

AEMS Functional Group Meeting

November 19, 2025

Minutes

Guests included: Peggy Baker; Bruce Barnhart; Eileen Blackstone; Kimberly Boehm; Olivia (Alex) Brothers; Franco Castro-Marin; Vatsal Chikani; Nicola Crim; Daniel Didier; Stephen Ferris; Val Gale; Rick Garner; Garth Gemar; Joe Gibson; Camille Gonzales; Shauna Griffith;

Christopher Hale; Arelia Henry; Jon Holmes; Leslie James; Josephine Johnson; Cody Jordan; Mickey Kovach; Sara Latham; Bonnie Lusk; Cherie Murray; Sandra Nygaard; Marc Puleo; Kim Reger; Chris Riddle; Adam Rodriguez; Roy Ryals; Marissa Salgado; Savannah Sandlin; Heather Santiago; Barbara Schaffer; Jett Skrien; Casey Solem; Ryan Southworth; Julie Smith; James Stoltenberg; Julia Vinton; Billy Warren; Valerie Weaver; Nicole Witt; Donnie Woodyard; Leonard Yontz.

I. Education Sessions

10:00 AM – Lunch & Learn

The Future of EMS: Artificial Intelligence, Technology, and Innovation

Presenter: Donnie Woodyard, Jr., MAML, NRP – EMS Author, Leader, Innovator

11:00 AM – Topical Focus

BEMSTS Dashboard Updates

Presenter: Vatsal Chikani, MPH – Data Quality Assurance Manager, ADHS

II. General Report – Ryan Southworth, DO

A. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes

The previous minutes were approved.

B. AEMS Announcements

1. EMS CE Fall Forum - December 11, 2025

AEMS Members: \$35 | Non-Members: \$45

Flyer: <https://aems.org/images/pdf/fall-forum/aems-ems-fall-forum-flyer-2025.pdf>

Registration: <https://aems1975.wufoo.com/forms/z1k19fvh1428atc/>

Nursing CE approved by New Mexico Nurses Association.

2. AEMS Board and State Vacancies

Info: <https://aems.org/board/vacancies>

3. Crucial Voices of Arizona Project

The Arizona Perinatal Trust (APT) would like to share exciting information about the Crucial Voices of Arizona project, which seeks to promote respectful maternity care across Arizona by amplifying the CDC's "Hear Her" campaign. In 2024-2025, The CDC Foundation awarded the Arizona Perinatal Trust (APT) to support this important work.

<https://aems.org/obls/crucial-voices-of-az-project>

4. 2026 Membership Dues – Ongoing

Organizational: <https://aems.org/membership/renew>

Individual: <https://aems.org/donate>

C. Old Business

None.

D. New Business

None.

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E. State Report

- Nicole Witt introduced Christopher Hale as the new Bureau Chief.
- SHARE reports available to hospitals.
- Naloxone Leave-Behind Kits continue to perform strongly.
- NPRP Hospital Pediatric Readiness Survey distributed.
- Public meetings: November 20, 2025.
- PPRP results presented at PACES on November 20, 2025.

III. Planning and Outreach Report – Sandy Nygaard

A. Education

- EMS CE Fall Forum – December 11, 2025
- EMS Odyssey Conference – June 11, 2026

EMS CE Fall Forum Flyer

<https://aems.org/images/pdf/fall-forum/aems-ems-fall-forum-flyer-2025.pdf>

Registration Form

<https://aems1975.wufoo.com/forms/z1k19fvh1428atc/>

Nursing Continuing Education

This nursing continuing professional development activity **was approved** by the New Mexico Nurses Association, an accredited approver by the American Nurses Credentialing Center's Commission on Accreditation.

B. Outreach

AEMS 50th Anniversary successful; challenge coins distributed.

- Kyle Hansen recognized for sponsorship work.
- Shiela Bryant's long-held position eliminated after 45 years.

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

A. Categorization - Garth Gemar, MD

- Dr. Gemar presented an overview of the categorization for the new HonorHealth facility in West Valley – Complete Care Pleasant Lake, which was recently approved by the Categorization Committee. It will now move forward to the board. Expected opening early January.
- Status Report: <https://aems.org/images/pdf/categorization/categorization-status-report-current.pdf>

B. RED Book - Garth Gemar, MD

- Dr. Castro-Marin reviewed upcoming CARES guideline updates.
- A follow-up explanatory video will be released.
- CARES Updates will Go-Live: January 12, 2026

C. Phoenix Stroke Center Coalition

Updates forthcoming.

D. Pediatrics – Mickey Kovach, RN

No report.

E. Other Reports

None.

V. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 12:03 PM.

Next Meetings:

- Functional Group - January 21, 2026
- AEMS Board of Governors - December 17, 2025