Minutes of the
EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES BOARD
Iris Board Room,
First Floor 665 Mainstream Drive Nashville, TN 37243
Thursday, June 18, 2026

To view a comprehensive recording of the meeting, please follow the link below:

June 18, 2026

EMS Board Meeting Playlist: https://app.vidcast.io/playlists/58bf54f2-d665-45e4-a5f6-aaa9d5b81083

CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

- The meeting was called to order by Chairman Greg Miller at 0900 AM. The roll was called, finding 12 members present and 1 member absent; a quorum was declared. Vice-Chairman Jason Tunstall participated virtually after connection with the meeting was established.

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

Also, present:

Brandon Ward, Director
Tory Ferguson, Regulatory Board Administrative Assistant 3
Kertyssa Smalls, Senior Associate Counsel - Office of General Counsel

DISCIPLINARY ACTION

- Office of General Counsel advised the Board that the final anticipated consent order would not be presented. No additional disciplinary matters were taken up on June 18.

QUARTERLY UPDATE FROM TASA

- Andrew Reed provided the quarterly report on behalf of the Tennessee Ambulance Service Association (TASA). He reported that TASA is developing its legislative agenda with regional associations, with EMS reimbursement remaining a primary focus. TASA is also reviewing training and pay-supplement concerns and is monitoring federal and state reimbursement changes affecting EMS.
- Mr. Reed reported that TASA has been working with TennCare regarding treatment-no-transport and other reimbursement languages, including community paramedicine and alternate-destination services. He also noted that TASA had submitted EMS-related questions to gubernatorial candidates and planned to publish responses received.
- ***Motion by Hooker, second by Bell to add TASA as a regular quarterly agenda item and extend the same quarterly reporting opportunity to the Tennessee EMS Education Association and Tennessee EMS Providers Association The motion was amended to correctly identify the Tennessee EMS Education Association. Motion passed.***

- OGC clarified that a quarterly association report is informational; any request for specific Board action must be separately and specifically noted on the agenda in accordance with Open Meetings Act requirements.

EDUCATION COMMITTEE

- Chairman Jason Fox provided the Education Committee report and reviewed active workgroups, including documentation, mental health, practical scenarios, preceptor continuing education, continuing-education certificates, and ventilator education.
- The documentation workgroup continues as a joint project with the Leadership and Advancement Committee. A draft documentation curriculum is under development for future Board review.
- The previously approved 8-hour mental-health curriculum for initial EMR, EMT, AEMT, and Paramedic education is scheduled for implementation July 1, 2026. The Committee recommended that one hour of an ambulance service's existing 15 annual contact hours be designated for mental-health education and that services be encouraged to provide the full 8-hour curriculum for current personnel. ***Motion by Bell, second by Hamby, to adopt the recommendations as amended. Motion passed.*** OGC advised that making the one-hour component mandatory will require a rule change and that the recommendation concerning the full curriculum may be addressed by policy.
- The practical-scenario workgroup continues its annual review and expansion of the State scenario library. Trey Cook was identified as the new workgroup chair.
- The preceptor workgroup continues to evaluate methods for awarding continuing-education credit to preceptors and the appropriate application across licensure levels and capstone activities.
- The certificate workgroup recommended minimum information to be included on continuing-education certificates, including instructor, core sponsor, course location, class number when applicable, provider name, course title, hours, date, subject/category, and a state and/or national license number. The Board clarified that organizations may retain their own certificate formats and branding if the required information is present. ***Motion by Hooker, second by Noles, to approve the recommendation as amended. Motion passed.***
- The ventilator workgroup presented the updated 16-hour ventilator course and a 4-hour bridge course for paramedics who completed the prior ventilator course before January 1, 2026. The bridge emphasizes updated ventilator modes, troubleshooting, lung-protective strategies, and care across age groups, including pediatric and neonatal patients. No additional clinical requirement was proposed for the bridge course.
- ***Motion by Hooker, second by Dr. McKinney, to approve the ventilator program and bridge course as presented, amended so both become effective July 1, 2026. Motion passed.*** Providers who do not complete the bridge within the applicable renewal cycle will no longer retain ventilator-paramedic status under the retiring program.

COMMITTEE CONSENT AGENDA REPORTS

- The Board reviewed the Air Ambulance Committee report provided in paper form and the Ambulance Committee, First Responder Committee, and Leadership and Advancement Committee reports available electronically. ***Motion by Hamby, second by Prater to accept the reports as a consent group. Motion passed; Jason Tunstall abstained because he had not received all the documents while participating virtually.***

APPLICANT APPROVAL

- Ms. Potter - request for initial EMT licensure. ***Motion by Dr. McKinney, second by Prater to approve the application. Motion passed.***
- Andrew Nelson, Jr. - request for initial EMT licensure. ***An initial motion by Hamby, second by Bagwell, to deny the application failed. Motion by Hooker, second by Dr. McKinney, to conditionally approve the application with one year of probation and monthly drug screens for six months, at the licensee's expense, with results submitted to the Office of EMS. Hamby voted no and Tunstall abstained. Motion passed.***
- Cameron Sherwood - request for EMT licensure by reciprocity/new licensure following expiration of a previously disciplined Tennessee EMT license. ***An initial motion by Prater, second by Noles to approve the stipulated disposition as presented failed on a tie vote. A subsequent motion by Hamby, second by Bagwell to deny the application, also failed.***
- ***Motion by Prater, second by Wheat, to issue a conditional EMT license with three years of probation from the date of approval, successful completion of an EMT refresher course with proof submitted to the State within***

180 days, and the employer-monitoring requirement contained in the prior order. Bagwell, Diden, Hamby, and Hooker voted no. Motion passed.

OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE

- Chairman Drew Hooker reported that the Oversight Committee met June 16, 2026.
- Robbie Tester resigned from the Air Ambulance Committee after leaving his position with Erlanger. The Oversight Committee recommended Brian Ceraolo, LifeForce Director of Operations, as his replacement. The Committee also recommended Joseph Harold, Division Chief with the Y-12 Fire Department, for the Critical Care Paramedic position on the Clinical Issues Committee. ***Motion by Bagwell, second by Hamby, to approve both appointments. Motion passed; Hooker abstained.***
- The Oversight Committee recommended allowing standing committees to meet virtually when appropriate, subject to safeguards including normal sunshine notice and recording requirements, advance request by the committee chair, an in-person March meeting for officer elections, continued application of attendance requirements, roll-call voting, and authority for OGC, the Office of EMS, or the Board Chair to require an in-person meeting when significant or controversial business is anticipated. ***Motion by Dr. McKinney, second by Noles to approve the recommendation with the stated parameters. Motion passed; Hooker abstained.***
- A proposed standardized committee-report form was reviewed. Reports would generally be submitted to the Office of EMS at least 24 hours before the Board meeting, with practical exceptions for committees meeting immediately before the Board. After discussion concerning State forms, branding, and accessibility requirements, the item was tabled for further review and revision.
- The Committee reviewed current committee vacancies and membership changes. Chair Hooker also reminded committee chairs to forward membership changes to the Oversight Committee and reported that additional committee white papers are expected for review by the September meeting.
- The Board recessed for lunch and later reconvened to continue the agenda.

OLD BUSINESS - LIFEFORCE K-9 TRANSPORT PILOT PROGRAM

- Stacy Prater provided an update on the LifeForce K-9 Transport Pilot Program. The program was developed with veterinary partners and includes veterinary medical oversight, protocols, quality review, specialized training, equipment, and designated veterinary destinations for the care and transport of operational/working K-9s. Human patient care remains the primary responsibility of the EMS system, and the program does not include routine pets or service animals.
- The update included staff and law-enforcement outreach, training in canine assessment and emergency care, and operational considerations for air-medical transport. Mr. Prater reviewed two actual transports completed during the pilot and lessons learned from those cases.
- Fundraising for the program has supported specialized training equipment, including a high-fidelity canine simulator and related airway, CPR, and vascular-access training equipment. Additional handler and first-responder training is being developed with veterinary partners.

OGC REPORT

- Kertyssa Smalls reported that approximately 112 disciplinary cases remained open with OGC following the matters resolved during the June Board meeting.
- The Air Ambulance and Pay Supplement rules received a positive recommendation from the Joint Government Operations Committee and are scheduled to become effective June 23, 2026. Members were reminded to use the current June 2026 versions of the rules when reviewing those subjects.
- OGC discussed implementation of new statutory requirements concerning proof of U.S. citizenship or qualified-alien status for professional licensure and proposed incorporating appropriate references into EMS rules.
- The Board discussed paramedic determinations/pronouncements of death and noted that existing field determination-of-death guidance addresses the issue; no additional rule action was taken at this time.
- OGC presented a proposed policy statement concerning emergency care and transport of canine first responders. The recommendations included written notice to the local EMS consultant before implementation, veterinary medical oversight, appropriate K-9 emergency-care training, restrictions on live-animal training,

enhanced cleaning/disinfection following transport, and provision of care within the EMS provider's authorized scope and medical direction.

- ***Motion by Dr. McKinney, second by Morphis, to approve the canine first-responder policy statement as presented and amended. Motion passed.***
- ***Motion by Hooker, second by Wheat, to authorize Stacy Prater and OGC to begin developing a process and potential rule language for K-9 emergency care and transport for future Board consideration. Motion passed.***
- OGC presented a draft disciplinary matrix intended to improve consistency in Board disciplinary decisions while preserving the Board's ability to account for case-specific facts and aggravating or mitigating circumstances. The Board requested an editable electronic copy. Members will provide comments individually to OGC, which will compile the feedback and return the document for discussion at a future meeting. No final action was taken on the matrix.

<u>NEW BUSINESS</u>

- No new business was presented.
- Members discussed taking an updated Board photograph at the September meeting, preferably on the first day, and including Office of EMS staff.

<u>PUBLIC COMMENT</u>

- No individuals were present or registered to provide public comment.
- OGC clarified the published public-comment process, including advance notice requirements and the distinction between public comment on an agenda item and a request for the Board to act, which must be specifically placed on the agenda.

<u>ADJOURNMENT</u>

- ***A motion and second were received to adjourn.*** The meeting was adjourned at the conclusion of business.