AEMS Board of Governors Meeting
June 17, 2026
Meeting Minutes

Board of Governors Members Present: Michelle Angle; Peggy Baker; Bruce Barnhart, RN; Marcia Barry, RN; Eileen Blackstone; Franco Castro-Marin, MD; Doug Costal; Fernando Cortes, MD; Nicola Crim; Annie Giagni, RN; Cori Hayes; Jon Holmes; Gaby Iskander, MD; Steven Maher, MD; Tracy Moroney, RN; Martin Murphy; Kristin Niehoff, RN; Raymond Ochoa; Beth Ranney, MD; Barbara Schaffer, RN; Julie Smith; Casey Solem, MD; Sandra Nygaard; Alyson Welch;

Distinguished Guests Present: Jamie Beauvais; Shelley Bissell; Shari Brand; Ligia Castro; James Cunningham; Kendal Dold; Stephen Ferris; Jennifer Gilliland; Dave Hanson; Bonnie Lusk; Manuel Montano; Heather Plytas; Vince Podrybau; Marc Puleo; Savannah Sandlin;

I. Call to Order and Introduction of Guests
The meeting was called to order at 12:02 PM by Marcia Barry, RN, Secretary. Due to the absence of both the Chair and Vice Chair, Marcia chaired the meeting. A quorum was present. Guests and participants were welcomed.

II. Approval of Minutes
The minutes of the previous Board of Governors meeting were presented for review and approved.

Special Recognition: Marcia announced the passing of Dr. John Gallagher and recognized his contributions to EMS and public health. Dr. Gallagher was a long-time AEMS Board and Executive Committee member and served as Chair of the Patient Management Functional Group. He was instrumental in helping develop the RED Book protocols, which evolved into the current CARES Guidelines. Per his obituary, a Celebration of Life service will be planned at a later date, and memorial contributions may be made to Hospice of the Valley.
https://www.whitneymurphyfuneralhome.com/obituaries/john-gallagher-iii

III. Executive Director's Report
Peggy Baker provided an overview of recent organizational activities and projects.
-An update was provided regarding the FY26 and FY27 AZDHS contracts. FY27Contract received from the State for similar amounts to last year ($90,000 base and $4,000 pediatric).
- Met with BEMSTS Bureau Chief, Chris Hale and Ligia Castro-Bien to discuss special Region’s contract for Rural Workforce Development Funding initiative supporting EMT, Paramedic, and Critical Care Paramedic education. Funding is expected to follow a process similar to previous paramedic scholarship programs.
-Much time spent on coordinating EMS Odyssey Conference. Thank you extended to Raffle contributors and Dr. Franco Castro-Marin for providing an outstanding presentation on Shock.
-Coordinated the EMCT of the Year Award voting process with AEMS Board and Functional Group Voting members. Congratulations to Sarah Brunelle, EMCT-P, Phoenix Fire Department, for being our selected as the final winner.

IV. Board Officer's Report

A**.** Treasurer's Report

1. Financial Reports
   Due to Roy Ryals' absence, Peggy Baker presented the financial reports. Revenue totaled $161,980 compared to a budget of $152,321. Expenditures totaled $163,740 compared to a budget of $173,456

   Membership dues totaled $40,255, exceeding budget projections. The Fidelity investment account balance was approximately $310,000 and generated approximately $10,000 in earnings over the past year. Current assets totaled approximately $587,000, with approximately 98% of assets remaining liquid. The organization has no long-term debt, unpaid bills, or outstanding accounts receivable.

   The organization remains in a strong financial position, with expenses below budget and revenues exceeding projections. The financial reports were approved.

2. 2026 Membership Campaign - An update was provided regarding the 2026 Membership Campaign. Membership dues revenue exceeded budget projections.

B. Chair's Report

1. Executive Committee Report

   a. Survey/Outreach/Strategic Plan
   Strategic planning activities remain paused during Dr. Ryan Southworth's deployment. The strategic planning survey process will resume upon his return.

2. Regional Update Report

   a. Central Region EMS Medical Directors Consortium - Dr. Fernando Cortes provided an update regarding ongoing Central Regional EMS Guideline revisions. Additional revisions are anticipated over the coming months.

   b. ROCC - Cori Hayes provided an update regarding DEA registration activities associated with Central Region Automatic Aid agencies. Several agencies have begun the process of obtaining DEA registrations.

   c. Rural - no reports

3. Open Forum - No comments or recommendations were brought forward during the Open Forum.

C. Board Transitions

1. Elections Action - Cori Hayes was reelected to the AEMS Board as Representative from Public Employer of Emergency Medical Care Technicians (EMCTs) from a Political Subdivision with a Population Greater than 500,000 (Mesa).

D. Vacancies
An update was provided regarding current Board vacancies and ongoing recruitment efforts. Current vacancies are:

-Vice Chair, AEMS Board and Executive Committee

-One Representative from a Public Employer of Emergency Medical Care Technicians (EMCTs), from Distinct Political Subdivision with a Population of Between 50,000 and 500,000)

-One Representative Recommended by a Statewide Fire District Association

-One Emergency Medical Care Technician (EMCT-B), serving their employers in a predominantly non-administrative Capacity

V. State Report

1. BEMSTS Activities and Updates
   BEMSTS representatives provided updates regarding the Rural Workforce Development Grant, statewide implementation efforts, and future regional coordination meetings. Funding originates from federal sources through AHCCCS, and monthly regional meetings are planned.

   Grant funding may support EMT scholarships and continuing education opportunities. Agencies were encouraged to participate in pediatric readiness initiatives, including the Making Arizona Ready for Kids (MARK) Program.

2. State Committees
   Due to Mickey Kovach's retirement. There is a vacancy on the PACES Committee as AEMS representative. Please contact Peggy Baker if interested.

VI. Functional Group Reports

A. Planning and Outreach

1. Education Committee
   Jon Holmes provided an overview of the 26th Annual EMS Odyssey Conference. The conference was considered highly successful, with more than 100 participants attending and remaining engaged throughout the day. Participant evaluations and feedback were overwhelmingly positive. Speakers, interactive trivia activities, gamification elements, and raffle drawings were particularly well received. Appreciation was expressed to the presenters and raffle contributors for their support.

   An overview was also provided regarding the Pediatric Training conducted on April 30, 2026. The in-person pediatric skills training event received strong participation and interest. The Education Committee will now focus on planning for the EMS CE Fall Forum scheduled for December 10, 2026, while continuing to explore expanded hybrid and in-person educational opportunities.

2. Outreach
   Efforts continue to update agency and hospital contact information throughout the region.

B. Patient Management

1. Categorization Committee
   The Categorization Committee has recommended approval of the categorization of Exceptional Community Hospital - Eloy as a General Hospital Based Emergency Department. The Board approved the recommendation.

   Updates were provided regarding revisions on the matrix in Chapter 4 of the RED Book. The stroke centers list will now identify their different levels, including Comprehensive Stroke Centers, Thrombectomy-Capable Stroke Centers, and Primary Stroke Centers. It was also noted that Banner Desert Medical Center has been designated as a Comprehensive Stroke Center.

   It was announced that Banner Desert Medical Center is now a Comprehensive Stroke Center.

   Additional updates were provided regarding ongoing pediatric and perinatal system updates to the categorization matrix.

VII. Program and Committee Reports
No additional reports were presented.

VIII. Old Business
No old business was presented.

IX. New Business
The Board noted that CARES App funding had previously been approved unanimously through an electronic vote and will be funded through organizational reserves.

X. Call to Public
No comments were offered during the Call to Public.

XI. Adjournment
The meeting was adjourned at approximately 12:57 PM.