

MINUTES OF THE MEETING
of the NEBRASKA
BOARD OF Emergency
Medical Services
February 11, 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 0907, February 11, 2022, at the Location, 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
- Karen Bowlin
- Joel Cerny
- Ann Fiala
- Todd Hovey
- Linda Jensen
- Carolyn Petersen
- Carl Rennerfeldt
- Michael Sheridan
- Dr. James Smith

The following Board members were absent: Dr. Thomas Deegan, Dion Neumiller.

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
- Tonja Bohling
- Theresa Hampton
- Lisa Anderson, *Assistant Attorney General*

A quorum was present, and the meeting convened.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

MOTION: Rennerfeldt, made the motion, seconded by Bowlin, to adopt the agenda for the February 11, 2022, Board of Emergency Medical Services meeting.

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

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

MOTION: Boldt made the motion, seconded by Hovey, to approve the minutes of the December 10, 2021 meeting.

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

CLOSED SESSION

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

0910 *Meeting went into closed session.*
1012 *Meeting returned to Open Session.*

OPEN SESSION

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

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

LICENSURE RECOMMENDATIONS

There were no licensure recommendations.

AGENDA ITEM: Office of Emergency Health Systems

Wilson reported a combined program report was sent to each Board member prior to the meeting. He introduced Tonja Bohling who took the Administrative Assistant position. Wilson stated an offer was made for a licensure specialist replacement. She will start on 2/22/2022.

Licensing: Wilson reported the Department is still getting a few reinstatement applications due to the EMT level expiring on 12/31/2021 and from Executive Order, 22-13. The new licensing management system should roll out in May/June, 2022.

EMS Program: Carol Jorgensen reported in addition to the combined report, the EMS Specialists are working on scheduling EMS Service inspections. Ben Leseberg has left the program and she will be posting the open position for the Southeast Regional Specialist.

Education: Snodgrass did not have additional information other than what was submitted in the combined report. Bowlin asked for clarification regarding ride time and the Executive Order. Executive Order 22-13 does waive the field time requirement for EMT and AEMT students and ends March 31, 2022.

EMSC/CISM: Debbie Kuhn reported in addition to the combined report, the pediatric assessment was being resent to services for completion through the specialists. The program is needing more services to complete.

Smith reported the Board wants to better support mental health of all EMS providers and instructors.

Fiala motioned, seconded by Bowlin, for the Department to draft a memo on behalf of the Board regarding first responder mental health and provide resources for responders and mental health resiliency training options.

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

Trauma System: Sherri Wren reported in addition to the combined report, there has been interest in new hospital trauma designations. Trauma Board vacancies have been posted and are accepting applications. In May there will be a strategic planning listening session. Bailey reported there needs to be better education and promotion for EMS services on the trauma system.

Stroke/STEMI: Becka Neumiller reviewed the Bellevue police department success story with the recent Helmsley AED project. They had two out of three deployment cardiac saves with the new AED.

EHS Data: Sharon Steele reviewed the data previously submitted in the combined report for the 72 hour rule requirement. The Board discussed on what data they want to review and access to overall data. The National EMS Quality Alliance, NEMSQA, report data was reviewed and the Board discussed ideas on how to roll out findings statewide.

AGENDA ITEM: Statewide Physician Medical Director Update

Dr. Ernest was not able to attend. Wilson reported Dr. Ernest is working on the new model protocol format revisions. The EHS office is researching AEMT protocols for the new format.

AGENDA ITEM: EMS Committee Reports

Legislation and Rules and Regulations: Smith reported the committee is wrapping up revisions to Chapters 11, 12, and 13. An update was given on the Emergency Regulation for Chapter 12 ambulance standards. Wilson stated there were no comments at the public hearing of emergency regulations. The Board needs a final vote on the emergency regulations ambulance standard verbiage. The Board of Public Health is holding a special meeting for approval of the emergency regulations.

Rennerfeldt made the motion, seconded by Bailey, to adopt Chapter 12 emergency regulations as written and advance to the Board of Public Health.

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

Smith thanked Wilson for all of his hard work with regulations.

Regulation Revision: Wilson reported the committee is working on final revisions of Chapters 11, 12, and 13 to submit to the Board for review. He wants regulation revisions done as soon as possible in order to submit current revisions once the emergency regulations are complete. Wilson reviewed the steps of regulation revision approval. Smith wants to involve stakeholders early for review and input.

Scope of Practice: Fiala reported the EMT suctioning verbiage in the model protocols needs corrected.

Fiala made the motion, seconded by Jensen, to add IV/IM administration of ketorolac to the formulary for the AEMT level. Voting Yes: Bailey, Boldt, Bowlin, Cerny, Fiala, Hovey, Jensen, Petersen, Rennerfeldt, Sheridan, Smith. Voting No: None. Abstain: None. Absent: Deegan, Neumiller. Motion carried.

Fiala made the motion, seconded by Boldt, to allow PEEP valves on bag valve masks for the EMT level. Voting Yes: Bailey, Boldt, Bowlin, Cerny, Fiala, Hovey, Jensen, Petersen, Rennerfeldt, Sheridan, Smith. Voting No: None. Abstain: None. Absent: Deegan, Neumiller. Motion carried.

Fiala made the motion, seconded by Jensen, to allow EMT level and above to maintain high flow nasal cannula with consideration to EMS services being cognizant of oxygen supply usage, the freezing of oxygenation lines, and provider competency. Voting Yes: Bailey, Boldt, Bowlin, Cerny, Fiala, Hovey, Jensen, Petersen, Rennerfeldt, Sheridan, Smith. Voting No: None. Abstain: None. Absent: Deegan, Neumiller. Motion carried.

Bailey made the motion, seconded by Rennerfeldt, it is the Board's opinion for an EMT maintaining an already established IV infusion line with crystalloid solutions to also include D5 and D10. Voting Yes: Bailey, Boldt, Bowlin, Cerny, Fiala, Hovey, Jensen, Petersen, Rennerfeldt, Sheridan, Smith. Voting No: None. Abstain: None. Absent: Deegan, Neumiller. Motion carried.

Bailey made the motion, seconded by Hovey, to add an EMT can administer sub-lingual nitroglycerin to a patient with chest pain as long as the EMT has an IV access established, can transmit a 12-Lead ECG to a receiving facility, and the nitroglycerin administration is to be approved by the receiving physician. Voting Yes: Bailey, Boldt, Bowlin, Cerny, Fiala, Hovey, Jensen, Petersen, Rennerfeldt, Sheridan, Smith. Voting No: None. Abstain: None. Absent: Deegan, Neumiller. Motion carried.

It was the opinion of the protocol committee to leave the responsibility to the EMS service physician medical director for oversight of Point of Care Ultrasound (POCUS) usage, training, quality assurance, and competency instead of adding to model protocols. Bailey suggested to bring the Valley ambulance service back to the Board to present their data.

The Board took a short break at 1209 and resumed at 1228.

Education: Bowlin quickly reviewed the clarification of the waiver of field time for EMT and AEMT students.

Medical Direction: Smith reported Dr. John Bonta elected not to continue membership on the Board. He will be chairing the committee in the interim until another doctor joins the Board. Lisa Anderson stated she sometimes has issues with communicating with EMS service physician medical directors. There was discussion on how to improve this.

Data Collection: Bailey did not have anything further to report other than what was discussed earlier.

Workforce: Cerny reported the committee will help to work on the mental health resiliency training. Smith asked what can be done to increase initial courses being held, increase the number of training agencies, and overall recruitment. There was discussion on virtual classes, who can become a training agency, and recruiting from high school students and retired individuals.

Dispatch: No report.

AGENDA ITEM: Vaccination Mandate Questions

Wilson reported he is still waiting for a Department response and will disseminate when he has an answer.

AGENDA ITEM: Nebraska State Volunteer Firefighters Association (NSVFA)

Cerny reported the Nebraska State Fire School is still scheduled for May 20-22, 2022 in Grand Island. EMS Classes will be offered.

State Tuition Reimbursement as Incentive for Volunteer Emergency Responders (STRIVE) deadline is March 1, 2022. Information and applications are available on the NSVFA website, www.NSVFA.org under the SAFER Grant icon. This may be the last chance to get this grant.

Leadership for Recruitment and Retention training classes are set to happen in York February 18 and 19, 2022, March 11 and 12, 2022 in Beatrice and others in North Platte in April, Ainsworth in early June, and Fort Robinson late June. All expenses reimbursed through the NSVFA SAFER Grant for the participants.

The Fire Chief's Association is also hosting a Leadership training seminar in Kearney on March 26 and 27, 2022 with Richard Gasaway. Registration for all of these are available on the NSVFA Website, www.NSVFA.org

The NSVFA's Recruitment and Retention Committee is currently working on the guidelines for the new SAFER Grant we have received. This will include sending people to National Recruitment and Retention Seminars. This is the fourth SAFER grant the NSVFA has been awarded and only New York State and Texas have received more.

The NSVFA has started a Firefighter Cadet Committee to assist departments in getting cadet programs started.

Please check out the NFVC.org / Programs / Share the load. There is a lot information on Mental Health Issues.

AGENDA ITEM: Nebraska Emergency Medical Services Association (NEMSA)

Bowlin gave an update on NEMSA activities. The Nebraska Instructor Society, NIS, instructor day at the NEMSA super conference in Kearney was a success. We had about 25 instructors for the day. Wendy Snodgrass did a presentation on the state rules and regulations which is always good to keep everyone current. NIS election results: Amy Santos was reelected President; Marlys Schmidt was reelected as Member at Large. The Treasurer position was combined with the secretary. Ashley Shultz is the secretary/treasurer.

The NEMSA Super conference in January was a huge success. We ended up with just over 400 participants for the weekend.

Elections were held: Sandy Lewis ran uncontested as President, Sandy will remain President for the next 2 years. Evon Koeppen and Karolyn McElroy ran for 1st Vice President. Evon will be the new 1st Vice President. Marlene Bomar ran uncontested for Member at Large, and will remain in that position for the next 2 years.

NEMSA and NIS will be trying two mini-conferences again this year. March 11 and 12, 2022 will be in Columbus; March 11 will be a NIS instructor day from 1300 to 1600 and March 12 will be the NEMSA conference from 0800-1700.

In June there will be a NEMSA mini-conference in Sidney on June 24 and 25, 2022. Same schedule as Columbus. We will have more details at a later date as we are currently scheduling presenters.

NEMSA Super conference 2023 will move to the second weekend of March 2023. This will be our big 40th year NEMSA super conference.

NEMSA continues to work with our lobbyists to support a couple of bills in the house. LB760 and LB1014. These bills, if passed, would bring \$40 million to the volunteer departments in Nebraska. \$5 million for equipment and supplies and \$35 million for the purchase of new ambulances for the volunteer departments that are needing to upgrade. The initial survey monkey for the departments to be involved went out from NEMSA the first part of February.

AGENDA ITEM: Strategic Planning Updates

Wilson reported the dates have not yet been confirmed. Currently working with the facilitator to set the date. Initially planned for March 21, 2022 with alternate date of April 11, 2022.

AGENDA ITEM: Public Comment

There was no public comment.

CONCLUSION AND ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 1304.

Respectfully submitted,

Wendy Snodgrass
EHS Education and Compliance Manager