

**CASAC Minutes – May 18, 2022**  
Virtual meeting – Go To Meeting

Attendees:

Scott Barquin	SOCALR	Scott Legore	SOCALR
Pat Gainer	MIEMSS	Bev Witmer	MIEMSS
Jimmy Pixton	AAA	Marty Johnson	MIEMSS
Cyndy Wright Johnson	MIEMSS	Dr. Ted Delbridge	MIEMSS
Jill Dannenfelser	PEMAC	Joey King	Life Care
Kate Passow	PTS	Teddy Baldwin	Lifestar
Mike Moretti	Keystone/Lifestar	Gary Rains	Butler
Sarah Sette	MIEMSS	Jo Ann Bernard	MRNTP
Susan Rainey	Nemours	Libby Allen	AMR
David Coullahan	AMR	Cory Skidmore	Hart to Heart
Rob Weiss	Pulse	Mark Buchholtz	Pro Care
Dr. Tim Chizmar	MIEMSS	Megan Lyn	UMMS/MEC

Meeting called to order by Jimmy Pixton.

No additions or corrections to the March meeting minutes. Approved as submitted.

**State Medical Director’s Report – Dr. Chizmar**

Happy EMS Week to everyone

Protocol videos are in the final stages of editing and production by Pete Fiakos. These will be posted on the Online Training Center. The goal is this Friday. The Base Station part will follow early next week.

Reminder – EMT Stipend is available. We have processed close to 300 applications. Pathway remains available.

I echo my appreciation to Scott and Marty on the extraglottic airway grant, to ensure these are available to all ALS units.

Any questions – None

**SOCALR Report**

**Inspections – Marty Johnson**

This year’s renewal inspections are underway.

A change for this year – you will received a QuickBooks invoice that details all of the charges and then you will receive a Truist link that will allow you to pay online. We ask that if the QuickBooks invoice and the Truist link go to different folks within your service, please coordinate payment as we have had a service pay twice.

All of renewal forms are now fillable forms. We have had a few services report problems opening them and it appears to be with the software being used on their end.

Scott – SOCALR is working on some internal updates on our IT stuff. This may result in some minor changes to forms, such as the removal of some fields that we no longer track.

**QA Review** – Scott Legore

Reminder – QA Officer course is online through the MIEMSS Online Training Center

**Data Import** – Scott Barquin is working with services that may have data import issues.

**Equipment Update** – The revised checklists have been sent out and will be posted on the website July 1<sup>st</sup> to coincide with the protocol updates.

An email was sent out to services that are dual agency – either with a hospital or another service. Looking for some information on how you operate to ensure compliance. Only 1 response received so far. I will be following up with those that did not respond.

**MEMRAD** – Maryland Emergency Medical Resource Alert Database. This system is being updated and will include commercial services. Looking at a September/October timeframe. Just giving everyone the heads up – be aware that there may be some request for information and we will look to have a demo at a future CASAC meeting.

**Airway Grant** – SOCALR is offering a grant to offset some of the costs of the extraglottic airways. Applications went out last month – let me know if you need it resent. Deadline is August 1<sup>st</sup>.

Any Questions

Jimmy (AAA) – Did you look into the fire extinguisher question?

Scott – Yes, NFPA 10 covers fire extinguishers. Any fire extinguisher that is used by a commercial service must be inspected yearly.

Dr. Chizmar – A follow up on purchasing medications (not controlled) by a group of services. The Board of Pharmacy does not regulate the practice of medicine and does not take any opinion on this.

**Interfacility Transport Study** – Pat Gainer

I want to bring you up to date on an issue that the legislature wants MIEMSS to report on. During the past session, the major hospital systems met with the legislature in some hearings about their concerns about delays in interfacility transfers for Medicaid patients. Hospitals reported that these delays resulted in delayed patient care and the hospitals had to pay their regular contracted services instead of Medicaid provider. And the hospitals testified that the situation was briefly remedied when Medicaid allowed the system to be open to all contractors. MIEMSS has been tasked with reporting to both the budget and health committees by December on the number of transfers, both emergency and non-emergency patients for Medicaid. Just

about to begin work on the study and wanted to let everyone be aware of the scope and ask for your help on the study. Under the direction we received from the legislature, we need to report on the capacity and ability to respond to these transfers. Are there enough ambulances and personnel available? We are supposed to be looking at the process of responding to these requests and the response times. Adequacy of reimbursement for costs – What is the Medicaid reimbursement rate and is it enough to cover costs? Performance Standards. And then we are to be making recommendations on improvements to the system. So I have reached out to Medicaid to identify someone to speak with and next week I am touching base with the hospitals whose lobbyist brought this study forward. And we are reaching out to the commercial services and it would be ideal if we could get four or five services to commit to working with us on the study as we work through the issues. The study results have to be submitted in early December, so it is a whole lot of work. I have found that these studies provide an opportunity to make changes and improvements, even if they are slow to come. If any commercial services are interested in helping with the study, please let Scott know. We would meet for the first time near the end of June and then probably once a month through the fall.

Any questions –

Megan (UMMS) – Can we connect offline as UMMS is interested in this study as well from the hospital side?

Jimmy (AAA) – To clarify, this study is a little different than the email request sent out earlier requesting hospital contract information?

Scott – Yes, it is a little different. We were looking to build a base of information to work from.

Pat – We do feel this information is important as the hospitals have indicated they relied on the contracted services during that brief interlude so we would still like to have that information. It would be helpful.

### **Clinician Services – Bev Witmer**

I have a few statistical things to share with you. As you know we are offering the EMT stipend for those clinicians who started their EMT training after January 1<sup>st</sup>. The requirements include 16 years or older, having not dropped or failed an EMT class within the last year and a valid Maryland driver's license or other ID to prove residency. They receive certain stipends for reaching certain milestones. We have processed about 300 applications and it has been pretty successful.

The next thing to share is Provisionals – the first round of provisional licenses expired as of May 11<sup>th</sup> and there were 1100 clinicians that lapsed. A majority of those were EMTs. We have been getting a lot of phone calls and questions about a variety of things. Some folks have legitimately completed all aspects of the renewal and it did not flow in Imagetrend and we have adjusted those. If you have any folks that have completed training and all of the requirements and still lapsed, please reach out to our office so we can look into those.

Last thing to share, for those of you that have EMRs and EMTs that expire next month, please encourage them to get their applications in by the 15<sup>th</sup> of June. Any applications submitted after the 15<sup>th</sup> will still be processed but they may lapse and not get processed before the 30<sup>th</sup>. There are 282 EMRs and 4511 EMTs to process between now and the end of June.

Questions – None

**PEMAC** – Jill Dannenfelser

Miltenberger Conference is posted online under the MIEMSS Training Center. Some very good CEU courses there.

**SEMSAC** – Mike

Meeting was cancelled this month

**MIH** – Mark

Nothing to report

**Old Business** – None

**New Business**

Cyndy – The CEUs that Jill mentioned are for BLS, ALS and RN, and are available through the end of the year.

**Good of the Committee**

Scott – On behalf of MIEMSS and SOCALR, I want to thank you and please pass on our thanks to your personnel for all you do for the EMS system throughout the state. You provide a valuable service and the last two years have been more than challenging and we appreciate everything you do on a day to day basis.

Motion to adjourn