MINUTES OF THE MEETING
of the NEBRASKA
BOARD OF Emergency
Medical Services

Friday, December 12, 2025

CALL TO ORDER, ROLL CALL, & DECLARATION OF QUORUM

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting of the Nebraska Board of Emergency Medical Services was called to order by Dr. James Smith, Board Chairperson, at 10:36 a.m., 12/12/2025, at the NSOB in Lincoln NE 68508. 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 on 12/8/2025. 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:

- Ryan Batenhorst
- Dr. Noah Bernhardson
- Karen Bowlin
- Joel Cerny
- Ann Fiala
- Todd Hovey
- Brent Lottman
- Dion Neumiller
- Carolyn Petersen-Moore
- Dr. James Smith
- Leslie Vaughn

The following Board members were absent: Dr. Shaila Coffey, Dr. Prince Harrison, Linda Jensen, and Jonathan Kilstrom

The following staff members from the Department and the Attorney General's Office were also present during all or part of the meeting:

- Tricia Allen, *Investigations*
- Regan Blackwell
- Tonja Bohling
- Christy Dill
- Christy Duryea
- Michelle Eutsler
- Teresa Hampton, *DHHS Attorney*
- Darla Hopwood
- Milissa Johnson-Wiles, *Assistant Attorney General*
- Trevor Klaassen, *Investigations*
- Becka Neumiller
- Denell Rhinehart
- Wendy Snodgrass
- Sharon Steele
- Tim Wilson
- Sherri Wren

DECLARATION OF QUORUM

A quorum was present, and the meeting convened.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

MOTION: Bowlin made the motion, seconded by Fiala, to adopt the agenda for the 9/8/2025, Board of Emergency Medical Services meeting.

These minutes have been approved by the Board of EMS on 02/06/2026.

Voting Yes: Batenhorst, Bernhardson, Bowlin, Cerny, Fiala, Hovey, Lottman, Neumiller, Petersen-Moore, Smith, and Vaughn. Voting No: None. Abstain: None. Absent: Coffey, Harrison, Jensen, and Kilstrom.

Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

MOTION: Lottman made the motion, seconded by D. Neumiller, to approve the minutes of the 9/8/2025 meeting.

Voting Yes: Batenhorst, Bernhardson, Bowlin, Cerny, Fiala, Hovey, Lottman, Neumiller, Petersen-Moore, and Vaughn. Voting No: None. Abstain: Smith. Absent: Coffey, Harrison, Jensen, and Kilstrom.

Motion carried.

CLOSED SESSION

MOTION: Bernhardson made the motion, seconded by Hovey, 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: Batenhorst, Bernhardson, Bowlin, Cerny, Fiala, Hovey, Lottman, Neumiller, Petersen-Moore, Smith, and Vaughn. Voting No: None. Abstain: None. Absent: Coffey, Harrison, Jensen, and Kilstrom.

Motion carried.

10:40 a.m. Meeting went into closed session.

10:45 a.m. Dr. Noah Bernhardson left.

10:45 a.m. Leslie Vaughn Jr. left.

11:26 a.m. Dr. Noah Bernhardson returned.

11:26 a.m. Leslie Vaughn Jr. returned.

11:50 a.m. Dr. Noah Bernhardson left.
11:55 a.m. Dr. Noah Bernhardson returned.

12:03 a.m. Ryan Batenhorst left.

12:04 a.m. Karen Bowlin left.

12:05 a.m. Ryan Batenhorst returned.

12:06 a.m. Carolyn Petersen-Moore left.

12:07 a.m. Karen Bowlin returned.

12:10 a.m. Carolyn Petersen-Moore returned.

The Board took a short break at 12:30 p.m., resumed at 12:42p.m.

12:51 p.m. Meeting returned to Open Session.

LICENSURE RECOMMENDATIONS

DOUGLAS JANSSEN – EMT APPLICATION

MOTION: Fiala made the motion, seconded by Bernhardson, to recommend EMT Douglas Janssen be reinstated with three years' probation with standard terms and conditions based on conviction history and diagnosis of substance use disorder (SUD).

Voting Yes: Batenhorst, Bernhardson, Bowlin, Cerny, Fiala, Hovey, Lottman, Neumiller, Petersen-Moore, Smith, and Vaughn. Voting No: None. Abstain: None. Absent: Coffey, Harrison, Jensen, and Kilstrom.

Motion carried.

AGENDA ITEM: OFFICE OF EMERGENCY HEALTH SYSTEMS

Program reports were submitted for Board review prior to the meeting and were in the portal.

a. Licensing: Duryea gave an update on licensing. We are receiving training on the updated EHS system. EMT renewals will start January 1, 2026, through March 31, 2026. Intermediates were all sent downgrade letters. They are all slowly coming in with fifteen out of the twenty-four received. EMS licensing has been remarkably busy this past year. We started issuing Critical Care Paramedic and Community Paramedicine applications in June 2025. The numbers in the report are valid as of December 1, 2025.
b. EMS Program: Wilson gave an update. This has been busy with the transition in staffing and hiring for six different positions. He introduced Christy Dill, OEHS Administrative Programs Officer. Darla Hopwood was hired as the EMS Systems Sustainability Coordinator, leaving open the Northeast Region EMS Specialist. There are four open positions in OEHS, the Northeast Region EMS Specialist, Southeast Region EMS Specialist (these have been interviewed and given job offers and will start December 29, 2025 and January 5, 2026, respectively), Carol Jorgensen resigned (applications have been received and Wilson will be doing interviews for this position), Mason Holmes resigned (Wilson has permission to hire and will post the position next week, interviewing in January). EMS Services inspections are almost caught up. With the increase in the number of services it will stay on a four-year cycle.
c. Education and Training Agency Compliance: Snodgrass gave an update. Discussion was held regarding pass rates. Denell is working in her role to help Training Agencies in rural areas and start exploring alternative methods.
d. Emergency Medical Services for Children (EMSC) Program: Fifteen EMS Agencies are now Pediatric ready. Blackwell gave an update on the Little Lives, Big Impact Pediatric Emergency Readiness Workshop held Saturday, December 6, 2025. It was well attended and received great reviews from those who attended. Eighty EMS providers and nurses attended the event. Twenty new Pediatric Emergency Care Coordinators (PECC) have been recruited. Nine hospitals have been recognized as pediatric ready. There are incentives for hospitals and services to get a PECC with Broselow Tapes. The EMSC grant funding is still up in the air. There are other funding streams being looked at as well. Trauma Rules & Regulations proposed changes to trauma designations to include pediatric ready.
e. Critical Incident Stress Management (CISM) Program: B. Neumiller gave an update on CISM. It has been a terribly busy year with many difficult requests. The state just had its 111th intervention request. Work on resilience training continues. If someone would like to be involved, take the two-day course, fill out the application, interview, and then start. She referred them to the website [Critical Incident Stress Management (CISM)]
f. Stroke Program: In addition to what was in her report, B. Neumiller gave an update on the Stroke Program. This program sent a group of people to an Advanced Stroke Life Support (ASLS) class in Phoenix, AZ. Because of this, Regional West Hospital in Scottsbluff and Clarkson College have added an ASLS class. There will be a class happening in February through the Omaha Fire Department. The Third Annual Stroke Conference with iExcel is being planned.

1:21 p.m. Ryan Batenhorst left.

g. Trauma Program: Wren gave an update on the Trauma program. There are 57 designated Trauma Centers. The pending designations are being worked on. All Trauma Advisory Board vacancies are filled. There is new leadership at Bryan Hospital, Dr. Gammaitoni and Crystal Hraban. The recent 2025 Statewide Trauma Symposium had 200 attendees. The Trauma Quality Improvement Program (TQIP) Collaborative worked with the Statewide Board. A committee is being set up to request and evaluate data that will help with measuring and evaluating Trauma Systems. The Trauma Nurse Coordinator (TNC) Day will be June 11, 2026, at the Regional Engagement Center in Kearney. Lunch and Learns are being worked on. Topics have been identified, and these will be rolled out in 2026.

h. EHS Data Systems: Steele gave an update on the EHS Data Systems. In addition to her report, she added that the Goal for the rollout for the 3.4 to 3.5 transition was December 31, 2025, but is now going to be sometime in the first quarter of 2026. Preset values have been added, trainings recorded, and there is a practice site for the new revised run form with a one-hour training. Approximately 415 people attended a training. EMS Providers who are 3rd Party Importers to the NE Elite software can locate transition information at https://dhhs.ne.gov/ehs.

i. Statewide Physician Medical Director Update: There were no updates as Dr. Ernest was not in attendance. Wilson recommended the EMS Board consider opening Rules & Regulations due to legislative updates and potential future requirement changes. There is also Statute that passed that will require regulations to be reviewed.

MOTION: Fiala made the motion, seconded by Bowlin, to recommend opening EMS Rules and Regulations.

Voting Yes: Bernhardson, Bowlin, Cerny, Fiala, Hovey, Lottman, Neumiller, Petersen-Moore, Smith, and Vaughn. Voting No: None. Abstain: None. Absent: Batenhorst, Coffey, Harrison, Jensen, and Kilstrom.

Motion carried.

1:37 p.m. Ryan Batenhorst returned.

AGENDA ITEM: EMS COMMITTEE REPORTS

Committee reports were given by committee members. Dr. Smith talked about committee changes. He also spoke on the committee meeting timing, reminding board members they can meet anytime online ahead of board meetings, since the committees have low enough board member numbers there will not be quorum issues. He requested board members contact him if they would like a change in their committee assignment.

a. Legislation/Rules and Regulation Committee Update – Fiala reported they are getting ready for the Spring Legislative Session which should be short.
    i. New Chair – Dr. Shaila Coffey has agreed to chair this committee.

b. Scope of Practice (SOP) Committee Update:
    i. Nasogastric (NG) and orogastric (OG) tube placement: in protocol there is specific language about placement on an intubated patient. It was the consensus of the SOP Committee, since it is allowed in the setting of an intubated patient, it is also allowed in the setting of a non-intubated patient.
    ii. Hemostatic gel agents are considered to be synonymous with hemostatic dressings and are therefore within scope for use.
    iii. Epinephrine administration for EMTs under the pediatric protocol (listed under protocol 29, page 65 for the adult but not under protocol 52 page 111). SOP Committee asks the State Medical Director to make the change in protocol to be consistent with previous protocols and scope.
    iv. Nitroglycerin administration blood pressure targets were also discussed. There are two different blood pressures in the protocols. The recommendation of the SOP Committee is to utilize the national standard of nitroglycerin blood pressure cutoff at 100 mm of mercury across the board and therefore it is also advised to change protocols to reflect that.
    v. The SOP Committee reviewed patients on antibiotics and proton pump inhibitor infusion set by a sending hospital and not adjusted by an EMT. It is the consensus of the SOP Committee that this is like the recommendation regarding antibiotic administration during

transport via set-rate pump and is within scope of practice. This does not include any solution containing electrolytes as they require cardiac monitoring.

vi. Questions arose in committee regarding when they can expect to review EMR protocols and review of the Hospital Scope of Practice for EMS document? Wilson will refresh and see who is taking charge of the Hospital Scope document. Protocols for EMR's will be sent out to the entire board for review and the Board can send their comments to Bernhardson only – do not send to the group so as to stay outside quorum.

MOTION: Fiala made the motion, seconded by Bowlin, to modify protocol 52, page 111, to add Epinephrine use for EMTs as consistent with pervious protocols.

Voting Yes: Batenhorst, Bernhardson, Bowlin, Cerny, Fiala, Hovey, Lottman, Neumiller, Petersen-Moore, Smith, and Vaughn. Voting No: None. Abstain: None. Absent: Coffey, Harrison, Jensen, and Kilstrom.

Motion carried.

MOTION: Bowlin made the motion, seconded by Lottman, to modify protocol 18, page 43 and 44, regarding cutoff for administration of Nitroglycerin by EMT to be 100mm of mercury systolic across the board.

Voting Yes: Batenhorst, Bernhardson, Bowlin, Cerny, Fiala, Hovey, Lottman, Neumiller, Petersen-Moore, Smith, and Vaughn. Voting No: None. Abstain: None. Absent: Coffey, Harrison, Jensen, and Kilstrom.

Motion carried.

MOTION: Fiala made the motion, seconded by Hovey, regarding administration of Proton Pump Inhibitors on a set-rate pump during interfacility transfer by EMTs is within scope of practice. This does not include any solution containing electrolytes as they require cardiac monitoring.

Voting Yes: Batenhorst, Bowlin, Cerny, Fiala, Hovey, Lottman, Neumiller, Petersen-Moore, Smith, and Vaughn. Voting No: None. Abstain: Bernhardson. Absent: Coffey, Harrison, Jensen, and Kilstrom.

Motion carried.

c. EMS Research Committee Update – Batenhorst reported a strategic plan for 2026. Also discussed were strategies for collaborating with Nebraska Instructor Society (NIS) and training agency directors. They identified core priority areas with the main one being standardizing EMS instructor courses.
d. Workforce Committee Update – Cerny gave an update. With Darla Hopwood's new job as the EMS System Sustainability coordinator, we feel she should be attending our committee meetings. We need to keep people informed of the shortages of EMS Providers in Nebraska. They want to try to find a college media student willing to put together some kind of video. Leslie is trying to contact RFD TV as this issue is not just a Nebraska issue. Cerny received his pin for 30 Years of Service in EMS.

AGENDA ITEM: NHA EMS COMMITTEE

Wilson reported this group is on hold pending the application of the Rural Transformation Grant. The Department took under advisement the recommendations made by the committee regarding what needed to be included in the application. The biggest issue will be sustainability of the efforts started. Wilson will forward to Board members the public document that discusses the initiatives included in the application.

AGENDA ITEM: NEBRASKA STATE VOLUNTEER FIRE ASSOCIATION (NSVFA)

The NSVFA annual meeting was held in Kearney this year. Wendy, Darla, and Becka all spoke and did a wonderful job. EMT Brenda Jenny of Blair is our new President, EMT Troy Shoemaker of Alliance is our new 1st Vice-President and Kenny Krause is our new 2nd, Vice-President. Darrel Vance of Gering and Ron Chada of North Platte were both re-elected to their positions as District 1 and 3 Directors. The main EMS item discussed was the Rural Health Transformation Program grant application.

At our 12/6/25 board meeting, Kenny Krause, who was our District 2 director, was replaced by EMR Daniel Chapek who is also the Fire Chief at Weston, Nebraska. The 2026 NSVFA Annual Meeting dates will be

Friday, October 16 and Saturday, October 17. We will be changing the schedule, and our EMS House of Delegates will be meeting Saturday morning.

Fire school planning is being finalized and hopefully the book with the class selections will be going out by the first of March 2026. In 2026, the EMS Classes will move back to the Exhibition Hall and will not be off site.

The Fire Chief's Leadership Seminar will be held in York on March 26, 2026. Doug Cline, a nationally known Recruitment and Retention Trainer, will be the featured speaker.

AGENDA ITEM: NEBRASKA EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES ASSOCIATION (NEMSA)/NIS

Sandy Lewis helped the EMS Task Force and Michael Dwyer to put out a statewide zoom meeting. The March Conference will have a cadaver lab and many good instructors. NEMSA will be teaching for the John Sing Memorial Training Day at the Omaha Training Center on January 17, 2026. Elections will be held in March 2026.

AGENDA ITEM: TRAINING AGENCY DIRECTORS

Wendy reported they are regrouping for next year.

AGENDA ITEM: EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE ELECTIONS

Smith brought forward Executive Committee elections. Smith called for a motion for Pro Tempore giving control of the elections to the chair of the Election Committee, Joel Cerny.

MOTION: Bowlin made the motion, seconded by Bernhardson, to make Cerny Chair Pro Tempore for the elections of the Executive Committee.

Voting Yes: Batenhorst, Bernhardson, Bowlin, Cerny, Fiala, Hovey, Lottman, Neumiller, Petersen-Moore, Smith, and Vaughn. Voting No: None. Abstain: None. Absent: Coffey, Harrison, Jensen, and Kilstrom.

Motion carried.

Cerny thanked the election committee, Dion Neumiller, and Leslie Vaughn for all their hard work prior to the meeting.

a. Chair – A nomination was made and accepted for Dr. Smith prior to the meeting. The floor was opened for nominations for Chair. There were no additional nominations for Chair. Nominations were closed.

MOTION: Bernhardson made the motion, seconded by Lottman to name Dr. Smith as Chair. A voice vote was called by Cerny. The motion passed with 10 votes in favor, 0 against, 1 abstention, and 4 absent.

b. Vice-Chair – Nominations were made and accepted for Brett Lottman and Noah Bernhardson prior to the meeting. The floor was opened for nominations for Vice-Chair. There were no additional nominations for the Vice-Chair. Bernhardson moved to close the nominations, seconded by Lottman. A ballot vote was held for the election of the Vice-Chair. The tellers reported the following results:

- Total votes cast: 11
- Necessary for election: 6
- Mr. Lottman received: 2 votes
- Mr. Bernhardson received: 9 votes
- Mr. Bernhardson was declared elected as Vice-Chair.

c. Secretary – Nominations were made and accepted for Noah Bernhardson, Brett Lottman, and Dr. Shaila Coffey prior to the meeting. Since Noah Bernhardson was elected as Vice-Chair, he is no longer in the running for Secretary. The floor was opened for nominations for Secretary. There were no additional nominations for Secretary. Bowlin moved, seconded by Fiala to close the nominations. A ballot vote was held for the election of the Secretary. The tellers reported the following results:

- Total votes cast: 11
- Necessary for election: 6
- Mr. Lottman received: 9 votes
- Dr. Coffey received: 2 votes
- Mr. Lottman was declared elected as Secretary.

Cerny called for Pro Tempore to be rescinded, and leadership of the meeting be given back to Dr. Smith.

AGENDA ITEM: 2026 BOARD MEETINGS

Dr. Smith read the proposed 2026 Board meeting dates below.

a. Proposed Meeting Dates: Friday, February 6; Monday, May 11; Friday, July 10; Friday September 11; Friday, December 4.

MOTION: Petersen-Moore made the motion, seconded by Bernhardson, to accept the above proposed dates. Discussion was held. The motion was amended with Monday, May 11 changed to Friday, May 8.

Voting Yes: Batenhorst, Bernhardson, Bowlin, Cerny, Hovey, Lottman, Neumiller, Petersen-Moore, Smith, and Vaughn. Voting No: None. Abstain: Fiala. Absent: Coffey, Harrison, Jensen, and Kilstrom.

Motion carried.

Wilson explained the posting locations of the meeting notifications below.

b. Posting Locations: Current posting locations of meeting notifications are on the OEHS website, sent through OEHS contacts, and through the newsletter.

MOTION: Bowlin made the motion, seconded by Cerny, to keep the current posting locations of meeting notifications.

Voting Yes: Batenhorst, Bernhardson, Bowlin, Cerny, Fiala, Hovey, Lottman, Neumiller, Petersen-Moore, Smith, and Vaughn. Voting No: None. Abstain: None. Absent: Coffey, Harrison, Jensen, and Kilstrom.

Motion carried.

AGENDA ITEM: Open Board Positions (Currently 3)

Dr. Smith reminded the Board members of the three open positions on the Board (2 Public Members, 1 EMT). He also reminded everyone of EMS Board appointments that will expire within the next year (Joel Cerny, Todd Hovey, Dion Neumiller, and Carolyn Petersen-Moore) and if a board member wishes to be reappointed, an application needs to be submitted. If an application to be reappointed has been submitted and the appointment has expired, standard operating procedure is the outgoing board member will remain in their appointment until either someone else is appointed or they are reappointed.

a. For a reappointment application go to:
    i. https://governor.nebraska.gov/boards-commissions-open-positions
b. Meeting attendance of Board members for the last 2-3 years will be reported at the next meeting in February at Dr. Smith's request.

AGENDA ITEM: PUBLIC COMMENT

Carol Gupton mentioned that work is needed on POLST Form. This form will be reviewed by the Legislation Committee.

Dr. Smith recognized Ann Fiala for 19 years of service on the Board of Emergency Medical Services.

CONCLUSION AND ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at approximately 2:28 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Tonja Bohling

Tonja Bohling

OEHS Administrative Technician