Approved
CONNECTICUT EMS ADVISORY BOARD (CEMSAB)
May 27, 2026 at 0900 hours
CT Hospital Association
110 Barnes Road, Wallingford CT
HYBRID Remote option

Board Members	G. Allard, J. Beaulieu, L. Bolton, S. Caffyn, K. Coupe, C. Dunn (P), K. Ferrarotti, R. Guthrie (P), M. Loiz, J. Paretzky (P), J. Quinlavin (P), J. Roache (P), S. Robinson, A. Romano, I. Smith (P), D. Tompkins, B. Zura, W. Wheeler, K. McClaine, P. Norwood, S. Martus
Non-Member Committee Chairs	M. Osborne (Education and Training), B. Morris (CMED)
Regional Council Presidents	L. Goodman (Region 1) (P), M. Letita (Region 3) (P), J. Danao (Region 4)
EMSC	H. Chicaiza, M. Petrucelli
OEMS Staff:	R. Calciano (P), J. Reynolds (P), M. Zacchera (P), K. Hickcox (P), A. Pugliese, F. Glowski (P)
Guests	J. Santacroce, J. Way, K. Lundstrom, A. Mauro, S. Conley, J. Strickland, S. Varga, P. Canning
Board Chair	W. Schietinger (P)

Meeting opened at 9:00
*In Person (P) = 14

*Remote = 29

TOPIC	DISCUSSION LED BY:	DISCUSSION	ACTION
Moment of Silence for Lost EMS Providers	W. Schietinger	• Steve Dargan, past State Rep and Chair of the Public Safety Committee. • John Stevens, a provider with Middlesex EMS who served as an EMT and dispatcher.	
Meeting Minutes of April 2026	W. Schietinger	• April 2026 meeting minutes	Motion to accept April 22, 2026 meeting minutes 1st J. Paretzky 2nd I. Smith Motion passed unanimously
Public comment		• None	
Presentation		• None	
Chair's Report	W. Schietinger	• EMS Week Proclamation: Governor signed the proclamation, but neither the Governor nor the Lt. Governor were available to present during EMS week. The signed proclamation was inadvertently left at the Chair's home. Plans to share photos with the regions. • Thanks and recognition to Leigh Goodman for tremendous help with EMS Week photos, Lamar Advertising Company for setting them up, and Mike Loiz, Greg Allard, Josh, and Charles for brainstorming and coordination. Two billboards	

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		were placed along I-91 for EMS Week; photos were distributed to all members. • Summer/Fall Schedule Discussion: I. Smith proposed canceling June and July meetings. B. Zura expressed concern about canceling two months, noting monthly meetings are a reasonable expectation. M. Zacchera indicated he would have new business for June. Compromise reached: keep June 24th, cancel July, keep August 26th, September 23rd, and October 28th. November changed to 11/18; December changed to 12/16. • September 23rd meeting discussed in relation to EMS Pro conference (Oct 21-24). Consensus was to hold the meeting separately from the conference due to parking, logistics, and low attendance at the prior year's conference meeting. Meeting will be held remotely if CHA is unavailable. • Possible June presentation: OEMS Annual Report presentation by Eliza (contingent on Commissioner's approval). M. Zacchera may also have items for the agenda. • Noted the legislature will not reconvene until January 6, 2027 due to election year. J. Paretzky	

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		emphasized the importance of getting a jump start on legislative initiatives beginning in August.	
EMS Transformation	B. Zura	• Committee continues to meet every Thursday at 1:30 PM with robust discussions. • Approaching a set of draft recommendations on the first section: communications (CMED, PSAP, EMD system). Recommendations are still being refined. • Medical direction is the next section to be addressed. • Discussions described as very positive with a good working group.	
OEMS	R. Calciano, May written report submitted	• Review of submitted May report. • NASEMSO Meeting: OEMS awarded the API Data Efficacy Improvement Project Data-Driven Excellence Award at the National Association of State EMS Officials (NASEMSO) meeting. Award recognized work under the SWORD led by Katharine Hickcox. Kudos to Katharine and her team. • MIH program going strong; details are deferred to M. Zacchera and J. Reynolds. • FIFA Planning and Disease Outbreak Monitoring: OEMS involved in FIFA planning and monitoring a disease outbreak in the Republic of Congo, Sudan,	

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		and Uganda. Greater than 900 cases reported in the Congo. CDC staffing reductions have delayed reporting, but OEMS is now actively engaged and will share information as available. • Annual Report is complete and in the approval process. Branch chief has reviewed; next step is Commissioner's Office approval. Expected no later than mid-June. Report is approximately 57 pages. Kudos to Eliza, Michael, and Rich Kamin. Suggested Eliza present the report to the board once published.	
EMSC Report	M. Petrucelli	• No report	
Breakout Session		• None	
Committee Reports			
CEMSMAC	K. McClaine, April minutes submitted	• Summarized April draft minutes. • Reviewing CT Unified EMS Protocols; statewide consideration of expansion of sedation for cardioversion, contemplating ketamine and etomidate. Several regions had concerns; going back to regions and will reconvene next month.	

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		• Good presentation on prehospital blood programs and potential expansion through other parts of the state, following USDOT and NHTSA guidelines. • Discussion of ongoing CARES concerns with subscription fees. Committee believes it is worthwhile maintaining but working through implications for the regions. • Physio Control LifeNet is sunsetting its traditional platform. EMS agencies and hospital systems exploring alternative options for EKG transmission, including app-based platforms. No single statewide solution identified.	
CMED and SIEC Committee	B. Morris	• Did not meet in May. • Follow-up from April meeting regarding CHEMPACK notification in the northwest corner. Working with the hospital on a brief package about field incident notifications involving pharmaceuticals, to be brought to the next meeting. • Everyone is gearing up for summer activities and attending planning meetings. • Next meeting June 10th.	
Council of Regional Presidents (CORP)	L. Goodman	• Continuing to push awards for EMS conference • EMS Pro is held Oct 21 – Oct 24	https://ctemscouncils.org/

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Data Committee	L. Goodman, minutes submitted	• M. Zacchera presented a preview of upcoming work from the Documentation Standardization Subcommittee. • Expanding upon the state data dictionary to create a rollout for street-level EMS providers, clarifying what goes in each field and why. Better data means better information for decision-making. • Selected approximately 80 of roughly 300 fields in a typical PCR; non-controversial fields (e.g., address, type of call: 911, intercept, mutual aid). • Education products created for three audiences: street-level providers, data administrators, and service chiefs/educators. • Ready for first rollout. Will be looking to CEMSAB for a stamp of approval next month. Also plans to route through Education and Training Committee and CEMSMAC for additional authority. • Ongoing, multi-year project. Next phase will tackle another group of 50-80 fields. Future work will also address narrative vs. checkbox documentation. • Example discussed: mutual aid calls frequently coded as 911 calls, resulting in data showing 3/4 of a million 911 calls but only 10,000 mutual aid calls statewide last year.	

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		• Eliza has created validation rules. Plan to start with warnings, then escalate critical fields to errors (which prevent chart closure) over time. Gradual rollout anticipated over at least six months. • Documentation Standardization Subcommittee meets weekly on Fridays at 1:00 PM, open meeting. • Robust discussion among board members about the value of narrative documentation for painting the full picture of a call and its importance for QI, versus checkboxes for data analysis. • Data committee minutes to be distributed to the board.	
Education and Training Committee	M. Osborne, April meeting minutes submitted	• Continuing to meet all summer due to several active projects. • Main project: Student Minimum Competency program for portfolio-based EMR and EMT courses, transitioning away from standardized practicals. Following NAEMSE/NASEMSO guidance and other states' models. • Tentative timeline developed; rollout over 1-2 years. Mandated education for all EMSIs with pilot program in August. Some programs may begin in September. Final goal: all programs transitioned by 2029.	

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		• Working on best practices guides for running an EMSI class and for EMS classes in general. • Website updated and more easily accessible with resources available. • Administrative note: OEMS automated renewal system now sends warnings at 90 days out instead of six months. Renewal at 90 days out. Memo distributed the prior week.	
Health and Wellness Committee	K. Ferrarotti, April meeting minutes submitted	• Kicked off a leader/manager peer support program with strong support from L. Goodman. Great first session. • Program is held monthly via Zoom; alternating day and evening sessions to capture wider audience. • Engaging 3-4 LCSWs. • Theming each session for relevance. • Focus on ensuring leaders and managers know they are supported. • Regionalization: ongoing conversations about EMS advocacy at the ESFA level. Working with regions on regional task force buildouts.	
Legislative Committee	M. Loiz, April meeting minutes submitted	• Good discussion at the May meeting. • Put together legislative initiatives for 2027; reviewed the CEMSAB Session 2026 briefing. Tracked approximately 50-53 bills throughout the	

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		session; shortlist provided to the Chair for distribution. • Recruitment and retention legislation discussed; the bill left out private ambulance companies. Committee unanimously supports inclusion of all ambulance services, noting the broader EMS ecosystem must be considered. Legislators have indicated interest in addressing this next session. • Emphasized this is CEMSAB's committee. All members encouraged to send in legislative initiatives even if unable to attend meetings. Looking for engagement and willingness to help research initiatives. • Goal: have initiatives ready by early fall for a strong game plan before the next legislative session (January 6, 2027). • Suggestion to invite legislators (e.g., Senator Somers, Rep. Cristin McCarthy) to an October or November CEMSAB meeting before session starts. • Next meeting June 18th.	
Mobile Integrated Healthcare Committee	M. Zacchera	• Committee continues to meet; next meeting May 28th. • American Ambulance Need for Service MIH hearing held approximately 1.5 weeks prior; lasted	

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		only 14 minutes. Hearing officer had one question (regarding backup). Went very smoothly. • Application process appears to effectively answer most hearing officer questions. • Awaiting official decision from the hearing officer. • Second application received from Norwalk Hospital will go through the process shortly. • Meetings scheduled with at least four more interested programs (some hospital-based, some EMS service-based). • Future project: exploring process for expanding an existing MIH service to additional disease processes (e.g., adding COPD to existing CHF program) without requiring full reapplication. • MIH certificate attached to EMS service license; annual renewal with reporting requirements (patient counts, cost reductions, outcomes vs. application goals). MIH renewal separate from EMS organization license renewal. • Joint subcommittee with Education and Training working on MIH provider education best practices.	
Nominating and Membership Committee		• No Update	

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Regional Preparedness and Collaboration Committee	K. Ferrarotti, April meeting minutes submitted	• Review of minutes	
Trauma Committee		• No update. Chair noted a recent trauma meeting calendar item; will clarify and distribute minutes once received.	
Action Items	W. Schietinger	• None	
Old Business	W. Schietinger	• None	
New Business	W. Schietinger	• FIFA World Cup EMS Preparedness Discussion: • ESF-8 workgroup meets regularly regarding FIFA games in and around the state. Primary concerns include traffic through Connecticut (Boston to New York corridor) and competing events stretching resources thin. • DPH is heavily involved. Regions engaged through ESF-8 groups. Municipalities along the shoreline, rail lines, and highways should be reviewing preparedness plans. • Region 1 has a subcommittee meeting every other week for information sharing. Separate strike team meetings are ongoing.	

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		• R. Calciano noted CT DPH and DEMHS (Jonathan Hartenbaum) are leading groups. Many competing activities will stretch resources. • Board's role discussed: communicate available information and ensure associated groups are having appropriate preparedness conversations. • Also noted: Joint subcommittee between Education and Training and MIH committees working on MIH education for providers.	
Next Meeting		• June 24th	
Adjournment		• Meeting adjourned at 10:27 am.	Motion to adjourn, I. Smith

Respectfully submitted by:
Angela Pugliese, OEMS
Charles Dunn, CEMSAB secretary

EMS Advisory Board Upcoming 2026 Meeting Schedule:
~~Jan 28~~ | ~~Feb 25~~ | ~~Mar 25~~ | ~~Apr 22~~ | ~~May 27~~ | June 24 | Aug 26 | Sept 23 | Oct 28 | Nov 18 | Dec 16