

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING
of the NEBRASKA
BOARD OF Emergency
Medical Services
Friday, July 12, 2024**

CALL TO ORDER, ROLL CALL, & DECLARATION OF QUORUM

The meeting of the Nebraska Board of Emergency Medical Services was called to order by Dr. James Smith, Board Chairperson, at 9:04 AM, Friday, July 12, 2024, virtually by Zoom. 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 7/8/2024. Smith announced the location of an available copy of the Open Meetings Act.

ROLL CALL:

The following board members were present to answer roll call:

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

The following Board members were absent: Karen Bowlin, Jonathan Kilstrom, Michael Sheridan, and 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:

- Tonja Bohling
- T.J. O'Neill, Assistant Attorney General
- C.J. Roberts
- Dennis Scott, DHHS Investigations
- Tim Wilson
- Sherri Wren

DECLARATION OF QUORUM

A quorum was present, and the meeting convened.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

MOTION: Bailey made the motion, seconded by Boldt to adopt the agenda for the 7/12/2024, Board of Emergency Medical Services meeting.

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

Motion carried.

These minutes have been approved by the
Board of EMS on 9/9/2024.

9:11

*Leslie Vaughn joined.***APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES**

MOTION: Petersen-Moore made the motion, seconded by Batenhorst, to approve the minutes of the 5/6/2024 meeting.

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

Motion carried.

CLOSED SESSION

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

Motion carried.

9:18 *Meeting went into closed session.*
 9:27 *CJ Roberts DHHS Attorney joined.*
 9:47 *Dennis Scott DHHS Investigations joined.*
 10:12 *Meeting returned to Open Session.*

BOARD RECOMMENDATIONS**TENA FERGUSON – INITIAL EMT APPLICATION**

MOTION: Bailey made the motion, seconded by Fiala to recommend Tena Ferguson EMT license be issued with no restrictions.

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

Motion carried.

ALEXANDER WITT – INSTRUCTOR LICENSE APPLICATION

MOTION: Fiala made the motion, seconded by Jensen, to recommend Alexander Witt EMS Instructor License be issued with the same probationary terms and conditions that are currently on his EMT License due to previous diagnosis and conviction history.

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

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 gave updates. The Licensing program is wrapping up the audits. One thing noticed throughout the audits was that people need more documentation regarding educational hours and people are not getting the educational hours in the appropriate categories. The last audit was done in 2019. This is also the first audit done in the NCCP style education. The Department is working on licensing software update and user testing will start in August. December is the go live target date. Nebraska EMS is non-compliant with the EMS Compact; therefore, providers are not eligible for compact privileges. Starting in January, this will be a priority to get an API connection so things can be submitted to the EMS Compact. The national EMS ID number has already been processed on all EMS providers.
- b. EMS Program: No updates beyond the report submitted. Highlights include inspections are going good, statewide assessment final report should be coming out next week, the pilot project for EMS telemedicine is going well with 214 activations and positive feedback. The endgame of the pilot project would be to show the efficacy of the project and find funding to broaden the scope of the initial project to services who want to participate and have it funded. The end of the project will be staggered between December of 2024 and June 2025.
- c. Education and Training Agency Compliance: No updates beyond the report submitted. Wilson reminded that as of July 1, 2024 the ALS cognitive exam will start for the Advanced EMT and Paramedics and there will be no longer be psychomotor testing for ALS. Also, this weekend at Statewide EMS Conference National Registry Representatives will be available for questions regarding National Registry.
- d. Emergency Medical Services for Children (EMSC) Program: Wilson reported the job reclassification is completed and the job posted. If anyone is interested in this position they should apply.
- e. Critical Incident Stress Management (CISM) Program: No updates beyond the report submitted. Wilson highlighted the CISM Conference will be held September 14 - 15, 2024 and ongoing training for anyone interested in being a CISM member.
- f. Trauma Program: Wren reported \$89,000.00 was awarded to the Trauma Program through the PHHS Block Grant. A good portion of this will be used to fund a Statewide Trauma Symposium. No date has been set for the Symposium, yet. Diane is working with Albion, Winnebago, Schuyler, and Cozad on the consultation process to get them designated. Smith commented there was good feedback on the TNC Day.
- g. Stroke/STEMI Program: No updates beyond the report submitted. Wilson reminded the Stroke Conference will be September 20, 2024 in three or four different locations and the Department has teamed up with IEXCEL Center to coordinate the conference.
- h. EHS Data Systems: No updates beyond the report submitted. Wilson added the Request For Proposal has been awarded for both the Trauma Registry and the EMS Patient Care Reporting System with ImageTrend being solicited again. The transition from version 3.4- 3.5 is being worked on by Sharon assisted by Mason. Both are also looking at run form updates. Sharon, Mason, and the area EMS Specialist will be helping services with the setup of those run forms.
- i. Statewide Physician Medical Director Update: Dr. Ernest reported on protocol revisions. The first batch of getting feedback from the Redcap survey implemented into the protocol set is done and the 2nd batch is currently being worked on and should be done midweek next week.

AGENDA ITEM: EMS BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS

Committee reports were given by committee members.

- a. Legislative/Rules and Regulation – Wilson gave updates on legislation. LB1355 (Opioids Bill) passed. Services will have training regarding the documentation of opioids coming soon. LB910 (K-9 Bill) the Department is currently checking with the veterinary Board about any issues (possible any needed education surrounding this bill. Education for the K-9 bill may be borrowed from other states' education. LB1108 (Funding Bill) passed increasing the Fifty Cents for Life funding which helps fund the Office of Emergency Health Systems. The Department is looking at implementation of this bill which may require training/education therefore Wilson, Snodgrass, Jorgensen are working with training agencies. Funding will be primarily focused on sustainability. The first draw of funding should come around the last quarter 2024 or first quarter 2025.

Questions were raised about ARPA Funding. Wilson gave an update. The Department had a staff member primarily working on the ARPA funding payments to services for ambulances and equipment. This staff member has been out since the end of April with a major medical event. Wilson encouraged services to reach out to DHHS.EMSTraumaProgram@nebraska.gov and he will address issue from there. The left-over funding has not been addressed due to this shortage in staff. Wilson has received approval to hire a temporary staff member to work on ARPA. No focus on ambulances; the focus is now on equipment funding. \$12-15 million was requested.

b. Scope of Practice

- i. Model Protocol Revision
- ii. Proposed changes/additions/deletions
 - i. Clarification was made regarding initiating blood products in the field by ALS providers. The Committee's decision is this is within the scope of practice.
 - ii. Aftercare Cardiac Infusion Catheters by ALS providers. Can ALS providers withdraw fluid from the catheter that has been put in place previously? The Committee's decision is this is within the scope of practice.
 - iii. BLS provider giving nitroglycerin. Can a BLS provider reach out to their PMD to read and interpret? The Committee's decision is this is the scope of practice (given some verbiage changes in protocol) provided the online PMD follow the same practice, look at EKG, and give approval. Verbiage will get changed in current protocols and changed on the new protocol draft as well. Wilson commented updated current protocols have been sent out to the website in May 2024.
 - iv. Maintaining IVs with electrolytes by EMTs. The Board of Emergency Medical Services' decision is this is not within the scope of a BLS provider. The patient should be monitored if giving additional electrolyte solutions when someone has an IV solution that may impact cardiac.
 - v. IV infusion therapy. The Committee's decision is that this needs to have PMD oversight.

10:52

Noah Bernhardson left.

- vi. EMR Model Protocol. The Committee's decision is to leave the EMR Model Protocol as word document.
- iii. Protocols have been returned to Dr. Ernest for review. The next protocol meeting will be July 22, 2024 at 3:00 p.m. These have a target roll-out date of August 2024.

MOTION: Jensen made the motion, seconded by Bailey for Affirmation of the EMS Board position on ALS providers to be able to start blood products in the field and ALS providers being able to access previously placed pericardiocentesis catheters for the purpose of aspiration.

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

Motion carried.

AGENDA ITEM: NEBRASKA STATE VOLUNTEER FIRE ASSOCIATION (NSVFA)

Cerny gave the following report:

- a. Through the NSVFA SAFER Grant 4, Mark Stevens of Ralston VFD, Ashely Brock of Holdrege VFD, Samantha Yonkers of Red Willow VFD, and Micheal Dwyer of Arlington were able to attend the National Volunteer Fire Council's Training Summit on June 21-22, 2024, in Buffalo, NY where they took classes to help teach Recruitment and Retention classes across the State. They have already started putting their programs together from what they learned so they can also go out and teach others. If you know a department that would like someone to come present, please contact

the NSVFA office to set something up. Three more volunteers will be sent to the Volunteer & Combination Officers Section's (VCOS's) Symposium in the Sun in Florida in November.

11:02 Noah Bernhardson joined.

- b. Another Leadership training will be held in Gering on Thursday, October 17, 2024. This is the first day of the annual NSFVA Conference with business meetings and elections on Friday and Saturday. Dan Eggleston of Virginia will be the guest instructor. Those attending a least 2 of his 3 different, two-hour, presentation may get their travel, lodging, and meal stipend paid for through the Safer Grant. This annual Conference will be held on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday, October 17-19, 2024.
- c. The NSVFA Fire School was a huge success with over 1,000 attendees. The next board meeting will be in Chadron on August 3, 2024, where all the comment cards will be reviewed, and planning will be started for 2025.
- d. The Board has been actively sending out information about the proposed OSHA update of the Emergency Response Standard. Most items in the proposed standard are truly looking to keep emergency responders safe but many items will not be able to be met by smaller department because of budgetary restraints. Nebraska is not an OSHA State, so most departments don't have to worry about OSHA showing up to do an inspection of their service, but there is nothing stopping someone from suing a service for not following the best practices detailed in the standard when something bad happens. Some of the items that will affect medical services include:
 - i. Develop a Risk Management Plan
 - ii. Complete a Community Vulnerability Assessment
 - iii. Have an Emergency Response Plan
 - iv. Have a Mental Health Plan
 - v. Do Medical Evaluations and Surveillances (Physicals must meet NFPA 1582 Standards)
 - vi. Have Behavior Health Evaluations and have resources to help with issues
 - vii. Have a Health and Fitness Program
 - viii. Higher Training requirements
 - ix. Have a Facility Preparedness and Vulnerability Assessment
 - x. Have a detailed Decontamination Plan
 - xi. Have written Vehicle Operator Training with Written SOP's that include personally owned vehicles
 - xii. Use an Incident Management System that establishes safe work zones
 - xiii. Have a documented Mayday Procedure
 - xiv. Conduct and document Post Incident Analysis

These are just few of the requirements. Public comments can be submitted in writing until July 22, 2024. For further questions, please visit the National Volunteer Fire Council (NVFC) website where there is a special tab dealing with updated OSHA requirements and there are links to write public comments. Several NSVFA members will be attending a meeting in Kearney on Monday, July put on by the Small Business Administration where they will be discussing OSHA 1919.156.

AGENDA ITEM: NEBRASKA EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES ASSOCIATION (NEMSA)/NIS

Amy Santos gave the NEMSA update in the chat due to being in the conference vendor area and there being a high level of noise. Wilson read this to the Board.

NEMSA is in their down time planning for the next March conference. Work is currently being done with the NEMSA lobbyist to set up a "new Senator training" to get the class of Senators updated on what EMS is about in the state and EMS needs throughout the state. Planning continues for additional EMS Medical Director trainings for around the state and offering this training via Zoom is being explored. Santos also thanked the Board members for all their time.

AGENDA ITEM: TRAINING AGENCY DIRECTORS

Fuehring gave an update on training and identifying language/terminology issues. The education and training terminology can be confusing, so the following terminology was defined:

Face-to-Face Training – traditional way. Students come into one location and have a face-to-face interaction. This requires students to be in class and lab at least 3 times per week. For students it is very time consuming, travel is involved, and has a high time commitment.

Hybrid Training – offers some coursework in an online format (assignments, quizzes, etc.). These can be completed at any time for the student, making it very flexible. Other coursework can vary (prerecorded lectures can be accessed at a student's convenience or Zoom with live instruction which can be a bit more rigid). There are also required labs which are done in-person and more hands-on per national training guidelines. This type of training offers a lot of flexibility for the student and instructor, but also requires much more prep work getting things set up for the students. It is a good option for getting EMS out into the rural agencies. The challenge comes with the lack of people who have done any online work. There is trepidation about embarking on this form of training, both from students as well as instructors.

Online Learning – this typically (as far as EMT education goes) refers to the online component of Hybrid classes. A true online class is 100% online which is not possible due to the required lab portion which must be done hands-on and in-person.

Fuehring reminded that class format needs to take into consideration student learning styles. She also reminded, as a training agency, students need to be assessed periodically as students are moving through the course for both cognitive leaning and hands-on Lab portion. Item analysis should also be done, looking at quiz/exam questions to make sure they are valid and reliable, accurately measuring competencies.

The Training Agency Directors will continue to work with DHHS collecting and sharing data regarding EMT training.

AGENDA ITEM: PUBLIC COMMENT

Michael Dwyer commented the telehealth program is tremendous. He also said the new patient reporting system is good.

The endgame of LB1108 is data. Dwyer asks specifically that the focus of LB1108 should be on data. There are two Legislative Resolutions (study resolutions) coming up in the Legislature in October or November that could impact EMS. These resolutions can provide an opportunity to share the anecdotal stories about EMS and to present data. This can also provide an opportunity to tell new Senators about EMS.

Dwyer also commented he submitted testimony on OSHA rules. These rules can impact EMS services and how they do business. Cerny and Dwyer will be attending a Small Business Administration meeting in Kearney on Monday, July 15, 2024 and will share some of the EMS concerns there.

CONCLUSION AND ADJOURNMENT

The next EMS Board meeting will be in-person in Lincoln on Monday, September 9, 2024.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at approximately 11:20 AM.

Respectfully submitted,

Tonja Bohling

Tonja Bohling

OEHS Administrative Technician