

These minutes have not been approved by the Board of Emergency Medical Services.

Minutes of the June 15, 2015 Board of Emergency Medical Services Meeting

CALL TO ORDER

Dr. James Smith, Chairperson, called the meeting of the Board of Emergency Medical Services to order at 9:10 a.m., Monday, June 15, 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.

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, Karen Bowlin, Joel Cerny, Vice-Chairperson, Ann Fiala, Don Harmon, Troy Hiemer, Linda Jensen, Dr. Mike Miller, Carl Rennerfeldt, Laurie Scholl, and Dr. James Smith, Chairperson.

The following Department Staff were present at the meeting: Rene Tiedt, Program Manager, Tami Johns, Health Licensing Specialist, Kevin Griess, Department Legal Counsel, Ed Vierk, Assistant Attorney General, Russ Fosler, Investigations, Kathleen Krueger, Investigations, Patricia Lemke, Investigations, Dennis Scott, Investigations, and Jacye LaFayette-Dymacek, Health Licensing Coordinator.

Dr. John Bonta, Dr. Thomas Deegan, Charles LaFollette, and Scott Wiebe were absent from the meeting.

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

Dr. Miller moved, seconded by Ms. Fiala to approve the minutes as presented. Voting aye: Boldt, Bowlin, Cerny, Fiala, Harmon, Hiemer, Jensen, Miller, Rennerfeldt, and Smith. Voting nay: None. Abstaining: Bailey and Scholl. Absent: Bonta, Deegan, LaFollette, and Wiebe. Motion carried.

Ms. Tiedt introduced Mike Bailey, our new paramedic member and Tami Johns, our new EMS Health Licensing Specialist.

EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES PROGRAM UPDATE

Brian Monaghan, State Education and Training Coordinator provided the EMS Program Update on behalf of Dean Cole. They have two new staff members. Crystal Dailey, RN is the new Trauma Nurse Coordinator and Ben Leseburg is the new Northeast Region EMS Specialist, the position formerly held by Carrie Crawford.

Mr. Monaghan went on to provide the EMS Training Agency Updates. STEMI training is continuing as Mission Lifeline is rolling out across the state. Physio-Control will be coming out to train services as the LUCAS devices are distributed. Levels III and IV of the Leadership Academy is coming up next week. This is for individuals who have previously completed levels

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I and II. The next level I and II will be held at Northeast Community College in September. Mr. Monaghan will be developing a curriculum and requesting training agencies to send two to three individuals to an educator training who will then bring new ideas and information back to their colleagues. Training and feedback is being provided to areas regarding how to properly administer the lower level psychomotor skills exam and the reasons behind why such rigid structure is required. An advanced level psychomotor skills exam was just held at Southeast Community College. The next exam will be held at Creighton in July, and the final exam for this year will be held at Metropolitan Community College in September. New American Heart Association changes will be coming out soon with the new science and should be available by late fall. A target date of January 1, 2016 has been given to have all services trained on and using the new E-NARSIS ELITE software. Dan Duncan with Southeast Community College is developing a "Train the Trainer" class to have people available across the state to assist services with this software. At this time, the regulations do not provide for allowing students in programs outside our state to obtain their clinical experience in our state. Dr. Smith and Mr. Monaghan suggested this may be something we want to look at in the future and that the Education Committee may want to take a closer look at that.

Rene' Tiedt, Program Manager provided the Licensure Unit Update. Ms. Tiedt announced that Cynthia Hendel had been selected to fill the half time position that will be assisting with EMS licensing primarily during renewal. All EMTs will renew this year regardless of when they were issued. There have been issues in the past with new licensees who do not realize they have to renew. There are still a couple of expired services that are missing documentation that must be submitted prior to issuance of a new license.

COMMITTEE UPDATES

Dr. Smith provided a document with his suggested committee assignments. He encouraged the Board to review this and provide feedback if necessary. He encouraged the committee chairs to begin thinking about strategic planning. The State EMS Trauma Board liaison position is open. Dr. Smith requested anyone interested in that position send an email to him, Rene', and Jacye. Mr. Cerny is applying to fill a vacant position on that Board and indicated that he would be willing to serve as the liaison if that would not be a conflict. Dr. Smith did not feel that there would be.

On behalf of the Legislation and Regulation Committee, Mr. Cerny indicated that LB46 and LB325 passed. LB490 and LB543 did not make it out of committee. The budget passed which included an increase to MFO funding. LR298 was introduced to examine the issues to improve the emergency medical service systems in Nebraska. Mr. Cerny noted that a similar resolution was passed approximately two years ago that never went any further.

There was general discussion about the addition of helicopter regulations and the process of opening the regulations for revision.

There was no report from the Services and Providers Committee.

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There was no report from the Education Committee.

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

1. Is capnography a current BLS skill in Nebraska? If not, will it be?
2. Can I-Gel be used as a Supraglottic Airway Device?
3. Can a Paramedic receive orders from a physician and transcribe them into patient records?
4. Can a 15 lead ECG be utilized for assessment?

After discussion, Ms. Fiala moved, seconded by Mr. Boldt that based on 172 NAC 11-009.02A(6)n(4) an EMT can read the number but not interpret the wave form. Voting aye: Bailey, Boldt, Bowlin, Cerny, Fiala, Harmon, Hiemer, Jensen, Miller, Rennerfeldt, Scholl and Smith. Voting nay: None. Absent: Bonta, Deegan, LaFollette, and Wiebe. Motion carried.

After discussion, Ms. Fiala moved, seconded by Mr. Bailey that based on 172 NAC 11-009.02B(4)a and b I-Gel can be used as a Supraglottic Airway Device. Voting aye: Bailey, Boldt, Bowlin, Cerny, Fiala, Harmon, Hiemer, Jensen, Miller, Rennerfeldt, Scholl and Smith. Voting nay: None. Absent: Bonta, Deegan, LaFollette, and Wiebe. Motion carried.

After discussion, it was determined that a Paramedic receiving orders from a physician and transcribing them into patient records does not fall under the scope of practice for out-of-hospital emergency medical care providers and as such the Board does not have the authority to render an opinion.

After discussion, Ms. Fiala moved, seconded by Mr. Rennerfeldt that based on 172 NAC 11-009.05A(2)n that a 15 lead ECG can be utilized for assessment. Voting aye: Bailey, Boldt, Bowlin, Cerny, Fiala, Harmon, Hiemer, Jensen, Miller, Rennerfeldt, Scholl and Smith. Voting nay: None. Absent: Bonta, Deegan, LaFollette and Wiebe. Motion carried.

There was no report from the Trauma Board liaison.

There was no report from the Emergency Medical Services for Children (EMSC) liaison.

There was nothing to report for the Nebraska Emergency Medical Services Association (NEMSA).

On behalf of the Nebraska State Volunteer Firefighters Association (NSVFA), Mr. Cerny shared that the fire school in May went very well.

MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS

Tom Townsend shared information regarding a pilot program with Medics at Home/Omaha Ambulance and Immanuel Hospital specifically targeting patients with COPD. The goal of this program was to provide follow up care in the home to reduce the need for patients to return to the Emergency Room and be readmitted to the hospital.

The Model Protocol Review is an item that remains on the agenda so that new topics can be discussed as they come to the attention of the Board. There was nothing new to discuss at this time.

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Mr. Monaghan shared information regarding the upcoming changes to the National Registry Paramedic Skills Examination that will roll out in 2016. Changes will include adjusting the way training agencies document candidate competency and reducing the number of skills assessments from twelve to six with an emphasis on patient management.

Mr. Monaghan shared information regarding National Registry transition requirements. If the transition is not completed by the deadline, your National Registry certification will be dropped down one level if you have met the continuing education hours, with the exception of EMRs who will lose their certification as there is no lower level.

Mr. Monaghan brought a concern to the Board regarding the requirements for reinstatement of all license types, but specifically the Emergency Medical Technician – Intermediate level. Dr. Smith referred this to the Education Committee for review.

Dr. Smith proposed holding public open forums across the state to gather information for use in strategic planning by the Board.

Ms. Tiedt requested assistance from the Board in providing a distinction between a mutual aid agreement and a back-up response plan. It was determined that in most cases a standard mutual aid agreement does not fulfill the requirements for a back-up response plan as set forth in 172 NAC 12-004.10(1). There is a sample back-up response plan available on the EMS website at <http://dhhs.ne.gov/publichealth/Documents/Backup-Response-Plan.pdf>.

The Department received a question regarding whether stretcher vans were regulated or not. If not, would they be in the future and who would be responsible for that. The answer at this time is no, and there is no plan for regulation in the future. Dr. Smith requested that the Services and Providers Committee review this question.

Dr. Smith shared information regarding the Cardiac Arrest Registry on Enhanced Survival (CARES) program. This is a joint venture between Emory University and the CDC to collect data with the intent to improve outcomes. Scott Wiebe is the State of Nebraska Coordinator for CARES. He will be providing more information regarding this program at a future meeting.

Ms. Tiedt shared that the EMS Board member who completes an EMS Service inspection may not speak for the Board for purposes of approving the application for licensure. The application must still be reviewed and voted on by the entire Board.

Ms. Tiedt provided an updated application processing report. This report was for informational purposes only.

CLOSED SESSION

Mr. Boldt moved, seconded by Mr. Cerny 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: Bailey, Boldt, Bowlin, Cerny, Fiala, Harmon, Hiemer, Jensen, Miller, Rennerfeldt, Scholl and Smith. Voting nay: None. Absent: Bonta, Deegan, LaFollette and Wiebe. Motion carried.

OPEN SESSION

Ms. Bowlin moved, seconded by Dr. Miller return to open session at 1:52 a.m. Voting aye: Bailey, Boldt, Bowlin, Cerny, Fiala, Harmon, Hiemer, Jensen, Miller, Rennerfeldt, Scholl and Smith. Voting nay: None. Absent: Bonta, Deegan, LaFollette and Wiebe. Motion carried.

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DECISIONS

Ms. Fiala moved, seconded by Mr. Rennerfeldt to deny Brandi Hiatt's application for reinstatement of an unencumbered license to practice as an Emergency Medical Technician based on having completed only two years of her five-year probation. Voting aye: Bailey, Boldt, Bowlin, Cerny, Fiala, Harmon, Hiemer, Jensen, Miller, Rennerfeldt, Scholl, and Smith. Voting nay: None. Absent: Bonta, Deegan, LaFollette and Wiebe. Motion carried.

Mr. Bailey moved, seconded by Ms. Bowlin to offer Dustin McQuigg a two-year probationary license to practice as an Emergency Medical Responder based on his felony conviction. Voting aye: Bailey, Boldt, Bowlin, Cerny, Fiala, Harmon, Hiemer, Jensen, Miller, Rennerfeldt, Scholl, and Smith. Voting nay: None. Absent: Bonta, Deegan, LaFollette and Wiebe. Motion carried.

Mr. Rennerfeldt moved, seconded by Ms. Fiala to deny Jana Ring's application for licensure as an Emergency Medical Technician based on her conviction history and a May 2015 diagnosis of Alcohol Use Disorder. Voting aye: Bailey, Boldt, Bowlin, Cerny, Fiala, Harmon, Hiemer, Jensen, Miller, Rennerfeldt, Scholl and Smith. Voting nay: None. Absent: Bonta, Deegan, LaFollette and Wiebe. Motion carried.

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

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 2:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted by:

Scott Wiebe, Secretary

Prepared by: Jacye LaFayette-Dymacek, Health Licensing Coordinator