

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING
of the NEBRASKA
BOARD OF Emergency
Medical Services**

July 16, 2021

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting of the Nebraska Board of Emergency Medical Services was called to order by Dr. James Smith, Board Chairperson, at 0906, July 16, 2021, at the DHHS Building, 5220 S 16th St, Lincoln NE 68508. Copies of the agenda were emailed in advance to the Board members, emailed to interested parties, and posted on the Department of Health and Human Services website. Smith announced the location of an available copy of the Open Meetings Act within the room.

ROLL CALL

The following board members were present to answer roll call:

- Michael Bailey
- Karen Bowlin
- Joel Cerny
- Ann Fiala
- Todd Hovey
- Linda Jensen
- Dr. Michael Miller
- Carolyn Petersen
- Carl Rennerfeldt
- Michael Sheridan
- Dr. James Smith
- Scott Wiebe

The following Board members were absent: Randy Boldt, Dr. Bonta, Dr. Deegan.

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
- Laura Huggins
- Lisa Anderson, *Assistant Attorney General*

A quorum was present, and the meeting convened.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

MOTION: Bailey made the motion, seconded by Miller, to adopt the agenda for the July 16, 2021, Board of Emergency Medical Services meeting.

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

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

MOTION: Miller made the motion, seconded by Bowlin, to approve the minutes of the May 10, 2021 meeting.

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

CLOSED SESSION

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

0909 *Meeting went into Closed session.*
 0919 *Hovey left room.*
 0937 *Hovey returned.*
 0938 *Wiebe left room.*
 0957 *Wiebe returned*
 1016 *Meeting returned to Open Session.*

OPEN SESSION

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

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

LICENSURE RECOMMENDATIONS**James Baker– PARAMEDIC APPLICATION**

MOTION: Miller made the motion, seconded by Bowlin, to deny issuance of paramedic license based on misrepresentation of material facts.

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

Joshua Haswell– EMT APPLICATION

MOTION: Fiala made the motion, seconded by Rennerfeldt, to recommend approval of EMT application.

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

William De Hart– EMT APPLICATION

MOTION: Miller made the motion, seconded by Jensen, to deny issuance of EMT license based on diagnosis of alcohol use disorder mild and previous convictions.

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

The Board took a short break at 1020, resumed at 1034.

AGENDA ITEM: Point of Care Ultra Sound

Emma Zeratsky and Josh Hansen from Valley Fire Protection District #5 and Dr. Coffey from UNMC joined the meeting. The Valley Fire Protection District #5 members reviewed the steps they took prior to submitting for skill approval and why they would like to utilize point of care ultrasound. Multiple questions were asked by the Board regarding practice, education, and continued competency. Dr. Miller asked if they would be willing to use their results as a pilot program and share data with the Department and EMS Board. Dr. Coffey stated this should be possible. Dr. Smith asked Dr. Ernest for input. Dr. Ernest asked Dr. Jared Marx, attending via Zoom, to add additional information as a subject matter expert. Dr. Ernest gave comments and supports this as a pilot project. Wilson stated he would research if a pilot program could be utilized.

MOTION: Miller made the motion, seconded by Fiala, to approve the Scope of Practice form for point of care ultrasound as written.

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

AGENDA ITEM: Office of Emergency Health Systems

Wilson reported the combined program report was sent to the Board prior to the meeting. The new licensing software project rollout has been pushed out to February, 2022. The EMT renewal online portal will open beginning of October, 2021.

The OEHS was awarded a Health Disparities Grant. The funding will be utilized for an EMS telemedicine trial, EMS providers and point of care testing equipment/training for COVID, EMS recruitment/retention, CISM recruitment/retention, and implementing community paramedicine.

Carol Jorgensen thanked the intern, Ryan Houser, who has been working on an EMS data collection project. We are excited for the results. Another intern, Tina Vu, is working on the GIS mapping project. She gave a summary of the Interactive GIS project. Discussion was held on the future use of the data.

Debbie Kuhn reported the participation for the National Pediatric assessment survey is at 47%. The program is needing 80% participation from hospitals. The CISM conference is scheduled for 9/18-9/19, 2021. Speakers are lined up. Wilson reported it was an extremely busy year for CISM activations. Volunteers are needed for the team.

AGENDA ITEM: Statewide Physician Medical Director Update

Dr. Ernest shared information regarding the recent passing of a bill by the State of Colorado for the use of Ketamine for patients with excited delirium. Work is continuing on the new protocol format. Attention is needed on the AEMT scope of practice. He voiced concern with the passing motion for point of care ultrasound and possible lack of physician medical director oversight.

The Board took a short break at 1150, resumed at 1203.

AGENDA ITEM: EMS Committee Reports

Legislation and Rules and Regulations: Dr. Smith informed the Board the proposed regulation changes are available for review, comments, and/or suggestions. Discussion was held on the 72 hour rule requirement for submitting a patient care report. The Board would like to see data to support revision to the rule. The Data committee will work with Department on obtaining certain data criteria.

Discussion was held on a letter submitted regarding regulatory ambulance standards. Dr. Smith asked if there could be an emergency action taken now to help with issues not being able to purchase ambulances meeting the new ambulance standard regulation. Wilson will look into options.

There was discussion regarding a letter submitted to lower the minimum age to obtain an EMS license. The Board consensus was to leave the minimum age at 18.

Dr. Smith thanked those who submitted letters and encourage others to do the same. He will follow up with those who submitted letters with the Board's decision.

Scope of Practice: Fiala made the motion, seconded by Rennerfeldt, to allow EMTs and higher to use glucagon nasally with documented education.

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

Education: This will be Dr. Miller's last meeting. Dr. Smith thanked him for his many years of service. The Education committee chair position will be open. Prior to the Board meeting, Smith reached out to committee members for a replacement. Bowlin agreed to take over as chair.

There were no updates from the Medical Direction, Data Collection, Workforce, or Dispatch committees.

AGENDA ITEM: Nebraska State Volunteer Firefighters Association (NSVFA)

Cerny reported the NSVFA has one class available on recruitment and retention in Lincoln on August 21 and 22, 2021. The class will be held at the Embassy Suites. This class will be fully reimbursable through the NSVFA Safer Grant. There will also be a class this fall in Columbus, NE with the dates to be determined.

The NSVFA Recruitment and Retention committee has worked with their E-Board and have applied for another Safer Grant to help with recruitment and retention. The committee has already been asked more question about the grant application which means the grant has passed the first round of review.

The three main Legislative bills the NSVFA was working on passed. These included the Line of Duty Death Benefits for Emergency Responders, the Firefighter Cancer Act, and the increase in the Mutual Finance Organization funding.

AGENDA ITEM: Nebraska Emergency Medical Services Association (NEMSA)

Bowlin reported on behalf of NEMSA the board held a strategic planning meeting. Mini-conferences are being held across the state. The first one in Valentine, NE was not well attended. The main conference will be held January 13-16, 2022 in Kearney.

Bowlin gave an update from the Training Agency Directors Association. Discussion was held at their last meeting on the new BLS psychomotor exam format.

AGENDA ITEM: Update of State of Emergency and Executive Orders

Wilson stated the State of Emergency has been rescinded. Executive Orders will be over 7/30/2021. There may be a backlog with the fingerprint process. EMR, AEMT, EMT-I, and paramedic levels of licensure will now need to renew by 10/31/2021 if not already done so. The EMT renewal not is not affected by the Executive Order. EMTs must renew by 12/31/2021.

AGENDA ITEM: COVID-19 Update

Wilson reported the OEHS is receiving questions from services regarding mask usage. The State does not mandate mask wearing. The Department recommends following CDC guidance and local requirements.

COVID-19 information and resources will be updated on the OEHS website. Delta variant numbers are increasing.

AGENDA ITEM: Strategic Planning Process Discussion

Smith reminded the Board of the upcoming strategic planning on Nov 10, 2021. The location is to be determined. The Board should send Wilson topic items for discussion.

AGENDA ITEM: Board Positions Vacant

Wilson reported the Physician Assistant and AEMT Board positions are still open. Board terms are being updated. He is working with Governor's office with the status of appointments. Miller's position will be open after this meeting. The Governor's office will reach out to members whose terms are expiring.

Smith asked for nominations for the opening Secretary position with the departure of Miller. Fiala nominated Rennerfeldt for the Secretary position, Jensen seconded.

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

Bowlin asked about the opening position on the Protocol committee. Interested Board members should email Dr. Smith.

Wilson stated Miller is also on the Rules and Regulations committee and is the designated Board consultant to the expert committee panel. Replacement for the Board consultant is to be added as an agenda item for the next meeting. Board members interested in the Rules and Regulations committee should email Dr. Smith.

AGENDA ITEM: Public Comment

Bowlin thanked Carol Jorgensen for the great job color coding the Statewide Conference class schedule to match the NCCP renewal model. Conference attendees appreciated the information.

CONCLUSION AND ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 1335.

Respectfully submitted,

Wendy Snodgrass
EHS Education and Compliance Manager