

MINUTES OF THE MEETING
of the NEBRASKA
BOARD OF Emergency
Medical Services
Friday, February 9, 2024

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting of the Nebraska Board of Emergency Medical Services was called to order by Dr. James Smith, Board Chairperson, at 10:40, Friday, February 9, 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 on 2/1/2024. 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:

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| • Michael Bailey | • Dr. Prince Harrison |
| • Ryan Batenhorst | • Todd Hovey |
| • Dr. Noah Bernhardson | • Brent Lottman |
| • Randy Boldt | • Dion Neumiller |
| • Karen Bowlin | • Carolyn Petersen-Moore |
| • Joel Cerny | • Michael Sheridan |
| • Ann Fiala | • Dr. James Smith |

The following Board members were absent:

- Linda Jensen
- Jonathan Kilstrom
- 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:

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| • Tonja Bohling | • Wendy Snodgrass |
| • Christy Duryea | • Sharon Steele |
| • Michelle Eutsler | • Danielle Sund, DHHS Legal |
| • Trevor Klaassen, <i>Investigations</i> | • Tim Wilson |
| • Debbie Kuhn (attended virtually) | • Sherri Wren |
| • Becka Neumiller (attended virtually) | |
| • TJ O'Neill, <i>Assistant Attorney General</i> | |
| • Diane Schoch | |

A quorum was present, and the meeting convened.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

MOTION: Bailey made the motion, seconded by Fiala, to adopt the agenda for the Friday, February 9, 2024, Board of Emergency Medical Services meeting.

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

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

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

MOTION: Bailey made the motion, seconded by Fiala, to approve the minutes of the Friday, December 8, 2023, meeting with the following corrections: correct spellings of stakeholder on Page 4, last paragraph, fourth line from the bottom and Page 5, first word; Page 5, paragraph 5, line 3, change Darrell Cross to Gerald Fraas and line 18 change Cross to Fraas; Page 6, paragraph 10, line 1 “bloodpressure” should be changed to two words; Page 10, second paragraph up from the bottom, line 1, Petesen should be changed to Petersen-Moore; and Page 11, Paragraph 1, line 1, Joseph Keene should be spelled Jozef Kuehn.

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

CLOSED SESSION

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

10:47 *Meeting went into closed session.*
 10:49 *Karen Bowlin left.*
 11:07 *Karen Bowlin returned.*
 11:15 *Klaassen left.*
 11:41 *Meeting returned to Open Session.*

OPEN SESSION

MOTION: Bowlin made the motion, seconded by Petersen-Moore, for the Board to go into open session.

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

LICENSURE RECOMMENDATIONS

– GUARDIAN FLIGHT APPLICATION

MOTION: Lottman made the motion, seconded by Bernhardson, to recommend the Department waive Title 172 NAC 12.11.02 (B) and issue a license for Guardian Flight.

Voting Yes: Bailey, Batenhorst, Bernhardson, Boldt, Bowlin, Cerny, Fiala, Harrison, Hovey, Lottman, Neumiller, Petersen-Moore, Sheridan, and Smith. Voting No: None. Abstain: None. Absent: Jensen, Kilstrom, and Vaughn. 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. Licensing: Wilson reported no significant changes beyond what was submitted. Renewal's for EMT's are in progress and postcards were sent out last week.
- b. EMS Program: No significant changes from what was submitted. Dr. Smith added the Telehealth Beta Project is going on regarding e-care. Wilson also added several are already installed. The Department will gather data on the usage, how the services are responding to it, and if they find it as a beneficial tool. The Department is finalizing things now regarding the listening sessions on the EMS assessment and a draft should be ready in March or April, 2024.
- c. Education and Training Agency Compliance: Snodgrass reported Cognitive Pass Rates Report were attached to the Agenda Packet and sent out. Corrective actions letters were sent out to those who fell below the 75% two-year pass rate. They have one month to send in a corrective action plan.
- d. Emergency Medical Services for Children (EMSC) Program: Kuhn went over the report that was submitted with nothing new. Debbie Kuhn will be retiring March 1, 2024. Secession planning is in progress and may take a couple of months due to a reclassification of this position. Applications from services for EMSC will go to Wilson until someone is hired.
- e. Critical Incident Stress Management (CISM) Program: Kuhn reported they are at 15 debriefings for this year. CISM Trainings will be held next week in Scottsbluff and Columbus.
- f. Trauma Program: Wren reported work on a new process for rehabilitation designation for trauma centers. A meeting has been scheduled with Tim Bokelman from Regional West to review this process. There are approximately thirteen Trauma Centers eligible for this designation. The Trauma Board has vacancies so please reach out to Sherri if you know someone who would be a good fit for any of these open vacancies.
- g. Stroke/STEMI Program: B. Neumiller reported nothing beyond what was submitted.
- h. EHS Data Systems: Steele reported they are working on adding rehabilitation designation to the Trauma system and are reviewing the data elements to be added to the system. Wilson gave an update on the Request for Proposal (RFP) for a new electronic reporting system. This is a two-year process. The Department is having to repost for the third time due to an administrator error. This process is being expedited and the posting will only last 3 weeks. The reporting site of ImageTrend is in the process of a revamp. Work is also being done on updating the shared reports.
- i. Statewide Physician Medical Director Update: Dr. Ernest reported final revisions for State Model Protocols have been sent to the Office of Emergency Health Systems. Next steps will be looking at: Physician Medical Director (PMD) training, the fellowship side with EMS Fellows, and the Prodigy System put out by the National Association of EMS Physicians (NAEMSP).

AGENDA ITEM: EMS Committee Reports

- a. Legislative/Rules and Regulation Committee Update
 - i. Meeting with the Governor – After the last Board meeting, Smith and Fiala met with the Governor's PR office person and Maureen Larson to discuss the RFP Data system.
 - ii. LB 1108 – Increase Fifty Cents for Life to Dollar for Life – LB1108 was at committee hearing on February 5, 2024. Boldt and Cerny were in attendance. LB1108 is stalled as of today in the Transportation Committee. There was no opposition or neutral testimony, and the Governor supports it. However, it is moving toward mid-February and this bill has not been selected as a priority bill. It probably won't pass this session unless it is included in another bill. Discussion was held. Hard evidence of budgetary data is needed. The Legislative Committee can request a financial breakdown from the OEHS, and the Board can request a financial status update from the Department. Smith requested the Board be given a financial status update at each Board meeting.

MOTION: Cerny made the motion, seconded by Bailey, for the Board to receive, at each Board meeting, a financial report from the Office of Emergency Health Systems. Discussion was held. It was suggested to also send the report to Senator Dorn. Wilson will run this request up the chain for review/approval.

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

- (1) State Trauma Board Meeting – Bailey reported Emily Cantrell, Trauma Board Chairperson, testified in support of the increase of Fifty Cents for Life. The Executive Committees of both the EMS and Trauma Boards met via Zoom to discuss how the Boards can work together to support this bill.
- iii. LB 876 – Safe Haven –this law is changing some of the safe haven requirements and involve fire and EMS. Wilson raised concerns about language in bill that allows for having a baby dropped off at fire and EMS stations that are “manned”. The main concern is how does someone who is traveling, not familiar with the area, know if the station is manned or not? This will be addressed through public education.
- iv. LB 910 – Canine Care – Gerald Fraas, Senator Riepe’s aid spoke – this bill was introduced last week. The hearing was successful with only one opposition testimony. There are two proposed amendments to the language: 1) DHHS wants an effective date, and 2) good faith waiver language. An effective date will be set. Good faith language will not be changed, and a statement was given to Fiala regarding the duties of EMS to treat human beings before any treatment to law enforcement canines. There will be a push to vote this bill out of committee next week. The Veterinary Board has been consulted with and they raised scope of practice concerns. Other states have educational models, model protocols, and military protocols that can be used. Education for EMS providers will be needed if this bill passes.
- v. Other bills being watched: LB1417 – CISM changes, to clean up the Statutes, were introduced; LB1320 – addresses overdose information from an EMS perspective, how services report overdoses to the Department, and how the Department reports this information to the OD Map.

Dr. Smith reported that in April of every year, the Department of Labor and Statistics comes out with a report of the relative worth of a volunteer hour. This currently is at \$31.80 per hour. There are approximately 380 services in Nebraska. If they are staffed 24/7 for 365 days with two volunteers, it equals over \$211 million saved by volunteers in Nebraska in 2023.

The Board took a short break at 12:24, resumed at 12:44. Working through lunch.

b. Scope of Practice – Fiala reported.

- i. Model Protocol Revision – The Committee determined protocols will be disseminated to stakeholders (EMS Board members, service leaders, training agencies, and PMDs) across the State. OEHS will send out protocols to stakeholders via Constant Contact. People will have one month to respond. Responses may be submitted through Redcap. Wilson has three leads on using mobile applications for protocol reference. He will pull in other staff members to evaluate and review the applications. A goal of July 1, 2024, was given for a completion date for the application with a statewide roll out date of the July Statewide EMS Conference.
- ii. Proposed changes/additions/deletions – Smith introduced the topic of Zofran (Ondansetron) being added to the EMT scope of practice.

MOTION: Sheridan made the motion, seconded by Harrison, to propose adding Zofran (Ondansetron) oral disintegrating tablets to the scope of practice for EMTs. Discussion was held.

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

- iii. Ketamine – Dr. Smith discussed a Colorado legal case involving a Ketamine death. It was suggested for the Board to make a statement supporting the safe use of Ketamine regarding appropriate weight-based dosing and appropriate monitoring. Nebraska protocols on Ketamine have been reviewed and found to be appropriate and evidence based. The literature also points to Ketamine being an appropriate medication.

MOTION: Bernhardson made the motion, seconded by Fiala, for members of the Board to draft a formal statement in support of the use of Ketamine. Discussion was held.

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

- c. EMS Education – Bowlin reported. This committee will try finding an educator that has classes on better practices for teaching EMS. Discussion was held regarding education in rural areas. Workforce continues to be a big issue with many educators being rural and agricultural workers. Barriers for rural EMS, including the time commitment, travel commitment, and lack of consistent hours were discussed. Hybrid vs. in-person vs. online classes were discussed. Hybrid classes can be more successful than in-person and online classes. This type of class also makes a class more available to more people. Lab is key to the success of hybrid classes with 2/3 of the class online and 1/3 being a hands-on in-person lab. Discussion was also held on how to promote educators. The idea was proposed to the Education and Workforce Committees to explore the possibility to hold an Educational Summit. Cherri Fuehring, with the Nebraska Training Agency Directors Association, will send to Bowlin a list of key individuals within each training agency who could be brought into the Educational Summit. The Education Committee was asked to come up with a way to recognize EMS instructors.
- d. EMS Workforce – Cerny gave an update on the Workforce Committee. This committee is still waiting to see the results of the survey that was sent out last fall and items discussed during the open forums. The Committee discussed leadership training. There may be a Flex Grant available to assist with workforce development and the Committee encouraged the Office of Emergency Health Systems to apply for it. There is also a SAMHSA Grant that services can apply for (but not the State) to get funding to help locally. The Committee also looked at the need to get EMS classes available for smaller groups.

AGENDA ITEM: REVIEW SOUTH DAKOTA AMBULANCE STUDY

Michael Dwyer shared the South Dakota Ambulance study at the last Board meeting. Smith reviewed and discussed the South Dakota best practices: Flexible state staffing requirements, telemedicine in motion, upgrade of all ambulance heart monitors/defibrillators, statewide electronic prehospital patient care reporting system, remote EMT training, low cost & no cost EMT training, and allowing ambulance services to teach EMRs and EMTs internally. Many of these are already in place in Nebraska.

AGENDA ITEM: MEETING DATE CHANGE – MAY 13, 2024

Smith announced the need to change the date of the May 13, 2024 EMS Board meeting due to the National Association of State EMS Officials (NASEMSO) Annual Meeting being held that week. Department staff will not be available to attend a Board meeting that week.

MOTION: Bowlin made the motion, seconded by Boldt, to change the date of the May EMS Board Meeting to Monday, May 6, 2024.

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

AGENDA ITEM: NEBRASKA STATE VOLUNTEER FIRE ASSOCIATION (NSVFA)

Cerny gave an update on NSVFA. Through the NSVFA SAFER Grant 4, they will be sending Firefighter/EMTs to attend the National Volunteer Fire Council's Training Summit in Buffalo, NY on June 21 and 22, 2024, where they will take classes on Recruitment and Retention and upon return, help teach classes across the State. Those that attend will have all their expenses paid. All the Firefighters/EMTs that have attended past National Volunteer Fire Council's (NVFC) Training Summits and the Volunteer & Combination Officers Section (VCOS) are available to go out and teach. If you know a department that would like someone to present, please contact the NSVFA office.

The next leadership training sponsored by Nebraska Fire Chief's Association will be held in Norfolk at the Norfolk Lodge and Suites March 16, 2024. Tiger Schmittendorf will be the instructor and if you follow recruitment and retention nationally, he is one of the premier speakers on the subject.

The NSVFA Fire School book just came out this week and there will be 32 classes that will be held on the State Fair Grounds. There will be a Recruitment and Retention class and there will be three different 12-hour segmented EMS Classes and one set will be paramedic-based training.

The NSVFA Board, with their Lobbyist, Jerry Stilmock, have been actively working with Senators to get bills that affect EMS either passed or eliminated. Probably the one that we have been pushing the most is LB1108 which will get more money to be used in EMS division of HHS.

AGENDA ITEM: NEBRASKA EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES ASSOCIATION (NEMSA)

Evon Koeppen, VP with NEMSA, reported. NEMSA has been busy in the last couple of weeks testifying in support of some legislative bills and will continue monitoring these bills: LB1108 – the increase of fifty cents for life to one dollar and LB1391 – requiring AEDs to be placed within 3 minutes of high school athletic facilities (they sent a letter of support). NEMSA will host a legislative breakfast from 7:30am - 9:00am on March 15, 2024 at Zulkoski Weber Lobbyist Office in Lincoln.

NEMSA President, Sandy Lewis, was interviewed in support of telemedicine technology for rural Nebraska squads. Sixteen state-level rural EMS departments are being equipped with this technology for the trial.

A mini conference was hosted by NEMSA on January 23, 2024 in Broken Bow at Mid Plains Community College. Over forty EMS providers were in attendance. Also offered in Broken Bow was a three-hour EMS Medical Director Training presented by Dr. Shaila Coffey and Dr. Abraham Compos. They are looking for additional options for one-day mini conferences. If any areas are interested in hosting one, please contact NEMSA.

The NEMSA Super Conference will be from March 8-10, 2024 in Kearney with the NIS Day on March 7, 2024. The class schedule is on their website. A full-day EMS Medical Director Training presented by Dr. Coffey and Dr. Compos will be offered at the NEMSA conference held Friday, March 8, 2024. This training is offered free to all Medical Directors or their liaisons with lunch provided. PMDs will also receive CMEs for their time.

AGENDA ITEM: TRAINING AGENCY DIRECTORS

Cheri thanked the Board for being invited to speak. This group is working on getting information updated and completed. They are working on getting reports in from all the agencies and keeping training agency information updated quarterly. They will include continuing education classes as well.

AGENDA ITEM: PUBLIC COMMENT

1:54 pm *Ryan Batenhorst left.*
2:01 pm *Ryan Batenhorst returned.*

John Bomar, with Saving Rural EMS, commented that on March 13, 2024 at 7:00 pm Mike Bailey will be doing a Zoom program. Also there will be a grant class held on February 16, 2024 in Gibbon. He also touched on the EMS Workforce Report.

Michael Dwyer spoke and encouraged EMS Board's work. He is optimistic regarding LB1108 with an amendment proposed to look at other sources for funding besides Fifty Cents for Life. Dwyer offered his time and energies to help the EMS Board. He also suggested for Board members to do a Legislative Resolution (LR) for training and education issues.

Jozef Kuehn asked for thoughts on reaching out to younger people coming out of school and entering the workforce. It was suggested to challenge the groups like the Workforce Committee, agencies, and professional organizations to get the younger generation involved.

CONCLUSION AND ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Smith adjourned the meeting. The meeting adjourned at 2:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Tonja Bohling
OEHS Administrative Technician