

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING
of the NEBRASKA
BOARD OF Emergency
Medical Services
February 24, 2020**

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting of the Nebraska Board of Emergency Medical Services was called to order by Dr. James Smith, Board Chairperson, at 0901, February 24, 2020, at the Lincoln Community Foundation Building, Lincoln NE 68508. Copies of the agenda were emailed in advance to the Board members, emailed to interested parties, posted outside the Licensure Unit within the Nebraska State Office Building, and posted on the Department of Health and Human Services website. Smith announced the location of an available copy of the Open Meetings Act within the room.

ROLL CALL

The following board members were present to answer roll call:

- Michael Bailey
- Dr. John Bonta
- Karen Bowlin
- Joel Cerny
- Dr. Thomas Deegan
- Ann Fiala
- Todd Hovey
- Linda Jensen
- Dr. Michael Miller
- Dion Neumiller
- Carolyn Petersen
- Carl Rennerfeldt
- Michael Sheridan
- Dr. James Smith

The following Board members were absent: Randy Boldt, Scott Wiebe.

The following staff members from the Department and the Attorney General's Office were also present during all or part of the meeting:

- Tim Wilson
- Wendy Snodgrass
- Laura Huggins
- Lisa Anderson, *Assistant Attorney General*

A quorum was present, and the meeting convened.

Introductions were made of new and existing Board members and DHHS Staff.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

MOTION: Rennerfeldt made the motion, seconded by Miller, to adopt the agenda for the February 24, 2020, Board of Emergency Medical Services meeting.

Voting Yes: Bailey, Bonta, Bowlin, Cerny, Deegan, Fiala, Hovey, Jensen, Miller, Neumiller, Petersen, Rennerfeldt, Sheridan, Smith. Voting No: None. Abstain: None. Absent: Boldt, Wiebe. Motion carried.

These minutes have not been approved by
the Board of EMS.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

MOTION: Miller made the motion, seconded by Rennerfeldt, to approve the minutes of the December 6, 2019 meeting with a comment to correct the spelling of Dr. Ernest's last name.

Voting Yes: Bailey, Bonta, Bowlin, Cerny, Deegan, Fiala, Hovey, Miller, Neumiller, Rennerfeldt, Sheridan, Smith. Voting No: None. Abstain: Jensen, Petersen. Absent: Boldt, Wiebe. Motion carried.

CLOSED SESSION

MOTION: Fiala made the motion, seconded by Bowlin, for the Board to go into closed session for the purpose of reviewing and discussing investigative reports, licensure applications, and other confidential information, and for the prevention of needless injury to the reputation of the individuals.

Voting Yes: Bailey, Bonta, Bowlin, Cerny, Deegan, Fiala, Hovey, Jensen, Miller, Neumiller, Petersen, Rennerfeldt, Sheridan, Smith. Voting No: None. Abstain: None. Absent: Boldt, Wiebe. Motion carried.

0918 *Meeting went into closed session.*
1054 *Meeting returned to Open Session.*

OPEN SESSION

MOTION: Bowlin made the motion, seconded by Jensen, for the Board to go into open session.

Voting Yes: Bailey, Bonta, Bowlin, Cerny, Deegan, Fiala, Hovey, Jensen, Miller, Neumiller, Petersen, Rennerfeldt, Sheridan, Smith. Voting No: None. Abstain: None. Absent: Boldt, Wiebe. Motion carried.

LICENSURE RECOMMENDATIONS**ALEX SCHWENKE – EMT APPLICATION**

MOTION: Bailey made the motion, seconded by Bowlin, to table the application pending further information through pre-licensure investigation.

Voting Yes: Bailey, Bowlin, Cerny, Deegan, Fiala, Hovey, Jensen, Miller, Neumiller, Petersen, Rennerfeldt, Sheridan, Smith. Voting No: None. Abstain: None. Absent: Boldt, Bonta, Wiebe. Motion carried.

JAMES CLARY – EMT APPLICATION

MOTION: Rennerfeldt made the motion, seconded by Miller, to recommend issuing Clary an unrestricted EMT license.

Voting Yes: Bailey, Bowlin, Cerny, Deegan, Fiala, Hovey, Jensen, Miller, Neumiller, Petersen, Rennerfeldt, Sheridan, Smith. Voting No: None. Abstain: None. Absent: Boldt, Bonta, Wiebe. Motion carried.

ALAN KOEBEL – EMT REINSTATEMENT

MOTION: Jensen made the motion, seconded by Rennerfeldt, to recommend denying Koebel's reinstatement of EMT license based on previous criminal conviction of negligent child abuse on 6/28/2019.

Voting Yes: Bailey, Bowlin, Cerny, Deegan, Fiala, Hovey, Jensen, Miller, Neumiller, Petersen, Rennerfeldt, Sheridan, Smith. Voting No: None. Abstain: None. Absent: Boldt, Bonta, Wiebe. Motion carried.

MARIO ANDRADE – PROBATION REQUEST

MOTION: Miller made the motion, seconded by Bailey to recommend denying the request to be removed from probation status early based on the discipline imposed by the Chief Medical Officer on 2/21/2019.

Voting Yes: Bailey, Bowlin, Cerny, Deegan, Fiala, Hovey, Jensen, Miller, Neumiller, Petersen, Rennerfeldt, Sheridan, Smith. Voting No: None. Abstain: None. Absent: Boldt, Bonta, Wiebe. Motion carried.

SCHOOL OF EMS – TRAINING AGENCY APPLICATION

MOTION: Fiala made the motion, seconded by Bowlin, to recommend issuing approval status for licensure for the School of EMS.

Voting Yes: Bailey, Bowlin, Cerny, Deegan, Fiala, Hovey, Jensen, Miller, Neumiller, Petersen, Rennerfeldt, Sheridan, Smith. Voting No: None. Abstain: None. Absent: Boldt, Bonta, Wiebe. Motion carried.

The Board took a short break at 1100, resumed at 1105.

AGENDA ITEM: Licensing

Becky Wissell, DHHS Public Health Licensure Administrator, and Anna Harrison, Investigations Compliance Manager, introduced themselves and explained their position with the Department. Wissell presented information regarding probation recommendations by the Board for licenses.

AGENDA ITEM: DHHS HelpDesk Regarding Citrix

This was tabled until the next meeting due to staff not being present.

AGENDA ITEM: Office of Emergency Health Systems

Wilson reported the EMT renewal period was completed. It was estimated that over 900 EMTs did not renew. Reinstatement applications have been submitted. Wilson will send data information to the Board regarding the number of licenses expired, the number of reinstatements, and new licenses. Bailey asked if an “exit” poll could be sent to those providers that did not renew to collect data for the upcoming strategic planning session. General ideas were discussed.

Huggins asked for the Board’s recommendation for the number of audits to complete for the renewed EMT licenses. Rennerfeldt made the motion, seconded by Bowlin to recommend a 4% audit of renewed EMT licenses. Voting Yes: Bailey, Bonta, Bowlin, Cerny, Deegan, Fiala, Hovey, Jensen, Miller, Neumiller, Petersen, Rennerfeldt, Sheridan, Smith. Voting No: None. Abstain: None. Absent: Boldt, Wiebe. Motion carried.

Wilson reported that the Board meeting is now being offered via a webcast. This was the first meeting offered via webcast.

Carol Jorgensen, EMS Program Manager, reported on the number of contacts the EMS Specialists have made so far in 2020 with Emergency Medical Services, hospitals, and EMS providers. She reported on the number of service inspections that have been conducted, the percentage of deficiencies, the number of completed inspections including corrective actions, and the number of inspections to be completed. The most common deficiencies found were listed. Miller asked if an information session could be held at one of the EMS conferences regarding service inspections. Jorgensen stated that could be an option. She stated that there is an inspection guidance document on the EHS website to assist services with

preparation. Information from each section of the document will be sent out via the MailChimp after the proposed rules and regulations are approved. Miller also suggested the possibility of a recorded webinar option to be available for services to review.

Wendy Snodgrass, Education and Compliance Manager, reported on the change of the previously termed “additional module skills” for the EMR and EMT level. These skills are now included in each level’s scope of practice per statute and can now be taught in the initial course. A policy regarding the scope of practice skills and reimbursement for training will be sent out to providers and services. Miller asked for clarification of teaching the IV administration module during the course or after licensing due to the length of the module. Snodgrass and Wilson explained that training agencies do not need to teach to competency of the skills during the initial course. It is up to the service and the service’s physician medical director to determine competency. Snodgrass reported on two training agencies being below the required 70% two year pass rate for the National Registry cognitive exam. An update was given on the changes coming to the BLS psychomotor exam. She reported the training agency directors group is starting to meet again. The group wants to meet before each Board meeting should information need to be shared at the meeting.

Debbie Kuhn, EMSC and CISM Program Manager, reported that Norfolk Ambulance Service was the first service in Nebraska to be recognized as “Peds Ready.” The Emergency Medical Services for Children (EMSC) ambulance online assessment is open from January 7, 2020 through March 31, 2020. The response goal needed is 80%; the State is at 69% completion. Looking for ideas to raise the response rate. The hospital assessment will begin June 1, 2020. An art contest is being held for students in K-5th grades. The contest will be judged in the four EMS regions. Twelve winners will be chosen and the art will be included in a 2021 calendar that will be sent to all ambulance services. A member from a rural service and a training agency is needed for the EMSC Advisory Committee.

Kuhn also reported for the CISM Program that the 2020 CISM basic trainings will be held in Grand Island, North Platte, Scottsbluff, Norfolk, and Bennington. Speakers are confirmed for the statewide conference. This is open to the public. She also reported that CISM interventions are up for the year.

The Board took a short break at 1213 and resumed at 1226.

Sherri Wren, Trauma Program Manager, reported that 51 hospitals are designated. The second public hearing was held regarding regulation changes. Their strategic planning session will be held in March. They will be focusing on trauma statutes, regional boards, and committees for effectiveness and areas for process improvement. There will be multiple regional and board meetings this year. Diane Schoch, Trauma Nurse Specialist, has been busy with hospital outreach and training. There are hospitals interested in initial trauma designation. The Trauma Nurse Coordinator (TNC) training day will be held in June.

Becka Neumiller, Stroke/STEMI Program Manager, reported that stroke education is available to EMS providers and hospital staff at no charge. Sign up for the course is available on the EHS website. EMS Stroke Recognition Awards will be awarded in July, 2020 for those that have met the established criteria. Neumiller is working on stroke designated hospitals and partnering with the American Heart Association (AHA) for stroke data registry. She also reported on the end of year Cardiac Arrest Registry to Enhance Survival (CARES) report. The program is still working on adding ambulance services to the CARES registry and other options for smaller services. The STEMI task force is working on EMS measures.

Wilson reported that EHS staff was not able to pull data reports that the Board requested due to time constraints. The Department is looking into obtaining the Biospatial data system for data collection and reports. There has been good feedback regarding the beta test for the new eNARSIS run form.

AGENDA ITEM: Statewide Physician Medical Director Update

Dr. Ernest gave information on the COVID-19 virus and pandemic prevention. He encouraged wearing N95 masks that have been fit tested to prevent transmission. He commented that not all ambulance services require regular fit testing of N95 masks. He will be working with the Department regarding this. Work is still being done on the EMS protocol format.

AGENDA ITEM: Scope of Practice Committee Update

Fiala reported a change to the Stroke Interfacility Transfer protocol regarding residual Alteplase (tPA) left in the tubing. Bonta asked for blood pressure clarification and additional parameters for ischemic stroke. Rennerfeldt made the motion, seconded by Miller to approve corrections regarding residual tPA. Voting Yes: Bailey, Bonta, Bowlin, Cerny, Deegan, Fiala, Hovey, Jensen, Miller, Neumiller, Petersen, Rennerfeldt, Sheridan, Smith. Voting No: None. Abstain: None. Absent: Boldt, Wiebe. Motion carried.

AGENDA ITEM: Nebraska Emergency Medical Services Association (NEMSA)

Bowlin reported on behalf of NEMSA asking for Board members to attend the open forum at the March convention on March 13, 2020 from 1430-1530 at the Ramada Inn in Columbus. She has evaluations from the open forum attendees at the January conference. There were a lot of positive comments. Dave Huey, NEMSA Board Member, reported the Columbus convention dates are March 12-15, 2020. NEMSA has testified at multiple committee hearings regarding EMS topics in legislative bills. NEMSA is working on educating EMS providers regarding the legislative process and senators regarding EMS. Bowlin will ask the NEMSA board for ideas for the strategic planning.

AGENDA ITEM: Legislative Committee Update

Cerny reviewed current legislative bills regarding EMS and first responder topics and the standings. He reviewed the SIREN Bill and information webinars. Recruitment and retention of firefighters and EMS personnel is still a top priority to the Nebraska State Volunteer Firefighters Association (NSVFA). They will be hosting recruitment and retention seminars in Norfolk, at Fire School, and in Broken Bow. The NSVFA continues working with the Nebraska Fire Chiefs Association for the Annual Leadership Symposium. During Fire School in May, there will be one, 12-hour segmented EMS training class and several others that will have some EMS training hours included. He reported that the NSVFA lobbyist continues to work closely with senators to help pass key EMS bills. Smith reported on two committee hearings regarding LB 893 and LB 1002. Senator Bostleman may merge these two into one priority bill.

Bonta left at 1300.

AGENDA ITEM: Rules and Regulation Update

Wilson reported that final revisions of Chapters 11-13 went to public hearing. There were two people that testified with comments. The next step is Board of Health approval then to the Attorney General's Office. Smith read the Certificate of Adoption for regulation revisions. Bailey made the motion, seconded by Fiala for Smith to sign the certificate. Voting Yes: Bailey, Bowlin, Cerny, Deegan, Fiala, Hovey, Jensen, Miller, Neumiller, Petersen, Rennerfeldt, Sheridan, Smith. Voting No: None. Abstain: None. Absent: Boldt, Bonta, Wiebe. Motion carried. Miller expressed his frustrations with the response from the Board of Health regarding the previous 407 process and delays in regulation approval.

AGENDA ITEM: Update on Board Positions

Wilson reported we have four new Board members. Information regarding the meetings, contact information, CITRIX information, and Board orientation will be sent out to the new members. There are still two vacancies for Physician Assistant and Advanced EMT (AEMT). Bailey has been reappointed. Smith recommended assigning a mentor for each of the new members.

AGENDA ITEM: Strategic Planning April

Wilson stated the Strategic Planning Session will be April 6, 2020 with location to be determined. The contract with SafeTech, session facilitators, has been approved but still waiting for signatures. Smith asked

for the Board committee chairpersons to pull bulleted points from the last strategic plan report to have available for the planning call and April session. Still need to develop the invite list.

AGENDA ITEM: Election of Officers

Smith opened nominations for the election of officers. He commented that Scott Wiebe wished to step down as secretary. Jensen made the motion, seconded by Bailey for Dr. Smith to remain as chairperson, Ann Fiala as vice-chairperson, and Dr. Miller as secretary. Voting Yes: Bailey, Bowlin, Cerny, Deegan, Hovey, Jensen, Neumiller, Petersen, Rennerfeldt, Sheridan. Voting No: None. Abstain: Fiala, Miller, Smith. Absent: Boldt, Bonta, Wiebe. Motion carried.

CONCLUSION AND ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Rennerfeldt made the motion to adjourn, seconded by Bailey. The meeting adjourned at 1340.

Respectfully submitted,

Wendy Snodgrass
EHS Education and Compliance Manager