

MINUTES OF THE MEETING
of the NEBRASKA
BOARD OF Emergency
Medical Services
May 15, 2023

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting of the Nebraska Board of Emergency Medical Services was called to order by Dr. James Smith, Board Chairperson, at 9:02, Monday, May 15, 2023. This meeting was held virtually via 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 05/09/2023. 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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| • Mike Bailey | • Todd Hovey |
| • Ryan Batenhorst | • Linda Jensen |
| • Noah Bernhardson | • Jonathan Kilstrom |
| • Randy Boldt | • Brent Lottman |
| • Karen Bowlin | • Dion Neumiller |
| • Joel Cerny | • Dr. James Smith |
| • Ann Fiala | • Leslie Vaughn |

The following Board members were absent: Prince Harrison, Carolyn Petersen-Moore, and Michael Sheridan

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 | • Mindy Lester (Assistant Attorney General) |
| • Christy Duryea | • Diane Schoch |
| • Michelle Eutsler | • Wendy Snodgrass |
| • Brad Harm | • Sharon Steele |
| • Alex Hartzell | • Tim Wilson |
| • Trevor Klaassen (Investigations) | • Sherri Wren |

A quorum was present, and the meeting convened.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

MOTION: Boldt made the motion, seconded by Bernhardson, to adopt the agenda for the May 15, 2023 Board of Emergency Medical Services meeting.

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

9:08 am Carolyn Petersen-Moore joined the meeting.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

Jensen asked for clarification on the wording used in the February 10, 2023 Minutes on page 5, line 7 regarding the use of Risperdal. It was offered for Dr. Ernest to review and give feedback on the best wording for this sentence.

MOTION: Boldt made the motion, seconded by Bowlin, to approve the minutes of the February 10, 2023 meeting pending review by Dr. Ernest.

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

CLOSED SESSION

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

9:15 am Meeting went into closed session.

9:31 am Ann Fiala left the meeting.

9:35 am Ann Fiala returned to meeting.

9:40 am Trevor Klaassen left the meeting.

9:43 am Meeting returned to Open Session.

OPEN SESSION

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

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

LICENSURE RECOMMENDATIONS

ALEXANDER WITT – EMT REINSTATEMENT

MOTION: Ann Fiala made the motion, seconded by Mike Bailey, to approve the reinstatement of Alexander Witt for three years of probation with completion of an ethics course approved by the Board and with all the usual terms and conditions for substance use cases.

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

OFFICE OF EMERGENCY HEALTH SYSTEMS

Program reports were submitted for Board review prior to the meeting and were in the portal.

- a. Licensing: Tim Wilson reported licensing will be delayed a bit due to the lifting of the executive order for the background checks. Authorization has been granted for a stabilization project that will update licensing software to the most recent version. A Request for Proposal (RFP) is being drafted for a new licensing system but there are no dates for bids or completion. There are now rooms at DHHS that are AV capable and will be looked at for future Board meetings.
- b. EMS Program: Carol Jorgensen added to her report from first quarter. Since March there have been an additional 128 EMS contacts made coming to a total of 2,089 contacts for the year. Mason Holmes accepted the job of Business System Analyst filling the opening from Doug Fuller's retirement. Applications are coming in for the Western Region EMS Specialist position and interviews will be held. Individual service EMS assessments are coming up. Dr. Smith asked who can people out in the Western Region contact in lieu of Mason? Mason still has his phone and can answer any questions and Carol Jorgensen can also field questions and requests at (308) 440-4346 or email her at carol.jorgensen@nebraska.gov.
- c. Education and Training Agency Compliance: Wendy gave an update from the report with the simulation rooms. One room is installed out at Western Nebraska Community College in Scottsbluff, and they are currently training on usage. Northeast Community College in Norfolk is installing theirs now. And the fifth site contract went out for signature on Friday. Information on these rooms, what they will be used for, and who can use the rooms will be rolled out Statewide soon.
- d. Emergency Medical Services for Children (EMSC) Program: Tim Wilson spoke in lieu of Debbie Kuhn. EMSC received notice of award for the EMSC grant and Kuhn will be moving forward with the projects outlined in the grant. The assessment was completed. For those services with a Pediatric Emergency Care Coordinator (PECC), they will be receiving additional equipment from the Department (Carter Kits – Pediatrics with Autism and possibly Pedi Mates Restraint Seats).
- e. Critical Incident Stress Management (CISM) Program: Tim Wilson reported there are several debriefings being done recently and Debbie is getting things ready for the CISM Annual Conference coming up later in the year.
- f. Trauma Program: Tim Wilson added to Sherri Wren's written report that Strategic Planning Workgroups for the Trauma Advisory Board were created and continue to move forward.
- g. Stroke/STEMI Program: Discussion ensued regarding absolute versus relative contraindication for administration of TNK for thrombolytics for a STEMI (clot dissolvers for someone having an acute heart attack).
- h. EHS Data Systems: Tim Wilson added to the written report. Sharon Steele is working on reports for grants. Mason is being trained for Doug Fuller's position. ImageTrend will be providing administration training for Mason, Tim, and Sharon. The RFP is currently under revision. This should be finalized for Wilson's review by end of this week.
- i. Statewide Physician Medical Director Update: Dr. Ernest spoke on blood products administration and antibiotics administration by prehospital personnel. He proposed looking into changing the ability for ALS personnel to initiate both blood products and antibiotics. This was given to the Scope of Practice Sub-Committee for review. Discussion also ensued regarding concerns for paramedics working in hospitals and it was suggested to create a document including guidelines for paramedics in hospitals. Dr. Bernhardson, who is also on the Scope of Practice Sub-Committee, is working on a project with National Association of EMS Physicians looking at scope of practice on each state nationwide. He will look into this and bring any information he finds to the Board. Linda Jensen advised the term "expand scope of practice" should not be used in the document. Dr. Ernest suggested to bring forward the topic of supervision of paramedics to stakeholders within the Nebraska Hospital Association (NHA) or Nebraska Medical Association (NMA). Wilson suggested including DHHS nursing representatives with the practice consultant. Dr. Ernest and Wilson are working on a mobile application for the new protocol format.

EMS COMMITTEE REPORTS

- a. Rules and Regulation Committee Update – Tim Wilson reported the latest revision of Rules and Regulations are at the Attorney General's Office. Wilson was contacted by them regarding the language on how the Statute was referenced and this was modified slightly.
- b. Legislative Committee Update – Tim Wilson reported due to the major filibuster going on in this session, not many bills will go through. The main priority bills Wilson has been watching are as follows:
 - i. Updates to the Trauma Act have gone through at least round one of debate and have been amended into another legislative bill.
 - ii. LB415 – Supplemental funding for the Office of Emergency Health Systems. The main funding source, Fifty Cents for Life, is a dwindling fund and is at a critical point. This bill has not made it out of committee and will probably not make it through this session. The session closes June 9, 2023. Randy Boldt commented this bill will not have time to pass on its own and will automatically roll over to the next session. Dr. Smith asked about the implications of this for this budget year. Wilson responded the fiscal year ends June 30, 2023 and July 1, 2023 will start the new fiscal year. The expenses are outpacing the income and with the new negotiated contracts, more personnel expenses not initially budgeted for, and the expense of price increase for the updates to the data system, the Department will have to look for ways to control spending and expenses. Options are being evaluated before being taken to the administration to decide. Dr. Smith requested if DHHS could provide the board with financial information, specifically budget information for the last three years outlined by EMS and trauma expenses and a comparison of the revenue versus expenses as well as projections if this fund is sustainable, so Board members have data available and can then contact legislators and administration. Wilson said he would send the request up to be presented at the next Board meeting. It was noted if a Board member contacts a legislator as a representative of the EMS Board, it needs to be voted on and approved by the whole Board specifying who is making the contract, what will be done, and who will be contacted. It was suggested Board members speak as individual citizens of their communities to Senators and passionately show them this is a problem. Data is needed to back up this issue. At the next meeting, discussion will be held to authorize official information for Senators.
- c. Education Committee Update – Karen Bowlin reported about the gap research project put forward from the National Association of EMS Educators (NAEMSE). There are 10 items they came up with. Bowlin sent the link to this information to the Board members on the Education Committee. These ten items need to be sorted through and narrowed down to two items the committee should tackle first. Then by the next meeting, the committee will have suggestions on how we can help the education process in the State to present to the Board. Wendy Snodgrass has also been working hard on this. If any Board members want to see the link, please send an email to Karen Bowlin.
- d. Workforce Committee Update – None.
- e. Scope of Practice Committee Update – Ann Fiala reported a proposal was submitted by Winside and Sandy Atkins, proposing medication use by EMTs of nitrous oxide and nasal Midazolam for pain control in a prehospital setting. The Scope of Practice Committee decided not to bring this submission forward to the Board for approval. They are working on review of proposed protocol. These should be complete in the next month or two and the Committee can bring them back to Dr. Ernest with suggestions. The Stroke Protocol will be cleaned up by the Office of Emergency Health Systems. Future projects include the cleanup of the D10 protocol.

PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

James Almond of the Public Service Commission spoke on 911 and NextGen 911 and where EMS fits. The Public Service Commission was tasked with creating a service system for 911. One way they did this was to create 911 call-handling-regions, which shares call handling platforms used by multiple Public Safety

Access Points (PSAPs). Almond shared a map of the seven designated regions. There are two counties left to come on board, Thurston County and Webster County. This is more of a technology challenge than a political one for these counties. By the end of this year, which is when the project will be fully implemented, all counties should be on board with a region.

In December 2021, the Public Service Commission put out a Request for Proposal (RFP) for a statewide Emergency Service IP Network (ESI), the core of NextGen 911. This will lead to future things like video chats to 911 and ability to transfer all data that a PSAP has taken. All regions will be connected to this network ideally in the next two months and if not, by the end of the year.

Almond spoke about Text to 911: This is a statewide wireless super visioning service paid for outside of the state PSAP's cost model. This is something the Public Service Commission is very passionate about. They are trying to promote this to those who may not be aware it is available. Specifically Almond and PSC are collaborating with the Deaf and Hard of Hearing Commission to provide training to the deaf and hard of hearing community on how Text 911 works. Almond shared another visual outlining areas connected to Text 911. Almond shared a list of workshops and their locations that have been held as well as upcoming workshops; one will be in Scottsbluff on Saturday and another sometime in the Omaha Metro area. He encouraged everyone to attend one of these workshops.

January 1, 2022 one of the goals of the Service System Act was to create a statewide training standard for telecommunicators. These standards consist of a 40-hour class plus four weeks of on-the-job training. Also, dispatchers are required to have at least twelve hours of continuing education each year. Communication Training Officers (CTOs) are required to do the four weeks of on-the-job training and will be trained within one year of getting promoted to that task. They are also required to do at least twelve hours of continuing education each year.

National Association of EMS Officials (NASEMSO) Advisory Committee has the following working groups.

GIS – Most of their work is completed in the first phase. This group works on standards for mapping and borders, etc.

Finance – Their work is also completed. Their work included funding of PSAPs in the next generation.

Operations – They are working on best practices for disaster relief/activity and PSAPs 988 integration.

Technology – This group is working on backup network solutions.

One change being worked on is to mandate telecommunicator CPR Training and the ability to give CPR instructions to anyone who calls 911. This proposal will be introduced at The Service Advisory Committee public meeting this coming Wednesday at 1:00 in person at the Public Service Commission or on Webex for anyone who is interested in attending and learning more.

James Almond's contact information: Phone # (402) 430-2822; email jamesalmond@nebraska.gov.

Dr. Smith asked if the State looked at statewide software program for dispatch for EMS? Almond said the State has discussed standardizing a program, but the Public Service Commission has not entered into contract with a particular vendor. They have a list of vendors that meet the requirements to choose from that can be sent out the PSAPs.

Tim Wilson said many people claim this type of dispatch is a liability. Have you had conversations with the Public Service Commission regarding rural areas and their concerns with trying to provide that kind of dispatch? Almond responded the Commission has not taken an official stance on this, yet, but they have had these discussions in PSAPs, and people are directed to statistics published by the International Academies of Emergency Dispatch that point to better patient outcome. Vendors show what they have researched. Almond said he will send examples and research if the Board would like.

Noah Bernhardson asked about QA/QI processes for Telecommunicator CPR (TCPR) to ensure standard of practice is being met and making sure data for participating agencies is included in Cardiac Arrest Registry to Enhance Survival (CARES). Almond responded the standard as written right now, which will

be voted on Wednesday at the public meeting, has language in it regarding the QA/QI process on all TCPR calls. The Public Service Commission will not be collecting the data. However, they do recommend tracking all the things CARES wants to know.

NEBRASKA STATE VOLUNTEER FIRE ASSOCIATION (NSVFA)

Joel Cerny spoke about many of the legislative priorities have been amended into the budget bill. Bill topics include mental health, training, Statewide radios, and mental injuries. The Annual Fire School is his weekend in Grand Island. Included will be a twelve-hour segmented EMS class, a class on recruitment and retention, and Wendy will be speaking at the new Fire Chief's class on Saturday morning. There will also be a showing of the movie Odd Hours, No Pay, Cool Hat. It was financed by John Deere to help recruit and retain emergency responders. This movie goes behind the lines of America's volunteer fire service and follows inspiring journeys of volunteer fire fighters and EMS providers across the U.S. Exeter, NE was one of the featured departments in the movie. If you want the movie shown at your service, contact Joel Cerny or the National Volunteer Fire Council (NVFC) Offices. Five members of the NSVFA will be sent, using the Recruitment and Retention Grant, to the National Fire Council's Training Assembly in Oklahoma City on June 23-24, 2023. Several others from Nebraska will be attending through a stipend provided by the NVFC. Jerry Stilmock, who does the lobbying work with the NSVFA, spoke about Bill Kelly with Nebraska Public Media doing a deep-dive documentary on Fire and Rescue and will be at Fire School this week for two or three days. The end target for their project is this fall. They will also be sending out a survey of volunteer services throughout the state in conjunction with the NSFVA.

11:01 am Jonathan Kilstrom left the meeting.

NEBRASKA EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES ASSOCIATION (NEMSA)

Amy Santos reported their first successful conference held at the convention center in Kearney in March, 2023 had 365 attendees. Strategic Planning will be held at the statewide conference. They are working on next year's conference. Mini-Conferences are being scheduled in Broken Bow and Plattsmouth, with dates to come in July. Smith asked about leadership training. Wendy Snodgrass added the Leadership Conference is tentatively scheduled for September 6-10, 2023.

CHANGE MEETING DATE FOR JULY MEETING

The July EMS Board meeting in Kearney was originally scheduled for the date of July 14, 2023. It was suggested to move the date to July 7, 2023 in conjunction with the EMS statewide conference at the Younes Convention Center. Board members and Department Staff will stay at the conference center for the meeting. Wilson added he will double check that these dates work with the Public Health Attorneys and the Attorney General's Office. They will probably attend virtually.

MOTION: Moore made the motion, seconded by Boldt, to move the next EMS Board Meeting date from July 14, 2023 to July 7, 2023

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

PUBLIC COMMENT

Natalie McCawley with Children's Hospital are transitioning the medical plans for medically complex kids to a mobile application which should be testing soon with Papillion Fire and Rescue. Then the plans will be transitioned. There will be great Epoch Interface as well. In the State of Nebraska, there are approximately 1,200 kids enrolled. She is presenting in July at statewide conference. It will be activated by a QR Code. She will reach out to James Almond regarding dispatch interfaces.

Michael Dwyer with Arlington Fire and Rescue commented on LB415. He encouraged getting the Legislature data on EMS calls. He also encouraged everyone to view the movie. It speaks to both fire and EMS and could be a game changer for recruitment.

Tim Wilson reminded everyone next week is EMS Week and Wednesday is EMSC Day. Please send information of any activities to the OEHS so they can be pushed out.

CONCLUSION AND ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 11:20 am by Dr. Smith.

Respectfully submitted,

Tonja Bohling
OEHS Administrative Technician