

MINUTES OF THE MEETING
of the NEBRASKA
BOARD OF Emergency
Medical Services
December 10, 2021

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting of the Nebraska Board of Emergency Medical Services was called to order by Dr. James Smith, Board Chairperson, at 0905, December 10, 2021, at the DHHS Building, 5220 S 16th St, 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. 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
- Joel Cerny
- Ann Fiala
- Linda Jensen
- Dion Neumiller
- Carolyn Petersen
- Carl Rennerfeldt
- Michael Sheridan
- Dr. James Smith

The following Board members were absent: Dr. John Bonta, Karen Bowlin, Dr. Thomas Deegan, Todd Hovey.

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
- Lisa Anderson, *Assistant Attorney General*
- Theresa Hampton, *DHHS Legal*

A quorum was present, and the meeting convened.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

MOTION: Sheridan made the motion, seconded by Bailey, to adopt the agenda for the December 10, 2021, Board of Emergency Medical Services meeting.

Voting Yes: Bailey, Boldt, Cerny, Fiala, Jensen, Neumiller, Petersen, Rennerfeldt, Sheridan, Smith.

Voting No: None. Abstain: None. Absent: Bonta, Bowlin, Deegan, Hovey. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

MOTION: Boldt made the motion, seconded by Rennerfeldt, to approve the minutes of the July 16, 2021 meeting.

Voting Yes: Bailey, Boldt, Cerny, Fiala, Jensen, Neumiller, Petersen, Rennerfeldt, Sheridan, Smith.

Voting No: None. Abstain: None. Absent: Bonta, Bowlin, Deegan, Hovey. Motion carried.

CLOSED SESSION

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

0907 *Meeting went into closed session.*
 0931 *Smith left closed session.*
 0936 *Smith returned.*
 0941 *Cerny left closed session.*
 0946 *Cerny returned.*
 1027 *Meeting returned to Open Session.*

OPEN SESSION

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

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

The Board took a break at 1028 and returned at 1036.

LICENSURE RECOMMENDATIONS**Bruce Blatchford– EMS INSTRUCTOR APPLICATION**

MOTION: Bailey made the motion, seconded by Rennerfeldt, to deny application based on insufficient evidence of meeting the minimum standard for an EMS Instructor under Nebraska regulations.

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

Duane Austria– EMS INSTRUCTOR APPLICATION

MOTION: Bailey made the motion, seconded by Jensen, to recommend tabling application for more information on total course hours and syllabus of the instructor education submitted.

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

Corrine Kach– EMT APPLICATION

MOTION: Fiala made the motion, seconded by Bailey, to deny application based on misrepresentation of material facts.

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

AGENDA ITEM: Office of Emergency Health Systems

Wilson reported the program reports were combined and sent to Board members prior to the meeting. A new administrative assistant was hired. Tonya Bohling will be helping with future meetings. Licensing Specialist, Laura Huggins, submitted her resignation effective 12/17/2021 to finish her nursing degree. The Office has authorization to hire.

Carol Jorgensen, EMS Manager, via Zoom, reviewed the submitted EMS program report. Wilson commended the EMS Program team with completing the scheduled EMS service inspections in a short time period. Smith, on behalf of the Board, also thanked Jorgensen and the EMS Specialists for their hard work.

Wendy Snodgrass, Education Manager, said there was nothing else to report other than what was submitted. There were no questions.

Debbie Kuhn, EMSC and CISM Program Manager, was available via Zoom to answer questions. Smith commended the EMSC Program for the hospital pediatric readiness program. Kuhn reported there has been 103 CISM debriefings so far this year. Smith reminded providers to please reach out for help through the CISM program if needed.

There were no other update from the Trauma and Stroke/STEMI Programs.

Wilson added to the Data report the contract with ImageTrend is ending June 23, 2022. The OEHS is starting the Request for Proposal Process (RFP) for a new vendor contract.

AGENDA ITEM: Statewide Physician Medical Director Update

Dr. Ernest reported he is working with the Department on the CDC grant for telehealth opportunities. He is working on including the AEMT National Education Standards in the new protocol format. Smith asked how the new protocol format could be sent out for comments and feedback. Wilson reported this could be done by email, MailChimp, and/or webinar. Bailey commented it could possibly be discussed during the upcoming NEMSA continuing education conference in January, 2022. Developing a mobile application for protocol access is still a possibility. Ernest was asked by tactical medical team members if licensed EMS providers could provide medical care to K9 service animals. Theresa Hampton informed Ernest they could discuss this outside the meeting. Ernest presented at a mini-continuing education conference at Hickman the previous weekend. He commends the Hickman Rescue and fire chief for their innovation in recruitment and retentions. He encouraged the Hickman Fire and Rescue members to explain and present their policies and ideas statewide.

AGENDA ITEM: Legislative Committee Update

Wilson reported the Department is still finishing up changes to Chapters 11 and 13 of regulation. Smith stated the sub-committee has been meeting monthly working on changes and Emergency Regulations.

AGENDA ITEM: Scope of Practice Committee Update

Fiala reported the committee was asked about Impella monitoring for paramedics. The committee agreed Impella and intra-aortic balloon pump monitoring was within the scope for a paramedic. Bolt asked about EMTs working in nursing home and hospitals. Smith commented it is allowable under previous Statute change. There was discussion on EMS providers in the Emergency Department and the hospital setting. Wilson reported the Department has been getting more questions and has been working with the State Nursing Department for clarification on questions and specifically, EMS providers being allowed to give discharge instructions.

Jensen made the motion, seconded by Rennerfeldt to add to protocols, Glucagon 1-3mg via intra nasal, auto-injector, and IM (1mg) routes for EMT and above. Also, add "pack open wounds" to bandaging on

page 68 for open trauma. Voting Yes: Bailey, Boldt, Cerny, Fiala, Jensen, Neumiller, Petersen, Rennerfeldt, Sheridan, Smith. Voting No: None. Abstain: None. Absent: Bonta, Bowlin, Deegan, Hovey. Motion carried.

Wilson asked if Point of Care Ultrasound protocols were discussed. Smith stated it had not and will add it to the next committee meeting agenda.

AGENDA ITEM: Education

No report.

AGENDA ITEM: Medical Direction

No report.

AGENDA ITEM: Data Collection

Bailey stated they are waiting on data information from the Department. The committee will work directly with Department staff.

AGENDA ITEM: Workforce

Cerny reported the committee will evaluate EMT renewal data after 12/31/2021. They will reach out to Chief Brady with Hickman Rescue regarding recruitment and retention.

AGENDA ITEM: Dispatch

Neumiller reported there are new minimum training standards for dispatchers. Emergency Medical Dispatch (EMD) was not included. He will bring more information to the next meeting.

The Board took a break from 1150 and returned at 1201.

AGENDA ITEM: Emergency Regulations-Chapter 12

Wilson reviewed the process of Emergency Regulations. The Governor signed Emergency Regulations covering the purchase of used ambulances, 12-004.01(Di), effective 12/9/2021. This information was sent out by the Department to EMS Services. The Department will not be able to complete the approval of all Chapter 12 changes until the Emergency Regulation process is complete but can still work on revisions. The Board discussed the proposed language by the Governor's Office of fifteen years of age or less limit to purchase a used ambulance and these regulations will expire in ten years.

Rennerfeldt made the motion, seconded by Bailey, to accept Emergency Regulation 12-004.01 (Di) as written by the Governor's Office. Voting Yes: Bailey, Boldt, Cerny, Fiala, Jensen, Neumiller, Petersen, Rennerfeldt, Sheridan, Smith. Voting No: None. Abstain: None. Absent: Bonta, Bowlin, Deegan, Hovey. Motion carried.

AGENDA ITEM: NSVFA

Cerny reported the Recruitment and Retention Classes will continue in 2022

- a. The next class scheduled for Jan. 22nd and 23rd in South Sioux City. All of the attendee's expenses are covered.
- b. 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 3/1/2022.
- c. The NSVFA was awarded another SAFER (Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response) Grant. This grant will still include leadership training classes but the college tuition reimbursement will not be part of it.

The annual meeting was held in Chadron in October. New officers include Jerry Thompson of Kearney as President, Darrell Vance of Gering First Vice President, Shad Bryner of Hemingford Second Vice President and new Secretary/Treasurer is Mark Meints . New district directors include Colin Borgman of Gering and Kenny Krause of Fairbury. Chris Chada, North Platte and Brenda Jenny, Blair maintained their spots. Justin Scamehorn of Waco replaced John Bomar as director to the National Volunteer Fire Council and Cerny was also reappointed for another 3-year term to the NVFC.

Fire School will be May 20-22, 2022 and will include 12 hours of EMS continuing education classes.

Legislative update, LB255, the Line of Duty Death benefits Bill passed last year has a beneficiary form to be fill out.

AGENDA ITEM: Nebraska Emergency Medical Services Association (NEMSA)

No report.

AGENDA ITEM: Board Member Attendance & Vacancies

Smith reported the Governor's Office is working to fill Board vacancies. The Department is encouraging the Governor's Office to get these filled as soon as possible. Smith reviewed the Board member attendance report. He asked the members to try and attend all meetings in order to meet quorum. Smith encouraged people to apply for the open positions. He will reach out to members with lower attendance in order to improve.

AGENDA ITEM: 2022 Board Meeting Dates & Publication Locations

2022 Board meeting dates were discussed. Bailey motioned, seconded by Cerny, to approve February 11, May 16, July 15 (in Kearney), September 12, and December 9 for meeting dates in 2022. Voting Yes: Bailey, Boldt, Cerny, Fiala, Jensen, Neumiller, Petersen, Rennerfeldt, Sheridan, Smith. Voting No: None. Abstain: None. Absent: Bonta, Bowlin, Deegan, Hovey. Motion carried.

Wilson reported the strategic planning session was postponed twice due to conflicts and COVID-19. The planning session will need to be held before June 30, 2022 for funding. Wilson asked for potential dates to work with facilitator availability. The Board agreed to March 21, 2022 with the alternate date of April 11, 2022 for the strategic planning session.

AGENDA ITEM: Public Comment

There was no public comment.

CONCLUSION AND ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 1222.

Respectfully submitted,

Wendy Snodgrass
OEHS Education and Compliance Manager