APPROVED

CONNECTICUT EMS ADVISORY BOARD (CEMSAB)

February 25, 2026 at 0900 hours

Remote only

Board Members	G. Allard, J. Beaulieu, L. Bolton, M. Daniels, C. Dunn, R. Guthrie, T. Lardaro, J. Laucella, M. Loiz, S. Martus, P. Norwood, J. Paretzky, J. Quinlavin, S. Robinson, A. Romano, I. Smith, D. Tompkins, W. Wheeler, R. Ziegler, B. Zura
Non-Member Committee Chairs	M. Osborne (Education and Training), B. Morris (CMED), R. Nuzzo (Data)
Regional Council Presidents	L. Goodman (Region 1), W. Fitzmaurice (Region 2), M. Letita (Region 3), J. Danao (Region 4)
EMSC	H. Chicaiza, M. Petrucelli
OEMS Staff:	J. Demers, R. Calciano, J. Reynolds, M. Zacchera, A. Pugliese, R. Kamin (CEMSMAC)
Guests	J. Strickland, M. Burroughs, A. Stephenson, L. Cullen, D. Moore, K. Lindstrom, P. Ciadullo, P. Gauthier, B. Sullivan, T. Schietinger, J. Way, J. Nadeau, P. Canning, R. Velletri, N. Brescia
Board Chair	W. Schietinger

Meeting opened at 9:03

TOPIC	DISCUSSION LED BY:	DISCUSSION	ACTION
Moment of Silence for Lost EMS Providers	W. Schietinger	• A. Sypher • S. Albert	
Meeting Minutes from December 2025 and January 2026	W. Schietinger	• December 2025 and January 2026 meeting minutes	*Motion to accept December 17th minutes 1st J. Paretzky 2nd I. Smith Motion passed unanimously *Motion to accept January 28th minutes 1st J. Paretzky 2nd I. Smith Motion passed unanimously
Public comment		• None	
Presentation	A. Stephenson, M. Burroughs	• UNDUE Medical Debt; 501c3, funded by doners; presentation on the impact of medical debt	Amanda.stephenson@unduemedicaldebt.org
Chair's Report	W. Schietinger	• Membership updates, ○ Nancy Brescia concluded service after about 20 years representing the Connecticut Association of Emergency Nurses. The Chair recognized her contributions and welcomed Wendy Wheeler as the new representative effective January 2026. Wheeler	

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		shared prior familiarity with the Board. o The Chair reported progress with the Governor's Office on member reappointments and noted additional reappointments are being coordinated as appointing authorities change. One pending reappointment was noted for Bob Guthrie. o Current open positions include Connecticut Association of Directors of Health, Connecticut Police Chiefs Association, Connecticut State Police, and one Advanced EMT position. o Yellow Envelope project discussion; R. Kamin • EMS Commemorative Plates o J. Quinlavin provided a legislative update and proposed language changes to allow CEMSAB to designate the annual recipient of plate proceeds. Discussion included concerns about annual designation, non-lapsing fund concepts, and possible alternate paths through Appropriations. The Chair indicated materials will be distributed to the Board.	

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		• EMS Week conference and activities ○ The Chair requested ideas for Board recognition activities during EMS Week (May 17 to May 23, 2026). Members discussed potential visibility and communications, including possible activities at the Legislative Office Building.	
EMS Transformation	J. Beaulieu	• J. Beaulieu reported on the EMS Transformation ad hoc committee co-chaired with B. Zura. • The group established weekly remote meetings on Thursdays from 1:30 PM to 2:30 PM, with strong participation in the initial sessions. • Initial work included review of the NHTSA EMS System Assessment report (2013) as a reference point and identification of priority focus areas. • First focus areas: statewide communication and medical direction. The committee discussed what data and measures are available, where gaps exist, and how to define benchmarks for improvement.	

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		• Next meeting scheduled for February 26, 2026.	
OEMS	R. Calciano, Feb. written report submitted	• R. Calciano welcomed OEMS leadership guest Lorraine Cullen (Branch Chief, Healthcare Quality and Safety) to her first CEMSAB meeting. • OEMS reported ongoing intermittent National Registry verification issues; Sherry Andrews continues daily follow up to resolve verification delays. • The written February OEMS report referenced local EMS planning and HeartSafe programs and noted municipalities not in compliance with Conn. Gen. Stat. 19a-181b. • MIH Kickoff Conference update: M. Zacchera and J. Beaulieu reported a successful kickoff conference hosted at the Connecticut Hospital Association with about 50 in person attendees and about 40 online, featuring four speakers and generating follow up interest. CHA staff Christine Prestiano and Marielle Daniels were thanked for operational support.	

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EMSC Report	M. Petrucelli	• M. Petrucelli reported ongoing hospital and pre-hospital pediatric initiatives and thanked CHA for collaboration to facilitate statewide connections. • The 4th Annual PECC Conference is scheduled for March 6, 2026 in Meriden; the conference is free with EMS continuing education credits available.	https://www.eventbrite.com/e/2026-4th-annual-pecc-conference-tickets-1854918464059?aff=oddtdtcreator
Breakout Session		None	
Committee Reports			
CEMSMAC	R. Kamin, Dec. and Jan. minutes distributed	• February CEMSMAC was canceled due to state holiday	
CMED and SIEC Committee	B. Morris, Jan. minutes distributed	• No update	
Council of Regional Presidents (CORP)	W. Fitzmaurice	• CORP met February 18, 2026 and continues work on statewide EMS awards; nominations are open with a closing date of September 1, 2026. • A flyer with QR code has been developed to simplify nominations and members encouraged wider distribution. • CORP held a brief discussion regarding EMS strike teams; Region 2 has formed a	https://ctemscouncils.org/

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		subcommittee and will continue development and coordination with other regions.	
Data Committee	R. Nuzzo, January minutes distributed	• No update	
Education and Training Committee	M. Osborne, Dec. and Jan. minutes distributed	• Committee continues work on the competency portfolio project; no additional updates beyond distributed minutes.	
Health and Wellness Committee	February minutes distributed	• No discussion	
Legislative Committee	M. Loiz, Jan minutes distributed	• Legislative session updates: committee meeting held February 19, 2026 with next meeting scheduled March 19, 2026. EMS on the Hill is planned for March 25 and 26, 2026. • Committee is tracking about 15 bills and coordinating with the Connecticut Hospital Association and Connecticut Ambulance Association. • Key topics included the EMS Compact bill and related background check requirements (FBI-based) as a condition of compact membership, including questions about who pays the fee and whether	• Motion for the Chair to provide written communication from the CEMSAB on the board's letterhead indicating our concern that EMS, as an essential public safety responder, has not been included in bill 5046 to the legislature, any relevant committees, and the governor's office. Additionally, this messaging should also be provided via other available means such as testimony and verbal communications to the

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		existing agency background checks can be leveraged. Members noted workforce and grant competitiveness benefits of compact participation. • Recruitment and retention: members discussed the state CHESLA funding authority for EMT and paramedic education and the need for implementation funding. • Performance dashboard bill: members noted testimony activity and concerns about fiscal impact and agency capacity.	legislature, any relevant committees, and/or stakeholders. 1st J. Quinlivan, 2nd T. Lardaro Motion passed unanimously.
Mobile Integrated Healthcare Committee	J. Beaulieu	• Committee noted the MIH Kickoff Conference held at CHA. Next MIH meeting is February 26, 2026 at 2:30 PM (time adjusted from 2:00 PM).	
Nominating and Membership Committee		• No discussion	
Regional Preparedness and Collaboration Committee	February minutes distributed	• No discussion	
Trauma Committee		• No discussion	
Action Items	W. Schietinger	• None	

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Old Business	W. Schietinger	• None	
New Business	W. Schietinger	• None	
Next Meeting		• Next meeting: March 25, 2026 at Hunter's. • April through August meetings are planned at the Connecticut Hospital Association; later meeting locations to be confirmed.	
Adjournment		• Meeting adjourned at 10:48 AM.	Motion to adjourn.

Respectively submitted by:
Angela Pugliese, OEMS
Charles Dunn, Advisory Board Secretary

EMS Advisory Board Upcoming 2026 Meeting Schedule:
~~Jan 28~~ | ~~Feb 25~~ | Mar 25 | Apr 22 | May 27 | June 24 | July 22 | Aug 26 | Sept 23 | Oct 28 | Nov 25 | Dec 23