

June 5, 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 – May 3-4-5, 2023

The Committee on Accreditation of Educational Programs for the EMS Professions (CoAEMSP) Board of Directors met in Washington, D.C. on May 3-4-5, 2023, for committee and board meetings. The highlights from the board meeting follow.

1. **Program Actions.** Reviewed 17 programs for initial accreditation, continuing accreditation, and progress reports.
2. **By the Numbers.** At the time of the meeting, there are 755 programs that hold a status:

632 CAAHEP accredited Paramedic programs and
123 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 [here](#).

3. **Finance.** Met with the financial advisor and reviewed the CoAEMSP's investment portfolio. Additionally, the board approved the 2023-24 budget, investment policy, reserve policy, and to establish an endowment scholarship fund in the name of Douglas K. York.
4. **Program Director Focus Group (PDFG).** Twenty-four individuals were selected from more than 125 applications to serve on the newly formed CoAEMSP Program Directors Focus Group (PDFG). Launched in May 2023, members of the PDFG will provide expertise and insights to the CoAEMSP Board of Directors, especially relating to day-to-day operational aspects of CAAHEP accredited and CoAEMSP Letter of Review paramedic programs.

The PDFG was formed to build on work done in 2022 when CoAEMSP hosted several listening sessions and town hall meetings to collect feedback on ways to improve services.

The 24 members of the PDFG represent a broad cross-section of the nation, with four members from each NASEMSO Region – East, South, Great Lakes, Western Plains and West – and four at-large members.

Members of the group are volunteers and will serve for one year. The PDFG is not a governing body, does not set policy, and does not participate in accreditation decisions. CoAEMSP will post summaries of the PDFG quarterly meetings. Applications for the 2024-25 PDFG will open in the spring of 2024.

5. **Election Results.** Two vacancies on the CoAEMSP Board were filled. Everyone will complete the term vacated by their predecessor, and they are eligible for election to three 3-year terms.

ACEP – Navin Ariyaprakai, MD, FAEMS, FACEP

NREMT – Daniel Batsie, MPA, NRP

6. **Strategic Plan.** A new strategic plan was approved for 2023-2025. The CoAEMSP board believes in its mission, vision, and core values, which were developed previously, they remain today with new goals:
 - a. Expand accreditation services with the implementation of voluntary AEMT accreditation.
 - b. Develop an overarching data management strategy that results in efficiency and value for staff and constituents.
 - c. Develop resources and programs to support (new) program directors with the accreditation process.
 - d. Launch a communications program that promotes and strengthens relationships through a variety of targeted interfaces.
 - e. Provide accreditation services for paramedic educational programs globally, taking deliberate action to market our services to an international audience.

7. **Voluntary Accreditation Services for AEMT Programs.** To advance the recommendations of the 2019 [National EMS Scope of Practice Model](#) and the 2021 [National EMS Education Standards](#), CAAHEP plans to launch a voluntary programmatic accreditation at the Advanced Emergency Medical Technician (AEMT) level by January 1, 2025, and the CoAEMSP will provide the accreditation services. CAAHEP and CoAEMSP will work closely with stakeholders to gather perspectives and recommendations on how best to implement the new option. Key milestones in advance of the launch include:

May – November 2023 - Robust stakeholder engagement and feedback
December 4, 2023 - Open for public comment the policies and interpretations of the CAAHEP *Standards* for AEMT education programs.
January 18, 2024 - Public comment period closes. (Feb 4, the CoAEMSP Board reviews the comments and approves the final draft)
March 4, 2024 - Publish policies and interpretations of the CAAHEP *Standards* for AEMT education programs.
June 1, 2024 - Make available all documents and forms for AEMT programs, including the Letter of Review (LoR) application, self-study report, site visit report, annual report, etc.
January 1, 2025 - Accept LoR applications from AEMT programs.

8. **Research.** Recently published in JACEP, the research paper [Paramedic educational program attrition accounts for significant loss of potential EMS workforce.](#)

9. **IDEA Working Group.** The CoAEMSP will coordinate with the NREMT to collect and report on data related to the demographic makeup of EMS students in CAAHEP accredited and CoAEMSP Letter of Review programs to improve recruitment, retention, and diversity among student populations.

10. **Program Policy & Interpretations of Standards.** Several policies and definitions were approved, including:
 - a. Revised language for the Letter of Review application process
 - b. New language for the established thresholds as they relate to a program's outcomes (credentialing exam, retention, and job placement)
 - c. Elimination of some fees for failure to notify or late submissions
 - d. Revised language for distance learning
 - e. New language for agreements with out-sourced services
 - f. Extended the time a program has to notify the CoAEMSP of change in program director and medical director
 - g. Revised language for the lead instructor at a satellite campus
 - h. Added definitions for agreements for out-sourced services, instructional agreement, and public member

The [Policy & Procedures Manual for Programs](#) is updated one time per year, following the May board meeting. Additional revisions may be released when emergent.

11. **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. Plans for the 2024 event are in full swing. ACCREDITCON-2024 will be May 29-June 2, in Oklahoma City.

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. This year we have four of the CoAEMSP sponsors and CAAHEP joining us, including AAP, NAEMSE, NAEMT, NREMT.

12. **Next Meetings:**

2023:	August 4	web meeting	2024:	February 2	web meeting
	November 1-2-3	Oklahoma City, OK		May 1-2-3	location TBD
				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

1. Expand accreditation services with the implementation of voluntary AEMT accreditation.
2. Develop an overarching data management strategy that results in efficiency and value for staff and constituents.
3. Develop resources and programs to support (new) program directors with the accreditation process.

4. Launch a communications program that promotes and strengthens relationships through a variety of targeted interfaces.
5. Provide accreditation services for paramedic educational programs globally, taking deliberate action to market our services to an international audience.

Our Mission

The mission of the CoAEMSP is to advance the quality of EMS education through accreditation.



Our Vision

CoAEMSP is recognized as the leader in evidence based standards for accreditation.



2023-25 Strategic Plan



Expand accreditation services with the implementation of voluntary AEMT accreditation



Provide accreditation services for paramedic educational programs globally, taking deliberate action to market our services to an international audience



Develop an overarching data management strategy that results in efficiency and value for staff and constituents



Launch a communications program that promotes and strengthens relationships through a variety of targeted interfaces



Develop resources and programs to support (new) program directors with the accreditation process