TN Department of Health

Minutes of the
EMERGENCEY MEDICAL SERVICES BOARD
Iris Room, First Floor
665 Mainstream Drive Nashville, TN 37243
Thursday, December 11, 2025

To view a comprehensive recording of the meeting, please follow the link below:
https://tdh.streamingvideo.tn.gov/Mediasite/Play/984135dd048d4a65b4b20f7ed6c5b1671d

CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

- The meeting was called to order by Chairman Steve Hamby at 0900 AM. The roll was called, and a quorum was present.

Board Member's Name	*Present*	*Absent*	*Board Member's Name*	*Present*	*Absent*
Chairman Steve Hamby	X		Vice-Chairman Greg Miller	X	
Jeffrey Bagwell	X		Shannon Morphis	X	
Tim Bell	X		Joyce Noles		X
David Blevins	X		Stacy Prater	X	
Jeanie Diden	X		Jason Tunstall	X	
Drew Hooker	X		Chris Wheat	X	
Dr. Jared McKinney	X		*12 Members Present, 1 Member(s) Absent = Quorum*		

Also, present:
Brandon Ward, Director
Hansel Cook, Assistant EMS Director
Tory Ferguson, Regulatory Board Administrative Assistant 3
Ashlee Embry, Regulatory Board Administrative Assistant 3
Kertyssa Smalls, Senior Associate Counsel – Office of General Counsel

SCHOOL APPROVAL

- Scott County EMS has applied and met requirements to begin an EMT basic program. ***Motion by Miller and second by Blevins to approve. Motion passed.***
- Austin Peay State University has applied for an initial Paramedic program and has met all requirements. ***Motion by Miller and second by Blevins to approve. Motion passed.***
- Vanderbilt University has applied for an initial Paramedic program and has met all requirements. ***Motion by Miller and second by Blevins to approve. Bell and Dr. McKinney recused. Motion passed.***

The members requested Ms. Smalls to review the productivity of the service-based programs and report back at a future meeting.

Mr. Blevins asked if the office could provide numbers of licensed personnel in the state. Director Ward stated that he could provide this information.

- 3498 Certified EMR
- 5871 licensed EMT
- 7330 licensed AEMT
- 5724 licensed Paramedics
- 1490 PACC
- 89 Community Paramedics
- 257 EMD
- 201 Ground services with 1635 units
- 12 Air services with 79 aircraft
- 29 invalid services with 89 vehicles
- 3 volunteer services

- Mr. Miller asked if we had an accurate number of individuals working here under the EMS Compact. Director Ward mentioned that the information is gathered in audit annually and that services are asked to report the information, but there is no solid number. There is no system that will account for this.

FIRST RESPONDER COMMITTEE

- Committee Chairman Jeff Beaman provided a brief report. He cited the creation of a questionnaire for first responder agencies across the state and presented the document to the Board for review and approval. It will be initially distributed in 3 phases, first to fire departments, then rescue squads, then other agencies in that order. Mr. Miller asked to add additional questions regarding who provides the medical direction for the first responder agency and if the agency has a QI/QA program for the first responder program, who serves in that role, and their qualifications. ***Motion by Bagwell and second by Blevins to approve. Motion passed.***

AIR AMBULANCE COMMITTEE

- Committee Chairman Robbie Tester presented the report. The committee whitepaper was presented to the Board for review. ***Motion by Miller and second by Prater for approval. The motion passed.***
- Mr. Bell mentions that the specialty care transport portion of EMS is always expanding, and he asked Mr. Tester if he felt that the varying expertise on this committee would consider expanding their scope to review specialty care subset in addition to the Air specialty to provide further resources and guidance to the Board. Mr. Tester stated that the varying level of expertise on the Air Committee would be a good fit for the task. ***Motion by Bell and second by Diden to request the Oversight committee reviewing the potential need to review potential gaps in current SCT and to consider further regulation and review of Specialty Care Transport by Air Ambulance. Motion passed.***

OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE

- Committee Chairman Greg Miller provided a report. ***Motion by Blevins and second by Dr. McKinney to accept recommendations to add Jeremiah Partin and John Murrell to the Education Committee replacing Erik Jesse and Baker McCool respectively. Motion passed.***
- There are five open positions in the clinical issues committee consisting of a trauma care advisory representative, two EMT/AEMT positions, a medical director of West Tennessee, and a clinical representative

from an adult ER in East Tennessee for a total of five vacancies. The committee requests letters of interest and CV be sent to the office for future review.
- The committee approved a 'good cause clause' to provide guidance for committees when a member may need to take a period of absence. ***Motion by Blevins and second by Dr. McKinney to approve. Motion passed.***

<u>OGC REPORT</u>

- Ms. Smalls introduced Justin Harleman, the Deputy General Counsel who has replaced Matt Gibbs.
- Ms. Smalls reported that there were currently 92 open cases in OGC for litigation, not including those in the investigatory process.
- Air ambulance rules and the rules regarding the pay supplements are currently with the Attorney General's office. EMT to Paramedic pathway and removal of letters of moral character are also in retrospective review.
- Ms. Smalls requests to appoint a liaison between the Board and OGC to assist with questions and subject matters that are pertinent to the Board. ***Motion by Tusntall and second by Bagwell to appoint Chairman as the liaison. Motion passed.***
- Ms. Smalls reviewed the conflict-of-interest policy with emphasis on financial interests, reasons a member should recuse, accepting compensation, lobbying, gifts. this new policy makes it clear that if you are recusing from a hearing, you will need to leave the hearing room during the discussion or the vote. The member can stay for the presentation of evidence, but once deliberations begin, the member needs to exit the hearing room. It is improper for any board member having a conflict of interest to attempt to influence another board member at any time, including prior to the discussion on the matter for which the conflict exists.

<u>OLD BUSINESS</u>

- Tim Bell asked if the COPEC credentialing process was reviewed by the office and if there had been further communication to COPEC from the office. He also asked about speaking with the Respiratory Care Board to have a conversation about the new ventilator process. No further communication has occurred currently.
- Tim Bell also asked that the proposal for honorary titles/honoring licensed, retired, deceased, or otherwise no longer serving to be reconsidered and sent to the appropriate committee for research and review. ***Motion by Bell and second by Wheat to send to Leadership Committee for review. Chairman Hamby voted no, Blevins recused. Motion passed after significant discussion.***

<u>PUBLIC COMMENT</u>

NONE

Meeting adjourned