



## Highlights from the CoAEMSP Board Meeting, November 6-7, 2025

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TO: Sponsoring Organizations for the CoAEMSP  
CoAEMSP Board Members

FROM: Michael J. Souter, MB, ChB, DA, FRCA, FNCS, Chair, Board of Directors  
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The Committee on Accreditation of Educational Programs for the EMS Professions (CoAEMSP) Board of Directors met on November 6-7, 2025, in Fort Worth, Texas. The Board has adopted protocols that permit more predictable, consistent, and deliberate communications with sponsors about the Board's work. CoAEMSP provides official updates to sponsors via the Board Highlights 30 days after each Board meeting. The highlights from the board meeting follow.

1. **Program Actions.** Reviewed 72 programs for initial accreditation, continuing accreditation, and progress reports.
2. **By the Numbers.** At the time of the meeting, 795 programs held a status.

**668 CAAHEP-accredited** programs and  
**127 programs** that hold the **CoAEMSP Letter of Review (LoR)**; the LoR is the precursor to CAAHEP accreditation.

For a current list of AEMT and paramedic programs, visit [here](#).

3. **Election of Officers.** The CoAEMSP Board of Directors voted to re-elect Thomas Henderson to the Executive Committee as Treasurer/Secretary and to elect Dr. Navin Ariyaprakai to the Executive Committee as Member-at-Large. Dr. Shira Schlesinger completed her service on the Executive Committee as Member-at-Large; she will continue to serve her term on the CoAEMSP Board as a representative of the American College of Emergency Physicians (ACEP).

**Election of Board Members.** In addition to the new slate of officers, the Board voted to re-elect the following new members to each serve a three-year term: Thomas Brazelton, MD, on behalf of the American Academy of Pediatrics; Adrienne Kramer, PhD, PMP, on behalf of the International Association of FireFighters; Gibson McCullagh, BA, on behalf of the American Ambulance Association; and Kim McKenna, PhD, RN, EMT-P, on behalf of the National Registry of EMTs.

4. **ACCREDITCON Committee** is planning the annual event that focuses on the accreditation standards for AEMT and paramedic education programs. The 2026 event is in New Orleans, May 27-31, 2026. Registration is open at [www.accreditcon.org](http://www.accreditcon.org). As a CoAEMSP sponsoring organization, you are invited to exhibit with complimentary booth space. If you would like to exhibit, please email [jennifer@coaemsp.org](mailto:jennifer@coaemsp.org).

5. **Quality Improvement & Site Visits Committee** has been working on a policy for the review and recommendations for action for programs that do not meet a single threshold for 3 consecutive years in the Annual Report. A policy was proposed to the Board, who then voted to approve:

**Policy for Program Non-Compliance with Outcome Thresholds on the Annual Report**

- 1) A program that fails to meet an outcome threshold in the first year on its annual report will be issued a *Letter of Concern*.
- 2) A program that fails to meet the same outcome threshold in the **second consecutive year** (certification, retention or placement) on their annual report will be issued a second *Letter of Concern*.
- 3) A program that fails to meet the same outcome threshold in the **third consecutive year** (certification, retention or placement) on their annual report, will be issued a CoAEMSP findings letter. The program will be required to submit a progress report for the most recent reporting period.
- 4) A program that fails to meet the same outcome threshold in the **fourth consecutive year** (certification, retention or placement) on its annual report shall be deemed out of compliance with a standard. CoAEMSP will issue a second findings letter, notify the program that a recommendation for probation may be forwarded to CAAHEP.

In accordance with CAAHEP policy, a program that is referred to CAAHEP, and after four years still is not meeting the standard may have its accreditation involuntarily withdrawn. Involuntary withdrawal of accreditation is an adverse action that is subject to appeal to CAAHEP. **CoAEMSP or CAAHEP may accelerate this process if, at any time, a program is found to be substantially underperforming in any outcome threshold**

6. **Governance Committee** is reviewing the board policy manual to ensure it aligns with CoAEMSP practices and sound governance policies.

**Director Emeritus.** The Board awarded the first Director Emeritus to Dr. James Atkins. This designation recognizes select individuals who have contributed in multiple ways over a number of years to the growth and development of CoAEMSP and its commitment to quality EMS education through programmatic accreditation by granting Director Emeritus status. Read the announcement [here](#).

7. **Data Committee** is reviewing proposals for the development of the Accreditation Management System (AMS). Additionally, have been active with research, including:

- Developed and conducted collaboratively by the EMSC Scholars Program and CoAEMSP: *An Analysis of Pediatric Emergency Care Education Trends in Paramedic Education Programs*
- Manuscript accepted for publication by the Journal of the American College of Emergency Physician – *Understanding Program Attrition: The Influence of Entry Requirements and Student Resources*
- NAEMSP Podium Presentation (January 2026) – *The Impact of Medical Director Involvement on Paramedic Education Attrition and Pass Rates*

- NAEMSP Poster Presentation (January 2026) – *Program Outcome in Hybrid Versus In-Person Paramedic Education: A National Cross-Sectional Analysis.*

8. **Policy & Interpretations Committee.** To assist programs with interpreting and applying the accreditation standards, a companion document has been created, the CoAEMSP Interpretations of the CAAHEP Standards and Guidelines (2023). When an interpretation is created, the committee will seek comment from its stakeholders, including the programs. There was one interpretation that was open for comment since the last board meeting in July, and was finalized here, specific to Standard IVA1 – Student Evaluation – Frequency & Purpose.

#### **Standard IVA1 – Student Evaluation – Frequency & Purpose**

~~Achievement of the competencies required for graduation must be assessed by program criterion-referenced, summative, comprehensive final evaluations. Summative program evaluation is a capstone event that occurs when the capstone field internship is at or near completion.~~

~~Summative comprehensive evaluation must include the cognitive, psychomotor, and affective domains. This includes written (cognitive) and scenario (psychomotor) and affective evaluations necessary to perform a summative assessment.~~

Achievement of the competencies required for graduation must be assessed through criterion-referenced, summative, comprehensive evaluations encompassing the three learning domains -- cognitive, psychomotor, and affective -- and occurring at or near the completion of the capstone field internship.

A cognitive evaluation is commonly performed through a written exam. Psychomotor evaluation is commonly performed by verifying the student's completion of the program's Student Minimum Competency (SMC) requirements.

9. **Strategic Plan.** Immediately preceding the board meeting, the board and staff participated in a strategic planning workshop. The 2026-2029 plan will be released in early 2026. During the board meeting, the board assessed progress toward achieving the 2022-2025 Strategic Plan. The progress toward achieving the 2022-2025 Strategic Plan.

- Goal #1: Expand accreditation services with the implementation of voluntary AEMT accreditation → operational
- Goal #2: Develop an overarching data management strategy that results in efficiency and value for staff and constituents → in progress, meeting with several firms
- Goal #3: Develop resources and programs to support (new) program directors with the accreditation process → operational
- Goal #4: Launch a communications program that promotes and strengthens relationships through a variety of targeted interfaces → operational
- Goal #5: Provide accreditation services for paramedic educational programs globally, taking deliberate action to market our services to an international audience → operational

## 10. Future Board Meetings

2026

February 5	Board of Directors Meeting	web meeting @ 11-3p Central Time
April 29-30-May 1	Board of Directors Meeting	Savannah, GA
May 27-31	ACCREDITCON	New Orleans, LA
August 6	Board of Directors Meeting	web meeting @ 11-3p Central Time
November 4-5-6	Board of Directors Meeting	Denver, CO

2027

February 4	Board of Directors Meeting	web meeting @ 11-3p Central Time
May 5-6-7	Board of Directors Meeting	TBD
June 2-6	ACCREDITCON	New Orleans, LA
August 5	Board of Directors Meeting	web meeting @ 11-3p Central Time
November 3-4-5	Board of Directors Meeting	TBD