



**Minutes of the  
EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES BOARD  
Wednesday, December 11, 2024  
Iris Room at 665 Mainstream Drive, Nashville, Tennessee**

To view a recording of the September 30<sup>th</sup> meeting, please follow the link below:  
<https://tdh.streamingvideo.tn.gov/Mediasite/Play/a177f52825c640b087e7d0c3b3cf45011d>

**CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL**

- The meeting was called to order by Chairman Steve Hamby. The roll was called, finding 11 members present and 2 absent, a quorum was declared. Chris Wheat arrived at 0915 increasing the members present to 12.

<i>Board Member's Name</i>	<i>Present</i>	<i>Absent</i>	<i>Board Member's Name</i>	<i>Present</i>	<i>Absent</i>
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 (arrived at 0915)	X	
Dr. Jared McKinney	X		<i>12 Members Present, 1 Member(s) Absent = Quorum</i>		

**Also, present:**

Brandon Ward, Director  
 Hansel Cook, Assistant EMS Director  
 Tory Ferguson, Regulatory Board Administrative Assistant 3  
 Dr. Joe Holley, M.D., State Medical Director  
 Ronda Webb-Stewart, Senior Associate Counsel – Office of General Counsel - EMS Board Advisory Attorney  
 Kertyssa Smalls, Senior Associate Counsel – Office of General Counsel

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

- Motion by David Blevins and second by Drew Hooker to approve minutes of September 18, 19, and 30, 2024 minutes. The motion passed after a voice vote.*

**RECOGNITION**

- David Blevins wished to recognize Loudon High School students who recently completed their EMR program.

**CONSENT ORDERS**

- Kimberly Boehlein, License #15772, Case # 2023008501** – Proposed discipline of 3-year probation, Paramedic Refresher course, PHTLS course within 180 days of ratification *Motion by Greg Miller and seconded by Dr. Jared McKinney for approval as presented. Roll was called, 11 members voted yes, 1 member absent, David Blevins recused. The motion passed.*

- **Ofice Spears Jr., License #16639, Case #2022024781** – Proposed discipline of voluntary surrender of license. *Motion for approval by Drew Hooker and seconded by Jeffrey Bagwell. Roll was called, 11 members voted yes, 1 member absent, Jason Tunstall recused. The motion passed.*

### TNPAP REPORT

Ms. Teresa Phillips provided the July 2024-September 2024 TNPAP report to the members.

### OGC REPORT

- Mrs. Ronda Webb-Stewart, Senior Associate Counsel – Office of General Counsel - EMS Board Advisory Attorney provided a report to the members.
- 77 open cases as of present time.
- Pay supplement emergency rules are currently effective.
- Air ambulance and Pay supplement rules are in the final review fiscal review process. Other proposed changes (disciplinary modifications, good moral character, EMT to Paramedic) rule are in the OGC internal review process.

### APPLICANT APPROVAL

- Addam Garner appeared before the Board to provide information related to prior findings on background screening. He provided a brief statement to the members and provided written documentation of support. *Motion for approval by Shannon Morphis and second by Drew Hooker. The motion passed after a roll call vote. 12 members voted yes and 1 member absent.*

### AMBULANCE COMMITTEE

- Jonathan Rodgers provided a brief report with no significant items to report.

### CLINICAL ISSUES COMMITTEE and MEDICAL DIRECTOR REPORT

- Dr. Joe Holley, M.D., State Medical Director provided a combined report of the Clinical Issues Committee and the Medical Director's report.
- Telemedicine and alternate destination discussions at last meeting. A workgroup will form for a broader discussion of both matters.
- IV fluid should come off allocation in early 2025 hopefully.
- Discussed potential need for rule changes related to alternate workplaces beyond functioning in an ambulance/EMS role or ER role as currently provided in the rules. *Motion by Drew Hooker and second by David Blevins for OGC to review this potential need further rule making needs.* In discussion, it was noted that the Nursing Board rules may provide some insight. Greg Miller stated that the profession may have outpaced the current rules, noting that there are many instances where the rules do not currently reflect the EMS environment. The end goal being ability and process definition. *After discussion, the motion passed after a roll call vote. 12 members voted yes and 1 member absent.*
- Dr. Holley provided the latest update of the state protocol/guidelines and covered additions and changes to the Approved Clinical Practices documents. Additions of Whole Blood Programs, Finger Thoracostomy in Traumatic Arrest, and update to Umbilical Vein Cannulation to include NRP education requirement. *Motion by David Blevins and second by Dr. Jared McKinney for approval. The motion passed after a voice vote.*

### EDUCATION COMMITTEE

- Committee Chair Greg Johnson provided a report for the Education Committee that met on 12/10/2024.
- Upcoming CECA/COPEC initiative for increased pediatric readiness in the state.
- Review of instructor credentials. It was noted that a rule change was not needed due to oversight already in place.
- No action taken on EMR to EMT. Conversation with TFCA and it was noted that they had no knowledge of the need or desire for this.
- A workgroup for the Mental Health project curriculum for initial education programs provided an update to the committee. The outline was provided to the Board members with the desire for the Board to approve the workgroup to continue with curriculum generation. *After discussion a motion was made by Greg Miller and second by David Blevins to approve the mental health and wellbeing module and continued work. The motion passed after a voice vote.*

- The workgroup for the practical exam scenario group has produced at least 19 scenarios for review. David Blevins requested to gather the data from Registry for the reasons behind the sunset of their psychomotor exam so that data can be compared between TN and NR.

### LEADERSHIP AND ADVANCEMENT COMMITTEE

- Committee Chair Phil Sanderson provided a brief report.
- Meeting with the TN Mental Health Commissioner about resources and working together for mental health project. There were many avenues identified that will assist in the creation of the needed practitioner health and wellness projects.
- Documentation and Compliance training will be a continued project with this committee and the Education Committee.
- The provider mental health survey is still being disseminated around the state.
- Professional Standards and Mentorship task force has all members seated.

### OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE

- Committee Chair Greg Miller provided a brief report of the meeting held on 12/10/2024.
- Ambulance committee is the only committee that has an alternate/proxy for each seat. No other committee has this allowance. A replacement will need to be made for the absent members in other cases.
- Kurt Aukerman will return to the Education Committee after a medical leave.
- Matt Owens was requested as the rep for UT Lifestar on the Air Committee replacing the current representative for that program. Rod Dawson was selected to represent Tri-Star SkyLife on the committee in the position previously held by Matt Owens. The First Responder committee added Kory Green of City of Martin Fire/Dresden Fire and Chief Debbie Patterson of Memphis Fire Department to fill the last 2 vacancies. ***Motion to approve by David Blevins and second by Jason Tunstall. The motion passed after a voice vote.***
- Tim Bell asked numerous questions related to the committee makeup, “white paper” or “charter”, election of chair, vice-chair, secretary, and the process for how issues come to each committee. Drew Hooker mentioned that most all of this was created and approved previously at prior meeting.

### EMS COMPACT DISCUSSION

- Executive Director of EMS Compact Donnie Woodyard came to speak to the Board to discuss recent changes made by the Board at the September meeting regarding requirement of an individual to license in TN after working in TN with a COMPACT privilege to practice. He stated he believes the policy implemented in the September meeting violated TN law.
- Mrs. Webb-Stewart provided a review of the Board Policy and reiterated the concerns that were used to guide the policy. This policy required the individuals to obtain licensure via reciprocity within 180 days and the service was required to notify the office of individuals working under the COMPACT within 30 days.
- ***Dr. Jared McKinney made a motion to withdraw the policy from the last Board meeting so that the members can review best practices with a second by Tim Bell. After discussion, the motion passed after a roll call vote. 11 members voted yes, Chairman Hamby voted no, and 1 member was absent.***
- A lunch break was taken for approximately 30 minutes at the request of the members and OGC to review some materials related to the previous policy that was rescinded in hopes of a revised policy.
- Mrs. Webb-Stewart returned with some proposed language changes. “The Board strongly encourages individuals to obtain Tennessee license and that they may obtain license by reciprocity within 180 calendar days, also stating that the ambulance service shall report individuals that are working with their service within 30 business days.” The desire was for the service to keep track of individuals that are working under the COMPACT and providing that to the office and providing a pathway to licensure for those individuals. Mrs. Webb-Stewart stated that she would provide a final document at the March meeting. ***A motion was duly made by Jason Tunstall to accept changes as proposed with a second by Jeffrey Bagwell. Mr. Woodyard stated in discussion that notification of providers operating in TN with the COMPACT unless reported by TN. When TN is fully linked to the COMPACT database, there will be automatic notifications of disciplinary actions from other states. After discussion, the roll was called, Shannon Morphis and Steve Hamby voted no. Jeanie Diden was absent, 10 members voted yes, the motion passed.*** At the conclusion of the meeting, Mr. Woodyard informed the members that the notice of default to the State of Tennessee had been vacated by the COMPACT Commission Executive Committee.

### NEW BUSINESS

- Mrs. Webb-Stewart spoke about a portion of the EMS rules related to ‘habitual’ intoxication or misuse of substances. The Board was asked for an interpretation of the term ‘habitual’ when not in a professional capacity as a guidance for future. After significant discussion, ***a motion was made by Drew Hooker and second by Jeffrey Bagwell that more than 2 or more convictions of abuse of drugs or alcohol be considered habitual. The motion was amended after discussion to state “2 or more infractions concerning drugs or alcohol would be considered habitual.” Roll was called with 12 in favor and 1 absent. The motion passed.***
- The members were asked to differentiate between for cause and random drug screens. ***A motion by Shannon Morphis and second by Jason Tunstall that there is no difference in interpretation of a positive drug screen in for cause or random. Roll was called with 12 in favor and 1 absent. The motion passed.***
- Disciplinary action was also discussed by OGC and the members. TNPAP was discussed as the general recommendation for an initial action. No action was taken with this discussion.

#### **DIRECTOR’S REPORT/SCHOOL APPROVALS**

- Gibson County EMS – EMT Basic Program. ***Motion by Shannon Morphis and second by Chris Wheat for approval. Motion passed on a voice vote.***
- Jackson Fire Department – EMS Training Center. ***Motion by Drew Hooker and second by David Blevins for approval. Motion passed on a voice vote.***
- Vanderbilt University requests to reclassify to college from service-based training center. ***Motion by Drew Hooker and second by Chris Wheat to approve. Roll was called, Dr. McKinney and Tim Bell recused, all others in favor, Jeanie Diden was absent. The motion passed.***
- Director Ward spoke of hurricane Helene response and flood response.

#### **OGC REPORT CONTINUED**

- Discussion of June 2025 Board Meeting. ***Motion by Stacy Prater and second by David Blevins to change meeting dates to June 17-18 2025. Motion passed after a voice vote.***
- Executive session rules pending in draft. When an executive session is necessary, it will be at the beginning of the meeting.
- David Blevins asked a question about an unhoused individual being unable to receive mail notices or hearing and charges notices.
- Morris McDaniel Update -More information at the March meeting

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

- David Blevins proposed having a separate meeting quarterly for a special meeting related to strategic planning. Mrs. Webb-Stewart cautioned the members from entering matters such as this. The Board was designed to serve the public and should stand apart from any of these other discussions. Chairman Hamby stated that he believed that this was not the business of the Board and was outside the responsibilities of the Board.

There was no public comment.

The meeting was adjourned at 1430.