEP accredited and CoAEMSP Letter of Review paramedic programs. Members of the Group are volunteers.

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. Each of the CoAEMSP's 12 sponsoring organizations endorsed the CAAHEP *Standards & Guidelines*. (Thank you!)

An Open Hearing on the *Standards and Guidelines for the Accreditation of Education Programs in Emergency Medical Services Professions* was held on January 20, 2023. The next step is for the CAAHEP Board of Directors to make a final decision, which is anticipated on March 24.

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. Next Meetings:

2023:	May 3-4-5	Washington, DC	2024:	February 2	web meeting
	August 4	web meeting		May 1-2-3	location TBD
	November 1-2-3	Oklahoma City, OK		August 2	web meeting
				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 30 days following each Board meeting.**

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]

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.