

AEMS Functional Group

March 18, 2026

Meeting Minutes

Voting Members: Michelle Angle; Eileen Blackstone; Shari Brand, MD; Zoe Bushroe; Shauna Griffith, RN; Jon Holmes; Mickey Kovach, RN; Tracy Moroney, RN; Sandra Nygaard; Beth Ranney, MD; Kim Reger, RN; Roy Ryals; Barbara Schaffer, RN; Julie Smith; Ryan Southworth, DO

Distinguished Guests: Peggy Baker; Mark Barnhart; Marcia Barry, RN; Shelley Bissell; Suzanne Buchanan, RN; Jarrett Cline; Doug Costal; Kendal Dold, RN; Stephen Ferris; Jennifer Gilliland, RN; Camille Gonzales; Kyle Henson; Adam Hoster; Bonnie Lusk; Gene McDaniel; Ken Pantoja; Heather Santiago; Jett Skrien; Alyson Welch; Valerie Weaver; Valerie Yevzerova

Meeting called to order at 10:04 am

Education

- **Lunch and Learn** - EMS Recognition and Response to Terrorist Threats
Presented by Gene McDaniel, BS, NRP, FAOM, Phoenix Fire Department.
- **Central Region Profile** - Phi Air Medical / Air Evac
Presented by Valerie Yevzerova, BBA, National Director of Business Development.

A. General Report - Ryan Southworth, DO

1. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes

Motion to approve previous meeting minutes made by Barbara Schaffer and seconded by Roy Ryals.
Motion approved.

2. AEMS Announcements

a. Annual renewal of Functional Group Voting/Guest Member Status was extended and must be completed by the end of the day.

b. 2026 Membership Dues information available for Organizational and Individual memberships.

Organizations: <https://aems.org/membership/renew> Individual: <https://aems.org/donate>

c. Additional announcements included:

- DEA Rule letter from ADHS <https://aems.org/blog/dea-rule-update-march-2026>
- Child Maltreatment Symposium - April 9
<https://aems.org/blog/phoenix-childrens-trauma-program-2026>
- Stroke Education Lecture - March 23
<https://aems.org/images/pdf/news/stroke-education-05-23-2026.pdf>
- Pediatric ITLS - May 17 <https://aems.org/blog/pediatric-itls-course-may-17-2026>
- Additional featured posts available on the AEMS website

3. State Report - Shelley Bissell

No report provided. Shelley noted that pending legislation reports are being monitored.

AEMS Functional Group - Meeting Minutes - March 18, 2026

Continued

B. Planning and Outreach Report - Peggy Baker

1. Education - Jon Holmes / Peggy Baker

a. Pediatric Simulation Training Course <https://aems.org/blog/pediatric-training>

Thursday, April 30 / In-Person

Morn Session: 8am-Noon OR Aft Session: 1:00-5:00 pm

Registration Rate: \$35 members / \$50 non-members

This 4-hour, in-person pediatric training combines focused classroom instruction with immersive, hands-on simulation designed to strengthen assessment, decision-making, and airway management skills in high-risk pediatric emergencies.

b. EMS Odyssey Conference scheduled for June 11, 2026. Program confirmed. <https://aems.org/odyssey>

c. EMS CE Fall Forum scheduled for December 10, 2026.

2. Outreach

a. Agencies, hospitals, and fire departments were reminded to confirm and update organizational contact information.

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

1. Categorization - Marty Murphy

Status report reviewed. Work continues on the development of a new categorization form, including updates related to pediatric information and other needed revisions.

<https://aems.org/images/pdf/categorization/categorization-status-report-current.pdf>

2. RED Book - Ryan Southworth, DO

a. Central Arizona Regional EMS Guidelines update provided by Franco Castro-Marin, MD. CAREMDC catch-up meeting scheduled for March 25, 2026 at 9:00 a.m. ADHS meetings scheduled for the following day.

3. Phoenix Stroke Center Coalition - Garth Gemar, MD <https://www.phxstrokecentercoalition.org/>

4. Pediatric - Mickey Kovach, RN

No report.

5. Other Reports

None.

D. Old Business

None.

E. New Business

None.

F. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 11:35 a.m.