



# SAEMS

## SOUTHEAST ARIZONA EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES COUNCIL

Chair: Joshua Gaither, MD; Vice Chair: Chief Tom Brandhuber; Executive Director: Sara Perotti, ACNP-BC

### SAEMS REGIONAL EMS COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

**Date: 6/18/2024**

**Time: 1000**

**Hybrid Format: ZOOM Teleconference and/or in-person.**

**Meeting location: Arizona Health Sciences Library**

**ZOOM Conference link below: (for video attendees):**

**<https://arizona.zoom.us/j/82961605824>**

**Meeting ID: 829 6160 5824**

**Dial by your location: +1 602 753 0140 US (Phoenix)**

- I. Call to Order / Roll Call:** Voting Member Attendance: 1006
- II. Approval of minutes:** 4/16/2024 meeting: Review/Vote-Approved.
- III. Financial Report:**
  - A. Financial Report/Accountant summary: Sara provided summary. Distributed electronically: Vote/Approved.
  - B. Regional EMS Education/Certification Grant: Status report: Sara provided update.
  - C. AZDHS FY 2023-2024: End of fiscal year: Sara provided update.
  - D. FY 2024-2025 Contract/Budget: Received 3-year extension from AZDHS. Sara provided update. SAEMS signed/submitted 3-year extension document. Final, fully executed version not yet received by AZDHS. Will advise council when received. Extension did not include pricing sheet. Therefore, cannot plan budget yet, until pricing sheet has been received.
- IV. Executive Directors Report:** Updates/activities.
  - A. Arizona Corporation Commission filing: Filed/Approved, SAM Registration
  - B. AZDHS EMS & Trauma Strategic Planning Summit: Presentation of Strategic Plan. \*Upcoming: Sara discussed/no further updates.
- V. Old Business & Sub-Region/Committee Reports**
  - A. Sub-regional Reports:**
    - i. Pima: PEMS: Tom: not tracking wall times, no concerning trends. Likely just related to specific hospitals and will address individual.
    - ii. Cochise: CCEMS: Matt: EMS in the Desert, 2-day conference. In September. Fee 2-day conference. Thank Manny Montano at PCHD. Using transport vents provided by Manny.
    - iii. Santa Cruz: SCEMS: Christian Renteria-Good news reporting. ADHS provider of the year. Banner recognized captain for provider

of the year. Awaiting decision on sponsorship for SWTRC. 7 students at Pima attending paramedic training course. Upcoming EMT class at Pima pending as well. Use of grant funding.

- iv. Graham-Greenlee: GG-CMEMS: Eric Bejarano-United Way sponsored EMS week. 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary commemoration coin was provided. Peer support class upcoming Serena Butler new BHM taking Kyle Lines place.

#### **B. Committee Reports:**

- i. Regional Trauma Committee: Andrew Laine (Carondelet)-discussed about lack of available transfer rigs around the region. Likely national problem. Elevated to trauma program managers at the state level.
  - ii. EMS Medical Directors: Amber Rice: PDR documents approved. Dr. Herbert excused absence.
  - iii. Providers Committee Report: Greg VanAlstine-Free standing ED, concerns with divert due to instability. Don't marry up with SAEMS protocols. Will keep working with individual agencies. Chief VanAlstine will keep in communication with stakeholders. Discussed concerns for air ops needing to transport patients due to need for lack of bed availability and specialty providers.
  - iv. Protocol Development and Review Report: Amber will give update in voting items. Edits to transport protocol due to TTTG's removed by PDR.
  - v. Base Hospital Managers Report: Meeting tomorrow 6/19, discussed with providers when issues with facilities. Discuss with BHM in real time. Will also discuss infectious control and exposure process.
  - vi. Air Medical Committee Report: Mike submitted report electronically.
- Aviation operations - medical helicopters have updated their operations to fly at a higher altitude, the higher altitude reduces the risk of bird strikes (based on recent FAA review)
    - Clinicians are aware and coordinate when caring for an altitude sensitive patient
  - Recent laser strike during U of A protests - communication from the air medical committee to region to alert all air medical providers

#### Operations

- Increased flight to Phoenix were noted by all air medical providers
  - Hospitals report limited bed availability in Tucson
- Continued work to solidify known Helicopter Landing Zones
  - Will be available to the region for reference
- Review of radio set up for all helicopters to ensure coordinated communication with staging officer at landing zones

#### Program updates

- *Arizona LifeLine* - In hiring process for Program Director (Mike Schwartz moved to different role with GMR)
- *PHI* - Opened new base in Safford (AirEvac 25)
- *LifeNet* - New Southern Arizona Accounts manager - Jennifer Culbert (formerly with TMC), in process for new Area Manager in Southern Arizona
- *DPS* - 24-hour rescue operations are being performed, training complete on new airframe (Bell 429)

#### SAEMS - PDR

- Looking to identify a new air medical representative for PDR
- C. **Pima County Health Department Report:** Manny Montano: Attended the SERF regarding immediate needs. Great event. Internal avian influenza seminar. Trying to stay ahead of potential issues. Deliverables in planning/exercises, please reach out to Manny. Planning review on all plans were behind before COVID, running through them. Fatality management seminar 12/4, advise Manny. Office of climate education. Rural transport ventilator program, ventilators still available for all southern Arizona. Please reach out to Manny. Issue with Chempack, no room for previous agency to house it. No agency can take on resource. Applied to state and feds to keep at tool warehouse. Don't want it released because when it goes, difficult to get it back. Cooling center link information provided in chat.
- D. **Arizona Department of Health Services Report:** ADHS Representative: Rachel Garcia and Noreen and other Bureau on the line. Budget. Large budget deficit. EMS operating budget is not immune from budget challenges. Contract amendments for upcoming fiscal year has been sent to each region. Pricing sheets not available yet. Pending budget authorization. AZDHS hopes to have information out by June 30<sup>th</sup>. EMS education is uncertain, appropriation higher than revenue. Will need to plan for grant funding/applications and budget projections. Final amount may change. Chief Garcia discussed upcoming AZDHS road show, with intent to get out to each region to discuss 2025-2030 Strategic Plan and to introduce new team members. Tentatively planned for August 14<sup>th</sup> meeting at Providers/PEMS meeting. AZDHS available for other speaking/engagement opportunities. Rulemaking: Hot topic-AZDHS currently conducting 4 rule makings. Including Scope of Practice (information shared widely with group in the chat). Critical Care Paramedic scope of practice pathway for endorsement ongoing but has been reviewed/approved by committees. Rule writers and ADHS stakeholder holding meetings with hospitals and EMS providers. Most information has come out from Maricopa County thus far. AZDHS appreciates SAEMS support and will keep us in loop with communication on further contributions. Manny asked in chat if AZDHS has reviewed scope of practice respective to EMT's regarding administration of vaccines. Noted to have been helpful during height of COVID pandemic. Rachel discussed it is already in scope of practice for paramedics. Not yet for EMT's, but, if necessary, Emergency Measure trigger is always an option and can be initiated if necessary. Scope of practice information and rulemaking available on AZDHS website and added to chat for everyone on call/in meeting. Adam Rodriguez discussed PPRP readiness assessment. First nationwide standardized measurement to better understand what is going on

nationwide. Importance of completing in the Southern Region. Sent out to all members electronically. Also made available in chat. Dr. Spaite discussed EMS Medical Directors commission ongoing issue of critical care paramedic scope of practice. Provided example of drug approval and intricacies. Will require more discussion. Dr. Rice shared that there was discussion on potential changes from drug box between interfacility versus EMS. More to follow. Dr. Spaite mentioned need to collect better information regarding EPIC TBI and reporting. Adam discussed LMS portal-EMS agency can now staff their rosters with names, so that AZDHS can say who is where regarding crews.

**VI. Data & Quality:**

- A. HB2609 Annual Response Time Report: Due July 1<sup>st</sup>. Discussed by AZDHS: Documents shared in chat. Documents also shared in meetings for attachments.
- B. Pediatric Readiness Project (PPRP): Due July 31<sup>st</sup>. Adam discussed as noted above: documents shared in chat and in electronic distribution.

**VII. Kramer Scholarship submissions:**

- A. Applications: Submitted for review/present. Review/Approved Sara to distribute maximum amount with all requisite documents. Max amount \$1,000. Agreed to consider changing criteria for distribution. Will address in next meeting.
- B. Discuss and consider changing criteria for distribution of awards. As notated above.

**VIII. New-Old Business/Action Items:**

- A. PDR Protocols/Procedures for review/approval: Dr. Rice presented: Vote/Approved.
  - a. Remove airway management protocol (redundant to TTTG)
  - b. Remove assessment protocol (redundant to TTTG)
- B. SAEMS Regional Council: Open seat: EMS Provider URBAN-Nominations open
- C. SAEMS DHS Pediatric Advisory Council for Emergency Services (PACES) Representative: Nominations open
- D. SAEMS DHS: Trauma and EMS Performance Improvement (TEPI) Prehospital Representative: Nominations open: To fill seat vacated by Dan Modrejewski
- E. Regional EMS Education Grant: Full distribution/complete: Sara discussed; full draw down has been completed within funding timeline.

**IX. NEMESIS 3.5 update:** No new updates.

**X. Upcoming Events/Important Announcements:** No new updates.

**XI. Call to the public:** Dr. Rice presented summary and presented video.

- A. Caviler EFIC presentation: Robin Carlson: present on research project as part of the CC/PD process for EFIC approval. Dr. Rice presented for Robin. Discussed community consultation and public disclosure. Presented by the LITES network. Dr. Joseph at the PI. Brief overview and short video

presented. Study will look at patients with severe injury and blood loss.

**XII. Education Announcements:**

- A. Please note date change: \*33<sup>rd</sup> Annual Southwest Regional Trauma Conference (SWRTC): DATE change: August 1<sup>st</sup>-2<sup>nd</sup> 2024.

**XIII. Adjourn: 1118**

MINUTES