

AEMS Functional Group Meeting

January 21, 2026

Minutes

Voting Members in Attendance: Shari Brand, MD; Mickey Kovach, RN; Kim Reger, RN; Roy Ryals; Ryan Southworth, DO

Guests in Attendance: Peggy Baker; Marcia Barry; Kimberly Boehm; Jordana Carpenter; Ligia Castro; Franco Castro-Marin; Doug Costal; Stephen Ferris; Joe Gibson; Camille Gonzales; Shauna Griffith; Dave Hanson; David Harden; Cori Hayes; Kyle Henson; Jon Holmes; Josephine Johnson; Manuel Montano; Vince Podrybau; Heather Santiago; Jett Skrien; Julie Smith; Kenneth St Clair; Glenn Trainor; Billy Warren; Valerie Yevzerova AirEvac.

Called to Order: 11:00 AM

Chair: Ryan Southworth, DO

I. Education

Lunch N Learn

Cartels, Drug Trafficking, and Violence: Implications for EMS

Presenter: Ken St. Clair, Strategic Intelligence Analyst, Arizona High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA)

Central Regional Profile

EMS Regional Operations Consistency Committee (ROCC)

Presenter: Cori Hayes, Assistant Fire Chief, Mesa Fire and Medical Department

II. Administrative Business

A. General Report

Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes - The November 19, 2026 minutes were presented for approval.

AEMS Announcements

- Members were reminded to renew Functional Group voting/guest member status.
<https://aems.org/membership/renew>
- Please support AEMS through our 2026 Membership Dues Campaign:
Organizational - <https://aems.org/membership/renew>
Individual - <https://aems.org/donate>
- Board Vacancies: <https://aems.org/board/vacancies>

Old Business - None reported.

New Business - None reported.

State Report - State updates were briefly discussed.

B. Planning & Outreach Report

Education - Upcoming education activities include:

- Pediatric Simulation Training (April 30, 2026) - in-person <https://aems.org/blog/pediatric-training>
- EMS Odyssey Conference (June 11, 2026) – virtual <https://aems.org/odyssey>
- EMS CE Fall Forum (December 10, 2026) – virtual

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Outreach – Executive Committee plans to conduct a survey of all constituents on how the organization can better serve the Central Arizona EMS community. Therefore, members were reminded of the importance to update key agency, hospital, and fire department contact information.

C. Patient Management Report -Ryan Southworth, DO, Chair

- Categorization-Status update provided. Exceptional Community Hospital in Eloy has recently opened. Committee is pursuing their categorization.
<https://aems.org/images/pdf/categorization/categorization-status-report-current.pdf>
- RED Book - Updates provided regarding the Central Arizona Regional EMS Guidelines.
- Phoenix Stroke Center Coalition - <https://www.phxstrokecentercoalition.org/>
- Pediatric - Update provided by Mickey Kovach, RN.

Other Reports - None.

D. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 11:48 pm

Next Meetings

AEMS Functional Group - March 18, 2026

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/QA5rdLwJSYC8or-3Uk7-mA>

AEMS Board of Governors - February 18, 2026

https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/jBR4_vXNRQSiZK_XGdWdWg