



State of New Jersey

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH  
OFFICE OF EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES  
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Commissioner

The Advisory Council for Basic and Intermediate Life Support Services  
MINUTES OF December 7, 2022

*Members Present:* Ms. Candace Gardner, Mr. Adam Beder, Mr. Steve Cohen, Ms. Rowena Madden, Mr. Daniel Misa, Ms. Paula Weiler, Ms. Barbara Platt, Dr. Stephen Vetrano

*Members Absent:* Sgt. Licinio Carvalho, Dr. William Felegi, Mr. Roger Sarao, Mr. Frank Setnicky, Mr. Greg Scott

*Guests/Attendees:* Mr. Bryan Fischberg, Mr. Joao Mateus, Mr. Tarcisio Nunes, Ms. Barbara Vaning, Mr. Benjamin Dafilou

*Dept. of Health:* Mr. Eric Hicken, Mr. Daniel Kazar, Ms. Victoria Holmes, Mr. Christian Rios, Ms. Judy Faulkner, Ms. Fatima Manzoor

The EMT Training Fund Advisory Council convened on December 7, 2022, at Mercer County Fire Academy "Capt. John T. Dempster Sr." Fire Training Center in Classroom A, with a call to order at 10:05 am by Dr. Vetrano.

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

"This is a formal meeting of The Advisory Council for Basic and Intermediate Life Support Services. Adequate notice of this meeting has been published in accordance with the provisions of Chapter 231, Public Law 1975, c-10:4.10 of New Jersey entitled, "Open Public Meetings Act". Notices were sent to the Secretary of State, who posted the notice in a public place. Notices were forwarded to 12 New Jersey newspapers, two New York newspapers, two wire services, two Philadelphia newspapers and WNET (non-commercial educational public television)."

**CORRESPONDENCE:**

None

**FINANCIAL REPORT**

The SFY22 financial reports were rectified:  
March - \$5,687,128.00  
June - \$5,383,422.00

Motion to accept March and June financial reports. Approved unanimously.

The SFY23 balance as of November 29, 2022: \$3,985,787.00. Approval of this report will be put to motion at the next meeting.

Ms. Madden discussed the low salary of EMTs coming into the field, potentiating the decrease in recruitment and retention.

Initial financial report exhibited a calculation error which Ms. Gardner advised would be corrected and resent to the committee.

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

Minutes from the June 2022 meeting were distributed to the members of the committee, via email, prior to this meeting and were voted on for approval.

Ms. Madden made the motion to approve the minutes. Mr. Cohen seconded the motion, and the motion was put to a vote. Motion approved unanimously.

### **RECRUITMENT AND RETENTION AD HOC COMMITTEE:**

Report provided by Dr. Vetrano

American Rescue Funding through the Governor's Office is being led by Greg Scott including a request for \$93.075 million. Support for 1:1 staffing for non-emergency transports and other ideas have been suggested, such as advertising, live con-ed, video training modules, and an up-to-date curriculum. Ms. Gardner clarified that the American Rescue Funding proposal was made by Greg Scott and was not vetted through this committee nor OEMS.

MTA created their own EMRs out of MAV drivers.

Ms. Weiler requested creation of a bridge to EMT program.

Ms. Madden discussed the possibility of health benefits for volunteer EMTs.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

Motion to elect Dan Misa as the vice-chairperson made by Mr. Cohen, seconded by Mr. Beder. This was put to a vote and approved unanimously.

Report on The National Conference on EMS:

- Sim games were a profound success
- Awards ceremony was most attended

- Conference was successful with attendance back to pre-covid numbers

## **NEW BUSINESS**

Dr. Vetrano requested a moment of silence for the recent loss of Heather Varrasse, EMT.

### OEMS Report – Ms. Candace Gardner

- Timeliness of training fund form submissions need to be more concise in order to have more accurate reporting as well as more accurate processing.
- Many continuing education providers are not uploading information for rosters and marking students successfully complete.
- OEMS will no longer be fixing rosters; biggest offenders will be required to come to the OEMS office to rectify their rosters and if issue continues, they will not be able to obtain CEUs for their classes.
- Working to re-establish the Specialty Care Transport Unit (SCTU) Committee to ensure they have a seat at the table.
- Mr. Andrew Rivera has left OEMS and taken a job out of state.
- Ms. Judy Faulkner is the new Agency Service Representative 3
- Mr. Christian Rios and Ms. Fatima Manzoor are new Public Health Representative 2, will be working with EMS for Children (EMS-C)
- There are several positions within OEMS that are still open
- The department has issued guidelines regarding Trauma Triage
- State trauma council needs a paid ALS provider, BLS provider, and a representative from the ENA
- Ebola has returned, we need heightened awareness
  - The State website has been updated regarding donning/doffing of PPE.
- Mr. Cohen requested clarification about who qualifies to teach homegrown CEU courses; Ms. Gardner stated there is nothing in the regulation which speaks to who can teach CEU courses, but it is expected that instructors have the appropriate training or requisites for that specific course.
- EMS for Children given by Mr. Hicken:
  - EMSC obtained \$205k grant for educational videos among other items such as online classes. Next class is on December 15 on Pediatric Holiday Hazards by Dr. Lisa Drago.
- The Electronic Patient Care Reporting (ePCR) NEMSIS 3.5 will commence on January 1, 2023
- P.L. 2022 c.118 was published and geared toward ALS.
- Starting the week of January 23, 2023, OEMS will be hosting stakeholder meetings to start to facilitate dialog on what the community would like to see in the new regulations.

### OEMS Education, Licensing and Enforcement (ELE) – Mr. Daniel Kazar

- One regionalized instructor screening was cancelled due to lack of interest.

- Significant changes are coming to CEU values assigned to some elective courses including ICS 300 and above. These classes will no longer be required following changes to Executive Order 248, and other examples include CPR which will no longer be assigned CEUs.
  - Evaluation of other classes including content is ongoing.
  - EMTs should focus on clinical education instead of high CEU value operations courses.

2022 EMS Council of New Jersey – Ms. Paula Weiler

- The 2021 Symposium documentation was sent to OEMS reimbursement.
- The 2022 Symposium documentation was distributed

Dr. Vetrano made a motion to approve the reimbursement of the 2022 Symposium and seconded by Mr. Misa.

Yes: 4 No: 0 Abstentions: 3

Gold Cross presentation/proposal – Mr. Tarcisio Nunes

- Mr. Nunes presented the magazine and provided paper copies to the committee as examples of the content for their review
- Discussion ensued:
  - QA process;
  - Content creation;
  - Academic integrity;
  - Paper content versus online content; and
  - Pass rates;
- Ms. Weiler stated they want the paper content but thinks they would not mind putting the tests online to address academic integrity
- Further discussion regarding the ability to have Gold Cross CEUs in an electronic format ensued

Motion to approve the reimbursement to the EMS Council of New Jersey, specifically the Gold Cross CEUs at \$5 per CEU made by Dr. Vetrano, Seconded by Mr. Beder.

Mr. Beder suggests a stop gap of one year to trial this proposal as well as 1.5 CEU per quarter

Yes: 5 No: 1 Abstentions: 1

Presentation on Hybrid CEU Reimbursement – Mr. John Mateus:

- Requesting the content be reimbursed as class materials.
  - Mr. Mateus reports that he calculated that the Training Fund is reimbursing at \$30 per hour for hybrid courses
- Mr. Mateus requested the Training Fund committee recommend reimbursement for both the online portion provided by the publisher for a cost, and the in-person portion of skills testing

- Also requested permission to charge the students for the online portion of the training and then use Training Fund money for in person education.
  - Mr. Cohen asked about cost of materials.
  - Ms. Weiler says this has been an ongoing problem.
  - Ms. Gardner confirms that reimbursement is \$5 per CEU and clarified that this proposal will significantly increase payout from the training fund which will decrease fund availability
  - Mr. Cohen suggested putting together a proposal for next meeting, looking to expose true cost of CEU for refreshers for next meeting. Mr. Cohen states he will lead the project to ensure that something is put together.
  - Ms. Gardner states she will request legal interpretation for clarification on what needs to happen so that the body to move forward.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

- Mr. Bryan Fischberg:
  - Influence needs to be exerted on committee member's that are chronically absent
  - Multiple meetings without a quorum will cause meeting to be longer and more intense
  - Advises he has not been able to see financial report but states that the financial report should be itemized and less aggregated
  - Regarding the 2022 Symposium, in interest of transparency, there should have been some type of consensus on single enduring standardized report
- Mr. Benjamin Dafilou:
  - Is financial report posted publicly? Response was no.
  - From money spent out of the training fund, how many new EMTs were certified with that money?
  - Asked if EMS ID # can be used to acquire funding information.

### **Meeting Schedule:**

- Where: Mercer County Fire Academy @ Capt. John T. Dempster Sr. Fire Training Center; 350 Lawrence Station Road, Lawrenceville NJ 08648, Classroom A.
- Next meeting is March 1, 2023, at 10:00 am
  - June 7, 2023, at 10:00 am @ Mercer County Fire Academy
  - September 6, 2023, at 10:00 am @ Mercer County Fire Academy
  - December 6, 2023, at 10:00 am @ Mercer County Fire Academy

### **ADJOURNMENT**

Motion to adjourn meeting was made by Dr. Vetrano, seconded by Mr. Cohen, and approved by the group. The meeting was adjourned at 12:25pm.

