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

February 07, 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 10:41 a.m., 02/07/2025, at the DHHS Office 5220 S. 16th Street, 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 prior to the meeting. 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
- Randy Boldt
- Karen Bowlin
- Joel Cerny
- Dr. Shaila Coffey
- Ann Fiala
- Dr. Prince Harrison
- Todd Hovey
- Brent Lottman
- Dion Neumiller
- Carolyn Petersen-Moore
- Dr. James Smith
- Leslie Vaughn

The following Board members were absent: Dr. Noah Bernhardson, 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:

- Tonja Bohling
- Christy Duryea
- Darla Hopwood
- Carol Jorgensen
- Trevor Klaassen, *Investigations*
- Teresa Hampton, DHHS Legal Attorney
- Melissa Johnson-Wiles, *Assistant Attorney General*
- Wendy Snodgrass
- Sharon Steele
- Tim Wilson
- Sherri Wren

DECLARATION OF QUORUM

A quorum was present, and the meeting convened.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

MOTION: Boldt made the motion, seconded by Bowlin, to adopt the agenda for the 02/07/2025, Board of Emergency Medical Services meeting. Dr. Smith requested to amend the motion to include tabling Item #8 POLST. Motion was made with the change of tabling Item #8.

These minutes have been approved by the Board of EMS on May 9, 2025.

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

Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

MOTION: Bowlin made the motion, seconded by Batenhorst, to approve the minutes of the 12/13/2024 meeting.

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

Motion carried.

CLOSED SESSION

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

Motion carried.

10:45 a.m. *Meeting went into closed session.*
11:40 a.m. *Meeting returned to Open Session.*

LICENSURE RECOMMENDATIONS

None.

The Board took a break at 11:40, resumed at 12:03 p.m.

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:
   i. New licensing software - Tim gave an update. Starting February 21, 2025, through February 25, 2025, licensing activities will be shut down. License renewals will not be processed or accessible in the portal. Stabilization is the first stage and is currently happening. The second stage is the modernization process.
   ii. After renewal – Percent to Audit: Regarding the services provider license renewal process, it was requested of the Board to give a percent to audit.

MOTION: Bowlin made the motion, seconded by Fiala, for 5% each of Emergency Medical Responders (EMR), Advanced EMTs (AEMT), Paramedics, and EMS Instructors to be audited by the Office of Emergency Health Systems.

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

Motion carried.

Intermediates sunset this year. It is recommended to downgrade during the renewal cycle.

b. EMS Program: Carol Jorgensen gave an update on the report submitted (see attached). There are 429 licensed EMS services. She also thanked Tim Wilson for his work on funding for the telehealth project.

c. Education and Training Agency Compliance: Wendy Snodgrass gave an update. There is an EMS Leadership class at Mid Plains Community College in North Platte. This is open to twenty-six people. Pass rates will be posted on the OEHS website and be given to the EMS Board at the next meeting.
   i. Protocol Training and Protocol App – Website and Passcode information is posted on the OEHS website.
d. Emergency Medical Services for Children (EMSC) Program: Tim Wilson gave an update due to Regan Blackwell's absence. EMSC is working on purchasing equipment. She continues working on Pediatric Emergency Care Coordinator (PECC). Materials are being revamped to get out to EMS services.
e. Critical Incident Stress Management (CISM) Program: No updates (See attached).
f. Trauma Program: Sherri Wren gave an update. The Statewide Trauma Symposium will be held July 24, 2025. Designations have been busy. She is working on regulation changes. The PHHS Grant is in process. An evaluation of the Trauma program is likely coming in the future.
g. Stroke/STEMI Program: Tim Wilson gave an update. This program is currently trying to reengage the Stroke Advisory Task Force. They are looking for recommendations for protocols. For one of their conferences, they collaborated with the iExcel center virtual training and has great success. Becka Neumiller received an award for her work with iExcel.
h. EHS Data Systems: Tim Wilson gave an update. Mason Holmes and Sharon Steele are working on validation rules. Third party importers had more flexibility than direct entry. The run form is also being updated making it easier to enter information into the form. The issue with data reporting and analysis is a staff capacity issue.
   Tim Wilson went over a handout of the eNARSIS Data Set on the 2024 calendar year. He touched on services requested, 911/interfacility, and patient disposition.
   There is an epidemiologist to be allocated for the OEHS program for 75% of work time. This will be for both the EMS and Trauma data. His name is Ye and he will start in the next month. Ye will be at the next EMS Board meeting.
   Tim Wison is also working on getting an informatician to work on the front-end of data. They will be working with Opioid/Overdose reporting and mapping data to connect with EMS data.
   Tim Wilson is also looking into doing dashboard data on the OEHS website.
i. Statewide Physician Medical Director Update: Dr. Ernest reported he submitted final revisions to the State protocols. Most of the changes are clerical. There are no changes in scope.
   Use of internasal epinephrine for allergic reactions at the EMT level was sent for review to Scope of Practice Committee.
   Endotracheal tube suctioning by AEMTs was sent for review to Scope of Practice Committee.
   Dr. Ernest also commented he has recently been appointed to the EMS Medical Director position on the Trauma Board. This will promote more collaboration between the Trauma Board and EMS Board.

AGENDA ITEM: EMS COMMITTEE REPORTS

Committee reports were given by committee members.

a. Committee Updates – Dr. Smith presented an updated listing of committee members (see attachment). Linda Jensen was moved from the Legislative/Rules & Regulation Committee to the EMS Research Committee/Education Committee. Ryan Batenhorst will take Linda's place on the Legislative/Rules and Regulation Committee. The caveat to this is if Rules and Regulation are opened for something major, Linda will be asked to attend the Legislative/Rules and Regulation Committee with her background in protocols. To not create quorum issues, one or more of the non-clinical members may be asked to step back for her to attend. Dr. Smith asked each committee to look at the "to do" list and give an update on what has been completed and any suggestions for future items at the next meeting. Ryan Batenhorst enlightened the Board on the background of the name change from Education Committee to EMS Research Committee.

12:55 p.m. Randy Boldt left.

MOTION: Bowlin made the motion, seconded by Fiala, to accept the Board of EMS Committee Assignments to include the Education Committee name change to the EMS Research Committee and changes made to the members to include switching Linda Jensen from the Legislative/Rules and Regulation Committee to the EMS Research Committee and adding Ryan Batenhorst to the Legislative/Rules and Regulation Committee.

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

Motion carried.

b. Legislative/Rules and Regulation Committee
   There were no rules or regulations update with regards to legislation.
   i. LB569 was reviewed and discussed in committee. Discussion on data was held. The Committee is in support of accurate and impactful data for the Senators. The data needs to be minable. Discussion was held regarding data being the driver to move EMS forward in Nebraska. Legislative reports and statutory obligation were also discussed. Two options were presented.
      1. Set up a couple of Zoom meetings between Senators and the Legislative Committee before the hearing date of February 20, 2025.
      2. Write up a document that can change annually based on the needs.

   2025 Legislative Bills – Tim Wilson gave an overview of the Legislative Bills currently in the Legislature. He highlighted LB610, LB29, and LB407.

1:03 p.m. *Boldt returned.*

c. Scope of Practice Committee Update
   i. Model Protocol Revision – Ann Fiala gave an update. The Committee suggested the sunset date for the previous protocols be extended to June 30, 2025, or July 1, 2025.

MOTION: Cerny made the motion, seconded by Fiala, to extend the sunset period for the previous protocols to July 1, 2025.

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

Motion carried.

   ii. Proposed changes/additions/deletions
   Ann Fiala discussed the EMS Skills Comparison Chart. She did not have Brent Lottman's recommendations for changes. The Committee discussed adding onto the list ventilator management as a paramedic skill. They also discussed nasal epinephrine administration. It was suggested to make the following changes:
      1) Advanced EMT end tidal CO2 monitoring "with interpretation" should not be highlighted.
      2) Intravenous maintenance of medicated IVs should be highlighted for EMT and AEMT with an asterisk that says, "antibiotics only if started in the hospital."

MOTION: Fiala made the motion, seconded by Bowlin, to accept the EMS Comparison Chart with the changes noted above.

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

Motion carried.

Dr. Smith introduced the topic of postmortem blood draws. Teresa Hampton, DHHS Legal, commented this is outside of scope. This is a non-licensed activity no license is required for it. The board made the following recommendation regarding postmortem blood draws: This board does not disapprove of this activity; however, it recommends the decision be up to the medical director because it is deviating from protocols, and recommend they work closely with their local attorney/legal entity.

MOTION: Fiala made the motion, seconded by Hovey, to recommend the EMS Board does not disapprove of this activity; however, it recommends the decision be up to the medical director because it is deviating from protocols, and recommend they work closely with their local attorney/legal entity.

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

Motion carried.

Dr. Harrison was asked to look at the protocol D10 dosage in pediatrics. This was tabled until next meeting.

d. Education Committee Update – Ryan Batenhorst, the new committee chair, will work on intended outcomes/objectives for this committee and give a report at the next board meeting.
e. Workforce Committee Update – Joel Cerny gave an update on Workforce.
    i. Discussed Leadership training classes being held on Friday – Sunday to allow more volunteers to be able to attend without giving up a week of vacation.
    ii. Look into starting an annual EMS Leadership award.
        A. Workforce Committee is willing to help set up the criteria for the award.
        B. Committee has also offered to judge the applications.
    iii. DHHS sends out milestone certificates to EMS Responders. There are certificates for Code Save, Special Delivery, and Years of Service for 5, 10, 15, 20, etc. years. Wendy will put this in the newsletter. Dion Neumiller will do the next meeting's update due to Joel Cerny being gone.

AGENDA ITEM: NHA EMS COMMITTEE

Tim Wilson presented. The Nebraska Hospital Association has put together a task force/EMS Committee. The purpose of this committee is to address EMS problems across the state. This is a new committee that has only met once to date. Members are from hospitals, other associations and include, from the EMS side, Jean Bradley from Falls City, Craig Jacobus from Cass County, Tim Wilson, and Dr. Eric Ernest. At the first meeting, goals were discussed, and participants broke out into subcommittees.

AGENDA ITEM: NEBRASKA STATE VOLUNTEER FIRE ASSOCIATION (NSVFA)

Joel Cerny gave a report. The Nebraska Fire Chief's Association is hosting leadership training in Crawford on March 14 and 15, 2025. You can see more information on the NSVFA.org website. Stipend will be available through the NSVFA's Safer Grant 4. Our Recruitment and Retention Committee is also actively working to submit our next SAFER Grant to FEMA but that is all on hold for now.

Fire School Books will be out hopefully by the end of the month.

EMS related classes that will be available include: 12-hour EMS Segmented, 12-hour Paramedic Segmented, Agriculture Emergencies, Basic Vehicle Extrication, Commercial Vehicle Extrication, Grain Engulfment, and Man vs Machine Entrapment. Wendy also normally does a spot in the new Chief's class.

Still actively keeping on top of the OSHA involvement with emergency responders but with the change in leadership in DC, it will probably be on hold for the next 4 years.

The Senator breakfast was held on January 21, 2025, a bitter cold morning, so the turnout was lower than hoped for but went over well. Also, the Legislative Stance meeting was held on January 25, 2025, with

Jerry Stilmock and Ryan McIntosh. Stance was taken on over sixty bills. Many are the same ones Tim has marked. The NSVFA has designated LB115 to support in favor. That bill would increase the tax credit for Emergency Responders that meet the requirements from $250 to $1000. Two other bills fund more statewide radios as our affirmative legislation.

As the NSVFA Director to the NVFC the NVFC is keeping me busy as I will be in Washington DC to help present a class on how training can affect recruitment and retention at the Congressional Fire Institute's Symposium on February 13, 2025, and hosting a Facebook-based coffee talk on February 20, 2025, that will be dealing with leadership. These will hopefully be monthly.

AGENDA ITEM: NEBRASKA EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES ASSOCIATION (NEMSA)

Dr. Coffey reported this group met with their lobbyist the other day and went over the bills that went through. There are a lot coming out that are very good.

The Super Conference is coming up and will include physician medical director (PMD) training. This PMD training will also be available online. A flier will go out soon. A breakfast with Senators is also coming up soon.

AGENDA ITEM: TRAINING AGENCY DIRECTORS

Ryan Batenhorst gave a report. The assessment was discussed as well as strategy on how to address the issues. An information sheet was created on discussing issues with Legislators. This will include the relationship between the various community colleges.

AGENDA ITEM: PUBLIC COMMENT

Happy birthday to Randy Boldt.

CONCLUSION AND ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at approximately 2:02 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Tonja Bohling

Tonja Bohling

OEHS Administrative Technician