

## Minutes of the April 24, 2017 Board of Emergency Medical Services Meeting

Dr. James Smith, Chairperson, called the meeting of the Board of Emergency Medical Services to order at 9:06 a.m. on Monday, April 24, 2017 in the Lighthouse Room at the Country Inn and Suites located at 5353 North 27<sup>th</sup> 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 a public meeting and the Open Meetings Law is posted.

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

Also present were: Claire Covert-ByBee, Program Manager; Tim Wilson, Program Manager; Jacye LaFayette-Dymacek, Health Licensing Coordinator; Laura McClure, Health Licensing Specialist; Lisa Anderson, Assistant Attorney General; Teresa Hampton, Department Legal Counsel; and Investigators Mark Meyerson, Jeff Newman, and Dennis Scott.

Charles LaFollette was absent from the meeting. Dr. Bonta left before the meeting ended.

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

Ms. Covert-ByBee recommended that strategic planning subcommittee reports could be combined with board subcommittee reports in order to be more succinct. The Board expressed a desire to keep the Board Subcommittees and the Strategic Planning Subcommittees separate, but agreed that the reports could be combined when appropriate.

After discussion, Dr. Miller moved, seconded by Mr. Rennerfeldt to approve the February 27, 2017 meeting minutes with a correction on the first page regarding Mr. Wiebe making a motion as he was not present at the meeting and adding verbiage provided by Debbie Kuhn regarding the EMSC update. Voting aye: Bailey, Boldt, Bonta, Bowlin, Cerny, Deegan, Fiala, Harmon, Hiemer, Jensen, Miller, Rennerfeldt, and Smith. Voting nay: None. Abstaining: Wiebe. Absent: LaFollette. This was later amended to reflect that the correction on page 1 referring to Mr. Wiebe making a motion should be removed from the

motion as it was a quotation from the December meeting minutes. Voting aye: Bailey, Bonta, Bowlin, Cerny, Deegan, Fiala, Harmon, Hiemer, Jensen, Miller, Rennerfeldt, and Smith. Absent: Boldt and LaFollette. Abstaining: Wiebe. Motion carried.

Ms. Fiala moved, seconded by Ms. Bowlin to approve the April 3, 2017 meeting minutes as presented. Voting aye: Bailey, Boldt, Bonta, Bowlin, Cerny, Deegan, Fiala, Harmon, Hiemer, Jensen, Rennerfeldt, Smith, and Wiebe. Voting nay: None. Abstaining: Miller. Absent: LaFollette.

Sue Prentiss, REPLICIA Advocate, shared information with the Board regarding the Recognition of EMS Personnel Licensure Interstate CompAct (REPLICIA). REPLICIA is an interstate compact which extends a privilege to practice under authorized circumstances to EMS personnel based on a license issued in their state of residence. Documents provided by Ms. Prentiss are available on the Licensure Unit's website. Additional information can be found at [www.emsreplica.org](http://www.emsreplica.org).

After discussion Dr. Miller moved, seconded by Ms. Fiala that the Nebraska Board of EMS should support the implementation of REPLICIA in Nebraska. Voting aye: Bailey, Boldt, Bonta, Bowlin, Cerny, Deegan, Fiala, Harmon, Hiemer, Jensen, Miller, Rennerfeldt, Smith, and Wiebe. Voting nay: None. Absent: LaFollette. Motion carried.

Tim Wilson, Program Manager, provided the report from the Office of Emergency Health Systems (OEHS).

- He shared that the Western Regional EMS Specialist position remains vacant and interviews continue.
- Rebecca Neumiller was hired to fill the Stroke System of Care Act position.
- EMS Week is in May 14-20. OEHS staff will be participating in activities to celebrate EMS Week, including (1) sending out certificates of appreciation and letters with EMS activity week suggested activities to hospitals and services, and, (2) creating displays in the State Office Building with information about EMS programs. Mr. Wilson requested that services contact him with any pictures or information they would like to have displayed.
- OEHS is finishing up year two and preparing for year three of the LUCAS grant. Round three will focus on wrapping up distribution of the LUCAS devices. OEHS is working with the Helmsley Foundation to deliver more devices than originally granted to agencies.
- Cardiac registry project has been put on hold due staffing changes and software support issues.
- Sharon Steele and Doug Fuller have been working on the transition from ENARSIS 3-3 to ENARSIS 3-4. The program is constantly being reviewed to improve data validity.
- The Trauma Board had an assessment done last year. Two of the recommendations stemming from that assessment involve EMS. Funding is a primary concern. Better communication between the Trauma Board and the EMS

Board is necessary to ensure that efforts are aligned regarding funding especially when speaking to Senators.

Wendy Snodgrass, EMS Education Compliance Manager, shared that the Leadership Academy Levels 1 & 2 will be held in North Platte July 20-21. The 24/7 distributive learning program rolled out about a month ago with great success. Fifty-four services have signed up with 1,313 providers which surpasses the initial goal. Seven training agencies will have site inspections this year. BLS naloxone curriculum for administration should be ready in a couple of weeks. Once it is reviewed, it will be made available.

Claire Covert-ByBee, Program Manager, introduced Laura McClure the new EMS Health Licensing Specialist. A copy of the Application Processing Report was provided to the Board for informational purposes only. Ms. Covert-ByBee shared that there is the possibility of holding EMS Board meetings at the Nebraska Educational Television office which would allow the meetings to be broadcast.

There was no Physician Medical Director update as Dr. Ernest was not present.

On behalf of the Legislation and Regulations Committee, Mr. Cerny provided the Board with information regarding the following legislative bills: LB36; LB83; LB88; LB104; LB156; LB212; LB244; LB299; B327; LB368; LB402; LB438; LB450; LB487; LB569; LB577; LB578; LB607; LB612; LB623; LB638; LB644.

On behalf of the Services and Providers Committee, Mr. Wiebe indicated that he will share any information during the strategic planning committee updates.

On behalf of the Education Committee, Dr. Miller indicated that he will share any information during the EMS Education and Testing Committee Update.

The Scope of Practice Committee brought forth information regarding the Medication Formulary Review and the Sort, Assess, Lifesaving Interventions, Treatment/Transport (SALT) triage option.

After discussion, Mr. Boldt moved, seconded by Dr. Miller to add labetalol and nicardipine to the EMS Model Protocols Medication Formulary. Voting aye: Bailey, Boldt, Bonta, Bowlin, Cerny, Deegan, Fiala, Harmon, Hiemer, Jensen, Miller, Rennerfeldt, Smith, and Wiebe. Voting nay: None. Absent: LaFollette. Motion carried. Later in the meeting, after additional discussion, Mr. Rennerfeldt moved, seconded by Ms. Bowlin to clarify that the medications labetalol and nicardipine previously added to the formulary must be administered intravenously. Voting aye: Bailey, Bonta, Bowlin, Cerny, Deegan, Fiala, Harmon, Hiemer, Jensen, Miller, Rennerfeldt, Smith, and Wiebe. Voting nay: None. Absent: Boldt and LaFollette. Motion carried.

After discussion, Dr. Miller moved, seconded by Mr. Rennerfeldt to include the SALT triage as an option alongside JumpSTART in the EMS Model Protocols. Voting aye: Bailey, Boldt, Bonta, Bowlin, Cerny, Deegan, Fiala, Harmon, Hiemer, Jensen, Miller, Rennerfeldt, Smith, and Wiebe. Voting nay: None. Absent: LaFollette. Motion carried.

On behalf of the Trauma Board, Mr. Bailey shared that the two areas relating to EMS that were identified in the Trauma Board assessment were EMS transport and EMS medical oversight. A lot of the hospitals felt that getting timely transport to other hospitals was a big issue that isn't able to be addressed effectively due to a lack of medical oversight. Mr. Bailey feels that in light of the regulations being open now would be a good time to reach out to the Trauma Board to find out what this Board can do to improve those issues.

On behalf of Emergency Medical Services for Children (EMSC), Dr. Deegan shared that the Pediatric Disaster Kits are almost done. Once complete, there will be four kits and two extra sets of disaster cards available for check-out. A group from Texas A&M University will be coming to Grand Island, Nebraska to put on a pediatric disaster class October 6 & 7, 2017. This class is free with a nominal charge for lunch. The 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Children's Pediatric Trauma Conference will be held Friday, June 2, 2017. The car seat sticker program is moving forward. At the last Board meeting some concerns were raised about possible misidentification of a patient. Other states were surveyed and many are using car seat stickers similar to the proposed sticker in Nebraska; several states are working in conjunction with the local Department of Motor Vehicles. One state uses a circle telling emergency personnel to look under the seat for the information. To date, no one has had any issues, so the project will continue to move forward. Hard copies of the 2017 National EMSC Ambulance assessment are going out today as part of the EMSC state grant. The portal will open on May 1, 2017. All services are encouraged to complete the survey. Debbie Kuhn will input the information if service's email or fax the information to her. The Advisory Committee is currently looking for a family representative from NEMSA and NSVFA

On behalf of Nebraska Emergency Medical Services Association (NEMSA), Deb VonSeggern shared that the March 2017 conference held in Columbus, Nebraska was well attended. Next year, in the January and March conferences, the NCCP for the National Registry will be included in the educational plans. Ms. VonSeggern encouraged members of the EMS Board to attend the NEMSA strategic planning session in the fall. This conference will be held in Columbus, Nebraska. The dates will be made available to the Board. The next NEMSA Board meeting will be held in July 2017 in Kearney, Nebraska. NEMSA has new lobbyists who have been very successful in engaging and educating Senators about EMS in Nebraska. The EMS Board open forum held at the March conference was well attended. The Board would like to thank Joel Cerny's wife for taking minutes. Ms. VonSeggern encouraged the Board to continue to hold these forums and suggested that they may want to hold them for longer than an hour. The Board plans to hold the next open forum at the Nebraska 38<sup>th</sup> Annual Statewide EMS Conference in

Kearney, Nebraska, July 14-16, 2017 with another at the NEMSA Conference in Flat Rock, Nebraska in August 2017.

On behalf of the Nebraska State Volunteer Firefighters Association (NSVFA), Mr. Cerny shared that he just returned from representing the State of Nebraska at the National Volunteer Fire Council meeting in Washington D.C. There are many concerns nationally about individuals being unable to pass the National Registry examination. Nebraska will be hosting the National Fire Council September 26-28, 2017. Mark Terry from the National Registry will be speaking to that group. Michael Dwyer, NSVFA Secretary shared that Fire School is being held at Fonner Park in Grand Island May 19-21, 2017. The new NSVFA website is live. Mr. Dwyer offered to support the Board's efforts to communicate information to the public via the NSVFA website and distribution lists.

At the last meeting, the Board talked about adding a liaison from the dispatch community to participate in the meetings. Jordan Dick, a dispatcher with Buffalo County was invited to fill that position. Mr. Dick reported that the Nebraska Public Service Commission (NPSC) is responsible for the 911 system in Nebraska. Currently, there are no mandatory requirements or training for dispatchers in Nebraska. However, LB938 which passed in 2016 provides for the appointment of a state 911 director to lead Nebraska into Next-Generation 911 and to establish minimum training standards and guidelines for dispatchers across Nebraska. In Nebraska, 911 centers are not required to use Emergency Medical Dispatchers (EMD) who can provide pre-arrival instructions to callers. There is no data regarding EMD participation within the State. Creation of a survey to gather that information would be useful. Mr. Dick requested an endorsement from the Board of Emergency Medical Services to the NPSC to stress the importance of the use and training of EMDs. The Services and Providers committee will research this topic and obtain data to bring to the next meeting.

After discussion, Mr. Wiebe moved, seconded by Mr. Bailey to add Dan Duncan as a liaison to the Nebraska Association of Air Medical Services (NAAMS). Voting aye: Bailey, Boldt, Bonta, Bowlin, Cerny, Deegan, Fiala, Harmon, Hiemer, Jensen, Miller, Rennerfeldt, Smith, and Wiebe. Voting nay: None. Absent: LaFollette. Motion carried.

Mr. Duncan shared that the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual NAAMS Safety Symposium was held at the Ramada in Kearney April 3-4, 2017. At the symposium, Randy Mains, a nationally recognized speaker from Canada, gave a five hour course on air medical resource management. Attendance was free due to a grant obtained from DHHS. The next NAAMS Board meeting will be held at the July Statewide EMS conference.

On behalf of the EMS Rules and Regulations Committee, Ms. Fiala provided an overview of the committee's accomplishments over the past year. The regulations have been opened. Chapter 12 has been reviewed and recommendations were sent to DHHS; Chapter 11 has been reviewed and recommendations are ready to be sent to DHHS; and work has begun on Chapter 13.

On behalf of the EMS as an Essential Service Committee, Mr. Boldt provided a written report, and discussed the need to educate the legislature about the need for funding and what that funding would be used for.

On behalf of the EMS Medical Direction Committee, Dr. Bonta shared that Dr. Ernest is continuing to work on a physician medical director course.

On behalf of the EMS Data Collection Committee, Mr. Wiebe shared information regarding data obtained through the CARES Registry.

On behalf of the EMS Workforce Committee, Mr. Bailey shared that different polls have been set up to get a snapshot of where the EMS workforce is in Nebraska. Some of the information gathered provides insight into some of the barriers keeping people from volunteering in EMS. So many times, the lack of personnel is blamed on the amount of training hours required and the difficulty in passing the NREMT examination. The data that was gathered shows that those are not the primary factors.

On behalf of the EMS Education and Testing Committee, Dr. Miller referred to the written report that was previously provided to the Board at the February Board meeting. Ms. Bowlin shared that training agencies that are part of a college are required by the Higher Learning Commission to submit reports showing how many students start the program, how many are maintained, and how many passed. Making it a requirement for all training agencies to submit similar reports would be something to look at when revising Chapter 13 of the regulations. There is also a desire to explore providing EMS courses to high school students in order to increase the potential of gaining new EMS personnel that might otherwise be lost due to outside circumstances after graduation.

On behalf of the EMS Communication Committee, Dr. Smith shared that since September 16, 2016, there have been 22 meetings between the Licensure Unit and the Office of Emergency Health Systems. The communication between these two areas was a topic of concern raised often during the initial open forums. The Committee wishes to continue looking at options for live streaming to reach more stakeholders so that they feel connected and informed about Board activities. Dr. Smith reiterated the need to continue holding open forums to keep people involved. Ms. Fiala shared that she continues to receive feedback from the EMS community about how much the open forums were appreciated.

The March 25, 2017 Open Forum was very well attended. Ms. Bowlin plans to work with Ms. Snodgrass to have the open forum at the NEMSA Conference count towards continuing education. Mr. Bailey will work with Ms. Bowlin to make the EMS Workforce Committee's survey available to the participants at the open forum.

Ms. Covert-ByBee provided the Board with a copy of Chapters 11, 12, and 13 of the regulations. Chapter 11 was submitted by the EMS Rules and Regulations Committee with suggestions which has not yet been reviewed by the Department. Chapter 12 was submitted by the Committee and has been reviewed by the Department. Work has not yet begun on Chapter 13. Dr. Smith requested the Board to review these documents and provide any feedback to Ms. Fiala and/or Ms. Jensen.

Ms. Covert-ByBee opened a discussion regarding the need for EMS Instructors to be licensed. This is something that will be addressed when looking at potential revisions to Chapter 13 of the regulations.

Ms. Covert-ByBee opened a discussion regarding exemptions in the EMS Practice Act, specifically regarding the ability of services licensed outside of Nebraska to respond to a scene in Nebraska and transport to a Nebraska facility. Currently, a service licensed outside of Nebraska responding to a scene in Nebraska must transport to a facility in their own state even if that is not the closest facility. This is something that will be addressed when looking at potential statutory revisions.

Dr. Smith shared information regarding the EpiPen recall. This was for informational purposes only.

Dr. Miller moved, seconded by Ms. Bowlin to go into closed session at 2:33 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, Harmon, Hiemer, Jensen, Miller, Smith, and Wiebe. Voting nay: None. Absent: Bonta, LaFollette, and Rennerfeldt. Motion carried.

Mr. Rennerfeldt moved, seconded by Mr. Boldt to return to open session at 3:22. Voting aye: Bailey, Boldt, Bowlin, Cerny, Deegan, Fiala, Harmon, Hiemer, Jensen, Miller, Rennerfeldt, Smith, and Wiebe. Voting nay: None. Absent: Bonta and LaFollette. Motion carried.

Dr. Miller moved, seconded by Mr. Boldt to issue **Antelope Memorial Hospital Ambulance Service** a license to operate as an Advanced Life Support Transport Service. Voting aye: Bailey, Boldt, Bowlin, Cerny, Deegan, Fiala, Harmon, Hiemer, Jensen, Miller, Rennerfeldt, Smith, and Wiebe. Voting nay: None. Absent: Bonta and LaFollette. Motion carried.

Ms. Fiala moved, seconded by Mr. Bailey to issue **Robert Wesley French** a license to practice as an Emergency Medical Technician in the State of Nebraska. Voting aye: Bailey, Boldt, Bowlin, Cerny, Deegan, Fiala, Harmon, Hiemer, Jensen, Miller, Rennerfeldt, Smith, and Wiebe. Voting nay: None. Absent: Bonta and LaFollette. Motion carried.

Mr. Wiebe moved, seconded by Mr. Rennerfeldt to offer **Sandy Walsh** a one-year probationary license to practice as a Paramedic in the State of Nebraska based on misdemeanor convictions and violation of the Uniform Credentialing Act. Voting aye: Bailey, Boldt, Bowlin, Cerny, Deegan, Fiala, Harmon, Jensen, Miller, Rennerfeldt, Smith, and Wiebe. Voting nay: None. Abstaining: Hiemer. Absent: Bonta and LaFollette. Motion carried.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 3:24 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Scott Wiebe, Secretary