

August 10, 2017

Mr. Dennis Murphy, Chair
Ms. Kathleen Bacon
Mr. Jerry Houk
Town of Wellfleet Board of Selectman
300 Main Street
Wellfleet, MA 02667

Ms. Janet Reinhart, Vice Chair
Ms. Helen Miranda-Wilson

Dear Selectmen,

Thank you for your letter of August 8, 2017 and sharing your concerns regarding the Paramedic Program. In order to remain in compliance with our accreditor, the College has to make changes to the program. This involves the need to restructure the partnership we have in teaching this program.

While our partnership since 2013 has been successful, recent changes of the Massachusetts Department of Public Health/Offices of Emergency Medical Services requires all applicants for licensure as paramedics to achieve national certification from the National Registry of Emergency Medical Technicians (NREMT). Eligibility for national certification requires successful completion of a paramedic program, accredited by the Committee on Accreditation of Educational Programs for the Emergency Medical Services Professions (CoAEMSP), within the Commission of Allied Health Education Programs (CAAHEP).

During our 2017 CoAEMSP accreditation site visit, we learned the partnership is not considered compliant since accreditation is not issued solely to the College. Our partner also offers non-credit programs at other locations, for which the College cannot be responsible. This will require a transition in program structure.

Let me make clear, the need to restructure is due to the nature of the partnership, and not with any quality issues of the paramedic program or current partner.

To help our students during this transition, we reached out to those presently matriculated in the Fire Science-EMS Option and to students matriculated in the Paramedic Certificate Program to offer them the opportunity to register for EMS201/202/602 for Fall 2017. Students will have until August 2019 to complete all requirements for the National Registry Exam including course work, clinicals, and internship hours. There are currently seats available to students who wish to enroll in the paramedic certificate program this Fall through the existing partnership. We will continue to work with our partner for 2017-2018 and 2018-2019.

This plan will allow currently matriculated students to complete the program in 2 years under our partnership agreement and allow time for the College to determine how it will continue to offer Paramedic and EMT beyond 2019.

The College recognizes the critical importance of this program and is committed to, and is actively working toward, restructuring the program in a seamless manner to serve this educational need in our community well beyond 2019. On behalf of the College, I share your concern and am available to answer questions you may have.

Sincerely,



John L. Cox, Ed.D., CPA, President

CC: State Senator Julian Cyr
State Representative Sarah Peake
Cape Cod Times
Provincetown Banner