

April 2026 Executive Committee Meeting Summary

Date: Wednesday, April 8, 2026

Time: 3:00 PM EST

Location: Virtual Meeting via Microsoft Teams

Attendance

Executive Committee Members Present:

- Chair Kraig Kinney, Indiana
- Vice Chair Wayne Denny, Idaho
- Secretary Mark Herrera, Utah
- Treasurer Brad Vande Lune, Iowa
- Member at Large Michael Johnson, Georgia

Executive Committee Members Excused:

- Immediate Past Chair Joe Schmider, Texas

Staff:

- Donnie Woodyard, Executive Director
- PWW, Counsel

Call to Order

Chair Kinney called the meeting to order at 3:00 PM EST. Secretary Herrera conducted roll call. A quorum was established with five Executive Committee members present. Chair Kinney noted Commissioner Schmider had a conflict and was excused.

Public Comment

Chair Kinney opened the floor for public comment on matters not on the agenda. No members of the public requested to speak.

Approval of March 2026 Meeting Summary

Commissioner Herrera moved to approve the March 2026 Executive Committee meeting summary. **Commissioner Denny seconded** the motion. With no objections, the motion **passed unanimously**. The Executive Director was authorized to post the summary to the website.

Compliance Committee Update

Chair Kinney formally designated the Ad Hoc Committee for Compliance with Commissioner Joe House (Kansas) as Chair. Executive Director Woodyard confirmed the committee is open to all Commissioners, not just EC members. Commissioner Jones (South Carolina) and Commissioner Johnson (Georgia) have expressed interest in serving. Chair Kinney encouraged additional Commissioners to contact him or the Executive Director if interested.

Rural Health Transformation Workgroup Update

Executive Director Woodyard provided background on the Rural Health Transformation Grant letter. The grant specifically called out Compact membership, with non-member states losing points on their applications. Analysis revealed approximately 11 states had no discernible mention of EMS in their applications, despite states receiving approximately \$200 million each. The concept was to request CMS require better EMS representation in grant cycles two through five.

Executive Director Woodyard reported significant progress, including engagement with interested congressional members and direct engagement with CMS. He had a multi-hour meeting with CMS executives the previous day (April 7) to discuss the letter and a framework for addressing the concerns. Additional meetings are forthcoming. The initial feedback has been positive, and the recommendation is to continue working directly with CMS rather than through Congress. This represents the first direct CMS engagement in the Compact's approximately 10-year history.

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Vande Lune presented the report. Previous balance on February 27 was \$111,638.82. Two debits totaling \$6,412.50 were processed in March, with no credits received. The pending balance is \$98,788.82. The report was accepted subject to audit.

Chair's Report

Chair Kinney reported the Compact is making significant traction with multiple states showing interest. Some states are waning as legislative sessions progress (Florida noted as an example), but many remain in progress. He emphasized the importance of the upcoming in-person Full Commission meeting on April 28 in Kansas City, held in conjunction with the NASEMSO Annual Meeting, and encouraged strong Commissioner attendance despite travel restrictions in some states.

Executive Director's Report

Legislative Updates:

- Florida: HB 693 passed the House (unanimous or near-unanimous) but ran out of time in the Senate. Will require refiling next year, though much groundwork is complete. States that pass one chamber typically see positive outcomes the following year.
- New Mexico: Passed the House (believed unanimous) but similarly ran out of time in the Senate.
- Alaska: Four pieces of legislation proposing the EMS Compact are active (three omnibus bills with multiple compacts, one standalone EMS Compact bill). Executive Director Woodyard spent approximately a week in Alaska at the state's request, presenting to stakeholder groups in Juneau, Anchorage, and Fairbanks, providing in-person testimony at the Senate Health Committee, and conducting a meet-and-greet with nearly every elected official or their chief of staff. Very strong stakeholder and legislative support; anticipate at least one bill will pass.
- Connecticut: Extremely strong support. Part of governor's funding bill; looks very positive. IAFF colleagues have been helpful answering member questions about Compact usage.

Coordinated Database Analytics:

Executive Director Woodyard presented analytics from the coordinated database:

- 22 states reporting data into the coordinated database
- 410,771 total licenses reported
- Distribution: 57% EMTs, 30% Paramedics, 11% AEMTs
- Indiana: 590 licenses reported (working through data pipeline integration)
- Nebraska, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania: No data currently reported
- Delaware: BLS only in database
- 25,719 individuals (6.3%) hold licenses in multiple states

Executive Director Woodyard noted concern about adverse action reporting, with some states reporting many adverse actions and others reporting zero over multiple years. Adverse actions (suspensions, temporary suspensions, letters of admonition, letters of concern) must be manually entered and this may be a training issue. Further discussion planned for the annual meeting.

Federal Funding Update:

Federal partners indicated to be prepared to respond quickly when paperwork moves on database enhancement funding. This is a funding request for updates to the coordinated database.

National EMS Coordinated Database Administrator Report

Ray Mollers provided the database update. Nebraska was inadvertently omitted from the monthly report but remains in testing along with Delaware and Tennessee. Delaware has not sent data in several months; Tennessee has not reported in over a year. Oklahoma and Pennsylvania are waiting on vendor solutions. Indiana has increased to 640 licenses (50 more since ED Woodyard's report was prepared). Chair Kinney noted Indiana has the pipeline connected but is shifting data to align with it; full integration expected within a couple months (Indiana has approximately 26,000 providers total).

Ray Mollers noted the Q2 database work timeline will be available within one to two weeks. He will not attend the in-person meeting due to a conflict with the annual SOMA conference but indicated a new National Registry Partner and Advocacy Team director, along with Alan, will represent at the Compact meeting with updates on database changes and potentially federal funding news.

New Business

FEMA National Ambulance Contract Letter:

Executive Director Woodyard reported on the FEMA National Medical Transportation Services (NMTS) contract engagement. FEMA issued a notice for comment on the national ambulance contract (which originated from Hurricane Katrina learnings and was established in 2007, predating the EMS Compact concept). The current agreement does not contemplate the Compact's role. When activated under various mechanisms (Stafford Act, EMAC, direct activation), states may be asked or forced to waive licensure rules or use EMAC provisions, which provide limited visibility into EMS personnel compared to the Compact's coordinated database of 412,000+ providers.

A letter has been drafted and multiple FEMA contact points have been engaged. The Executive Director has identified both a public comment pathway and a government-to-government forum for direct engagement to discuss how the Compact interplays with EMAC (which has been closely affiliated with FEMA/DHS for years). The approach respects both Compact and non-Compact states while highlighting Compact benefits (medical direction, scope of practice, accountability, investigation, data sharing, provider lookup capabilities).

April 28 In-Person Meeting Agenda:

Executive Director Woodyard reviewed the publicly noticed agenda for the Full Commission meeting on April 28 (previously referenced as April 20 in early discussion but confirmed as April 28), 2:00 PM Central at the Intercontinental in Kansas City. Multiple requests for a virtual call-in option have been received; a meeting owl or similar device is being sought. The meeting format will include official business followed by a work group discussion session. Agenda items include: new Commissioner introductions, standard reports, Gamunu Wijetunge (NHTSA Office of EMS

Director) providing an in-person update, National Registry update, and new business items including EMS Week Resolution, EMS for Children Day consideration, Rural Health Transformation Grant update, and National Disaster Preparedness/FEMA letter discussion.

EMS Week Direct Email Campaign:

Executive Director Woodyard proposed the Commission's first-ever direct email campaign in coordination with National Registry. The campaign would send an email to all 400,000+ EMS clinicians in the coordinated database during EMS Week, providing information about the Compact and offering a downloadable appreciation certificate with their name, state of licensure, and EMS ID. This would be the first time directly engaging the national workforce under the Compact.

Commissioner Denny moved to accept Executive Director Woodyard's recommendation on the EMS Week notification project. **Commissioner Herrera seconded** the motion. With no objections, the motion **passed unanimously**.

EMS Week Governor Proclamations:

Executive Director Woodyard proposed coordinating with Commissioners to encourage governors of Compact states to issue EMS Week proclamations. Many states do not issue proclamations simply because no one asks. Secretary Herrera noted Utah's governor signed a proclamation last year upon request. A hybrid approach was discussed: the Executive Director will notify Commissioners of the plan, allow them to opt out if they have already secured a proclamation or prefer not to participate, then proceed with outreach to remaining governors.

Commissioner Herrera moved that the Executive Director be directed to coordinate with Commissioners on EMS Week, subsequently engaging with governors of Compact states on EMS Week resolutions and providing language should they wish to participate. **Chair Kinney seconded** the motion. With no objections, the motion **passed unanimously**.

Stakeholder Updates

IAFC (Kevin Joles):

Kevin Joles praised the EMS Week initiatives as great ideas that prompt IAFC to consider similar efforts. He reported positive contacts during recent DC visits for CFSI and EMS Day on the Hill, with productive meetings with congressional staffers supportive of EMS initiatives.

Chair Kinney noted approximately 7-9 non-EC Commissioners participated in the meeting and thanked them for their interest.

Upcoming Meetings

- Full Commission Meeting: April 28, 2026, 2:00 PM Central (In-Person, Intercontinental Kansas City, in conjunction with NASEMSO Annual Meeting; virtual option being arranged)
- Next Executive Committee Meeting: May 11, 2026, 3:00 PM EST (Virtual)

Executive Director Woodyard noted he will be traveling approximately 90% of the time over the next month with multiple Compact engagements, including SOMA (first day), an EMS Compact presentation in Las Vegas, FDIC/JEMS in Indianapolis, and other events.

Adjournment

With no further business, Chair Kinney adjourned the meeting.