

Minutes of the March 16, 2015 Board of Emergency Medical Services Meeting

CALL TO ORDER

Tim Hoffman, Chairperson, called the meeting of the Board of Emergency Medical Services to order at 9:03 a.m., Monday, March 16, 2015 in Country Inn and Suites – Lighthouse Room located at 5353 North 27th Street, Lincoln, NE. 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.

Mr. Hoffman announced that this is a public meeting and the Open Meetings Law is posted.

The following Board Members and Staff were present at the meeting:

Dr. John Bonta	Karen Bowlin
Joel Cerny, Vice-Chairperson	Ann Fiala
Judy Henning	Troy Hiemer
Tim Hoffman, Chairperson	Charles LaFollette
Dr. Mike Miller	Carl Rennerfeldt
Laurie Scholl	Dr. James Smith
Scott Wiebe, Secretary	Rene Tiedt, Program Manager
Kevin Griess, Department Legal Counsel	Ed Vierk, Assistant Attorney General
Russ Fosler, Investigations	Duane Newland, Investigations
Jeff Newman, Investigations	Peggy Persell, Investigations
Dennis Scott, Investigations	Paul Weber, Investigations
Jacye LaFayette-Dymacek, Health Licensing Coordinator	

Randy Boldt, Dr. Thomas Deegan, Don Harmon, and Linda Jensen were absent from the meeting.

Ms. Tiedt introduced Kevin Griess, our new department legal counsel and Laurie Scholl, our new public member. Ms. Tiedt mentioned that it would be the last meeting for Judy Henning and Tim Hoffman.

Ms. Fiala moved, seconded by Dr. Miller to adopt the revised agenda. Voting aye: Bonta, Bowlin, Cerny, Fiala, Henning, Hiemer, Hoffman, LaFollette, Miller, Rennerfeldt, Scholl, Smith, and Wiebe. Voting nay: None. Absent: Boldt, Deegan, Harmon, and Jensen. Motion carried.

Mr. Rennerfeldt moved, seconded by Dr. Miller to approve the minutes with minor corrections requested by Mr. Wiebe. Voting aye: Bonta, Bowlin, Cerny, Fiala, Henning, Hiemer, Hoffman, LaFollette, Miller, Rennerfeldt, Smith, and Wiebe. Voting nay: None. Abstaining: Scholl. Absent: Boldt, Deegan, Harmon, and Jensen. Motion carried.

EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES PROGRAM UPDATE

Brian Monaghan, State Education and Training Coordinator provided the EMS Program Update on behalf of Dean Cole who is currently working with the EMS Programs staff to finalize the guidelines for the Lucas Grant that has been awarded. This six million dollar grant will allow EMS Programs to provide Lucas Devices (automated CPR devices) for many services in Nebraska. A formal announcement will be made by the Department once details are finalized.

Carrie Crawford has resigned her position as a Regional Specialist with EMS Programs to accept another position within the State of Nebraska. Applications are currently being accepted for that position. A trauma nurse coordinator has been hired to work in the trauma program to help orient trauma nurses as there seems to be a high amount of turnover in that profession.

Mr. Monaghan went on to provide the EMS Training Agency Updates. Thursday, March 12 was the Nebraska Instructor Society Day held prior to the NEMSA Conference. There was a good turnout for the Instructor Day. At a meeting held afterwards, the training agencies agreed to work together to provide a more standardized curriculum for the EMT Epi and Albuterol Modules. Mr. Monaghan has put together a presentation to help clear up any confusion regarding the administration of the basic level NREMT psychomotor skills exam. Mr. Monaghan is working with the training agencies to offer the presentation around the state in the near future.

Rene' Tiedt, Program Manager provided the Licensure Unit Update. Ms. Tiedt announced that Jacye LaFayette-Dymacek had been selected to fill the Health Licensing Coordinator position previously held by Bill Wisell. Tami Johns has been selected to fill Jacye's Health Licensing Specialist position. There is still a half time position vacant in our section and another staff member will be retiring at the end of May. At our last meeting, we spoke about the large number of services that still had not submitted renewal applications. Multiple people assisted in calling and emailing those services in order to help prevent the expiration of their license. Out of nearly 300 services that were left, only 12 expired. Most of those services have since reapplied which is keeping the Site Visit Committee busy trying to get those services inspected so they can be relicensed. Ms. Tiedt believes that ultimately this renewal has been a learning experience for services and that has resulted in a greater understanding of what is expected of them.

COMMITTEE UPDATES

Mr. Hoffman reviewed the current committee assignments, noting that they had not been updated for some time, and asked all members to consider which committees they wish to serve on for 2015. If you wish to serve on a committee, please let the new Chairperson know. Mr. Hoffman shared that the workload for each committee changes as the state of the Board changes. Currently the busiest committee is the Site Visit Committee due to the number of initial inspections currently required. When the regulations are open, the Scope of Practice Committee is busier. It is Mr. Hoffman's hope that the new Chairperson will help guide the committees in shaping the duties and goals. Mr. Hoffman discussed the need for someone to take on the position of Trauma Board liaison. They usually meet twice a year and requires minimal travel.

On behalf of the Legislation and Regulation Committee, Mr. Cerny referred to the list of Bills provided by Ms. Tiedt that may have some impact on EMS. He provided information on where each of these Bills are in the legislative process.

Ms. Tiedt provided information regarding the need to be thinking about whether or not we will be developing helicopter related regulations for the next time we are able to open the regulations.

Mr. Hoffman indicated that there had at one time been a helicopter activation protocol/policy that was removed due to not having statutory authority for a helicopter or fixed air wing service. His recommendation moving forward for the State is for lobbying to have an air medical transport licensure level. That would give statutory authority to the Board to develop rules and regulations that surround air medical and possibly allowing a broader scope for that level. Mr. Hoffman suggested that we add a liaison for the Nebraska Association of Air Medical Services (NEAAMS). Mr. Wiebe questioned what the Board can do to get this process started. Ms. Tiedt indicated that this initiative needs to start with the industry itself. Dr. Bonta expressed his desire to have the role of the critical care paramedic addressed along with the need to define their scope of practice and licensure on the ground which would differ from the scope of practice in the air. Mr. Hoffman provided clarification regarding the recommended emergency medical services equipment list is just that, a recommended list. Regulations state that a service must carry appropriate supplies and equipment as determined by the physician medical director and the level of care provided by the service. The equipment must be capable of being used to provide the procedures as outlined in 172 NAC 12-004.02A.

The Services and Providers Committee had nothing to report.

The Education Committee had nothing to report.

The Scope of Practice Committee had the following questions to consider:

1. Can an EMT manually defibrillate a patient under the supervision of a Paramedic who is performing other duties at the time?
2. Can an EMT and AEMT suction bronchial secretions, blood, emesis, etc. from a ventilator lumen of an advanced airway?

After discussion, Dr. Smith moved, seconded by Dr. Bonta that based on the scope of practice, an EMT is not allowed to manually defibrillate a patient under the supervision of a higher level provider. Voting aye: Bonta, Bowlin, Cerny, Fiala, Henning, Hiemer, Hoffman, LaFollette, Miller, Rennerfeldt, Scholl, Smith, and Wiebe. Voting nay: None. Absent: Boldt, Deegan, Harmon, and Jensen. Motion carried.

After discussion, Dr. Miller moved, seconded by Mr. LaFollette that it is within the purview of EMTs and AEMTs for devices that they are actually authorized to utilize within their scope of practice for them to troubleshoot those devices, including suctioning as appropriate. Voting aye: Bonta, Bowlin, Cerny, Fiala, Henning, Hiemer, Hoffman, LaFollette, Miller, Rennerfeldt, Scholl, Smith, and Wiebe. Voting nay: None. Absent: Boldt, Deegan, Harmon, and Jensen. Motion carried.

Mr. Hoffman had nothing to share on behalf of the Trauma Board.

On behalf of Emergency Medical Services for Children (EMSC), Ms. Kuhn shared that they were able to obtain approval for nurses to receive credit for tele health courses when the topic relates to nursing. 253 people watched the most recent conference, 110 of those were nurses. A big focus this year is going to be getting hospital emergency rooms pediatric ready. A decal will be provided to hospitals that have all the education, equipment, and transfer agreements

that are required. PEP classes are going to be done at hospitals instead of services to get more people to attend. These are hybrid classes so students would be doing 4 hours online and then coming to the hospital to do the hands on portion which would be another 4 hours. There will be a \$50 deposit to cover the code and instructor time. If the student attends and completes the course, EMSC will cover the entire cost and the deposit will be returned.

On behalf of the Nebraska Emergency Medical Services Association (NEMSA), Ms. Bowlin shared that they are getting new staff moved and working on education at the conferences, making sure they are compliant with the level of education that is coming up.

On behalf of the Nebraska State Volunteer Firefighters Association (NSVFA), Mr. Cerny shared that they just went through the STRIVE program with the recruitment and retention last week 43 new scholarship recipients were approved, 16 of those were repeat students that will now get a whole year of college paid for by the Association. The annual fire school will be held May 15-17. There will be two EMS classes offered this year. Mr. Cerny will be attending the National Volunteer Fire Council meeting in April. He is interested in getting on the EMS Committee for the National Council.

MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS

Erin Clymer of Ball Insurance Services shared her concerns regarding the lack of younger EMS volunteers in rural communities noting that the median age of the currently licensed EMT is between 50 and 55. Clymer requested the Board's assistance in recruiting younger EMTs. Clymer indicated that she would be paying for a pop-up ad with the Lincoln Journal Star. Clymer suggested the possibility of using a social media site called Vine to reach a younger crowd by asking rural departments across Nebraska to come up with their own 6 second clips to post on the site.

After discussion, Mr. Rennerfeldt moved, seconded by Dr. Smith to add the Consider Spinal Stabilization protocol, with the proposed changes, to the Nebraska EMS Model Protocols. Voting aye: Bonta, Bowlin, Cerny, Fiala, Henning, Hiemer, Hoffman, LaFollette, Miller, Rennerfeldt, Scholl, Smith, and Wiebe. Voting nay: None. Absent: Boldt, Deegan, Harmon, and Jensen. Motion carried.

After discussion, Dr. Smith moved, seconded by Ms. Fiala to add the STEMI Guidelines protocol, with the proposed changes, to the Nebraska EMS Model Protocols. Voting aye: Bonta, Bowlin, Cerny, Fiala, Henning, Hiemer, Hoffman, LaFollette, Miller, Rennerfeldt, Scholl, Smith, and Wiebe. Voting nay: None. Absent: Boldt, Deegan, Harmon, and Jensen. Motion carried.

After discussion, Ms. Bowlin moved, seconded by Dr. Smith to remove the stipulations attached to oxygen administration by EMRs on the skills sheet maintained by the Department. Voting aye: Bonta, Bowlin, Cerny, Fiala, Henning, Hiemer, Hoffman, LaFollette, Miller, Rennerfeldt, Scholl, Smith, and Wiebe. Voting nay: None. Absent: Boldt, Deegan, Harmon, and Jensen. Motion carried.

Ms. Tiedt requested that the Board consider reviewing the entire set of Model Protocols as opposed to continuing to update them piece by piece.

Ms. Tiedt provided a copy of the Department's Application Processing Report since December 12, 2014. This was for informational purposes only.

Ms. Tiedt provided information regarding the regulatory timeline for service inspections and approval. This was for informational purposes only.

After discussion, Ms. Fiala moved, seconded by Mr. LaFollette to reaffirm the mail ballots for licensure of Central City Ambulance Service to operate as an Advanced Life Support Transport Service, Frontier County Ambulance Service – Curtis to operate as a Basic Life Support Transport Service, Frontier County Ambulance – Maywood to operate as a Basic Life Support Transport Service, Community Medical Center, Inc. to operate as an Advanced Life Support Non-Transport Service, and Midwest Medical Transport Co. to operate as an Advanced Life Support Transport Service. Voting aye: Bonta, Bowlin, Cerny, Fiala, Henning, Hiemer, Hoffman, LaFollette, Miller, Rennerfeldt, Scholl, Smith, and Wiebe. Voting nay: None. Absent: Boldt, Deegan, Harmon, and Jensen. Motion carried.

Ms. Tiedt recognized outgoing Board member Judy Henning. Ms. Henning served on the Board from October 23, 2008 to March 16, 2015. On behalf of the Board and the Department, Ms. Tiedt thanked Ms. Henning for her years of service and dedication to this Board. Ms. Tiedt then announced that Tim Hoffman would be retiring from the Board effective March 20, 2015. Mr. Hoffman has served on the Board since October 23, 2008. On behalf of the Board and the Department, Ms. Tiedt thanked Mr. Hoffman for his time and service, expressed regret to see him go, and congratulated him on his new position as the Director of EMS in Spencer, Iowa. Ms. Henning and Mr. Hoffman will receive a plaque and a letter of appreciation.

After discussion, Ms. Fiala moved, seconded by Dr. Bonta to name Dr. Smith as the Chairperson. Voting aye: Bonta, Bowlin, Cerny, Fiala, Henning, Hiemer, Hoffman, LaFollette, Miller, Rennerfeldt, Scholl, and Wiebe. Voting nay: None. Abstaining: Smith. Absent: Boldt, Deegan, Harmon, and Jensen. Motion carried.

Ms. LaFayette-Dymacek confirmed that the next meeting will be held Monday, June 15, 2015 at 9:00 a.m. in the Lighthouse Room of the Country Inn and Suites located at 5353 North 27th St. Lincoln, NE 68521.

CLOSED SESSION

Mr. Rennerfeldt moved, seconded by Dr. Smith to go into closed session at 12:35 p.m. to hear discussions regarding confidential information and to protect the reputation of individuals. Voting aye: Bonta, Bowlin, Cerny, Fiala, Henning, Hiemer, Hoffman, LaFollette, Miller, Rennerfeldt, Scholl, Smith, and Wiebe. Voting nay: None. Absent: Boldt, Deegan, Harmon, and Jensen. Motion carried.

OPEN SESSION

Mr. Rennerfeldt moved, seconded by Ms. Fiala to return to open session at 3:41 p.m. Voting aye: Bonta, Bowlin, Cerny, Fiala, Henning, Hiemer, Hoffman, LaFollette, Miller, Rennerfeldt, Smith, and Wiebe. Voting nay: None. Absent: Boldt, Deegan, Harmon, and Jensen. Motion carried.

DECISIONS

Mr. Wiebe moved, seconded by Ms. Henning to approve Med-Trans Corporation dba North Colorado Med Evac's application to operate as an Advanced Life Support Transport Service with the stipulation that the Department send a letter clarifying our position that a destination to destination transport within the State of Nebraska is in concert with the current scope of practice and meets the regulations for transport. Voting aye: Bonta, Bowlin, Cerny, Fiala, Henning, Hiemer, Hoffman, LaFollette, Miller, Rennerfeldt, Smith, and Wiebe. Voting nay: None. Absent: Boldt, Deegan, Harmon, Jensen, and Scholl. Motion carried.

Mr. Wiebe moved, seconded by Mr. Rennerfeldt to approve Rising City Volunteer Fire Department's application to operate as a Basic Life Support Transport Service. Voting aye: Bonta, Bowlin, Cerny, Fiala, Henning, Hiemer, Hoffman, LaFollette, Miller, Rennerfeldt, Smith, and Wiebe. Voting nay: None. Absent: Boldt, Deegan, Harmon, Jensen, and Scholl. Motion carried.

Mr. Wiebe moved, seconded by Mr. Hiemer to approve Sandhills Rescue Ambulance's application to operate as a Basic Life Support Transport Service pending the receipt of an adequate back-up plan and a current CLIA certificate. Voting aye: Bonta, Bowlin, Cerny, Fiala, Henning, Hiemer, Hoffman, LaFollette, Miller, Rennerfeldt, Smith, and Wiebe. Voting nay: None. Absent: Boldt, Deegan, Harmon, Jensen, and Scholl. Motion carried.

Dr. Miller moved, seconded by Ms. Fiala to deny Aaron B. Johnson's application for licensure as an Emergency Medical Technician based on Mr. Johnson's conviction history, his alcohol use disorder diagnosis, his cannabis use disorder in sustained remission diagnosis, and his failure to follow treatment recommendations. Voting aye: Bonta, Bowlin, Cerny, Fiala, Henning, Hiemer, Hoffman, LaFollette, Miller, Rennerfeldt, Smith, and Wiebe. Voting nay: None. Absent: Boldt, Deegan, Harmon, Jensen, and Scholl. Motion carried.

Ms. Fiala moved, seconded by Ms. Bowlin to offer Lucas Jellison a five-year probationary license based on Mr. Jellison's conviction history. Voting aye: Bonta, Bowlin, Cerny, Fiala, Henning, Hiemer, Hoffman, LaFollette, Miller, Rennerfeldt, Smith, and Wiebe. Voting nay: None. Absent: Boldt, Deegan, Harmon, Jensen, and Scholl. Motion carried.

Mr. Wiebe moved, seconded by Ms. Bowlin to offer Scott W. Morgaridge a five-year probationary license based on Mr. Morgaridge's conviction history and his alcohol dependence diagnosis, with the standard terms and conditions for that diagnosis in addition to successful completion of his court ordered probation. Voting aye: Bonta, Bowlin, Cerny, Fiala, Henning, Hiemer, Hoffman, LaFollette, Miller, Rennerfeldt, Smith, and Wiebe. Voting nay: None. Absent: Boldt, Deegan, Harmon, Jensen, and Scholl. Motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 3:47 pm.

Respectfully submitted by:



Scott Wiebe, Secretary

Prepared by: Jacye LaFayette-Dymacek, Health Licensing Coordinator