

AEMS Functional Group Meeting

May 21, 2025

MINUTES

Voting Members in Attendance:

Kevin Bailey; Garth Gemar, MD; Sandy Nygaard; Ryan Southworth, DO; Mickey Kovach, RN.

Distinguished Guests in Attendance:

Marcia Barry; Jamie Beauvais; Eileen Blackstone; Kimberly Boehm; Franco Castro-Marin, MD; Tasha Clark, RN,; Stephanie Cortright; Christine DeRuvo; Louis D'Angelo; Daniel Didier; Stephen Ferris; Val Gale; Antonia Gerard; Shauna Griffith; Michael Graci; Camille Gonzales; Dave Hanson; David Harden; Nanette Jajou; Dan Jarrett; Josephine Johnson; Bonnie Lusk; Robert Maestas; Brittany Palmer; Vince Podrybau; Monica Ritchie; Adam Rodriguez; Marissa Salgado; Heather Santiago; Jett Skrien; Abriana Smith; Casey Solem; Connie Teague; Julia Vinton; Valerie Weaver; Shelby Wirtanen; Nicole Witt; Corey Usher; Billy Warren.

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 am.

Education

Topical Focus (10:00 am): AI in Neuro Care: Featuring Viz.ai and Ceribell

Presented by Sushant Kale, MD, Neuroendovascular Surgeon and Neurologist, Abrazo Health

Central Region Profile (11:00 am): EMS Guide for Ventricular Assist Devices (VAD)

Presented by Tasha Clark, BSN, RN, CCRN, VAD Program Manager, HonorHealth

General Report – Ryan Southworth, DO

1. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes: Approved by Sandy Nygaard and Kevin Bailey.
2. AEMS Announcements
 - Membership Dues: Membership drive continues. June 30 is the end of the fiscal year.
 - Organizational: <https://aems.org/membership/renew>
 - Individual: <https://aems.org/donate>
3. Old Business: None.
4. New Business: None.
5. State Report – ADHS
 - Julie Vinton: Congratulations to the award winners. Workforce development reminders regarding EMCT requirements.
 - Dave Hanson: Naloxone leave-behind program is progressing successfully.
 - Abriana Smith: Six agencies have received their MARK program for Kids; extended thanks to Dr. Southworth for his participation.

Planning & Outreach Report – Sandy Nygaard, Chair

1. Education
 - EMS Odyssey Conference: Scheduled for June 12, 2025.
 - EMS CE Fall Forum: Scheduled for December 11, 2025.
 - OBLS Initiative: Updates and Rural Health Webinar scheduled for October 16, 2025. Kudos extended to Gila River EMS.
2. Outreach
 - AEMS 50th Anniversary: October 25, 2025.
 - Agency/Hospital/Fire Contacts: Updates ongoing.
 - Rural Summit: October 23, 2025.

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Patient Management Report

1. Categorization – Garth Gemar, MD

Current Status Report: https://issuu.com/arizonaemergencymedicalsystems/docs/categorization-status-report-current?fr=xKAE9_zU1NQ

2. RED Book – Garth Gemar, MD

- Central AZ Regional EMS Guidelines – Franco Castro-Marin, MD

CARESMDC meeting updates:

- Pediatric dosing app expanded to all ages and medications.
- Dosing changes: chest pain/STEMI pain management revised to fentanyl only (morphine removed).
- Intranasal glucagon removed.
- Sepsis update: blood glucose removed from guidance.
- New airway confirmation system tabled pending review.

Implementation dates for these changes are not yet determined.

3. Phx Stroke Center Coalition – Garth Gemar, MD / Robert Londeree, MD

Update shared regarding ongoing stroke center coordination and data reporting.

4. Pediatric – Mickey Kovach, RN

No formal updates reported.

Special Presentation

EMCT of the Year Award (May 2025): On behalf of the Central Region, Arizona Emergency Medical Services, Inc (AEMS) is pleased to support the Arizona Bureau of EMS & Trauma System's 2025 EMCT of the Year Award process. Each Region was charged with selecting a finalist to receive this award, which recognizes outstanding EMCTs across Arizona who have excelled at serving their communities. In the Central Region, seven nominations were received. The finalist was selected, based on merit, by the AEMS Board of Governors and Functional Group Voting members.

Louis D'Angelo, EMCT-P, of Surprise Fire-Medical, was selected as the Central Arizona Region's 2025 EMCT of the Year. The other nominees were Alex Bates (EMCT-B, Maricopa Ambulance); Eliot Colsen (EMCT-B, Queen Valley Fire District); Daniel Johnson (EMCT-P, Priority Ambulance); Mary Mason (EMCT-P, Priority Ambulance); Daniel Rooney (EMCT-P, Maricopa Ambulance); and Angie Ropicky (EMCT-P, Air Methods).

AEMS created a tribute page to honor our EMCT of the Year Award finalist and nominees: <https://aems.org/emct-of-the-year-award>

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 12:10 pm.

Next AEMS Board Meeting: June 18, 2025

Next Functional Group Meeting: July 16, 2025