Paramedic National Accreditation Ad Hoc Committee
Annual Report

The Paramedic National Accreditation Ad Hoc Committee was constituted by the EMS Board in November 2008. The Committee's charge was to study the impact of a decision by the NREMT Board that will allow only candidates graduating from nationally accredited paramedic programs to sit for the NREMT-P exam beginning January 1, 2013.

The Committee reviewed components of the *Education Agenda for the Future* and sought information from representatives of national accreditation and certification organizations. The January EMS Board Retreat included presentations on the *Education Agenda's* accreditation and certification components by Mr. Gregg Margolis, Associate Director NREMT; Mr. Drew Dawson, Director, Office of EMS (NHTSA); and Mr. Joseph Schmider, EMS Director, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. Dr. George Hatch, Executive Director CoAEMSP had previously made a presentation to the Board at an open forum held in June 2008.

The Committee recommended the EMS Board send letters to NREMT, NHTSA, and CoAEMSP requesting more detailed information due to the magnitude of national accreditation process. Director Guzmán, Executive Director Rucker and Dr. Cunningham requested and received a 5-year extension from NREMT, which gives current Ohio accredited paramedic training programs until 2018 to become CoAEMSP Accredited.

The Committee convened interviews between the EMS Board, the Division of EMS and two national EMS testing services to access the possibility of an alternative testing service. The Committee also conducted two statewide surveys and reported results to EMS Board. The first survey, "Importance of National Accreditation for Paramedic Training Programs", asked EMS program directors, instructors and providers how important national accreditation was on their educational decisions. The second survey, "Impact of National Accreditation on Paramedic Programs", asked EMS Paramedic program directors to determine their institution's ability to meet the minimum qualifications for national accreditation through CoAEMSP.

In December 2009, the Committee recommended the EMS Board hold a Public Hearing on February 24, 2010 seeking comment on the following two options regarding the national accreditation of Ohio accredited Paramedic training programs:

> **Option 1** – Ohio accredited paramedic training programs must be nationally accredited through CoAEMSP by 2018.* The examination recognized by the EMS Board for Ohio certification will be administered by the National Registry of Emergency Medical Technicians (NREMT).
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> **Option 2** – Ohio accredited paramedic training programs will not be required to seek national accreditation. The examination recognized by the EMS Board for Ohio certification will be administered by an alternative testing service.