

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING  
of the NEBRASKA  
BOARD OF Emergency  
Medical Services  
May 8, 2020**

**CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting of the Nebraska Board of Emergency Medical Services was called to order by Dr. James Smith, Board Chairperson, at 0904, by WebEx Meeting and in-person attendance at the Gold's Building, Lincoln, NE 68509. Copies of the agenda were emailed in advance to the Board members, emailed to interested parties, posted outside the Licensure Unit within the Nebraska State Office Building, 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
- Dr. John Bonta
- Karen Bowlin
- Joel Cerny
- Dr. Thomas Deegan
- Ann Fiala
- Todd Hovey
- Dr. Michael Miller
- Dion Neumiller
- Carolyn Petersen
- Carl Rennerfeldt
- Dr. James Smith

The following Board members were absent: Linda Jensen, Michael Sheridan, Scott Wiebe.

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
- Elizabeth Coker
- Lisa Anderson, *Assistant Attorney General*
- Investigators

A quorum was present, and the meeting convened.

**ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA**

**MOTION:** Rennerfeldt made the motion, seconded by Miller, to adopt the agenda for the May 8, 2020, Board of Emergency Medical Services meeting.

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

**APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES**

**MOTION:** Miller made the motion, seconded by Bailey, to approve the minutes of the February 24, 2020 meeting.

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

### **CLOSED SESSION**

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

0911            *Meeting went into closed session.*  
 0912            *Jensen Arrived*  
 0917            *Bowlin and Cerny recused*  
 0928            *Bowlin and Cerny returned*  
 0928            *Bonta recused*  
 0947            *Bonta returned*  
 1000            *Bonta recused*  
 1008            *Bonta returned*  
 1022            *Meeting returned to Open Session.*

### **OPEN SESSION**

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

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

### **LICENSURE RECOMMENDATIONS**

#### **PHILLIP LARSON– EMT REINSTATEMENT APPLICATION**

**MOTION:** Miller made the motion, seconded by Fiala, to deny reinstatement EMT application based on 1) misdemeanor convictions; 2) misrepresentation of material facts due to failing to report second reckless driving conviction on his EMT renewal application; and 3) a lack of good character and disrespect of the law.

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

#### **ALEX SCHWENKE– EMT APPLICATION**

**MOTION:** Fiala made the motion, seconded by Bailey, to issue an EMT license with one year probation with the usual terms and conditions based on criminal convictions.

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

#### **ZACHARY KOZA– EMT APPLICATION**

**MOTION:** Bailey made the motion, seconded by Rennerfeldt, to table EMT application for a pre-licensure investigation to collect more information.

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

### **BOYS TOWN– EMS TRAINING AGENCY APPLICATION**

**MOTION:** Cerny made the motion, seconded by Bailey, to approve Training Agency license application.

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

The Board took a short break at 1022, resumed at 1031.

### **AGENDA ITEM: Office of Emergency Health Systems**

Licensing: Wilson reported that the EMS Compact was enacted two weeks early due to COVID-19. There have been a few requests submitted to the Office of EHS to practice in-state and out-of-state under the Compact. Nebraska is not on the National Database yet so having to utilize a paper process.

The Office is answering a lot of questions regarding continuing education and renewals. Wilson explained Executive Order 20-10 regarding continuing education, distributive education, and reinstatement. Renewals have not been addressed yet as this is not a renewal time for EMS licenses. The types of initial applications that have been submitted were discussed. EMS was not included in the exemption for testing but temporary licenses can be issued. Temporary licenses do require field supervision. The Office submitted for another Executive Order for a relaxation of field supervision for temporary licenses but do not anticipate that being approved. Students were encouraged to use the temporary license option while waiting to complete the National Registry exams. Snodgrass reminded students to make sure to fill out the Service Affiliation section for temporary licenses for the field supervision requirement. There was a question regarding when Pearson Vue centers will open. Snodgrass reported that the main Pearson Vue sites opened May 1, 2020 for all candidates. There may be limited availability due to the backlog of students to test. There is a website available to look at open spots for EMS testing. Contact Snodgrass for information. Unknown when community college testing sites will open as this is based on college policy. Wilson reported that the training agencies have asked about the waiver of field/clinical time for EMT and AEMT students. Patient contact can be done by simulation. It was proposed in the previously mentioned Executive Order for the waiver of the field/clinical time but it has not been approved by the Governor at this time. The Office is still trying to get approval. Smith asked if there was anything the Board could do. Wilson said he didn't think so other than show support from the Board.

Bailey made the motion, seconded by Miller for the Board to recommend the field/clinical time for EMT and AEMT students be waived and for the relaxation of the temporary license field supervision be approved in an Executive Order.

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

EMS Program: Wilson introduced Elizabeth Coker, new OEHS administrative assistant and explained her primary duties. Jorgensen, EMS Program Manager, reported on the number of contacts made year to date by the EMS Specialists. On-site inspections have been suspended at this time due to the COVID pandemic. The majority of the specialists' time has been related to COVID-19 activities which include sharing of COVID information, creating or proofing materials to send out and for the website. They have delivered PPE (along with help from some other co-workers.) The specialists have been involved in many virtual meetings or conference calls with EMS services or other stakeholders and have been a key resource to EMS services and providers for any of their questions. Jorgensen, on behalf of the EMS Program, thanked Tim Wilson, Dr. James Smith, and Dr. Eric Ernest for their guidance through this time. It is very much appreciated. There is a new "EMS Revised" eNARSIS patient care run form that was activated for all EMS services to use on May 1, 2020. The old form "EMS" is scheduled to be deactivated

on July 31, 2020. We are recommending that everyone use this new run form. The services that have done the beta testing on the form and created a service specific form, should recreate a new service specific form because there have been more visibility rules applied on this version. Smith asked if the new run form will make data reporting easier. Wilson said no but staff is working on the best way to generate reports. The Office of EHS is still working on access to Biospatial, a reporting program. Smith asked for eNARSIS data to be added to the next meeting's agenda.

Education & Training Agency Compliance: Snodgrass, Education and Compliance Manager, reported on updates from the National Registry of EMTs. Online proctored exams will be available for EMT and AEMT students starting May 12, 2020. Information regarding training agencies hosting BLS and ALS psychomotor exam was explained. PPE masks were distributed to two paramedic programs that will have students resume field and clinical time. Students are not eligible for reimbursements until receiving their full initial license. Consideration will be given due to delays in testing for full reimbursement. A white paper on the EMS Education Pipeline was recently posted on [www.ems.gov](http://www.ems.gov). This outlines EMS education and what has been affected since the start of the pandemic. Contact Snodgrass for any of the above information. Smith asked on the status of continuing education conferences and education classes. Some classes have been held online. The July conference is still pending. Jodi DeWitt commented via WebEx chat that St. Elizabeth Hospital is starting their EMS outreach education classes on June 11 either in person or via online. Children's Hospital also commented via WebEx chat that the annual Trauma Conference will be held virtually on June 5, 2020 with the topic of pediatric transport. EMS continuing education hours are available. Heartland EMS for Children Coalition (HECC) will be having a virtual pediatric conference in August addressing pediatric transport.

Wilson stated he has been working on the OEHS website. The current number of licensed individuals and entities has been posted on the Licensing webpage. Right now these numbers will be updated monthly. The Licensing webpage has also been reorganized.

#### **AGENDA ITEM: Statewide Physician Medical Director Update**

Dr. Ernest reported that he has been busy with focus on COVID-19. He worked on protocols and guidelines for EMS providers regarding COVID -19 and helped host statewide information WebEx meetings for EMS providers. He has also worked on information and updates for physician medical directors with Dr. Smith. He has participated in a couple Facebook Live events with SIM-NE for EMS providers and critical access hospitals. Ernest stated he has not had time to work on protocol revisions at this time.

#### **AGENDA ITEM: Scope of Practice Committee Update**

Fiala reported the Scope of Practice Committee met to discuss COVID-19 proposed protocols.

Fiala made the motion, seconded by Miller to approve the EMS High Consequence Protocol with proposed changes. Voting Yes: Bailey, Bonta, Bondt, Bowlin, Cerny, Deegan, Fiala, Hovey, Jensen, Miller, Neumiller, Petersen, Rennerfeldt, Smith. Voting No: None. Abstain: None. Absent: Sheridan, Wiebe. Motion carried.

Fiala made the motion, seconded by Bowlin to approve the Supplemental Protocols regarding cardiac arrest of suspected COVID-19 patients with proposed changes. Voting Yes: Bailey, Bonta, Bondt, Bowlin, Cerny, Deegan, Fiala, Hovey, Jensen, Miller, Neumiller, Petersen, Rennerfeldt, Smith. Voting No: None. Abstain: None. Absent: Sheridan, Wiebe. Motion carried.

Smith made the motion, seconded by Rennerfeldt to approve change to intra-muscular epinephrine for status asthmaticus. Voting Yes: Bailey, Bonta, Bondt, Bowlin, Cerny, Deegan, Fiala, Hovey, Jensen, Miller, Neumiller, Petersen, Rennerfeldt, Smith. Voting No: None. Abstain: None. Absent: Sheridan, Wiebe. Motion carried.

Fiala made the motion, seconded by Rennerfeldt to approve the COVID-19 Non-transport Protocol with proposed changes. Voting Yes: Bailey, Bonta, Bondt, Bowlin, Cerny, Deegan, Fiala, Hovey, Jensen, Miller,

Neumiller, Petersen, Rennerfeldt, Smith. Voting No: None. Abstain: None. Absent: Sheridan, Wiebe. Motion carried.

**AGENDA ITEM: Legislative Committee Update**

Cerny reported that the Legislature is out of session and does not know when they will return. Proposed date is June 1, 2020. Cerny reviewed standings of Legislative Bills 247, 666, 752, 761, 963, and 1002.

**AGENDA ITEM: Rules and Regulation Update**

Wilson reported the proposed Regulations Chapters 11, 12, and 13 were approved at the last Board of Health Meeting. DHHS will next send them over to the Attorney General's Office for Review. If no edits, the regulations will go to the Governor's Office. The Critical Incident Stress Management (CISM) regulations were returned from the Attorney General's Office for minor edits. No edits have been made yet due to COVID-19. The Trauma regulations went to a second public hearing. The Trauma Board decided to make additional edits so the regulations will go to a third public hearing.

**AGENDA ITEM: Strategic Planning Rescheduled**

Wilson stated the strategic planning session was postponed due to COVID-19. The Board to discuss rescheduling at the July meeting. Wilson will check on grant funds.

Debbie Kuhn, Emergency Medical Services for Children Program Manager, gave a quick update on the EMSC program and upcoming training.

**COVID-19 Update**

Wilson reported the Office of EHS was given an allocation of PPE masks from the preparedness department. N95 and surgical masks were handed out to EMS services. A small reserve was kept in case services needed more masks. Services can utilize the supply request form that can be found on the EHS website to receive supplies through their local health department. There are limited supplies available. The Office of EHS is working on determining burn rates of PPE for EMS services.

Please reach out to the Office of EHS for PPE needs, questions, other needs, education and/or disaster planning. We are developing an education presentation for EMS providers and services that is Nebraska specific.

**CONCLUSION AND ADJOURNMENT**

Smith reminded everyone of EMS Week May 17- 23, 2020.

Smith thanked all EMS providers and services for their hard work during this trying time. He also thanked those who attended the Board meeting via WebEx.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 1153.

Respectfully submitted,

Wendy Snodgrass  
EHS Education and Compliance Manager