



**Minutes of the
EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES BOARD
Wednesday, March 22, 2023**

Iris Room at 665 Mainstream Drive, Nashville, Tennessee

Link to Live Video Stream:

<https://tdh.streamingvideo.tn.gov/Mediasite/Play/68418ac4ed5c464e84b76b74a605019e1d>

DOCKET CALL

Prior to roll call, Judge Cambron called the docket of cases scheduled to be heard before the Board during this meeting. Mr. Chris Masiongale was present and represented by attorney Gordon Byars. Steven Morken was present and represented by attorney Peggy Leonard. Mr. Dustin Coffindaffer was called but not present.

CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

The Chair Dr. Smith called the meeting to order at 9:10 am CST in the interest of weather and traffic delay.

Ms. Ferguson conducted a roll call finding 7 members present and 6 absent. *Mr. White arrived approximately 5 minutes after roll call, increasing those present to 8.					
<i>Board Member's Name</i>	<i>Present</i>	<i>Absent</i>	<i>Board Member's Name</i>	<i>Present</i>	<i>Absent</i>
Chair Dr. Sullivan Smith	X		Twila Rose		X
Jeff Beaman	X		James Ross, RN		X
Dr. Seth Brown	X		Dennis Rowe	X	
Greg Miller	X		Tim Strange		X
Brad Phillips	X		Tyler White	X	
Randy Porter	X		Jeanne Yeatman, RN		X
Brian Robinson		X	8 Present; 5 Absent; Quorum present		

Also, present:

- Brandon Ward, Director - Office of Emergency Medical Services
- Hansel Cook, Assistant EMS Director
- Tory Ferguson, Regulatory Board Administrative Assistant 3
- Dr. Joe Holley, Medical Director
- Paul Richardson, Associate Counsel – Office of General Counsel
- Matthew Gibbs, Deputy General Counsel – Office of General Counsel
- Russell Gupton, EMS Consultant at-large
- Jonathan Beaty, Region 2 EMS Consultant
- Nita Jernigan, Region 3 EMS Consultant
- Brian Tompkins, Region 4 EMS Consultant
- Dwight Davis, Region 5 EMS Consultant
- Kevin Cagle Region 7 EMS Consultant
- Mike Duck, Region 8 EMS Consultant
- Honorable Elizabeth Cambron, Administrative Law Judge – Office of Secretary of State

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of the previous December 7-8, 2022, February 3, 2023, and March 3, 2023, meetings were reviewed and approved unanimously after a motion by Mr. Brad Phillips and a proper second by Mr. Randy Porter.

SCHOOL & APPLICANT APPROVALS

Director Ward presented 2 programs that requested upgrade of their programs. Anderson County EMS requested upgrade to AEMT. TCAT Hohenwald also requested upgrade to AEMT. Both were unanimously approved by voice vote. Mr. Tim Strnad was to appear before the Board for license approval. He was not present at the time of the initial report. Mr. Strnad was present in the afternoon of the meeting. The Board tabled the request for approval of background until he could return to the Board in June with additional supporting documentation of his situation.

AIR AMBULANCE COMMITTEE

Mr. Kevin Nooner provided an update on the progress of projects in the Air Ambulance rule revisions by the work group. There was no meeting to report on from regular committee. Will report back in June.

MEDICAL DIRECTOR’S REPORT/CLINICAL ISSUES

Dr. Joe Holley provided a brief report. The committee discussed future projects to include a revised QI/QA process as the current document is quite seasoned. Also discussed was a more robust drug error reporting method. The committee also clarified that a Flight Paramedic and a Critical Care Paramedic are not synonymous or equivalent. Dr. Holley also discussed the AEMT expanded scope of practice, mentioning that Epinephrine was not considered for use by the AEMT in bradycardia or as a pressor agent. The committee also approved an added Approved Clinical Practice for the EMR to utilize a nasopharyngeal airway. Oxygen was approved to be carried on an invalid vehicle for a patient that has an existing need for self-administered oxygen. The use of buckle locks or locking buckles on the straps of the patient stretcher are prohibited for regular use and will only be considered as a method of restraint of a patient.

CONTESTED CASES

Chris Masiongale License #11902 Represented by Attorney Gordon Byars

Judge Cambron provided her opening statements, overview of the proceedings, and instructions to the members. She then asked that the Board Members introduce themselves.

Dr. Smith recused himself during this case. Mr. Porter assumed the role of Chairperson during this case. Judge Cambron reviewed documents with the Board that were a part of the technical record of the case as well as the stipulated facts. Both Mr. Byars and Mr. Richardson provided opening statements. Mr. Chip Cook was called to testify about potential video evidence. Dr. David Cauthen and Dr. Mark Pressley were called to testify as expert witnesses. Mr. Masiongale also provided testimony to the Board. Both Mr. Byars and Mr. Richardson provided closing statements to the Board members. Judge Cambron then provided final instructions to the members.

A motion to accept the Findings of Fact 1-5, deleting item 6 was duly made by Mr. Jeff Beaman and properly seconded by Mr. Tyler White. The motion passed.							
<i>Board Member’s Name</i>	<i>Aye</i>	<i>Nay</i>	<i>Recused</i>	<i>Board Member’s Name</i>	<i>Aye</i>	<i>Nay</i>	<i>Recused</i>
Chair Dr. Sullivan Smith			X	Twila Rose	Absent		
Jeff Beaman	X			James Ross	Absent		
Dr. Seth Brown	X			Dennis Rowe	X		
Greg Miller	X			Tim Strange	Absent		
Brad Phillips	X			Tyler White	X		
Randy Porter (acting Chair)	X			Jeanne Yeatman, RN	Absent		
Brian Robinson	Absent			7 Ayes; 0 Nays; 5 Absent; 1 Recusal - Motion Passed			

A motion to accept the Conclusions of Law, items 7-9, and under item 8, facts stipulated in paragraphs 2-5 was duly made by Mr. Brad Phillips and properly seconded by Dr. Seth Brown. The motion passed.

<i>Board Member's Name</i>	<i>Aye</i>	<i>Nay</i>	<i>Recused</i>	<i>Board Member's Name</i>	<i>Aye</i>	<i>Nay</i>	<i>Recused</i>
Chair Dr. Sullivan Smith			X	Twila Rose	Absent		
Jeff Beaman	X			James Ross	Absent		
Dr. Seth Brown	X			Dennis Rowe	X		
Greg Miller	X			Tim Strange	Absent		
Brad Phillips	X			Tyler White	X		
Randy Porter (acting Chair)	X			Jeanne Yeatman, RN	Absent		
Brian Robinson	Absent			<i>7 Ayes; 0 Nays; 5 Absent; 1 Recusal - Motion Passed</i>			

A motion to propose Disciplinary action of 3 years of probation, 4 hours of ethics, 8-hour department approved class on safe IV/Phlebotomy techniques, and a letter of warning was duly made by Mr. Greg Miller and properly seconded by Mr. Jeff Beaman. After a brief discussion, the motion passed

<i>Board Member's Name</i>	<i>Aye</i>	<i>Nay</i>	<i>Recused</i>	<i>Board Member's Name</i>	<i>Aye</i>	<i>Nay</i>	<i>Recused</i>
Chair Dr. Sullivan Smith			X	Twila Rose	Absent		
Jeff Beaman	X			James Ross	Absent		
Dr. Seth Brown	X			Dennis Rowe	X		
Greg Miller	X			Tim Strange	Absent		
Brad Phillips	X			Tyler White	X		
Randy Porter (acting Chair)	X			Jeanne Yeatman, RN	Absent		
Brian Robinson	Absent			<i>7 Ayes; 0 Nays; 5 Absent; 1 Recusal - Motion Passed</i>			

A motion to accept a Policy Statement, replacing suspension with the language from the disciplinary action was duly made by Mr. Phillips and properly seconded by Dr. Brown. The motion passed

<i>Board Member's Name</i>	<i>Aye</i>	<i>Nay</i>	<i>Recused</i>	<i>Board Member's Name</i>	<i>Aye</i>	<i>Nay</i>	<i>Recused</i>
Chair Dr. Sullivan Smith			X	Twila Rose	Absent		
Jeff Beaman	X			James Ross	Absent		
Dr. Seth Brown	X			Dennis Rowe	X		
Greg Miller	X			Tim Strange	Absent		
Brad Phillips	X			Tyler White	X		
Randy Porter (acting Chair)	X			Jeanne Yeatman, RN	Absent		
Brian Robinson	Absent			<i>7 Ayes; 0 Nays; 5 Absent; 1 Recusal - Motion Passed</i>			

A second docket call was issued for Mr. Dustin Coffindaffer, but he was not present. A brief recess was called before the next case was heard.

CONTESTED CASES CONTINUED

Steven Morken License #41151 Represented by Attorney Peggy Leonard

Judge Cambron provided her opening statements, overview of the proceedings, and instructions to the members. She asked the members to review the notice of hearing and charges that are loaded onto the iPad. Judge Cambron reviewed documents with the Board that were a part of the technical record of the case. She then asked that the Board Members introduce themselves.

Mr. Greg Miller recused himself during this case. Mr. Richardson and Ms. Leonard provided their opening statements as related to this matter. Mr. Brent Dyer and Mr. Randy Carter were called as witnesses during the case to provide testimony, as was the respondent.

A motion to accept the Findings of Fact 1-3, 6, 8, 11-13, 19, & 21 was duly made by Mr. Brad Phillips and properly seconded by Mr. Dennis Rowe. The motion passed.							
<i>Board Member's Name</i>	<i>Aye</i>	<i>Nay</i>	<i>Recused</i>	<i>Board Member's Name</i>	<i>Aye</i>	<i>Nay</i>	<i>Recused</i>
Chair Dr. Sullivan Smith	X			Twila Rose	Absent		
Jeff Beaman		X		James Ross	Absent		
Dr. Seth Brown	X			Dennis Rowe	X		
Greg Miller			X	Tim Strange	Absent		
Brad Phillips	X			Tyler White		X	
Randy Porter	X			Jeanne Yeatman, RN	Absent		
Brian Robinson	Absent			<i>5 Ayes; 2 Nays; 5 Absent; 1 Recusal - Motion Passed</i>			

A motion to accept the Conclusions of Law item 24 in entirety, item 25, subpart 1, 9, & 13 & item 26 in its entirety was duly made by Mr. Brad Phillips and properly seconded by Mr. Randy Porter. The motion passed.							
<i>Board Member's Name</i>	<i>Aye</i>	<i>Nay</i>	<i>Recused</i>	<i>Board Member's Name</i>	<i>Aye</i>	<i>Nay</i>	<i>Recused</i>
Chair Dr. Sullivan Smith	X			Twila Rose	Absent		
Jeff Beaman		X		James Ross	Absent		
Dr. Seth Brown	X			Dennis Rowe	X		
Greg Miller			X	Tim Strange	Absent		
Brad Phillips	X			Tyler White		X	
Randy Porter	X			Jeanne Yeatman, RN	Absent		
Brian Robinson	Absent			<i>5 Ayes; 2 Nays; 5 Absent; 1 Recusal - Motion Passed</i>			

A motion for Disciplinary Action of 1 year of probation, completion of a Paramedic refresher course, and a 4-hour ethics course (with failure to complete resulting in suspension) was duly made by Mr. Brad Phillips and properly seconded by Mr. Randy Porter. The motion passed.							
<i>Board Member's Name</i>	<i>Aye</i>	<i>Nay</i>	<i>Recused</i>	<i>Board Member's Name</i>	<i>Aye</i>	<i>Nay</i>	<i>Recused</i>
Chair Dr. Sullivan Smith	X			Twila Rose	Absent		
Jeff Beaman		X		James Ross	Absent		
Dr. Seth Brown	X			Dennis Rowe	X		
Greg Miller			X	Tim Strange	Absent		

Brad Phillips	X			Tyler White		X	
Randy Porter	X			Jeanne Yeatman, RN	Absent		
Brian Robinson	Absent			5 Ayes; 2 Nays; 5 Absent; 1 Recusal - Motion Passed			

A motion to adopt the Policy Statement with the addition of the Refresher and Ethics courses was duly made by Mr. Brad Phillips and properly seconded by Mr. Randy Porter. The motion passed.

<i>Board Member's Name</i>	<i>Aye</i>	<i>Nay</i>	<i>Recused</i>	<i>Board Member's Name</i>	<i>Aye</i>	<i>Nay</i>	<i>Recused</i>
Chair Dr. Sullivan Smith	X			Twila Rose	Absent		
Jeff Beaman		X		James Ross	Absent		
Dr. Seth Brown	X			Dennis Rowe	X		
Greg Miller			X	Tim Strange	Absent		
Brad Phillips	X			Tyler White		X	
Randy Porter	X			Jeanne Yeatman, RN	Absent		
Brian Robinson	Absent			5 Ayes; 2 Nays; 5 Absent; 1 Recusal - Motion Passed			

The case for Mr. Dustin Coffindaffer was continued until December at the request of OGC.

CONSENT AND AGREED ORDERS

- Jeffrey Bates, License # 22011- A motion was duly made and properly seconded to accept the Consent Order as presented by Mr. Randy Porter and properly seconded by Mr. Jeff Beaman. Mr. Greg Miller abstained from the vote. All others present approved with an affirmative vote. The Consent Order was approved.
- Holland McMinn, License # 214662 – A motion was duly made by Mr. Brad Phillips and properly seconded by Mr. Jeff Beaman to accept the Consent Order as presented. All present voted in the affirmative and the Consent Order was approved.
- Lynn Dotson Jr., License # 215150 – A motion was duly made by Mr. Brad Phillips and properly seconded by Mr. Randy Porter to accept the Agreed Order as presented. All present voted in the affirmative and the Agreed Order was approved.

This concluded all cases presented during this meeting.

INITIAL EDUCATION COMMITTEE

- **Approved Clinical Practices**

Mr. David Blevins presented on behalf of the Initial Education Committee. The request was made that when a new Approved Clinical Practice is developed by Dr. Holley and involved committees, and it is approved by the Board from this point forward, a committee will then have an education module created within 90 days. Once it is approved it will be sent out to the institutions and service educators for implementation. A motion was duly made by Mr. Randy Porter and properly seconded by Mr. Jeff Beaman for the 90-day module process. The motion passed unanimously by those members present.

- **Vanderbilt Critical Care Program Equivalency**

Vanderbilt LifeFlight previously presented a request for their Critical Care transport onboarding process to be considered in lieu of the Critical Care Paramedic Program Course, this allowing those individuals to sit for the exam. The onboarding process meets or exceeds the requirements of a Critical Care Paramedic Program. A motion for acceptance was duly made by Mr. Dennis Rowe and properly seconded by Mr. Greg Miller. The motion passed unanimously by those members present.

CECA/COPEC REPORT

Mr. Lee Blair presented the CECA and COPEC reports. Upcoming conferences were discussed as well as the ongoing pediatric transport safety device grant which is providing the devices to services throughout the state. The goal being to equip every ambulance with a device that is in need.

Further discussion from Mr. Matthew Gibbs of OGC regarding submission of names from the EMS Board regarding appointments to COPEC as requested by the Healthcare Facilities Commission. There was significant discussion regarding a process for this. The statement was made that the commission was insistent on pairing the list from 51 voting members to 12 members. It was mentioned numerous times that the current makeup of COPEC was diverse and highly functional to the current needs of pediatric care in Tennessee. Discussion of a formation of a task force was discussed. The spirit of the EMS Board was to preserve COPEC as much as possible.

A motion was duly made by Mr. Brad Phillips and properly seconded by Dr. Seth Brown to forward the list (11 organizations plus CRPC) names as written to the HFC but to also maintain a task force to research the potential candidates and work with the HFC.

PILOT PROJECT CROCKETT COUNTY EMS

A motion was duly made by Mr. Tyler White and properly seconded by Mr. Brad Phillips to approve a pilot project for the administration of blood products for Crockett County EMS. The service will report back in 12 months to the Board. The motion passed unanimously by those members present.

Having no further business to come before the Board on this date, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:55pm.