

March 8, 2021

TO: Sponsoring Organizations for the CoAEMSP
CoAEMSP Board Members

FROM: Paul Berlin, MS, NRP, Chair, CoAEMSP Board of Directors
George W Hatch, Jr., EdD, EMT-P, LP, Executive Director, CoAEMSP

RE: Highlights from the CoAEMSP Quarterly Board Meeting – February 5, 2021

The Committee on Accreditation of Educational Programs for the EMS Professions (CoAEMSP) Board of Directors met via Zoom on February 5. The members of the CoAEMSP Board of Directors are dedicated and give a great deal of their talents to advancing the mission of the CoAEMSP and the education of future Paramedics. Each board member has stated that it has taken them two to three years to feel comfortable with the business of the board and to feel as though they are ramped up. The CoAEMSP is grateful for each board member's dedication to the mission – to advance the quality of EMS education through accreditation.

The highlights from the meeting:

1. **Program Actions.** Reviewed 15 programs for initial accreditation, continuing accreditation and progress reports.
2. **By the Numbers.** At the time of the board meeting there were **639 CAAHEPⁱ accredited** Paramedic programs and **79 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 <https://www.caahep.org/Students/Find-a-Program.aspx>. In addition to these numbers, there are 17 programs seeking the Letter of Review and hold no status with CoAEMSP or CAAHEP.
3. **Impact of COVID-19.** For programs that continue to have COVID-19 limitations on clinical sites, the CoAEMSP is extending the original guidelines to permit the use of alternative evaluation methods to include scenarios, case studies, and simulation as well as the adjustment of minimum competencies to satisfy the requirements of the accreditation standards for Paramedic educational programs **through December 1, 2021**. (The original date was October 31, 2020 then July 1, 2021). This update supersedes any prior guidance by CoAEMSP. For the complete statement, it is posted on the home page of www.coaemsp.org.
4. **Virtual Learning.** CoAEMSP is hosting monthly virtual accreditation workshops and monthly webinars. Each of the virtual accreditation workshops sell out within a few hours.
5. **Virtual Site Visits.** CoAEMSP is conducting virtual site visits until restrictions are lessened by national, state, and local authorities, employers, and schools offering Paramedic programs. The initial pilot of 12 programs went well and will continue with most programs.
6. **Strategic Plan 2017.** In 2017 CoAEMSP leadership developed the organization's current strategic plan. On an annual basis it is reviewed to determine progression toward achieving it. The strategic plan is nearly complete, and plans are in development to conduct the next strategic plan.
7. **ACCREDITCON**, the annual conference / collaborative for advancing excellence through accreditation, will be held virtually on June 2, 3 and 4. For more information, visit www.accreditcon.org.

CoAEMSP Quarterly Board Meeting Highlights

February 5, 2021

8. **AEMT Accreditation.** The CoAEMSP is studying the feasibility of providing accreditation services to AEMT programs. Accreditation of AEMT programs would be voluntary; however, there may be states that require accreditation of the AEMT programs. The next steps include completing a survey of the State OEMS Directors, providing a public comment period for programs, then presenting findings in open forum to entire national EMS community seeking input on AEMT accreditation. The study has been placed on pause and will reconvene in 2021.
9. **Student Minimum Competency (SMC),** formerly referred to as Appendix G, is under review in collaboration with NREMT because of the role they play with the Portfolio and Practice Analysis. The intent is to make clearer the Student Minimum Competency and to determine what is the best method to assess competency.
10. **CAAHEP,** which is the accreditation organization for Paramedic programs, is seeking re-recognition from CHEA, the Council on Higher Education Accreditation. Much like a Paramedic Program Director seeking accreditation of the program, CAAHEP must participate in a parallel process with CHEA. CoAEMSP has supported CAAHEP's efforts for the re-recognition.

11. Next Meetings:

2021: May 7 web meeting
 August 6 web meeting
 November 5 web meeting

2022: February 3-4-5 Austin TX
 May 6 web meeting
 July 28-29-30 TBD
 November 4 web meeting

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 within 30 days of each Board meeting.**

CAAHEP = Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs

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.

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]