

MINUTES OF THE MEETING
of the NEBRASKA
BOARD OF Emergency
Medical Services
Friday, December 9, 2022

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting of the Nebraska Board of Emergency Medical Services was called to order by Dr. James Smith, Board Chairperson, at 9:08am, Friday, December 9, 2022, at the Country Inn & Suites North Conference Center, Lincoln NE 68521. 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 December 7, 2022. 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
- Ryan Batenhorst
- Randy Boldt
- Joel Cerny
- Ann Fiala
- Prince Harrison
- Todd Hovey
- Linda Jensen
- Jonathan Kilstrom
- Michael Sheridan
- Dr. James Smith
- Leslie Vaughn

The following Board members were absent: Noah Bernhardson, Karen Bowlin, Brent Lottman, Dion Neumiller, and Carolyn Petersen.

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
- Wendy Snodgrass
- Edith Titamoh
- Tim Wilson
- Theresa Hampton, *Public Health Attorney*
- Mindy Lester, *Assistant Attorney General*

A quorum was present, and the meeting convened.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

MOTION: Boldt made the motion, seconded by Bailey, to adopt the agenda for the December 9, 2022, Board of Emergency Medical Services meeting.

Voting Yes: Bailey, Batenhorst, Boldt, Cerny, Fiala, Harrison, Hovey, Jensen, Kilstrom, Sheridan, Smith, and Vaughn. Voting No: None. Abstain: None. Absent: Bernhardson, Bowlin, Lottman, Neumiller, and Petersen. Motion carried.

These minutes have been approved by the
Board of EMS February 10, 2023.

AGENDA ITEM: INTRODUCTIONS

Dr. James Smith had new and old members of the board and staff of the Office of Emergency Health Systems introduce themselves telling a little about themselves - who they are, where they are from, and the position they are holding. Smith thanked Carl Rennerfeldt who is coming off the board and has been an integral member of the EMS Board. Smith also gave all board members his phone number if they have questions regarding the operation/procedures of the board, minus any case information.

AGENDA ITEM: Board Orientation

Tim Wilson had Teresa Hampton, the public health attorney assigned to the OEHS programs, attending via Zoom, introduce herself. Wilson gave an EMS Board Member Orientation for new members (see handout). New members will be sent forms to fill out after this meeting. New board members are: Leslie Vaughn – Member-at-Large; Ryan Batenhorst – Paramedic Member; Jonathan Kilstrom – PA Member; Brent Lottman – Advanced EMT Member; Dr. Prince Harrison – Pediatric Physician Member; Dr. Noah Bernhardson – ER Physician Member. Dr. Smith commented and reiterated orientation information, advisory capacity, rules and regulations update, disciplinary actions, strategic plan, and committees.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

MOTION: Sheridan made the motion, seconded by Bailey, to approve the minutes of the September 12, 2022 meeting.

Voting Yes: Bailey, Boldt, Cerny, Fiala, Hovey, Jensen, and Smith. Voting No: None. Abstain: Batenhorst, Harrison, Kilstrom, Sheridan, and Vaughn. Absent: Bernhardson, Bowlin, Lottman, Neumiller, and Petersen. Motion carried.

CLOSED SESSION

MOTION: Jensen 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: Bailey, Batenhorst, Boldt, Cerny, Fiala, Harrison, Hovey, Jensen, Kilstrom, Sheridan, Smith, and Vaughn. Voting No: None. Abstain: None. Absent: Bernhardson, Bowlin, Lottman, Neumiller, and Petersen. Motion carried.

10:12 *Meeting went into closed session.*
 10:18 *Todd Hovey left*
 10:41 *Todd Hovey returned*
 11:09 *Todd Hovey left*
 11:20 *Todd Hovey returned*
 12:02 *Meeting returned to Open Session.*

OPEN SESSION

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

Voting Yes: Bailey, Batenhorst, Boldt, Cerny, Fiala, Harrison, Hovey, Jensen, Kilstrom, Sheridan, Smith, and Vaughn. Voting No: None. Abstain: None. Absent: Bernhardson, Bowlin, Lottman, Neumiller, and Petersen. Motion carried.

The Board took a short break to get lunch at 12:07, resumed at 12:17. Working through lunch.

LICENSURE RECOMMENDATIONS

SHAYLYN RICHERT, MCCOOK – EMT REINSTATEMENT

MOTION: Bailey made the motion, seconded by Fiala, to reinstate the EMT license for Shaylyn Richert from McCook with a censure and administrative penalty of up to \$1,000.00 based on unlicensed practice of about 304 days.

Voting Yes: Bailey, Batenhorst, Boldt, Cerny, Fiala, Harrison, Hovey, Jensen, Kilstrom, Sheridan, Smith, and Vaughn. Voting No: None. Abstain: None. Absent: Bernhardson, Bowlin, Lottman, Neumiller, and Petersen. Motion carried.

DARRELL JONES – CONVICTION REVIEW

MOTION: Fiala made the motion, seconded by Bailey, to recommend, based on information given today, Darrell Jones' conviction review would not preclude the EMS Advisory Board from restricting him from licensure in the future.

Voting Yes: Bailey, Batenhorst, Boldt, Cerny, Fiala, Harrison, Hovey, Jensen, Kilstrom, Sheridan, Smith, and Vaughn. Voting No: None. Abstain: None. Absent: Bernhardson, Bowlin, Lottman, Neumiller, and Petersen. 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. Tim Wilson gave a budget update regarding a budget deficit. Boldt asked who advocates for the Office of Emergency Health Systems. Internally it is DHHS CEO Smith. Externally we rely on stakeholders and partners. Dr. Smith discussed having a subcommittee bring awareness of this issue to the public, stakeholders, and the legislature and as a group formalize a plan to meet with a coalition of senators to remedy this situation. Smith will assign a subcommittee who will make recommendation and then pursue a vote on those recommendations at a later date.
- b. Licensing: Wilson gave an update on licensure. License levels renewing this year are AEMTs, EMRs, Paramedics, EMT Intermediates, EMS Instructors, and ALS and BLS Services. There was an issue with the licensing program so there is a large backlog of EMS service licenses to renew and updates are being entered manually with about 1/3 completed. We are still under Executive Orders waiving fingerprint background checks. The executive order expires December 31, 2022. There still needs to be a meeting with Teresa on licenses that are expired but have not met licensure requirements for the background check. Wilson also addressed the EMS Compact Database, adding Nebraska is not currently submitting data because of updating licensing software and thus Nebraska is not in compliance. Dr. Smith raised the question of how the board will let people know. Wilson responded with the use of Constant Contact, FaceBook, emails, other normal routes, etc.
- c. EMS Program: Jorgensen gave an update (see report submitted). Highlights are as follows. She introduced the new Southeast Region EMS Specialist from Claytonia, Alex Hartzell. American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) questions are being answered. Communication went out about service renewals and provider renewals. The newsletter switched platforms to Constant Contact and will be titled "EHS Today". She gave an update on the Preventative Health and Health Services Block Grant (PHHS) awarded last year ended September 30, 2022. The program was also awarded additional funds for next year for alternative healthcare delivery systems for EMS. Fiala asked for clarification on a the definition of alternative healthcare delivery systems for EMS and Jorgensen stated this is a broad term that can include anything from looking at using telemedicine, doing community paramedicine, looking at different ways EMS can improve patient care, changes in rules and regulations to allow hospitals help arranging transports to a more appropriate facility or by more appropriate means. There were, out of the

- 429 total services in the state, 184 inspections done with approximately 4,238 individual EMS provider contacts. She welcomed the new board members.
- d. Education and Training Agency Compliance: Snodgrass gave a report (see report submitted). She gave an update on service and provider renewals. Zoom continuing education classes are being wrapped up with about one class per month. Starting to schedule 2023 so any topic ideas you want to share or teach or come on, let her know. She spoke on BLS Psychomotor Training and will continue trainings as needed for evaluators and exam coordinators next year. Planning is being done on the leadership academy with dates forthcoming. National Registry pass rates will be provided at the next meeting.
 - e. EMSC: Kuhn gave a report on EMSC (see report submitted). Welcome new board members. We did the 2023-2027 EMSC Competitive Grant that was raised to \$205,000.00. Notification will be in March 2023. She gave a summary of what was put in the grant. Hospital goals: to expand pediatric readiness recognition in hospitals, increase hospital assessment response when it goes out, increase pediatric emergency care coordinators, ensure the EDs are weighing and recording children's weight in kilograms. EMS Agencies goals: enhance the readiness program within, increase Pediatric Emergency Care Coordinators (PECC), and increase the process of pediatric-specific equipment skills checkoff. Also added this year was disaster plans. CHI Good Samaritan in Kearney received their designation. We put in for carryover funds from last year that were not spent. Breslow tapes for hospitals and Carter sensory kits with training for autism and spectrum disorders were received and will go out to ambulance services that have PECCs. We are getting transportation devices and putting together nursing badge buddies. There will be pediatric training through SIM Nebraska for our hospitals that have been approved and some disaster training. January 4, 2023 the Ambulance Assessment will go out.
 - f. CISM: Kuhn gave the report for CISM (see report submitted). Just put out the 2023 group intervention schedule. There are five classes scheduled across the state. We have a certified instructor that can teach the assisted individuals in crisis which is peer-to-peer. There was a class set for this weekend, however due to low numbers it will be reset to another date. A partnership with UNMC has been established to train hospital staff who want to be part of the team that can go out and do debriefing in the hospitals as needed. UNMC will provide all the credits for nurses, psychologists, social workers, and they will be marketing the hospitals. The program had over 120 interventions. Thank you to Ann Fiala for all the work she does for CISM behind the scenes.
 - g. Trauma: Nothing to report other than the written report submitted.
 - h. Stroke/STEMI: Neumiller gave the report for Stroke/STEMI (see report submitted). One of the things tracked is the number of law enforcement AED uses. To date, there have been 164/165 uses, 18 saves, and 80 letters and challenge points given out to officers. Continuing to add agencies to the Cardiac Arrest Registry to Enhance Survival (CARES). The State saturation point of agencies added to CARES has almost been reached before having to group them together.
 - i. Data: Wilson gave a report for the Data Systems (see report submitted). The program is holding steady. There is planning for moving from 3.4 to 3.5 version of the National Emergency Medical Service Information System (NEMSIS) Data Standards. Ahead of that move is a request for proposal (RFP) which is in process. It is currently going through the legal review process of the RFP. The next step is a review by Department of Administrative Services. We will do the RFP first and see which data system is awarded and then do the update from 3.4 to 3.5 version next year. The Data Systems Program will be losing Doug Fuller due to retirement on April 28, 2023 and is in the process of looking at a replacement.

AGENDA ITEM: Strategic Planning Update

Dr. Smith gave an update on the Strategic Plan (see notes in the agenda packet). He identified committees and will accept volunteer/recommendations at this meeting. Board members, please email Dr. Smith if you have any interest in certain committees and he will post/submit these assignments at the next meeting. The term, Liaison, was defined as members who work closely with and are most likely members of another entity, a stakeholder (NEMSA, Volunteer Firefighters Association, trauma, etc.) and so have dual responsibilities with these committees and/or organizations. This makes for an easier freeflow of information between these entities because they attend those meetings and ours.

AGENDA ITEM: EMS Committee Reports

a. Legislation, Rules and Regulations Committee:

Dr. Smith gave background on the rules and regulation for the new board members. Wilson gave a status update on the rules and regulations. All three chapters (172 NAC 11,12 and 13) have been updated. The Public Hearing process has been completed and the department has responded to comments. Regulations need to go to the Board of Health next. Permission from the EMS board is needed for Dr. Smith to sign the Certificate of Adoption to move the regulations forward for review by the Board of Health. The Board of Health will meet mid January, 2023 (1/12 or 1/14) where they will review regulations and either have recommendations or move them forward to the Attorney General's Office. Dr. Smith asked for a motion for a certificate of adoption for the changes to the rules and regulations.

MOTION: Bailey made the motion, seconded by Fiala to adopt changes to the rules and regulations by a certificate of adoption.

Voting Yes: Bailey, Batenhorst, Boldt, Cerny, Fiala, Harrison, Hovey, Jensen, Kilstrom, Sheridan, Smith, and Vaughn. Voting No: None. Abstain: None. Absent: Bernhardson, Bowlin, Lottman, Neumiller, and Petersen. Motion carried.

b. Scope of Practice Committee Update – Fiala gave an update on the Scope of Practice Committee.

- i. Model Protocol Revisions were submitted by Dr. Ernest and Coffey. Dr. Smith advised there are 260 pages of protocol revisions available on the portal and one hard copy available. Dr. Smith asked the board to review these protocols and give their feedback. This will be available as a mobile application pending funding. Wilson will look into the timeline on getting this application up and running as well as funding avenues for this. Ernest asked about the AEMT level use of Benzodiazapines. This topic is addressed in formulary. People can email Dr. Ernest and cc Dr. Smith and Fiala. The Committee is to review the protocols and have any changes sent to Fiala and Dr. Smith for the next EMS Board meeting. Protocols will then be reviewed in this Scope of Practice Subcommittee and brought forward at the next meeting. Dr. Ernest proposed for future consideration critical care guidelines and possibly community paramedicine guidelines. Dr. Ernest, the State EMS Physician Medical Director, introduced himself. Dr. Ernest addressed the online medical director's course, pending the fee, has officially been released. He is in contact with the Wrighton Committee to start looking at a state-specific module as part of the class. This will need to be kept in mind for future revisions of rules and regulations.
- ii. Fiala presented proposed protocol changes: Add in a protocol for BLS EMS services whose providers are IV certified and upon approval with their medical director, can administer Glucose D10.

MOTION: Bailey made the motion, seconded by Sheridan to add in a protocol for BLS EMS services to administer Glucose D10.

Voting Yes: Bailey, Batenhorst, Boldt, Cerny, Fiala, Harrison, Hovey, Jensen, Kilstrom, Sheridan, Smith, and Vaughn. Voting No: None. Abstain: None. Absent: Bernhardson, Bowlin, Lottman, Neumiller, and Petersen. Motion carried.

c. EMS Education Update – No report given.

d. EMS Workforce Update – No report given.

Dr. Smith reminded everyone these committees are being restructured and going forward the expectation is the chairs of the committee will report at meetings.

AGENDA ITEM: LB 1014 ARPA Funding

Wilson gave a report on ARPA Funding. There is \$20 million in funding to assist EMS services in replacing ambulances. There is also \$5 million for rural and volunteer EMS services to replace equipment. Applications are closed and have not been reviewed by the Department yet. The evaluation process will be started in the next few weeks. The OEHS will be working with a committee including members of NEMSA and NSVFA to review items in the applications that are more of a discretionary evaluation and to look at equipment requested to ensure it meets with the intention of the funding. Responses to the application should come in 60-90 days. Dr. Smith expressed appreciation for the help from NEMSA and NSVFA members.

1:21 pm

Jonathan Kilstrom left meeting.

AGENDA ITEM: Nebraska State Volunteer Fire Association (NSVFA)

Cerny gave a report on NSVFA (see notes in agenda packet). NSVFA had their conference October 22-23, 2022. John Corely from the National Registry and Tim Wilson were guest speakers. Three motions were presented:

- 1) To have NSVFA support the opportunity for EMRs to transport with proper training.
- 2) To have NSVFA support Nebraska DHHS reimbursement for EMS training expense when the class is completed versus after passing the National Registry certification test.
- 3) To have the NSVFA continue to work with Nebraska DHHS about National Registry tests.

New members were elected as follows:

Darrel Vance, Gering – President
 Shad Bryner, Hemingford – 1st Vice
 Scott Schremmer, Chadron – 2nd Vice
 Mark Meints, Wymore – Secretary/Treasurer (reelection)
 John Bomar, Battle Creek – District 2 Director (two-year term)
 Kenny Krause, Fairbury – District 4 Director (two-year term)
 Chris Chada, North Platte – District 3 Director
 Troy Shoemaker, Alliance – District 1 Directors
 Clint Rasmussen, Dakota City – EMS Committee Chairman (former EMS Board Member)

The NSVFA Recruitment and Retention Committee, through our SAFER Grant #4, sent four people to the Symposium in the Sun in Clearwater, Florida on November 10th – 13th, 2022. They will be expected to come back to Nebraska and complete 4, R & R trainings in their area.

At the December 3rd, 2022 board meeting, Legislative priorities were discussed for 2023; including one that deals with EMS Funding. Before NSFVA starts the 407 credentialing process regarding the EMR transport issues, we are waiting to see what the NEMSA Board's stance is on this.

Dr. Smith expressed appreciation on Cerny's work with the NSVFA.

AGENDA ITEM: Nebraska Emergency Medical Services Association (NEMSA)

Evon Koeppen, 2nd Vice President for NEMSA reported. With the new legislative session, the priority is getting EMS recognized as an essential service. A NEMSA Board meeting was held last night via Zoom.

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Minutes of the December 09, 2022 Meeting](#)

Work will be done with NSFVA on the EMR transport. It is also being decided if it will be going through a 407 credentialing process. Dr. Smith asked NEMSA to collaborate with the EMS Board subcommittee on funding regarding EMS as an essential service. There will no longer be a conference in January. Instead there will be one Super Conference. It will be in March at the Younes conference center in Kearney. This year there will be three board positions open to fill at the conference. To fill a board position, a person needs to be a member of NEMSA. To be a NEMSA member, a person needs to be a licensed EMS provider.

AGENDA ITEM: Executive Committee Secretary Replacement

Carl Rennerfeldt's term is done leaving the position of EMS Board Executive Committee Secretary open for replacement. Smith moved to open the floor for nominations. Mike Bailey was nominated. Cerny moved that nominations cease.

MOTION: Fiala made the motion, seconded by Hovey to nominate Mike Bailey for the Executive Committee Secretary replacement.

Voting Yes: Batenhorst, Boldt, Cerny, Fiala, Harrison, Hovey, Jensen, Sheridan, Smith, and Vaughn. Voting No: None. Abstain: Bailey. Absent: Bernhardson, Bowlin, Kilstrom, Lottman, Neumiller, and Petersen. Motion carried.

Elections for all officer positions will be held at the next meeting.

AGENDA ITEM: Public Comment

Dr. Ernest raised a question for the scope of practice committee regarding the use of end tidal CO2 at the EMT level given they are allowed to put in a supraglottic airway. Protocols currently allow EMTs to monitor, not interpret, end tidal CO2 levels.

CONCLUSION AND ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 1:35pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Tonja Bohling

Tonja Bohling
OEHS Administrative Technician