

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING
of the NEBRASKA
BOARD OF Emergency
Medical Services
September 9, 2019**

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting of the Nebraska Board of Emergency Medical Services was called to order by Ann Fiala, Board Vice-Chair, at 0905, September 9, 2019, at the Lincoln Community Foundation Building, Lincoln, NE 68509. Copies of the agenda were mailed in advance to the Board members, posted outside the Licensure Unit within the Nebraska State Office Building, and posted on the Department of Health and Human Services website. Fiala 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
- Randy Boldt
- Dr. John Bonta
- Karen Bowlin
- Joel Cerny
- Ann Fiala
- Linda Jensen
- Dr. Michael Miller
- Carl Rennerfeldt
- Scott Weibe

The following Board members arrived after roll call: None.

The following Board members were absent: Dr. Thomas Deegan, Dr. James Smith.

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
- Anna Harrison
- Investigators

A quorum was present, and the meeting convened.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

MOTION: Dr. Miller made the motion, seconded by Bailey, to adopt the agenda for the September 9, 2019, Board of Emergency Medical Services meeting.

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

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

MOTION: Rennerfeldt made the motion, seconded by Miller to approve the May 10, 2019 and June 24, 2019 meeting minutes, with the suggestion that the May 10, 2019 meeting minutes be reviewed for grammar errors.

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

CLOSED SESSION

MOTION: Rennerfeldt 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.

Miller voiced concerned about having closed session first due to public attendance. Fiala agreed but future web broadcasting should help with the issue. Lisa Anderson stated having the closed session first helps the investigators attend and complete their investigations throughout the day.

Voting Yes: Bailey, Boldt, Bonta, Bowlin, Cerny, Fiala, Jensen, Miller, Rennerfeldt, and Weibe. Voting No: None. Abstain: None. Absent: Deegan, Smith. Motion carried.

0910 *Meeting went into closed session.*
 0911 *Bonta left the meeting.*
 0932 *Bonta returned to the meeting.*
 0935 *Bailey left the meeting.*
 0938 *Bailey returned to the meeting.*
 1013 *Meeting returned to Open Session.*

MOTION: Rennerfeldt made the motion, seconded by Jensen, for the Board to return to open session.

LICENSURE RECOMMENDATIONS

Cassandra Bixenmann – EMT Application

MOTION: Wiebe made the motion, seconded by Bailey, to table application for more information.

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

Mindi Boettcher - Early Termination from Probation

MOTION: Bowlin made the motion, seconded by Rennerfeldt, to deny the request for early termination of probation.

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

Med-Trans Corp dba Life Star of Kansas – ALS Transport Service Application

MOTION: Miller made the motion, seconded by Bailey, to approve ALS transport service license pending modifications of medical protocols recognizing that tube thoracostomy is not a procedure within the scope of practice for EMS personnel in Nebraska.

Voting Yes: Bailey, Boldt, Bonta, Bowlin, Cerny, Fiala, Jensen, Miller, Rennerfeldt, and Weibe. Voting No: None. Abstain: None. Absent: Deegan, Smith. Motion carried.

Trumbull Rural Fire District – BLS Non-Transport Service Application

MOTION: Cerny made the motion, seconded by Boldt to approve the BLS non-transport service license application.

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

AGENDA ITEM

Fiala recognized Dr. Michael Miller for his approval to the Committee on Accreditation for the EMS Professions (CoAEMSP) board for a three year term.

AGENDA ITEM

Wilson reported the Office of Emergency Health Systems (OEHS) and licensing transition is still going well. The OEHS was notified of a new requirement that all new and current childcare license providers must complete the FBI fingerprint back ground check. This may cause a delay in results for EMS providers. The OEHS was recently audited by the FBI for the fingerprint and background check procedure. One finding was noted for the wording of the privacy statement on the license application to be consistent with language used by the rest of licensing. This has been corrected.

Carol Jorgensen, EMS Program Manager, reported on the number of EMS contacts and service visits completed by the EMS Specialists. A reminder was sent out by each specialist regarding the upcoming EMT renewal deadline of December 31, 2019. This information also went out via a MailChimp notification.

Snodgrass, Education and Compliance Manager, reported there have been multiple requests for access to the 24/7 Fire EMS online training program by EMS providers for continuing education hours. Multiple ALS psychomotor testing days have been held by training agency paramedic programs with positive outcomes. She complimented the programs for the preparation of their students. The Request For Proposal (RFP) process for leadership trainings was awarded to SafeTech Solutions. Plans are developing to hold all four leadership training levels in 2020. There are multiple continuing education classes posted on the website calendar that EMT providers should take advantage of. Multiple services are holding training for the IM Epinephrine administration with good success.

Debbie Kuhn, EMSC and CISM Program Manager, reported there are 102 services that have designated a Pediatric Emergency Care Coordinator (PECC). The performance measure goal is to increase the number of designated PECCs to at least 30% of the services. The EMSC program is about ready to roll out the ambulance “Peds Ready” project. Pediatric Education for the Prehospital Professional (PEPP) classes are being offered in most regions. The Emergency School Guidelines for schools has been updated. She stated multiple requests have been made since school has started. Kuhn reported there have been several vehicle crashes this year involving teens not wearing a seatbelt. An Adobe Spark presentation is being developed to encourage the use of seatbelts with teens. The program will be working with UNMC and Children’s Hospital to set up a pediatric table top disaster drill.

Kuhn also reported for CISM on the Crew Care application. This is a statewide initiative phone application addressing the mental health of first responders. The phone application is available to Nebraska first responders at no charge. The program generates anonymous feedback to the OEHS to help identify first responder stressors and identify common effects of stress. The Board would like to see the data once generated. The CISM program is working on updating rules and regulations and statute. A public hearing has been scheduled on September 30, 2019 for the rules and regulations updates. There will be a CISM basic training in Bennington in October. Kuhn stated the program is working on setting up the annual conference in April, 2020.

Sherri Wren, Trauma Program Manager, reported the Trauma Physician Medical Director resigned and they are looking for a replacement. There are multiple region board meetings scheduled. There will be a public hearing on October 1, 2019 for changes to the program’s rules and regulations. Wren reported the

program is working on a process improvement project to speed up the re-designation process. There are three hospitals interested in obtaining a trauma designation. The program will also start the designation process on rehabilitation facilities in the state.

Rebecca Neumiller, Stroke/STEMI Program Manager, reported the train-the-trainer sessions have been held for the Mission LifeLine stroke education project. The next step is to roll out the education to EMS providers and hospitals. Neumiller shared the recognition measures for stroke identification; next to be applied to STEMI identification. World Stroke Day will be on October, 29, 2019. She sent emails out to hospitals and EMS services encouraging participation in a stroke drill on that day. Neumiller stated she is still working on expanding the CARES registry across the state and utilizing education funds for stroke training.

Sharon Steele, IT Business Systems Analyst, presented patient care report data from 2016 to 2018 that was requested by the Board. This data included run totals, number of BLS vs ALS service calls, number of pediatric vs adult patients, number of pre-hospital STEMI runs, total cardiac arrests, number of positive stroke scale score runs, and number of medical vs trauma runs in 2018. The Board would like to see level of care provided BLS vs ALS for the next meeting. Fiala asked if some of this data could be added to the MailChimp emails as this data can be helpful to providers. Wilson said that it could and the OEHS could also add information to show services how to pull their own data and information on who is using the data. The OEHS recognizes the need of educating providers on the use of the data and better documentation practices.

Wilson reported on a meeting with a senator over eNARSIS (Elite) concerns. OEHS staff is evaluating changes that can be made. A statewide survey was sent out to all EMS services and currently waiting on the results. A beta test will be performed with a select number of EMS services on a new run form after September 30, 2019. Wilson stated immediate and long term goals have been established on improving the eNARSIS system. The OEHS has funding for user group meetings and to develop curriculum for the training of end users. There are also funds to purchase a program to pull data from the Elite system. He reported on funding available for a program to import data from Elite into the Nebraska Health Information Initiative (NEHII) system to enable hospitals to have access to EMS reports and data. This is a long term project. The OEHS also plans to pull data to establish a baseline for the numbers of calls, types of calls, data quality, mandatory data elements, and the 72 hour rule.

AGENDA ITEM

Dr. Eric Ernest, Statewide Physician Medical Director, presented to the board an example of a DNR form/end of life document currently being used by area hospitals and physicians. The end goal is to standardize DNR/advanced directive documentation. The OEHS will send the form to Department Legal for approval as a Board recognized reference document for EMS services.

Dr. Ernest gave an update on the UNMC grant for the regional disaster response computerized program. A focus group meeting was held to develop a formal recommendation for use of the program in rural and urban areas, as well as education and training of the software.

UNMC was approved for an EMS Fellowship program with a tentative start date in 2021. This program will train providers in the role of an EMS physician medical director.

AGENDA ITEM

The Board scheduled the next Strategic Planning Session for April 6, 2020 with April 15, 2020 as a back-up date. The location is to be determined. The Board recommended that the OEHS and meeting chairs decide on the facilitator for the planning session.

AGENDA ITEM

Fiala reported that the Scope of Practice Committee is still working on protocol revisions and is asking for board approval of the UNMC Guideline Template.

MOTION: Boldt made the motion, seconded by Miller to adopt the UNMC Guideline Template.

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

Dr. Ernst asked the board to unify triage training and protocols due to the disaster planning grant. He stated the SALT system is recommended by National Criteria and he proposed to the board that the SALT system be the single method per State protocols. Miller stated that the SALT method has been used for many years, is a well-researched method, is a National Gold Standard, and he recommended to only utilize the SALT method. Fiala stated there were no major concerns from the protocol committee and it would alleviate any confusion over more than one method. Bailey stated that during disaster drills he has been involved with, most comments made are the need for more training on triage and a need for a consistent standard.

MOTION: Bailey made the motion, seconded by Miller to reference on the SALT triage method in State protocols.

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

AGENDA ITEM

Cerny gave an update on Legislative Resolution 181: Examine new funding streams for SIM-NE; and Legislative Resolution 165: Municipal firefighting and emergency medical services hearing dates.

AGENDA ITEM

Cerny reported on behalf of the Nebraska State Volunteer Firefighters Association (NSVFA) of the associations work with the Recruitment and Retention grant. The first class was held July 20-21, 2019 in Omaha. The next class will be in Gering on November 9-10, 2019. The first Strive deadline has passed and the NSVFA will be notifying those that received the grants. The next deadline is March 1, 2020 and September 1, 2020.

Cerny stated the NSVFA Annual Conference and Memorial service will be October 18-20, 2019 where they will also be setting their legislative goals for next year. Cerny and John Bomar will be attending the National Volunteer Fire Council Meeting in Augusta, GA on October 23-25, 2019. The NSVFA continues to work with Senator Bostleman and Senator Dorn on the senators' concerns with EMS in Nebraska and the funding for the SIMs trucks.

AGENDA ITEM

Bowlin reported the NEMSA group is planning the 2020 conference and convention and working with their lobbyists on bills. Letters were sent out to those registered for the 2019 convention that were not able to attend due to the flooding with a certificate for free registration to the 2020 conference or convention.

AGENDA ITEM

Wilson gave an update on the 407 credentialing process. Both the critical care paramedic and community paramedicine proposals were recommended by the technical review committee. We are still waiting on the recommendation from the Board of Health committee as the proposals were tabled at the past two meetings. The next committee and Board of Health meetings are scheduled for September 16, 2019. After the Board of Health, the Director of Public Health is next to make a recommendation.

AGENDA ITEM

Jensen reported on a meeting that was held with the Nursing Board that started dialogue on allowing LPNs and RNs to practice as a pre-hospital provider without an EMS license. Nursing members were receptive to working together to develop a joint position statement that focuses on safety of patients and to allow nurses to practice within their scope of practice. The next meeting date to start work on the statement is to be determined.

AGENDA ITEM

Wilson gave an update on the open rules and regulations. The proposed Chapters 11, 12, and 13 of rules and regulations have been accepted through Department legal and were submitted to the Governor's Policy Research Office (GPRO). The OEHS has not heard back if the GPRO has any questions or issues. The next step is setting a public hearing if there are no concerns from the GPRO. Wilson estimates a mid-October to November time frame for the public hearing. The proposed rules and regulations will be sent out to stakeholders and associations for comment prior to the public hearing in order to address any comments. After the public hearing, edits are made if required, then they are sent to the Attorney General's office.

The board took a short break at 1207.

The meeting restarted at 1225.

AGENDA ITEM

Wilson stated there are five Board vacancies. Wilson and the Board chairs are looking at roles identified in Statute to make sure appropriate people are filling positions. Applications have been submitted on every position except for law enforcement and the CISM member. The Deputy Director for the Licensing Department has reviewed and made recommendations. These were sent to the GPRO.

AGENDA ITEM

Wilson provided an update on the availability of webcasting the Board meetings. It was noted that Board members must be present at the meeting, not via webcast. A Survey Monkey was sent to the Board members for their contact information for the webcasts. Wilson is to resend the survey. The OEHS is looking into purchasing a 360-degree microphone/camera for the webcast meetings. Information regarding usage at the next meeting will be sent out.

AGENDA ITEM

Wilson reported on the Fifty Cents for Life interim study. He reported the funds are slowly diminishing and that revenues are trending down for the past two years. It was noted that no other expenditures are allowed to be utilized out of this funding. It was asked if senators are willing to look into raising the amount. Miller asked Wilson to go over the history and process of the Fifty Cents for Life program. Miller commented that EMS stakeholders and associations should take interest in discussing with senators on raising the amount. Fiala asked the NSVFA and NEMSA representatives to reach out to their associations and report back any progress or plans at the next board meeting.

AGENDA ITEM

Fiala asked for general consensus for the proposed 2020 board meeting dates with most in agreement. Miller asked for thoughts on locations as there are parking issues with holding the meetings at or near the State building. Locations to be considered and determined. Proposed dates for 2020 are: Monday,

February 24; Friday, May 8; Friday, July 10 at Statewide EMS Conference in Kearney; Monday, September 14; Friday, December 4.

COMMUNICATION

Bowlin asked if Board members would be interested in being present for the open sessions at the 2020 NEMSA conference and convention. The board was reminded to have fewer members than a quorum present.

CONCLUSION AND ADJOURNMENT

The next board meeting is scheduled for Friday, December 6, 2019. Location to be determined. There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 1301.

Respectfully submitted,

Scott Wiebe
EMS Board Secretary