

**American College of Emergency Physicians  
Freestanding Emergency Centers (FEC) Section**

**ACEP20 Meeting**

**October 26, 2021, from 9:00 am – 11:00 am EDT**

**MINUTES**

**Participants**

**Officers present** were Jay Woody, MD, FACEP and Lonnie Schwirtlich, MD, FACP

**Others present:** Joel Betz, MD; Scott Bier, MD, FACP; Keith Butler, MD, FACEP; Kanti Bansal, MD; David C. Ernst, MD, FACEP; MD, R. Joe Ybarra, MD; and Adrienne Fredrick.

**Attending online:** Jordan Smith

**Staff attending** all or part of meeting: David McKenzie, CAE, Adam Krushinskie, MPA

**Call to Order**

Dr. Woody welcomed the group as the ranking officer and asked for introductions for all of those present. A sign in sheet was distributed for each section member to verify their email addresses.

**Board Update**

Dr. Schmitz has assumed the role of ACEP President and other duties prevented her from attending.

**Section Update**

Dr. Woody and Mr. McKenzie gave the section update, stressing the need the need to demonstrate value. FEC Section membership has dropped to 107 current members. There was significant discussion about how to demonstrate value and recruit more members to join the Section. If the membership falls below 100 members as of December 31, 2021, the FEC Section will not receive a Councilor for the 2022 Council meeting. The Section will also go on probation to allow a chance to increase membership above 100 again. Failure to do so will result in the Section being dissolved.

He also reviewed the Section Assigned Objectives prompting the following comments:

Do the FEC Section Members find the EngagED Platform to meaningful as a communication tool?

Can National ACEP help the Section with public messaging about FECs?

Two of the seven members present noted that their groups have pursued CIHQ accreditation.

**Council Update**

Dr. Schwirtlich gave the Council update. He summarized resolutions of interest to the Section including:

Resolution 23: Media Marketing of Value of Emergency Medicine Board Certification

Resolution 28: Consumer Awareness Through Classification of Emergency Departments

Resolution 37: Physician Pay Ratio

Resolutions 34: Global Budgeting for Emergency Physician Reimbursement in Rural and Underserved Areas

Resolution 35: Preserving Rural Emergency Care in Rural Critical Access Hospitals and Rural Emergency Hospitals

Resolution 46: Effects of EM Practice Ownership on the Costs and Quality of Emergency Care

Resolution 74: Regulation by State Medical Boards of All Who Engage in Practice of Medicine.

Dr. Chris Kang was elected President-elect and Drs. Tony Cirillo, J.T. Finnell, Rami Khoury, and Heidi Knowles were elected to the Board. Dr. Kelly Gray-Eurom ran unopposed as Speaker with Melissa Costello elected as Vice- Speaker.

#### **Newsletter Update**

In Dr. Castro's absence, Dr. Woody updated the section on future newsletters. He called for more participants and topics as well as interesting clinical cases for inclusion in future newsletters.

#### **Action Agenda**

There was discussion speaking to how FECs can be viewed by ACEP as an organization. We need to prove that we are real emergency departments and demonstrate a quality practice model. Data will be needed to prove quality care is provided at FECs. It was mentioned that TAFEC is currently conducting a study to obtain that information and that EDPMA lobbies at the federal level for recognition of freestanding emergency centers. It was suggested that NAFEC, TAFEC and ACEP work together to achieve that goal and collect data for advocacy purposes.

#### **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned the meeting at 10:59 am ET