

September 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 Meeting – August 4, 2023

The Committee on Accreditation of Educational Programs for the EMS Professions (CoAEMSP) Board of Directors met via web meeting on August 4, 2023. The highlights from the board meeting follow.

1. **Program Actions.** Reviewed 20 programs for initial accreditation, continuing accreditation, and progress reports.
2. **By the Numbers.** At the time of the meeting, there are 756 programs that hold a status:

633 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.** Reviewed the preliminary year-end financials for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2023.

The costs for site visit are being closely analyzed, determining involved staff time (indirect costs) plus direct costs. Projecting what it might look like in 3-5 years. Analyzing the cost differential between on-campus vs virtual site visits.

4. **Data.** The strategic plan has spurred activity in the data and research arena. Currently, the CoAEMSP is collaborating with the National Registry research team on the data collected from the CoAEMSP annual reports.
5. **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 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.

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 [posts summaries of the PDFG quarterly meetings](#). Applications for the 2024-25 PDFG will open in the spring of 2024.

6. **Election Results.** One vacancy on the CoAEMSP Board was filled. Everyone will complete the term vacated by their predecessor, and they are eligible for election to three 3-year terms.

AAP – Susan Fuchs, MD

The next meeting, November 2-3, elections will be held for two seats on the Executive Committee, Treasurer and Member-at-Large.

CoAEMSP Board Meeting Highlights

August 4, 2023

7. **Launched the Douglas K. York Endowment.** The Paramedic education world lost a giant in 2022 when Doug York passed away. He taught thousands of future Paramedics at the University of Iowa Emergency Medical Services Learning Resources Center.

Doug dedicated his life to the service of patients and students, mentoring new educators, including as a frequent CoAEMSP site visitor, while always working towards educational excellence.

To honor Doug's life and continue his work, CoAEMSP has established the [Douglas K. York Endowed Scholarship Fund](#) to provide scholarships for program directors committed to high paramedic educational standards to attend ACCREDITCON.

8. **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 are working 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.

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. **ACCREDITCON.** The annual collaborative was May 31-June 4, 2023, in Louisville, with more than 500 people actively participating. The event 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.

The 2024 event 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 had four of the CoAEMSP sponsors and CAAHEP joining us, including AAP, NAEMSE, NAEMT, NREMT.

11. Next Meetings:

2023:	November 1-2-3	Oklahoma City, OK	2025	February 7	web meeting
				April 30-May 1-2	TBD
2024:	February 2	web meeting		August 1	web meeting
	May 1-2-3	Seattle		November 5-6-7	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.

