

MINUTES OF THE MEETING
of the NEBRASKA
BOARD OF Emergency
Medical Services
December 11, 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 9:00 am, December 11, 2020. The meeting was held via Zoom. Copies of the agenda were emailed in advance to the Board members, emailed to interested parties, and posted on the Department of Health and Human Services website, which was posted on December 3, 2020. 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
- Randy Boldt
- Dr. John Bonta
- Karen Bowlin
- Joel Cerny
- Ann Fiala
- Todd Hovey
- Linda Jensen
- Dr. Michael Miller
- Dion Neumiller
- Carolyn Petersen
- Carl Rennerfeldt
- Dr. James Smith
- Scott Wiebe

The following Board members were absent: Dr. Thomas Deegan, Michael Sheridan

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
- Elizabeth Coker
- Laura Huggins
- Lisa Anderson, *Assistant Attorney General*

A quorum was present, and the meeting convened.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

MOTION: Miller made the motion, seconded by Bailey, to adopt the agenda for the December 11, 2020, Board of Emergency Medical Services meeting.

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

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

MOTION: Miller made the motion, seconded by Fiala, to approve the minutes of the September 11, 2020 meeting.

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

CLOSED SESSION

MOTION: Bailey made the motion, seconded by Miller, 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, Fiala, Hovey, Jensen, Miller, Neumiller, Petersen, Rennerfeldt, Smith, Wiebe. Voting No: None. Abstain: None. Absent: Deegan, Sheridan. Motion carried.

9:10 am Meeting went into Closed session.

9:35 am Meeting returned to Open Session.

OPEN SESSION

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

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

The board took a short break at 9:35 am, resumed at 10:00 am.

LICENSURE RECOMMENDATIONS

EMT Application – Quinn Troester

MOTION: Miller made the motion, seconded by Boldt, to grant a probationary Emergency Medical Technician license of 2 years based on the previous substance use disorder diagnosis.

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

EMS Service Application – Papio Ambulance Service, Inc.

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

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

AGENDA ITEM: Office of Emergency Health Systems

- a) Wilson and Huggins reported there have been many questions regarding licensing renewals by December 31, 2020. However, most have been extended due to the Executive Order. Postcards will go out when the Executive Order lifts. There will be new licensing software implemented in 2021. This will be more of a portal aspect and applications will be submitted online. The board asked how many instructors the State had and Wilson will email the number to the board.
- b) Wilson did not have further updates for the EMS Program than what was previously submitted to the board.
- c) Snodgrass provided information about the Leadership Academy coming up in North Platte in February 2021. The class can hold up to 26 attendees. She also wanted to thank the training agencies and instructors during the pandemic for keeping classes going.

- d) Wilson did not have further updates for the Emergency Medical Services for Children than what was previously submitted to the board.
- e) Wilson reported Critical Incident Stress Management (CISM) team numbers have increased for briefings. The Department is looking for partners to help with long-term mental health issues.
- f) Wren reported the State Trauma Advisory Board and the Department are revising the Trauma System Act and strategic planning. Designation visits have continued in many of the hospitals. Bailey added many positions on the board have changed and we are seeing more collaboration and interaction between board members.
- g) Neumiller reported stroke education is starting back up. We have funding that needs used. If anyone has specialty classes, please get with the Department.
- h) Wilson reported the data system is rolling out a ticketing system currently in the works. There is a COVID hotline with real-time data showing where to direct transports based on available beds. No additional funds available for services at this time.

Wilson also reported the board has two open positions. The Department is reviewing applications and will make recommendations to the Governor's office.

Additional information was compiled from the Office of Emergency Health Systems and provided to the Board prior to the meeting. See Attachment A to the minutes for complete briefing.

AGENDA ITEM: Statewide Physician Medical Director Update

Dr. Ernest reported the Statewide EMS Protocols are progressing. EMS Providers did get moved to Phase 1A for the vaccine. UNMC Crisis Standards of Care is a document being worked on. It has been sent to stakeholders for review, as well as the State COVID model protocol. These will get sent to the Board at a later time. Dispatch centers may require some kind of statute or bill for standards of triage prior to EMS call. This would include questions on symptoms and other ways of transport, utilizing community paramedics, etc. Miller posed a question on EMS students and can they be part of the proposed vaccination plan. This will have to be looked into as they would not be a fully licensed individual.

AGENDA ITEM: EMS Committee Reports

- a) Legislation and Rules and Regulations: Smith reported the critical care paramedic section is about ready to wrap up. He thanked Dr. Ernest's efforts on getting EMS providers into Phase 1A, as well as Senator Bostelman and Senator McDonald.
- b) Scope of Practice (Fiala)
 - a. Model Protocol Revision – update on progress, these are being sent to review.
 - b. Decision Making Framework Document: Smith gave a short background as to the fruition of the document. It was suggested folks will need to be educated on the form and be prepared for questions. Further discussion on the document and going to legal for their final approval.

MOTION: Fiala made the motion, seconded by Jensen, to approve the Emergency Care Provider Decision Making Framework Document to be sent for legal guidance document process.

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

- c. Additions, Deletions, Corrections: none to report
- c) Education (Miller)
 - a. NFPA EMS Instructor Training: Snodgrass reported the NFPA presented at the September meeting. They were wanting to see if their Firefighter 1 instructor course would meet the requirements to suffice for EMS Instructor course. The board felt there needed to be further discussion on the objective and assessments and suggested the State Fire Marshal attend an Education Committee meeting to get clarification on these items and the committee can report to the board at a future meeting.

- b. Approve Basic Life Support Psychomotor Handbook: the Committee is supportive and brought forth the handbook for approval.

MOTION: Miller made the motion, seconded by Bowlin, to approve the Basic Life Support Psychomotor Handbook.

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

- d) Medical Direction: Ernest reported they are working on the Physical Medical Director education course as the previous document needs updated with the new regulations. These have been looked at and are putting information together.
- e) Data Collection: Bailey reported the committee has not officially met, but have communicated via email. Data they would like to start evaluating is response times to stroke and trauma patients. They would build metrics on how they are aligning to the guidelines set. Would focus on STEMI first. Per the State Trauma Advisory Board, they would like to know more on EMS transfer data. Further discussion on dispatch triage. Some using a three minute triage and others are utilizing rapid dispatch.
- f) Workforce: Cerny did not have an update.
- g) Dispatch: Neumiller stated a lot of the dispatch information had already been discussed. The committee will meet after the first of the year.

AGENDA ITEM: NSVFA Update

Cerny gave update on NSVFA. (1) Recruitment and retention classes will continue in 2021. The class scheduled for late February has been cancelled. Next one will be held in Grand Island during the NSFVA Fire School, May 23-23, 2021 with two more in the fall. The Recruitment and Retention SAFER Grant also includes what we call Strive. This portion of the grant is the tuition reimbursement which can be used for EMS training. The next deadline for this is March 1, 2021. (2) Fire school will include 4 segmented EMS-based classes. (3) The unicameral will be starting up after the first of the year with several new senators and a few returning ones. All committees will be renamed. All old bills will need to be reintroduced. All bills will need to be introduced in the first ten days of the session. The NSVFA voted Monday night to seek a senator to reintroduce a bill to seek funding for the SIMS trailers. We have canceled our senator's breakfast.

Smith posed a question on the stance of NSFVA on the proposed bill Senator Slama is going to introduce relative to National Registry. NSFVA has not set a stance, however, will follow up after the bill is presented. The Department is not taking a position on the bill, however did provide pros and cons to the Senator's office.

AGENDA ITEM: NEMSA Update

Bowlin reported the combined January/March conference date is now March 18-21, 2021 in Kearney. The board was asked to provide a Q&A session. After some discussion it was suggested to have a small group of the board attend the open forum.

MOTION: Bowlin made the motion, seconded by Bailey, to approve members of the board to attend the NEMSA Super Conference for the Q&A session, but the attendees will be of the amount less than a quorum.

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

Robin Darnall of the NEMSA board reported there is going to be smaller mini conferences across Nebraska. Topics will be tailored to the local speakers in those areas.

AGENDA ITEM: Proposed Priority of Vaccinations Update

Wilson gave an update that planning meetings have been taking place. Updates are on the Department website. Pfizer is moving forward with distribution planning. This is being kept confidential for security purposes. Moderna is going to the Food and Drug Administration as well for approval of their vaccine. There was further discussion about the vaccine and will EMS students be part of Phase 1A. This will have to be checked into and follow up with the board.

AGENDA ITEM: 2021 Meeting Dates

Wilson presented the 2021 meeting dates to the board for approval: February 22, May 7, July 9, September 13 and December 10. After discussion amongst the board, a couple dates needed to be changed.

MOTION: Rennerfeldt made the motion, seconded by Bowlin, to approve the 2021 meeting dates as follows: February 22, May 10, July 16, September 13 and December 10.

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

AGENDA ITEM: Public Comment

No comments from the public.

CONCLUSION AND ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 12:20 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Elizabeth Coker
Administrative Assistant



Attachment A

EMS Board Meeting, December 11, 2020 Office of Emergency Health Systems Reports

a) Licensing (Wilson / Huggins)

- Wilson/Huggins will provide report at the meeting

b) EMS Program (Jorgensen)

- The number of EMS individual contacts the EMS Specialists have had thus far in 2020 is 6,537.
- The EMS Program started doing an “EMS Pulse Check” by email in the middle of November. This is being done every two weeks and is intended to check the status of EMS services pertaining to COVID. Questions being asked pertain to funding, staffing, mental health, supplies, transport ventilators, number of ambulances, community status, willingness to do inter-facility transports and the distance, and treat and stay-at-home protocols.
- The EMS Specialists continue to distribute surgical masks and N95 masks to services who request them.
- A 2020 Statutes and Rules & Regulations Update Zoom Training was held on October 22, 2020. It was well attended and those attending received up to 2 hours of continuing education. It was recorded and the link to the recording is on the EMS program website along with the presentation slides. <http://dhs.ne.gov/Pages/EHS-Emergency-Medical-Services.aspx>. EMS providers who missed it can watch it at any time. They will also receive 2 hours of continuing education.
- The EMS Program continues to provide technical assistance to EMS services, EMS providers, hospitals and training agencies on a daily basis.

c) Education and Training Agency Compliance (Snodgrass)

- Five training agency site visits to be completed by the end of the year. To date, all have had minor non-compliances.
- A survey was sent to all training agencies asking for tuition cost data. This will be used to re-evaluate the tuition reimbursement program.
- Emails were sent to training agencies who have a pass rate below 70% for the first quarter through third quarter of 2020. This was just an awareness emails of their pass rate(s).
- Leadership Academy Levels I & II are scheduled for February 25-28, 2021 at MidPlains Community College in North Platte. We are currently taking registrations.
- Multiple instructor updates have been held reviewing new regulations for the instructor renewal.
- BLS Psychomotor Handbook and forms are completed and submitted to the Education Committee for review. Scenarios are completed and being formatted for the examination.

d) Emergency Medical Services for Children (Kuhn)

- Heartland EMS for Children is hosting the second virtual symposium the evenings of December 10th and 11th on Children with Special Health Care Needs. Nursing CEU's are being provided by Minnesota Children's Hospital. A copy of the flyer was provided to the board. There were 2,089 participants in the human trafficking symposium, which lasted over 100 minutes. Only problem we encountered were matching Zoom and log-in names for Avera nursing CNE's. We feel it was a

great success and plan to continue quarterly. The symposium planned for March will be on behavioral health issues in children.

- We are current waiting for contracts to be approved for two nurses on the EMSC Advisory Committee. These contracts are using carry over funds to begin the process of creating a hospital packet for voluntary recognition and will prepare hospitals for the National Peds Readiness Project, as well as meeting the EMSC Performance Measures 04, 06 and 07. We hope to have a packet ready by April 1st. Once the packet is approved by the committee, the nurses will begin contacting hospitals and sending the packets out.
- EMSC is please to present the EMS Board with a 2021 calendar that consists of the winners of the art contest held earlier this year. EMSC would like to give a special thank you to Elizabeth for taking the bull by the horn and putting the calendar together. She did an awesome job! The calendar also provides pediatric resources for all ambulance services of materials available in the office. We are also working on an online form where the services can click a link to request items.
- The ambulance assessment will be going live on January 4th. The goals is an 80% response rate, which I think will be difficult to achieve this year. We struggled last year to receive 83%. This year with COVID, will make the process harder to achieve. Any assistance anyone can provide to support EMSC to reach the 80% mark, will be greatly appreciated.
- Happy Holidays from EMSC to you and your families.

e) Critical Incident Stress Management (Kuhn)

- No trainings scheduled for 2021.
- Currently we have provided approximately 90 interventions across the state.

f) Trauma System (Bailey / Wren)

- 51 trauma centers designated
- Recent designations: West Holt Memorial Hospital, Atkinson (Basic) and Community Medical Center, Falls City (Basic)
- Pending designations: Perkins County Health, Grant (Basic) and Memorial Hospital, Aurora (Basic)
- Upcoming visits: Chase County Community Hospital, Imperial (Basic designation) and Nebraska Medicine, Bellevue (Basic consultation)
- Recent Consultation visit at CHI St. Elizabeth, Lincoln (General)
- Trauma Registry and Networking – 51 trauma nurses and registrars participated in training via Zoom
- State Trauma Advisory Board Meeting – December 16 to discuss and finalize proposed draft trauma systems regulations for public hearing. Public hearing is scheduled for February 8, 2021.

g) Stroke/STEMI System (Neumiller / Wilson)

- Wilson will provide report

h) EHS Data Systems (Steele / Wilson)

- Presentation provided to the board prior to the meeting