AEMS Functional Group
September 16, 2026
Meeting Minutes

Voting Members in Attendance: Eileen Blackstone; Zoe Bushroe; Shauna Griffith; Jon Holmes; Tracy Moroney; Sandra Nygaard; Roy Ryals; Barbara Schaffer; Julie Smith

Guest Members in Attendance: Peggy Baker; Marcia Barry; Kimberly Boehm; Suzanne Buchanan; Nicola Crim; James Cunningham; Jorge Delgado; Kendal Dold; Barbara Elliott; Stephen Ferris; Garth Gemar; Kyle Henson; David Hondula; Josephine Johnson; Michelle Kirk; Zita Konik; Erin MacFarlane; Heather Marques; Donna McGrath; Martin Murphy; Kristin Niehoff; Nick Pajic; Vince Podrybau; Dawn Polkabla; Chris Riddle; Heather Santiago; Casey Solem; Yanitza Soto; Corey Usher; Valerie Weaver; Alyson Welch

Call to Order: 10:03 am

Education

10:00 AM – Topical Focus

Heather Marques, MA, Division Chief, Medical Services, Alameda County Fire Department, and Zita Konik, MD, FAEMS, Medical Director, Alameda County EMS Agency, presented Human Trafficking and EMS Identification.

11:00 AM – Central Region Profile

Erin MacFarlane, Library Services Director, Phoenix Public Library; David Hondula, PhD, Director, Office of Heat Response and Mitigation, City of Phoenix; and Yanitza Soto, MPH, Public Health Advisor, Office of Public Health, City of Phoenix, presented information on a library program to reduce heat-related illness.

A. General Report – Garth Gemar

1. **Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes**

   ACTION: The previous meeting minutes were approved, with Roy Ryals and Barbara Schaffer noted in the approval.

2. **AEMS Announcements**

   AEMS announcements are included under the Education report below.

3. **Old Business**

   No old business was reported.

4. **New Business**

   No new business was reported.

5. **State Report**

   No report was provided.

B. Planning and Outreach Report – Garth Gemar

1. **Education - Jon Holmes and Glenn Trainor**

   a. **EMS CE Fall Forum – December 10, 2026**

      Speakers have been arranged for the EMS CE Fall Forum. Additional information is available at https://aems.org/ems-fall-forum.

   b. **EMS Odyssey Conference – June 10, 2027**

      The next EMS Odyssey Conference is scheduled for June 10, 2027.

   c. **Rural EMS Funding**

      The Executive Board has requested clarification from the State regarding the definition of “rural” for funding eligibility. AEMS is working with other agencies on scholarship opportunities for rural providers.

      The funding includes two components: provider training for EMTs, paramedics, and critical care paramedics; and continuing education. The contract had not yet been received. Discussion also addressed a rural summit and eligibility for training at no cost.

Pediatric funding was discussed, including an EMS-focused neonatal resuscitation course and the possibility of traveling to rural communities to provide pediatric education.

2. Outreach

a. Agency Hospital and Fire Department Contacts

Members were asked to send Peggy Baker any changes or updates to agency, hospital, and fire department contact information.

C. Patient Management Report – Garth Gemar

1. Categorization – Martin Murphy

Stroke centers are now listed according to their capabilities. Categorization forms are being revised, with additional updates forthcoming. Members were encouraged to review the AEMS website for information on the categorization process.

Categorization status report: https://aems.org/images/pdf/categorization/categorization-statusreport-current.pdf

Discussion addressed whether patients requiring Level I trauma care could be transported to HonorHealth Four Peaks. It was reported that the State had clarified that provisional status could not be provided and that HonorHealth Four Peaks was currently a Level III trauma center.

2. RED Book

a. Central Arizona Regional EMS Guidelines

No updates were reported.

3. Phoenix Stroke Center Coalition – Garth Gemar MD

An in-person meeting was planned for late September. The meeting location had not yet been determined.

4. Pediatric

No report was provided.

5. Other Reports

No additional reports were provided.

D. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 11:55 AM by Roy Ryals.

Next Meetings

AEMS Functional Group – November 18, 2026

AEMS Board of Governors – October 21, 2026