



Board of Emergency Medical Services Meeting Agenda

Date: February 07, 2025

Time:

10:30 am Open Session
10:45 am Closed Session
11:30 am Open Session

Committee Meetings Rms. X & Y
Not part of Zoom Meeting
8:30 A.M. – 10:30 am

Location:

DHHS SE Office Rm. P
5220 S 16th Street, Lincoln, NE
68521

For Information Contact:

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Tonja.Bohling@nebraska.gov

*The Board will be working through
the lunch break.*

All items known at the time of distribution of this agenda are listed. A current agenda is available at the Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Public Health Office of Emergency Health Systems. If auxiliary aids or reasonable accommodations are needed for attendance at a meeting, please call Tonja Bohling at (402) 471-8129 (voice), or for persons who are deaf or hard of hearing, please call the Nebraska Relay System at 711 (TDD), prior to the meeting date. Advance notice of seven days is needed when requesting an interpreter.

2025 Board Meeting Dates:

May 9, 2025
July 11, 2025
September 8, 2025
December 5, 2025

NOTE: Dates are subject to change

- 1) Call to Order, Roll Call, and Declaration of a Quorum
Announcement: "This is a public meeting, and the open meetings law is posted."
- 2) Adoption of Agenda
- 3) Approval of December 13, 2024, Minutes
- 4) Closed Session - (10:45 am)
Announcement: The board will go into closed session for the review and discussion of investigative reports, licensure applications and other confidential information and for the protection of the reputation of individuals.
 - a) Investigation Reports
 - b) Applications
 - c) Other Confidential Information**Open session will start approximately 11:30 am**
- 5) Board (Licensure) Recommendations from closed session
- 6) Office of Emergency Health Systems
 - a) Licensing (Wilson)
 - i) New licensing software
 - ii) After Renewal – Percent to Audit
 - b) EMS Program (Jorgensen)
 - c) Education & Training Agency Compliance (Snodgrass)
 - i) Protocol Training and Protocol App – URL and Passcode
 - d) Emergency Medical Services for Children (Blackwell)
 - e) Critical Incident Stress Management (Neumiller)
 - f) Trauma System (Wren)
 - g) Stroke/STEMI System (Neumiller)
 - h) EHS Data Systems (Steele/Holmes)
 - i) Statewide Physician Medical Director Updates (Ernest)
- 7) EMS Committee Reports
 - a) Committee Updates (Smith)
 - b) Legislation and Rules and Regulations (Smith)
 - i) 2025 Legislative Bills
 - c) Scope of Practice (Fiala)
 - i) Model Protocol Revision (Fiala/Ernest)
 - ii) Proposed changes/additions/deletions (Fiala)
 - d) EMS Education (Bowlin/Hovey)
 - e) EMS Workforce (Cerny)
- 8) POLST (Batenhorst)
- 9) NHA EMS Committee (Wilson/Ernest)
- 10) NSVFA Update (Cerny)
- 11) NEMSA/NIS (Sandy Lewis/Amy Santos)
- 12) Training Agency Directors (Fuehring)
- 13) Public Comment
- 14) Adjourn

EMS Board Agenda Packet:

<https://dhhs.ne.gov/OEHS%20EMS%20Board%20Documents/EMS-Board-Agenda.pdf>

JOIN ZOOM MEETING STARTING 10:30 am:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/82111057515?pwd=JVVTszTu7bFegz1qD5RZCQ2ouNlIDu.1>

NOTE: If you join the meeting and get a message stating "Meeting is Locked", this means that the Board is still in closed session, please try joining in a few minutes.

MINUTES OF THE MEETING
of the NEBRASKA
BOARD OF Emergency
Medical Services
Friday, December 13, 2024

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 10:32 a.m., Friday, December 13, 2024, at the Nebraska State Office Building, 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:

- Ryan Batenhorst
- Dr. Noah Bernhardson
- Randy Boldt
- Karen Bowlin
- Joel Cerny
- Ann Fiala
- Todd Hovey
- Linda Jensen
- Jonathan Kilstrom
- Brent Lottman
- Dion Neumiller
- Dr. James Smith

The following Board members were absent:

- Dr. Shaila Coffey
- Dr. Prince Harrison
- Carolyn Petersen-Moore
- Leslie Vaughn

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

- Regan Blackwell
- Tonja Bohling
- Mindy Lester, *Assistant Attorney General*
- Diane Schoch
- Wendy Snodgrass
- Sharon Steele
- Tim Wilson

DECLARATION OF QUORUM

A quorum was present, and the meeting convened.

10:34 Shaila Coffey joined the meeting.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

MOTION: Batenhorst made the motion, seconded by Fiala, to adopt the agenda for the 12/13/2024, Board of Emergency Medical Services meeting.

These minutes have not been approved by
the Board of EMS.

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

Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

MOTION: Bowlin made the motion, seconded by Jensen, to approve the minutes of the 9/9/2024 meeting.

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

Motion carried.

CLOSED SESSION

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

Motion carried.

10:37 *Meeting went into closed session.*
11:33 *Meeting returned to Open Session.*

LICENSURE RECOMMENDATIONS

Amanda Jarchow – EMT APPLICATION

MOTION: Batenhorst made the motion, seconded by Bowlin, to recommend denial for EMT application for failure to cooperate with investigation and previous convictions.

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

Motion carried.

Dr. Smith Introduced Shaila Coffey to the Board and had her tell a little about herself.

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: Wilson gave an update in addition to the written report submitted report. There are 13 EMS Services issued to date in 2024. There are a couple pending (one new service and one upgrade from a BLS to an ALS service). 696 licenses were issued in 2024 (501 EMTs, 106 paramedics, 25 Advanced EMTs, 25 EMRs, and 39 EMS Instructors). He also reminded everyone, with the regulatory changes, license renewal for Paramedic, Advanced EMTs, EMRs, EMT Intermediate, ALS Services, BLS Services, and EMS Instructors will be renewing by March 31, 2025. Renewal notices will be sent out in the beginning of January 2025. Information will be sent out for ALS and BLS service licensure renewals because those will not be renewable via the online portal. The licensing software system will be upgraded in February 2025. The Department is not sure how this will affect the renewal process.

Wilson also gave an update on the progress of LB1108. LB1108 was passed in the Legislature this past year, transferring \$1.27 million to the Fifty Cents For Life Fund. This will almost double the budget for the OEHS Program. Administration wants an implementation plan on how funding

will be used. This is preliminary depending on review by the Board and Department administration. There are 3 categories for the use of the money.

1. Support the EMS Practice Act, the statute that sets guidelines for the use of the 50 Cents For Life cash fund and support the LB1108 additions to it. The intention is to continue support for the EMS and Trauma registry systems. The five-year contract for this is just starting from the request for proposal process, after which it will go out to competitive bid. The average annual cost of this is \$296,826. The program is also requesting, along with the registry system, Epidemiology support to evaluate EMS data from the PCR and Trauma registry system.
2. Financial support for recruitment, retention, and sustainability of Nebraska EMS. The EMS statewide assessment has been incorporated into this. This assessment will be used along with information regarding EMS services to establish a broad stakeholder group to help facilitate coordinated effort for the future of EMS in Nebraska. Funding will be needed to support this stakeholder group. A shift will be made in the role/functionality of the EMS Specialist. The number of EMS Specialists will be increased from four to five, dividing the state from four into five regions. Staff training will be provided as well as the development of an EMS Service At-Risk Assessment Tool to determine which services are at-risk and prioritizing them; and develop the EMS Workforce Assessment to assess the actual EMS workforce in Nebraska.
3. Training, education, accessibility of initial and continuing education. The Department has worked closely with the State EMS training agencies to market EMS education, increase communication to local departments of course offerings and locations, increase the number of students completing the course, and increase pass rates for the certification exam. One of the collaboration projects is the development of a software application for training so people have quick access to potential classes, locations, times, remote versus in-person, etc. This app could then be expanded with other program offerings. Other ideas are to utilize an aptitude exam for EMS, a certification preparation exam mobile application, and assisting with in-person skills training and psychomotor exams with the training agencies. OEHS would also like to work with the training agencies to get students the technology they need to take some of the online courses.

11:49 *Batenhorst left.*

11:50 *Batenhorst returned.*

Wilson reminded everyone this funding is to support the EMS Medical Services Practice Act, the State Trauma System Act, the activities related to the maintenance and enhancement of the Statewide Trauma system (this includes an assessment statewide of the trauma system through the American College of Surgeons (ACS)), EMSC program, OEHS training, maintaining an EMS statewide model protocol application, Physician Medical Director (PMD) training funds, and for marketing education and conferences for EMS, Trauma, and CISM. Department administration has done a preliminary review and would like to make sure the Board agrees with this implementation plan. A motion and approval from the Board would help to support the plan.

MOTION: Cerny made the motion, seconded by Fiala, to support the LB1108 implementation plan.

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

Motion carried.

- a.
- b. EMS Program: Carol Jorgensen virtually gave an update in addition to the written report submitted. The total number of Licensed EMS services changed from 426 to 427. The telehealth project is nearing the end of the first year with a few services trickling on. The number of volunteer services is around 380.

- c. Education and Training Agency Compliance: Wendy Snodgrass gave an update in addition to the written report submitted. She is in the process of getting a contract established for leadership training course to be held at Mid Plains Community College, North Platte. Once this is done, the registration information will be coming out. She also reminded if anyone has topics or names of potential presenters for 2025 Zoom continuing education classes, please get ahold of her.
- d. Emergency Medical Services for Children (EMSC) Program: Blackwell gave an update on the EMSC program in addition to the written report submitted. She is working to get all the programs and activities up to speed. Three hospitals have been updated and there is one EMS Agency to go. Pushing out all the programs is her priority. She is updating all those programs to reach the performance measures that were updated recently. PECC promotional and informational materials out to services and pushed out and PEP courses out. The EMS Recognition program is being revamped. Changes with hospital designations will be made to incorporate Pediatric designations so Pediatric Hospital will be melded with Trauma designations. Blackwell will work with Schoch on this.
- e. Critical Incident Stress Management (CISM) Program: Becka Neumiller virtually gave an update in addition to the written report submitted. CISM course dates are decided on but attaining the venue is in process. Once these are solidified the information will be posted to the website.
- f. Stroke/STEMI Program: Becka Neumiller virtually gave an update in addition to the written report submitted. B. Neumiller has been putting out reference materials onto the website. The Task Force has filled the EMS Paramedic position.
- g. Trauma Program: Diane Schoch gave an update in addition to the written report submitted. 2025 is a high designation/redesignation year. The Avera Creighton redesignation has been completed. Winnebago Comprehensive Healthcare System will look to apply for designation in 2025.
- h. EHS Data Systems: No updates in addition to the written report submitted. Work on the NEMSIS transition from 3.4 to 3.5 continues. A regrouping session was held yesterday. The goal is to have preliminary work done by January 17, 2025.
- i. Statewide Physician Medical Director Update: Dr. Ernest gave an update. Protocol updates: two Zoom sessions were held throughout Nebraska with approximately 500 in attendance. The protocol revisions are being finalized and Dr. Ernest will have these out in the next week or so. There will be a required check box for protocol training for EMS Services. Fiala asked about color and layering for those with color blindness. This will be evaluated. There has been one training for the protocol mobile application so far. There are 73 users of the application currently. Dr. Ernest encouraged doing an application training first. Technical issues should be reported to the Department. Board members not on services can join the application via DHHS. The Department is checking into access for, hospitals, the Department, and training agencies. Working on PMD protocols and training is the next order of business.

The Board took a short break to get lunch at 12:15 p.m., resumed at 12:33 p.m.

AGENDA ITEM: ANALYSIS OF EMS STATEWIDE ASSESSMENT

Ryan Batenhorst reported on the EMS Statewide Assessment. They want to make data-informed decisions. There are eight themes: 1) Workforce Shortages & Volunteerism 2) Funding Challenges 3) Public & Governmental Awareness 4) System Integration & Planning 5) Provider Wellbeing 6) Leadership Development 7) Data Driven Simulating 8) Systemic Change & Technical Assistance.

Models, suggestions, and strategies need to be shared. There is a need for public awareness and to leverage relationships with stakeholders. Discussion was held. Smith requested to have the full document available on the website and sent to the Board along with Batenhorst's summary. It was suggested the Board produce a Board summary regarding this assessment. Jensen asked what can the citizens and community do? Other suggestions were to put a hyperlink to the document and/or summary, developing an EMS Board brief/summary and get it to the Senators along with Batenhorst's summary of the assessment. Wilson and Smith will discuss the suggestions together after the Board meeting. This topic will be addressed again in the next Board meeting.

AGENDA ITEM: EMS BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS

Committee reports were given by committee members.

- a. Legislative/Rules and Regulation Committee
 - i. Approve committee members to interact with government officials and stakeholders. Discussion was held.

MOTION: Kilstrom made the motion, seconded by Batenhorst to approve the Legislative Committee members to interact with government officials and stakeholders during the upcoming Legislative session.

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

Motion carried.

A reminder was made regarding Senator open houses during the holiday season. Board representation at these open houses is encouraged but should not exceed a quorum.

- b. Scope of Practice Committee
 - i. Model Protocol Revision – The Revised EMS Skills Comparison chart will be handed out at the next meeting for a vote for Board approval.
 - ii. Proposed changes/additions/deletions – Fiala presented a protocol for the LifeVac Anti-Choking/Suction Device that was discussed in the Committee meeting. Coffey reported about issues and studies in Iowa with the conclusion the benefit does not outweigh the risks. The device is registered with the FDA but not approved by the FDA. The Scope of Practice Committee recommended to leave it up to the individual services and their Medical Directors for approval for use, stating, “the Board neither strongly supports nor opposes its use.”

MOTION: Fiala made the motion, seconded by Bowlin to approve the position that the EMS Board neither strongly supports nor opposes the use of the LifeVac anti-choking/suction device and this decision will be deferred to the individual services and their respective Medical Directors. Discussion was held.

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

Motion carried.

Smith, Wilson, and Hovey commented on an electrical vertical takeoff and landing of drones with EMTs. Smith will send out a video to any Board members interested.

Physician Orders for Life-Sustaining Treatment (POLST) and Do Not Resuscitate (DNR) forms in EMS were discussed. Formerly there was not just one form that everyone could use that was universal. Currently this is in an online platform that is accessible for the people on-scene that give patients DNR status and their Advanced Directives. It is sent via email to dispatch, and information can be relayed to the responding units. Smith offered to invite POSLT to come and give an update on this.

Discussion was held regarding collection of blood from deceased patients for medical/research purposes and if this falls within a paramedic’s scope to do intracardiac aspiration on a deceased person. It was suggested to table the discussion until legal weighs in on this topic.

MOTION: Bernhardson made the motion, seconded by Jensen to table the discussion regarding if it is within the scope of practice for a paramedic to do intracardiac aspiration on a deceased patient to obtain a collection of blood.

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

Motion carried.

- c. Education Committee – Hovey gave an update. There are grant options for 2025. If you have suggestions on ways to get interest for that let Hovey know. Pass rates for 2023 are available. These utilized individual training agencies pass rates. The Comparison Chart is in an email to Board members.
- d. Workforce Committee – Cerny gave an update. Retention issues were discussed as current providers are aging out. Discussion was also had in relation to retention regarding increasing a tax credit. Leadership training was also discussed with the suggestion that training needs to be available weekends or evenings.

AGENDA ITEM: NEBRASKA STATE VOLUNTEER FIRE ASSOCIATION (NSVFA)

Cerny gave an update. The NSVFA Fire School committee met December 7, 2024, to start setting up classes for the 2025 Fire School which will be held May 23, 24, and 25, 2025. There will be a three-segmented EMS classes with one group a paramedic-level training.

Cerny, Troy Shoemaker, and Daniel Chapek were sent to the VCOS Symposium in the Sun in Clearwater, Florida on November 13-17, 2024, where they attended classes on Recruitment and Retention of Volunteers. All their expenses were covered by the NSVFA SAFER Grant 4. They are now tasked to start going out to departments and teaching what they learned. A group of people will also be sent to the NVFC Training Summit in Utah in June 2025 with the same stipulations.

The NSVFA's Recruitment & Retention committee has been working on applying for the next SAFER Grant 5. The grant application is due mid-January 2025.

The NSVFA will be seeking legislation to increase the tax credit amount individual Emergency Responders can receive, from the \$250.00 level it is at now.

He also gave an OSHA update. Cerny and Micheal Dwyer were among around 400 people that virtually testified with OSHA. They will be opening for public comment on Jan.18, 2025. With the election results, the chance of the new standard, Seeing the Light of Day, are slim but we still need to keep on top of it as it will never go away. Anyone needing more information please go to NVFC.org/OSHA-standard. Even though Nebraska is considered a non-OSHA state, fire departments are business-based 501C based and they will need to follow this standard.

The NSVFA's breakfast with the senators will be at 9:00 a.m. January 21, 2025, in The Nebraska State Bar Association, Ruska Conference Room, 635 South 14th Street, Suite 130, Lincoln.

AGENDA ITEM: NEBRASKA EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES ASSOCIATION (NEMSA)

Marlene gave an update on NEMSA. The NEMSA Super Conference is being held on March 7-9, 2025, at the Younes Conference Center in Kearney, NE. The Senator's breakfast will be from 8-9 a.m. on March 25, 2025, at The Nebraska State Bar Association in Lincoln.

AGENDA ITEM: TRAINING AGENCY DIRECTORS

Cherri Fuehring reported. A focus workgroup has been formed to put out a statement of what Emergency Medical Services are and how EMS is related to the medical field. January 14, 2025, is the due date. The Training Agency Directors are looking at getting connected with the Legislature. Data and numbers may be needed, and they will reach out to the EMS Board and the Department if necessary.

AGENDA ITEM: EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE ELECTIONS

Smith entertained a motion that pro tempore be enacted to make Joel Cerny chair during the executive committee elections.

MOTION: Bowlin made the motion, seconded by Boldt to enact pro tempore and make Joel Cerny chair during the executive committee elections.

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

Motion carried.

Cerny called for nominations from the floor for Chair. Dr. James Smith was nominated to continue as EMS Board Chair. No other nominations were given.

MOTION: Boldt made the motion, seconded by Neumiller to cease nominations and re-elect Smith as Board Chair by vote of acclimation.

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

Motion carried.

Cerny called for nominations for Vice-Chair from the floor. Ann Fiala was nominated to continue as EMS Board Vice-Chair. No other nominations were given.

MOTION: Boldt made the motion, seconded by Bowlin to cease nominations and re-elect Fiala as Board Vice-Chair by vote of acclimation.

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

Motion carried.

Cerny called for nominations for Secretary from the floor. Brett Lottman was nominated for EMS Board Secretary. Noah Bernhardson was also nominated for EMS Board Secretary. No other nominations were given. Cerny called for nominations to cease and for a ballot vote for EMS Board Secretary. Noah Bernhardson was elected as the EMS Board Secretary by a ballot vote of 10 to 2.

AGENDA ITEM: 2025 BOARD MEETINGS

Smith announced the 2025 Board meetings.

- a. Proposed 2025 Dates. Friday, February 7; Monday, May 12; Friday, July 11; Monday, September 8; Friday, December 5. Discussion was held. The Monday, May 12, 2025, date was changed to Friday May 9, 2025. Point of Privilege was raised by Boldt. He will be turning 80 years old on February 7, 2025. Chair acknowledged this.

MOTION: Lottman made the motion, seconded by Bowlin to accept the updated proposed 2025 dates with the change of the May date from Monday, May 12, 2025, to Friday, May 9, 2025.

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

- b. Smith reminded the Board the next year's postings locations need to be voted on: Current postings are on the OEHS website, public calendar, sent through OEHS contacts, and through the newsletter.

MOTION: Bowlin made the motion, seconded by Hovey to continue with the current meeting postings locations mentioned above for the 2025 meeting year.

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

AGENDA ITEM: PUBLIC COMMENT

Michael Dwyer commented on the new task force of the Nebraska Hospital Association. This task force is small and focused. Smith asked about the makeup of the task force. Dwyer spoke on LB338, the hospital bill. He gave a plug for the need for data. He was interested in the conversation about preEMS services.

Smith will be putting together Board committees.

John Bomar commented he sent the 90-page EMS Report to all Senators and met with Congressman Flood. During their discussion they agreed Washington DC was not contacted often enough about rural EMS issues. This is not just a Nebraska issue but is a national issue. He also commented on the use of EMRs.

CONCLUSION AND ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at approximately 1:56 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Tonja Bohling

Tonja Bohling

OEHS Administrative Technician



Attachment A

Nebraska Board of Emergency Medical Services Meeting, February 07, 2025 Office of Emergency Health Systems Reports

a) Licensure Program (Duryea)

EMS Services issued to date (2025):

Ameripro EMS of Nebraska LLC DBA Priority Medical Transport	EMS Advanced Service	16-Jan-25
Elmwood Rescue	EMS Advanced Service	16-Jan-25
Colon Volunteer Fire Department	EMS Basic Service	29-Jan-25

Emergency Care Provider Licenses issued to date (2024):

License Type	# Issued
Advanced EMT	26
Emergency Medical Responder	25
EMS Advanced Service	10
EMS Basic Service	5
EMS Instructor	39
EMT	539
Paramedic	118
Grand Total	762

Emergency Care Provider Licenses issued to date (2025):

License Type	# Issued
Advanced EMT	2
Emergency Medical Responder	0
EMS Instructor	2
EMT	46
Paramedic	6
Grand Total	56

b) EMS Program (Jorgensen)

- During 2024, the EMS Program made 3,854 individual EMS contacts. (These counts do not include others assisted such as hospitals, EMS training agencies, etc.) These individual contacts are largely due to their need for technical assistance.
- EMS service periodic inspections continued throughout the year. In addition, initial EMS inspections were conducted as requested to acquire initial licensure, change of ownership, or change of license level.
- The number of licensed EMS services are below:

Western	71
Central	102
Northeast	119
Southeast	135
Total	427

- The new 2024 EMS Model Protocols have been approved and are now available on our EMS website. <https://dhhs.ne.gov/OEHS%20Program%20Documents/EMS%20Model%20Protocols%202024.pdf>
The format has changed so we are encouraging all EMS providers and EMS physician medical directors to review them to familiarize themselves with the new format. There is also a mobile app for the protocols that is available to EMS providers. <https://hinckleymed.com/nebraska-dhhs/>
- The Nebraska Telehealth Pilot Project continued through 2024 with 26 EMS services utilizing telehealth equipment in 65 ambulances. For many of those services, the one year of the pilot project is coming to an end and a second year will continue for most of those services.
- Funding through the Preventive Health and Health Services (PHHS) Block Grant and the State Rural Health Flexibility Program has allowed us to pay for 45 EMS providers to take a community paramedicine course. The course began in the middle of September. It is a year-long course.

c) Education and Training Agency Compliance (Snodgrass)

- The next Leadership Academy will be April 23-27, 2025, to be held at Mid Plains Community College in North Platte. Registration information will be coming.
- Working with training agencies on data reporting for number of EMS courses being held statewide and where students are from.
- Snodgrass will be working on pass rate data averages for training agencies for 2024 and regulatory two-year average requirement.
- Developing plans for requirements of LB 1108 funding.
- There are five training agency inspections to complete in 2025. Snodgrass is working to schedule these.
- Working with services and providers for better tracking methods of continuing education and with training agencies and instructors for documentation to meet the NCCP requirements for State renewal.
- Snodgrass is working on the Zoom continuing education classes for 2025. Five months have been scheduled. Accepting ideas and names of presenters for 2025.

d) Emergency Medical Services for Children Program (Blackwell)

- Currently, six emergency departments are recognized as Pediatric Ready, and two are in the process of receiving recognition.
- In the process of updating the Hospital and Prehospital Pediatric Readiness Recognition Programs to ensure they align with the current federal requirements.
- Efforts are underway to recruit Pediatric Emergency Care Coordinators (PECCs) from both emergency departments and EMS to support pediatric readiness.
- Please reach out if you need anything pediatric related.

e) Trauma System Program (Wren)

- *Trauma Center Designations:*
 - 52 Trauma Centers Designated

- ❖ 2024 Designations:
 - Chase County Community Hospital, Imperial (Basic) - Region 4
 - Memorial Community Hospital, Aurora (Basic) – Region 2
- ❖ 2025 Pending Designations:
 - Nebraska Medicine, Omaha (Comprehensive) – Region 1
 - Avera Creighton, Creighton (Basic) – Region 1
- ❖ 2025 Upcoming Designation:
 - Box Butte Memorial Hospital, Alliance (Basic)– Region 4
 - Bryan Health, Lincoln (Advanced) – Region 2
 - CHI Health St. Francis, Grand Island (General) – Region 3
 - CHI Health Creighton University, Omaha (Comprehensive) – Region 1
 - Community Hospital, McCook (Basic) – Region 3
 - Franciscan Health, West Point (Basic) – Region 1
 - Gordon Memorial Hospital, Gordon (Basic) – Region 4
 - Mary Lanning Community Hospital, Hastings (General) – Region 2
 - Morrill County Community Hospital, Bridgeport (Basic) – Region 4
 - Ogallala Community Hospital, Ogallala (Basic) – Region 4
 - Regional West Medical Center, Scottsbluff (Advanced) – Region 4
 - Tri County Hospital, Lexington (Basic) – Region 3
- ❖ 2025 Upcoming Consultation Visit:
 - Jefferson County Community Health Center, Fairbury (Basic) – Region 2
- **Grants:**
 - Nebraska Preventive Health and Health Services Block Grant (PHHSBG) –2024 – 2025 Grant Award - \$89,600. The funds will be used for the specialty class training, e.g. the trauma registry, prevention, leadership, and a Statewide Trauma Symposium.
- **Trauma Advisory Board Appointments:**
 - Dr. Alejandro J. Luis, MD – Region 2 Trauma Medical Director
 - Michael Downey – EMS Agency Professional (Rural)
 - Tori Hurlbut, RN – Basic Level Trauma Center Trauma Nurse Coordinator
 - Eric Jensen, RN – Burn Representative
- **Trauma Advisory Board Member Reappointment**
 - Dr. Chad Duval, MD – Advanced Level Board-Certified Emergency Physician
 - Tami Bokelman – Rehabilitation Professional Representative (Rural)
 - Jill Coddington – Comprehensive Level Trauma Center Registrar
 - Renae Jacobson, RN – Advanced Level Trauma Nurse Coordinator (CHI Good Samaritan)
 - Jessica Lee, RN – Advanced Level Trauma Center Trauma Nurse Coordinator (Children’s Nebraska)
 - Katie Pierce, RN – Comprehensive Level Trauma Nurse Coordinator (Creighton University Medical Center Bergan Mercy)
 - Mindy Walters, RN – General Level Trauma Nurse Coordinator
 - Susan Wilson, RN – Advanced Level Trauma Center Trauma Nurse Coordinator (Regional West Medical Center)
- **Trauma Advisory Board Vacancies:**
 - Term Expired 10/15/2024 (Deadline to apply is 11/18/2024)
 - ❖ Consumer Representative – Exp. 10/15/2024
- **Next Trauma Advisory Board Meetings:**
 - April 11, 2025, 10:30 a.m. (In-Person TBD)
 - July 23, 2025, 10:30 a.m. (In-Person in conjunction with the Statewide Trauma Symposium)

f) Stroke/STEMI System Program (Neumiller)

- The State Stroke Task Force is having its Strategic Planning meeting this month to identify priorities for the 2025 year.
- The Clinical and Rehabilitation committees continue to work on providing guidance documents to improve care of the acute stroke patient throughout the continuum of their care. Those resources can be found on the DHHS website on the Stroke System of Care page.
- The conference planning committee is hard at work planning our second annual stroke conference partnering with the iEXCEL group out of UNMC creating an immersive multidisciplinary stroke experience. Last year's conference received rave reviews, and we are excited to continue our partnership to bring NE stroke providers more innovative high-quality education.

g) Critical Incident Stress Management Program (Neumiller)

- The CISM program provided 95 interventions in 2024.
- 82 of those were stress debriefings conducted at various hospitals, EMS/Fire departments, law enforcement agencies, correctional centers and dispatch centers helping them mitigate stressful situations.
- 13 were one-on-one interventions where volunteers went out to talk to individual first responders who were struggling with stressful situations helping them process the events.
- We also offered 4 public education talks at the law enforcement academy in Grand Island where new law enforcement recruits were introduced to the CISM program and the importance the role of maintaining good mental health plays in success both in their professional and personal lives.
- To request a debriefing, diffusing, or one on one following a critical incident call 402-479-4921.

h) OEHS Data Systems Program (Steele)

- OEHS Data Team determined that the Validity Rule levels for 3.5 need to be reviewed, (e.g. whether a validity rule is to be a Warning, Error, or Fatal), thus that is currently in process. After determination of the validity rule levels, entries will be made into the Elite software. A comparison of the National Defined Lists and what is currently in the Nebraska Elite software is currently under review. These lists include the following data elements: Cause of Injury, Impression, Incident Location Type, Symptoms, Medications Given, and Procedures. Mason Holmes is reviewing the 3.5 run form, reviewing additional updates that can be made to improve the 3.5 run form.
- Mason Holmes and Sharon Steele continue to work with software issues and bugs as needed for the software that is assigned to them, namely Elite, Hospital Hub, and Patient Registry.

Last Name	First Name	MI	Appointment Status
Batenhorst, PhD	Ryan		Paramedic – Research/Education, Scope
Bernhardson, MD, NRP, FP-C	Noah		ER Physician Member- Board Consultant Scope, Legislation
Boldt, EMT	Gary (Randy)		EMR - Legislation, Workforce, Nominating Committee
Bowlin, NREMT	Karen	Kae	Approved Training Agency Representative - Research/Education, Workforce
Cerny	Joel	E.	EMR - Legislation, Workforce, Nominating Committee
Coffey, MD, NRP	Shaila		Paramedic Member - Legislation, Scope, NEMSA Liaison
Fiala	Ann	F.	Emergency Medical Technician - Scope, Legislation
Harrison, MD	Prince	Antonio	Physician Member – Pediatric Liaison, Board Consultant Scope, Research/Education
Hovey, NR, NREMT, EMS-I	Todd	A	Emergency Medical Technician - Research/Education, Workforce
Jensen, RN	Linda	Lee	Registered Nurse Member - Scope, Legislation
Kilstrom, MPAS, PA-C, NRP	Jonathan	L.	Physician Assistant - Research/Education, Workforce
Lottman	Brent	E.	Advanced EMT Member - Research/Education, Scope
Neumiller	Dion		Member at Large - Workforce, Nominating Committee
Petersen	Carolyn	A	Public Member - Workforce, Research/Education
Smith, MD	James	E.	Board Certified Emergency Physician Member - Legislation, Scope
Vaughn, Jr.	Leslie		Member at Large - Workforce, Legislation

Scope – 8 Legislation – 8 Workforce – 8 Education – 7 Nominating Committee – 3

Board of Emergency Medical Services Committee Assignments

Legislation and Rules and Regulations Committee

Chairperson Ann Fiala

Members: Bernhardson, Boldt, Cerny, Coffey, Jensen, Smith, Vaughn

Duties include, but not limited to:

- Monitor Legislative Bills presented to the legislature each session;
- Research and update the EMS Board of proposed legislative bills and actions on bills of interest to EMS and any other bills impacting EMS;
- Assist EMS Board Chair and EMS Board with representation of EMS Board opinions and recommendations to legislators;
- Complete research of proposed legislative bills as requested by Board;
- Continuous review of Rules and Regulations affecting EMS;
- Research questions and suggested changes to Rules and Regulations by EMS stakeholders, EMS Board, DHHS and present recommendations;
- Provides research and recommended changes, additions and deletions to the EMS Board after close review for Rule and Regulation revisions;
- Works with the Scope of Practice Committee members for the Rule and Regulations revisions; and
- Assists with the review and revision of statutes affecting EMS.

To Do List:

- "EMS is recognized, valued and funded as an essential service within the field of medical science, as evidenced by it's clear designation in statute or rule"
- "Develop the infrastructure and enabling rules, regulations, and funding to support Mobile Integrated Healthcare/Community Paramedicine"

Scope of Practice Committee

Chairperson Bernhardson

Members: Batenhorst, Coffey, Fiala, Jensen, Harrison, Lottman, Smith

Duties include, but not limited to:

- Continuous review of Statewide EMS Model Protocols and Scope of Practice for all EMS licensure levels to ensure appropriateness and public safety;
- Field questions from EMS providers, services, physician medical directors, DHHS and all other stakeholders regarding scope and protocols; and
- Recommendations of changes, additions and deletions to Statewide EMS Model and Protocols and Scope of Practice is made to the EMS Board

To Do List:

- Make recommendations on Critical Care Paramedics and scope of practice for a Critical Care Paramedic
- Make recommendations on Community Paramedicine and scope of practice for a Community Paramedicine
- Institute new Nebraska EMS Protocols
- Update "Competency Checklist" for AEMT to match current Rules and Regulations

Board of Emergency Medical Services Committee Assignments

<p>EMS Research/Education Committee</p> <p>Chairperson Batenhorst</p> <p>Members: Bowlin, Harrison, Hovey, Kilstrom, Lottman, Petersen</p>	
<p>Duties include, but not limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review and make recommendations on issues having an impact on training agencies and on the training of emergency care providers. 	<p>To Do List:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • "Investigate the real or perceived barriers created by educational courses and National Registry of EMT testing" • Monitor and make recommendations regarding training agencies course completion rates and NREMT pass rates • Investigate educational recruitment strategies to increase the number of EMS providers in Nebraska

<p>EMS Workforce Committee</p> <p>Chairperson Joel Cerny</p> <p>Members: Boldt, Bowlin, Hovey, Kilstrom, Neumiller, Petersen, Vaughn</p>	
<p>Duties include, but no limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Research and planning for the EMS workforce in the State of Nebraska including rural, urban, volunteer and paid services and providers in an effort to maintain, recruit and retain EMS workforce in Nebraska; • Assist and develop recommendations to increasing EMS workforce statewide currently and into the future; and • Provide ideas, recommendations, and support to the EMS Board for recruitment and retention of current EMS workforce and what the future of EMS workforce and operation will look like in Nebraska. 	<p>To Do List:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • "Strengthen the EMS workforce" • "Create programs and initiatives to strengthen and support the emotional and physical resilience of the EMS practitioner" • "Develop communication strategies that strengthen the sharing of knowledge and information between the Board of EMS and EMS stakeholders" • Investigate more options for EMS agencies leadership development

<p>Liaison Appointments</p> <p>State Trauma Board Liaison – Open</p> <p>EMS for Children Liaison – Dr. Harrison</p> <p>Nebraska Volunteer Firefighters Association Liaison – Joel Cerny</p> <p>Nebraska EMS Association Liaison – Dr. Coffey</p> <p>DHHS EMS Board Consultant – Dr. Bernhardson, Dr. Harrison (Peds)</p>

Prefi	Numb	Suffix	Introducer	Oneliner
LB	5		Bosn	Provide immunity for administration of naloxone or other federally approved opioid antagonists
LB	195		Meyer	Provide immunity for administration of naloxone, nalmefene, or other federally approved opioid overdose reversal medications
LB	25		Ballard	Appropriate funds to the Department of Administrative Services for interoperable communication equipment
LB	62		Brandt	Appropriate funds for certain communications equipment
LB	115		Ballard	Increase the income tax credit and change the qualification criteria under the Volunteer Emergency Responders Incentive Act
LB	66		DeBoer	Adopt the Uniform Health-Care Decisions Act

LB	214		Holdcroft	Provide for the use of newborn safety devices and procedures relating to surrendered newborn infants
LB	307		Ibach	State intent regarding appropriations for tuition waivers
LB	346		Arch	Change qualifications of the State Capitol Administrator, provide for termination of boards, commissions, committees, councils, funds, panels, task forces, the Conservation Corporation Act, and the Nebraska Potato Development Act, and change and eliminate funds and powers and duties of departments and agencies
LB	376		Health and Human Services	Change and eliminate programs and services administered by the Department of Health and Human Services and eliminate various reporting requirements

LB	569		Health and Human Services	Change duties of the Board of Emergency Medical Services
LB	457		Bostar	Require anaphylaxis policies for school districts and licensed child care facilities and provide a limit on the amount an insured is required to pay by an insurance policy or benefit plan for epinephrine injectors
LB	463		Ballard	Require school districts to develop a cardiac emergency response plan under the School Safety and Security Reporting Act and provide for grants for such plans from the Medicaid Managed Care Excess Profit Fund
LB	462		McKinney	Change reporting requirements relating to child abuse or neglect, parental rights, and juvenile court jurisdiction

LB	29	Conrad	Create a review process for agency rules and regulations
LB	436	Health and Human Services	Change provisions of the Nebraska Regulation of Health Professions Act
LB	664	Storer	require agencies to allow for public comment and submissions on proposed rules and regulations and change permissible venue for civil actions challenging rules and regulations
LB	26	Ballard	Include certain hospital and health clinic employees within statutes protecting health care professionals from assault
LB	322	Clouse	Prohibit assault on a pharmacist and clarify provisions relating to assault on officers, emergency responders, certain employees, and health care professionals
LB	576	Dorn	Change provisions of the Enhanced Wireless 911 Services Act relating to surcharges and public hearings
LB	610	Bostar	Change provisions relating to supplemental reimbursement for ground emergency medical transport under the Medical Assistance Act

Comments:	Committee	Status
Joint Hearing was held on January 23, 2025	Judiciary Committee	01/09/2025 - Date of introduction 01/13/2025 - Referred to Judiciary Committee 01/14/2025 - Notice of hearing for January 22, 2025 01/14/2025 - Raybould name added 01/15/2025 - Notice of hearing for January 22, 2025 (cancel) 01/16/2025 - Notice of hearing for January 23, 2025
	Judiciary Committee	01/14/2025 - Request received 01/14/2025 - Date of introduction 01/16/2025 - Referred to Judiciary Committee 01/16/2025 - Notice of hearing for January 23, 2025
Appropriates \$5 million to DAS for interoperable communication between volunteer departments. Would be awarded through grant program with dollar to dollar match. for use by state agencies and volunteer departments for interoperable communications with statewide radio system. CIO cannot charge any volunteer department connected to statewide radio system.	Appropriations Committee	01/09/2025 - Request received 01/09/2025 - Date of introduction 01/13/2025 - Referred to Appropriations Committee
Appropriates \$19 million to CIO for use by state agencies and volunteer departments for interoperable communications with statewide radio system. CIO cannot charge any volunteer department connected to statewide radio system.	Appropriations Committee	01/09/2025 - Request received 01/09/2025 - Date of introduction 01/13/2025 - Referred to Appropriations Committee 01/15/2025 - Wordekemper name added
Increase the volunteer tax credit from \$250 up to \$1,000.	Revenue Committee	01/10/2025 - Request received 01/10/2025 - Date of introduction 01/13/2025 - Wordekemper name added 01/14/2025 - Referred to Revenue Committee 01/14/2025 - DeKay name added 01/16/2025 - Notice of hearing for January 24, 2025 01/16/2025 - Raybould name added 01/22/2025 - Hallstrom name added 01/27/2025 - Brandt name added 01/27/2025 - Dungan name added
does provide for emergency medical responder not liable if there is reasonable care.	Judiciary Committee	01/09/2025 - Request received 01/09/2025 - Date of introduction 01/13/2025 - Referred to Judiciary Committee

hospitals, fire stations, and emergency medical responders can use newborn safety devices where it is visible. Must be equipped with dual alarms, inspected once a day, and have instructions. This is voluntary.	Health and Human Services Committee	01/14/2025 - Request received 01/14/2025 - Date of introduction 01/16/2025 - Referred to Health and Human Services Committee
Tuition waiver for first responders recruitment and retention act for law enforcement and professional firefighters.	Appropriations Committee	01/15/2025 - Request received 01/15/2025 - Date of introduction 01/17/2025 - Referred to Appropriations Committee
Removes CISM committee and council and moves it to DHHS.	Government, Military and Veterans Affairs Committee	01/16/2025 - Request received 01/16/2025 - Date of introduction 01/21/2025 - Referred to Government, Military and Veterans Affairs Committee
Removes the five year reporting requirement from the EMS Board. OEHS is in favor.	Health and Human Services Committee	01/16/2025 - Request received 01/16/2025 - Date of introduction 01/21/2025 - Referred to Health and Human Services Committee

<p>annually to legislature. Potential issues identified with this bill are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •The Board of Emergency Medical Services is advisory to the Department and has no administrative control or access to the Emergency Medical Services Patient Care Reporting system. The Board would not be able to fulfill this requirement. •The Emergency Medical Services Patient Care Reporting System does not collect the number of emergency medical services telephone calls in Nebraska. •The bill does not provide for a clear definition of what is meant by emergency medical services organizational status. •The number of emergency medical services calls listed by emergency medical services primary patient caregiver level of care implies a one-to-one relationship and there could be more than one primary caregiver. This does not address emergency calls when there is no patient contact. •The average response times for each region does not specify what is meant by region. Typical reports refer to public health regions. The Department does identify an emergency medical service region for the sole purpose of 	<p>Health and Human Services Committee</p>	<p>01/22/2025 - Request received 01/22/2025 - Date of introduction 01/22/2025 - Wordekemper name added 01/24/2025 - Referred to Health and Human Services Committee 01/27/2025 - Dorn name added 01/29/2025 - Conrad name added</p>
	<p>Banking, Commerce and Insurance Committee</p>	<p>01/21/2025 - Date of introduction 01/23/2025 - Referred to Banking, Commerce and Insurance Committee 01/27/2025 - Notice of hearing for February 10, 2025</p>
	<p>Health and Human Services Committee</p>	<p>01/21/2025 - Request received 01/21/2025 - Date of introduction 01/23/2025 - Referred to Health and Human Services Committee</p>
<p>Changes mandatory reporting requirements. Appears to add, beginning January 1, 2027, mandatory reporters will need to complete training 90 days after employment or in their official capacity.</p>	<p>Judiciary Committee</p>	<p>01/21/2025 - Request received 01/21/2025 - Date of introduction 01/23/2025 - Referred to Judiciary Committee 01/28/2025 - Notice of hearing for February 07, 2025</p>

review of all existing and pending rules and regulations starting January 1, 2026 and every three years after. Report will include review for essential to health, safety, or welfare of the public, costs outweigh benefits, process to measure effectiveness, less restrictive alternative considered, promulgated as requirement of state statute, federal mandate, court decision.	Government, Military and Veterans Affairs Committee	01/09/2025 - Request received 01/09/2025 - Date of introduction 01/13/2025 - Referred to Government, Military and Veterans Affairs Committee
	Health and Human Services Committee	01/21/2025 - Request received 01/21/2025 - Date of introduction 01/23/2025 - Referred to Health and Human Services Committee
	Government, Military and Veterans Affairs Committee	01/22/2025 - Request received 01/22/2025 - Date of introduction 01/24/2025 - Referred to Government, Military and Veterans Affairs Committee
	Judiciary Committee	01/09/2025 - Request received 01/09/2025 - Date of introduction 01/13/2025 - Referred to Judiciary Committee 01/16/2025 - Notice of hearing for January 23, 2025
	Judiciary Committee	01/16/2025 - Date of introduction 01/21/2025 - Referred to Judiciary Committee 01/28/2025 - Notice of hearing for February 12, 2025
	Transportation and Telecommunications Committee	01/22/2025 - Request received 01/22/2025 - Date of introduction 01/24/2025 - Referred to Transportation and Telecommunications Committee
Department will seek any federal approvals for implementation and changes reimbursement to be on the basis of actual and allowable costs that are federally permissible.	Health and Human Services Committee	01/22/2025 - Request received 01/22/2025 - Date of introduction 01/24/2025 - Referred to Health and Human Services Committee