

AEMS Functional Group Meeting

May 20, 2026

Minutes

Voting Members in Attendance: Eileen Blackstone, Shari Brand, Shauna Griffith, Tracy Moroney, Sandra Nygaard, Beth Ranney, and Roy Ryals

Guests in Attendance: Marcia Barry, Shelley Bissell, Ligia Castro, Franco Castro-Marin, James Cunningham, Stephen Ferris, Garth Gemar, Joe Gibson, Dave Hanson, Kyle Henson, Josephine Johnson, Mickey Kovach, Tracy Moroney, Sandra Nygaard, Heather Plytas, Vince Podrybau, Beth Ranney, Roy Ryals, Savannah Sandlin, Barbara Schaffer, Jett Skrien, Corey Usher, Steve Wagner, Valerie Weaver, Alyson Welch, Leonard Yontz.

I. Education

Lunch N Learn Presentation: Dr. Stephanie Arcusa, Assistant Professor of Climate Science and Carbon Management at Arizona State University, provided a presentation on Climate Here and Now: Impacts on Public Health.

II. Administrative Business

A. General Report

Dr. Garth Gemar called the meeting to order and welcomed attendees.

1. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes

The minutes of the March 18, 2026 Functional Group meeting were presented for approval. Action: The minutes were approved as presented.

2. AEMS Announcements

Peggy Baker provided AEMS announcements, including a reminder that 2026 organizational and individual membership renewals are underway.

3. Old Business

No old business was addressed.

4. New Business

No new business was addressed.

5. State Report

A State report was provided by Ligia Castro who discussed the FY27 regional contracts as well as additional rural workforce funding for the regions. This funding is designated for training of all levels of EMCT so the they may elevate to the next credential level EMCT-B to EMCT-P, etc. Funding is applicable to those serving rural areas.

B. Planning & Outreach Report

1. Education

a. Pediatric Simulation Training - April 30, 2026

A summary of the Pediatric Simulation Training was provided, including participation and general feedback.

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b. EMS Odyssey Conference – June 11, 2026

An update was provided regarding planning for the 2026 EMS Odyssey Conference, including conference logistics and preparations.

c. EMS CE Fall Forum – December 10, 2026

An update was provided regarding the EMS CE Fall Forum scheduled for December 10, 2026.

d. Rural Workforce Development Funding

Peggy Baker added to what Ligia had previously addressed about the Regions each receiving funding to support training for all levels of EMCT. The Central Region will follow similar process to what we have done in past with Rural Paramedic funding. Pending on how the contract reads regarding distribution expectations, we will customize the pre .

2. Outreach

a. Agency/Hospital/Fire Contacts

Members were advised that updated agency, hospital, and fire department contact information is needed and were encouraged to submit updates to AEMS.

C. Patient Management

1. Categorization

Marty Murphy discussed the committee's recent review and approval of the categorization of Exceptional Community Hospital – Eloy. He also discussed changes being made to the Categorization form.

2. RED Book

a. Central AZ Regional EMS Guidelines

It was reported the a new App for the Central Regional EMS Guidelines is being developed. This App will not be available until late July or early August. Special thanks to Dr. Southworth and the CAREMDC executive committee – Dr. Beth Ranney, Dr. Franco Castro-Marin, and Dr. Fernando Cortes for spearheading this initiative and continuing to maintain the CAREMS guidelines. The AEMS Board approved funding to support the App development – which will come from AEMS financial reserves.

3. Phoenix Stroke Center Coalition

Dr. Garth Gemar provided an update regarding the Phoenix Stroke Center Coalition.

4. Pediatric

Mickey Kovach was the AEMS representative on the state's PACES committee. Due to Mickey's retirement, there may be a vacancy. We will confirm this with the State and post the vacancy if confirmed.

5. Other Reports

Additional patient management-related reports were provided as applicable.

D. Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Next Meetings

AEMS Functional Group - July 15, 2026 •

AEMS Board of Governors - June 17, 2026

Respectfully submitted by Peggy Baker