

## **Minutes of the February 26, 2018 Board of Emergency Medical Services Meeting**

Dr. James Smith, Chairperson, called the meeting of the Board of Emergency Medical Services to order at 9:00 a.m. on Monday, February 26, 2018 in the Lighthouse Room at the Country Inn and Suites located at 5353 North 27th Street, Lincoln, Nebraska. The meeting was duly publicized by distribution of the Notice of Meeting and Agenda at least ten (10) days prior to the meeting and posting the agenda at the entrance of the Department of Health and Human Services Division of Public Health at least twenty-four (24) hours prior to the meeting.

Dr. Smith announced that this is a public meeting and the Open Meetings Law is posted.

The following Board members were present at the meeting: Mike Bailey, Randy Boldt, Dr. Bonta, Karen Bowlin, Joel Cerny, Dr. Thomas Deegan, Ann Fiala, Troy Hiemer, Linda Jensen, Dr. Mike Miller, Carl Rennerfeldt, Dr. James Smith, and Scott Wiebe.

Don Harmon was absent from the meeting.

Also present were: Claire Covert-ByBee, Program Manager; Tim Wilson, Program Manager; Matt Gelvin, Program Manager; Jacye LaFayette-Dymacek, Health Licensing Coordinator; Lisa Anderson, Assistant Attorney General; Teresa Hampton, Department Legal Counsel; Investigators

After discussion, Mr. Rennerfeldt moved, seconded by Mr. Bailey to adopt the agenda changing item 3 to reflect the date of the last meeting as December 8, 2017 and changing the order of items 22 and 23. Voting aye: Bailey, Boldt, Bonta, Bowlin, Cerny, Deegan, Fiala, Hiemer, Jensen, Miller, Rennerfeldt, Smith, and Wiebe. Voting nay: None. Absent: Harmon. Motion carried.

After discussion, Dr. Miller moved, seconded by Ms. Jensen to approve the minutes from the December 8, 2017 meeting. Voting aye: Boldt, Bonta, Bowlin, Cerny, Fiala, Hiemer, Jensen, Miller, Rennerfeldt, Smith, and Wiebe. Voting nay: None. Abstaining: Bailey and Deegan. Absent: Harmon. Motion carried.

Tim Wilson, Program Manager of the Office of Emergency Health Systems (OEHS) shared the following:

- There is still a support staff vacancy in the OEHS.
- All EMS Specialist positions have been filled since December.
- Several grant applications have been submitted and are pending approval.
- Improvements continue to be made to the Elite system to correct errors and make it more user friendly.

Wendy Snodgrass, EMS Education Compliance Manager shared the following:

- There were 2,000 people who signed up for accounts to utilize 24/7, the online EMS continuing education program. This was the maximum number of accounts allowed, and there are additional requests coming in. A contract extension is being worked on to add at least 1,000 more accounts. Last year 1,473 students access the program, and 147 out of 212 classes were used. These numbers far exceeded expectations for the program.
- Levels I & II of the Leadership Academy will not be held this year because there have been a lack of participants to fill the classes the last couple of years. Levels III & IV will be held.
- There will be nine training agency site visits this year. There are 22 training agencies, and each agency is inspected at least once every three years.
- The OEHS is continuing to promote the tuition reimbursement program. It has been well received, however it is not being utilized to its fullest extent. Letters and emails have been sent to

all of the services regarding the availability of funds to be used for continuing education courses. These funds are available to services, training agencies, hospitals, and instructors.

Claire Covert-ByBee, Program Manager shared the following:

- An executive order was issued from the Governor's office in July 2017 requesting a comprehensive review on all chapters of regulations to identify areas that can be eliminated due to duplication of statutory language. The order ended on December 31, 2017.
- There is still a vacant health licensing specialist position in the Office of Rehabilitation and Community Services. The office hopes to have that position filled soon.
- EMT renewal ended on December 31, 2017. There were 4,712 renewals completed. There are currently 4,924 active EMTs.
- The Licensee Assistance Program (LAP) is a program that is available to all licensees who may be experiencing issues with alcohol or substance use. It is a free service for licensed individuals who wish to seek help with those issues. Best Care EAP is currently the company that is contracted to provide those services. It is important to note that if a licensee is practicing under the influence, counselors are subject to mandatory reporting laws. A quarterly report is provided to the Licensure Unit showing the number of licensed individuals by profession that have sought assistance. Those reports will be forwarded to the Board for informational purposes.
- A report regarding the 2018 proposed legislation that may affect the Licensure Unit.

No physician medical director update.

On behalf of the Legislation and Regulations Committee, Joel Cerny shared the following:

- LB 760 which would give the tax credit available to EMS personnel who belong to a county owned ambulance service which is not included in the current bill.
- LB 1035 would add a new level of certification for the hospitals. If it passes, stroke protocols would need to be reviewed again.

No report from the Services and Providers Committee.

No report from the Education Committee.

After discussion Ms. Fiala moved, seconded by Dr. Bonta to remove Zofran and fentanyl from the AEMT scope of practice in the model protocols for the State of Nebraska. Voting aye: Bailey, Boldt, Bonta, Bowlin, Cerny, Deegan, Fiala, Hiemer, Jensen, Miller, Rennerfeldt, Smith, and Wiebe. Voting nay: None. Absent: Harmon. Motion carried.

No report from the Medical Direction Strategic Planning Committee.

No report from the Workforce Strategic Planning Committee.

On behalf of the Trauma Board, Mike Bailey shared the following:

- The Trauma Board rules and regulations are out of draft now and going to committee.
- The next Trauma Board meeting is at CHI Hospital in Kearney on May 11, 2018, from 10:30 – 2:00.
- The vacancies on the Trauma Board have been filled.
- There are currently 49 designated trauma centers.

On behalf of the Emergency Medical Services for Children (EMSC), Dr. Deegan shared the following:

- This was a competitive year for the State EMSC Partnership Grant. The application was submitted, and results are expected within the next two to three weeks.

- Close to 12,000 flip charts have been distributed since last year and requests continue to come in. The flip chart has been translated to Spanish which will be available soon. The flip charts were originally created for day cares, however, they are now being requested by schools, families, and churches.
- There are several new Pediatric Education for Pre-hospital Providers (PEPP) course coordinators. This will allow for an increase in course offerings.
- The 2018 Texas A&M Pediatric Disaster Workshops have been scheduled.
- Communication cards for both ambulance services and hospitals have been completed and are ready for printing. The cards feature emoji's and will have the PEPP triangle, pain scale, rule of nines, and pediatric vital signs on them.

On behalf of the Nebraska Emergency Medical Services Association (NEMSA), 1st Vice President Dave Huey shared the following:

- NEMSA testified in favor of LB 894 and LB 924.
- The annual NEMSA convention will be held in Columbus, Nebraska March 16-18, 2018. The Nebraska Instructor Society (NIS) Symposium, which is being offered at no charge for NIS members, will be on March 15, 2018.
- Sandy Massey is the new President of the NEMSA. Deb Von Seggern is serving as the past president for advisory purposes.
- NIS elections will be held in March. The position of president is currently vacant.

On behalf of the Nebraska State Volunteer Firefighters Association (NSVFA), Mr. Cerny introduced new NSVFA President Marlene Bomar, who shared the following:

- The Nebraska State Fire School will be held at the Heartland Event Center in Fonner Park, Grand Island, Nebraska May 18-20, 2018. There will be approximately 28 classes offered for fire and EMS. Every year there are awards for the 10 top firefighters based on applications submitted. Also, a special needs child receives a plaque and items from firefighters across the state.
- The NSVFA Annual Conference will be held in Kearney, Nebraska October 19-20, 2018.
- The Nebraska Fire Chiefs Association Symposium will be held in Gering, Nebraska March 10, 2018.
- The NSVFA is hoping to collect data on the occurrences of cancer in volunteer firefighters. Currently, paid firefighters can obtain insurance when they get cancer, but that is not available to volunteers.
- The NSVFA Legislative and Elected Officials Breakfast was held January 16, 2018.
- The 2018 Legislative Bills and Stances meeting was held with Jerry Stilmock providing information regarding upcoming bills and the NSVFA's stances on those bills.
- A strategic planning meeting will be held in the future.
- A committee for compassion awareness and resources for emergency services (CARE) has been created to provide assistance to providers who may be experiencing difficulty coping with stress. Additional information is available on the NSVFA website.

On behalf of the dispatch community, Mr. Wilson shared that he has been working with the Nebraska Emergency Communications Association (NESCA) to identify someone to come to the Board meeting to give reports. The NESCA currently provides emergency medical dispatcher training to several agencies across the state. They have been advised that training will no longer be provided due to liability issues. There are concerns that new dispatchers will no longer receive training. Mr. Wilson was approached about the possibility of the OEHS providing assistance in that area. After some other projects are completed, Mr. Wilson will meet with Sue Medinger to look into that.

After discussion, Mr. Boldt moved, seconded by Mr. Rennerfeldt to name Dr. James Smith as Chairperson, Ann Fiala as Vice-Chairperson, and Scott Wiebe as Secretary. Voting aye: Bailey, Boldt,

Bonta, Bowlin, Cerny, Deegan, Fiala, Hiemer, Jensen, Miller, and Rennerfeldt. Voting nay: None. Absent: Harmon. Abstaining: Smith and Wiebe. Motion carried.

After discussion, Mr. Rennerfeldt moved, seconded by Ms. Bowlin to name Dr. John Bonta and Scott Wiebe as Investigative Consultants. Voting aye: Bailey, Boldt, Bowlin, Cerny, Deegan, Fiala, Hiemer, Jensen, Miller, Rennerfeldt, and Smith. Voting nay: None. Absent: Harmon. Abstaining: Bonta and Wiebe. Motion carried.

No signatures were obtained as officers remained the same.

After discussion, Mr. Bailey moved, seconded by Ms. Jensen to continue providing notice of meetings by posting agendas at the Nebraska State Office Building, emailing agendas to the interested parties list, and posting agendas on the Department's website. Voting aye: Bailey, Boldt, Bonta, Bowlin, Cerny, Deegan, Fiala, Hiemer, Jensen, Miller, Rennerfeldt, Smith, and Wiebe. Voting nay: None. Absent: Harmon. Motion carried.

Ms. Covert-ByBee shared that the hearing on LB 924 was held, and there was some opposition from the Nebraska Nurses Association and the Nebraska Association of Trial Attorneys. The Department was tasked with working with those entities to draft an amendment that all parties could agree on. That draft amendment was forwarded to this Board and will be submitted to the Health and Human Services Legislative Committee. Ms. Medinger shared that the amendment will allow EMTs to work in hospitals and health clinics. It also defines scope in the legislation making it unnecessary to have such a detailed list of what can and cannot be done in the regulations. In addition, it would add the requirement of having one of the three physicians on the Board be a pediatrician.

After discussion, Dr. Miller moved, seconded by Mr. Wiebe to support the revised EMS Act legislation as proposed by the Department with the corrections discussed. Voting aye: Bailey, Boldt, Bonta, Bowlin, Cerny, Deegan, Fiala, Hiemer, Jensen, Miller, Rennerfeldt, Smith, and Wiebe. Voting nay: None. Absent: Harmon. Motion carried.

Matt Gelvin, Program Manager shared information regarding the Credentialing Review (407) Process. This process allows for reviews of new professions and changes in scope of practice. Additional information may be obtained on the Licensure Unit website [http://dhhs.ne.gov/pages/reg\\_admcr.aspx](http://dhhs.ne.gov/pages/reg_admcr.aspx) or by contacting Matt Gelvin at [matthew.gelvin@nebraska.gov](mailto:matthew.gelvin@nebraska.gov).

Ms. Covert-ByBee shared that the hearing on LB894 was held, and there was no opposition to the bill. No further information is available at this time.

After discussion, Dr. Miller moved, seconded by Mr. Wiebe to allow the Department to make licensure decisions on applications for temporary licensure based on military spouse status in the same way that is currently done with other applications. Voting aye: Bailey, Boldt, Bowlin, Cerny, Deegan, Fiala, Hiemer, Jensen, Miller, Rennerfeldt, Smith, and Wiebe. Voting nay: None. Absent: Bonta and Harmon. Motion carried.

At the next meeting, the Board would like to follow up on identifying a contact for the dispatch community.

Mr. Bailey moved, seconded by Mr. Hiemer to go into closed session at 12:27 p.m. to hear discussions regarding confidential information and to protect the reputation of individuals named or referenced in such discussions. Voting aye: Bailey, Boldt, Bowlin, Cerny, Deegan, Fiala, Hiemer, Jensen, Miller, Rennerfeldt, Smith, and Wiebe. Voting nay: None. Absent: Bonta and Harmon. Motion carried.

Mr. Bailey moved, seconded by Mr. Rennerfeldt to return to open session at 1:51 p.m. Voting aye: Bailey, Boldt, Bowlin, Cerny, Deegan, Fiala, Hiemer, Jensen, Miller, Rennerfeldt, Smith, and Wiebe. Voting nay: None. Absent: Bonta and Harmon. Motion carried.

After discussion, Mr. Hiemer moved, seconded by Mr. Bailey to table Ashland Emergency Service's application pending receipt of additional documentation. Voting aye: Bailey, Boldt, Bowlin, Cerny, Deegan, Fiala, Hiemer, Jensen, Miller, Rennerfeldt, Smith, and Wiebe. Voting nay: None. Absent: Bonta and Harmon. Motion carried.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 1:52 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Scott Wiebe, Secretary