



**Minutes of the
EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES BOARD
Wednesday, March 20, 2024
Iris Room at 665 Mainstream Drive, Nashville, Tennessee**

To view a recording of the March 20th meeting, please follow the link below:
<https://tdh.streamingvideo.tn.gov/Mediasite/Play/e78ee3e9127e489cb7d652d97debfef31d>

Day 1 - Wednesday, March 20, 2024

CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

- The meeting was called to order by Chairman Steve Hamby. The roll was called, finding all 13 members present and none absent, a quorum was declared.

<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	X	
Dr. Jared McKinney	X		<i>13 Members Present, 0 Members Absent = Quorum</i>		

Also, present:

Brandon Ward, Director - Office of Emergency Medical Services
 Hansel Cook, Assistant EMS Director
 Tory Ferguson, Regulatory Board Administrative Assistant 3
 John Dabbs, EMS Consultant – Region 1
 Dwight Davis, EMS Consultant – Region 5
 Aaron Kinser, EMS Consultant At Large
 Russell D. Gupton EMS Consultant At Large
 Dr. Joe Holley, M.D. State Medical Director
 Ronda Webb-Stewart, Senior Associate Counsel – Office of General Counsel - EMS Board Advisory Attorney
 Tim Peters, Senior Associate Counsel – Office of General Counsel
 The Honorable Judge Steve Darnell, Administrative Law Judge, TN Secretary of State

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- *A motion to approve the November 2, 2023 Board meeting minutes was duly made by David Blevins and properly seconded by Jason Tunstall. The motion passed unanimously.*
- *A motion to approve the December 6-7, 2023 board meeting minutes was duly made by David Blevins and properly seconded by Jason Tunstall. The motion passed unanimously.*
- *A motion to approve the February 26-27, 2024 Board meeting minutes was duly made by David Blevins and properly seconded by Jason Tunstall. The motion passed unanimously.*

SPECIAL RECOGNITION

- **Mr. Robert Byrd was honored for his 45 years of service in EMS.**

APPLICATION APPROVAL

- *Stewart Smith came before the Board to request his application for licensure be approved due to previous background history. A motion was duly made by Jeffrey Bagwell and properly seconded by Joyce Noles for approval. The motion passed unanimously.*
- Joseph Williams – not present
- Green County EMS requests upgrade to AEMT. *A motion was duly made by Greg Miller and properly seconded by Drew Hooker. The motion passed unanimously.*

CONTESTED CASE HEARING

Case #17.34-2311213A TDH V. Cynthia McDow, License #38472

- Ms. McDow represented by counsel Cameron Hoffmeyer. Judge Darnell asks board to introduce themselves and noted a quorum was present. He further provided the overview of the process for the hearing and related rules. No conflicts of interest were identified by the members.
- Mr. Tim Peters representing the TDH provided an opening statement, as well as Mr. Hoffmeyer for Ms. McDow. Mr. Peters then called Ms. McDow for testimony; at which time she was placed under oath and provided testimony to both the state and her defense. Documentation was provided to the members as related to her previous treatment and these were admitted into evidence. Ms. Teresa Phillips, Executive Director of TNPAP was called to testify as to the compliance of Ms. McDow with the program. Both sides provided a closing statement. Judge Darnell provided instructions to the Board.
- *A motion was duly made by David Blevins and properly seconded by Dr. Jared McKinney to accept the Findings of Fact as presented. The roll was called with all members voting in favor. The motion passed.*
- *A motion was duly made by Jeffrey Bagwell and properly seconded by Shannon Morphis to accept the Conclusions of Law as presented. The roll was called with all members voting in favor. The motion passed.*
- *A motion was duly made by Jason Tunstall and properly seconded by Stacy Prater to accept the order for Disciplinary action as written. The roll was called with all members voting in favor of the recommendation. The motion passed.*
- *A motion to approve a policy statement as written was duly made by David Blevins and properly seconded by Drew Hooker. The roll was called with all members voting in favor. The motion passed and the hearing was concluded.*

Break from 1020-1035

AGREED ORDER

- **Joseph Loftus, License #27777** –Proposed discipline of 3-year probation, EMS refresher at level of licensure, and 4 hours of ethics. Tim Bell recused himself from discussion and vote. *A motion for approval was duly made by Greg Miller and properly seconded by Stacy Prater. The roll was called, and with 12 members voting in favor and 1 member recusing, the motion passed.*

CONSENT ORDER

- **Montrell Baldwin, License #217037** - Proposed discipline of TNPAP. Jason Tunstall recused from discussion and vote on this matter. *A motion to approve as presented was duly made by Drew Hooker and properly seconded by Dr. Jared McKinney. The roll was called, and with 12 members voting in favor and 1 member recusing, the motion passed.*

TNPAP REPORT

- Ms. Teresa Phillips of TNPAP provided a report of the period of July 1, 2023 – December 31, 2023.

AIR AMBULANCE REPORT

- Matt Owens, Co-Chair provided a brief report.
- Recommendation of Dr. Frank Tift to serve as physician medical director of air medical service as an addition to committee.
- Discussing additions to equipment list on aircraft
- Recommendation of Tyler Thompson to replace position previously held by John Smith.

AMBULANCE COMMITTEE

- Chairman Rick Valentine provided a summary of the last meeting, cited election of himself as a chair and co-chair of Jonathan Rodgers, and provided a brief overview of the composition of the committee.

CLINICAL ISSUES

- Dr. Joe Holley came to address the members. No quorum at the last meeting. He expresses concerns regarding potential meeting schedule conflicts. Members to work with office on potential solutions.

COMMITTEE ON COMMITTEES

- Chairman Greg Miller provided a brief report.
- A recommendation for appointments of Matt Owens as Co-Chair and Dr. Frank Tift and Tyler Thompson to replace John Smith on the Air Ambulance Committee. The Education Committee selected Kirk Harris as co-chair of the Education Committee. Drew Hooker was selected as Co-Chair of Committee on Committees. Phil Sanderson was selected as co-chair of the Leadership and Advancement Committee. Rick Valentine was selected for Chairman of the Ambulance Committee with Co-Chair of Jonathan Rodger. Clinical issues could not select a Co-Chair due to lack of a quorum. *Due to a recommendation from a standing committee for the approval of these changes, a second was provided by Jeffrey Bagwell. The motion was approved by a unanimous voice vote.*
- During discussion, Tim Bell requests a time to re-appoint/re-elect chair and vice chair at a specific interval. Ms. Webb-Stewart concurs.
- Recommendation of David Bryant for Northeast State as region 1 representative, Chris DeMott to represent East TN, Joseph Creecy for Middle TN, and Jay Burks for West TN as TCAT representatives. Randy White to be nominated as a consultant position but declined. *A motion duly made by committee and properly seconded by Drew Hooker. The motion was approved by a unanimous voice vote.*
- Creation of First Responder committee was discussed. It was tabled until the next COC meeting due to necessity of defining scope of group. Drew Hooker also reminded the group that those interested in a committee, they should make notice of interest to the chair of the committee with a vacancy.

EDUCATION COMMITTEE

- Mr. Jason Fox provided a brief report in absence of the chair and vice-chair.
- EMR to EMT path to be discussed in future.
- A proposed TN psychomotor process to fill void at sunset of National Registry Psychomotor exam on 7/1/2024 was drafted and provided to the Board by the committee. Drew Hooker asks for potential pediatric skills. David Blevins asks if this is temporary or if the intent would be to go away from psychomotor. The committee mentioned that the plan could go either way. *Motion by David Blevins and properly seconded by David Blevins to table the issue until tomorrow so that Ms. Webb-Stewart can research some additional information. The motion passed after a voice vote.*

- The Education Committee requests board approval to review testing process options for Critical Care Paramedic testing. The current contract expires 6/30/2027 with Morris – McDaniel. *A motion was made by David Blevins and properly seconded by Chris Wheat to explore options for Critical Care Exam. All members voted in favor.*

LEADERSHIP AND ADVANCEMENT COMMITTEE

- Chairman Eric Clauss and Co-Chair Phil Sanderson provided an overview of the committee to the Board members and current projects.
- Board members Hooker and Prater requested potential addition of FTO and preceptors to the committee.
- Discussion regarding notification methods about opportunities around the state.

Lunch was taken from 1212-1300

OGC REPORT

- Ms. Ronda Webb-Stewart provided an update.
- Air ambulance and pay supplement rules sitting with the Attorney General’s office.
- 69 open cases in OGC
- Discussion of conflicts of interest and strategies to avoid them.
- April meeting will be cancelled.
- Discussion about setting agendas.
- Discussion of civil monetary penalties or fines.

NEW BUSINESS

- Mary Lee-Lemley came to the Board to discuss the necessity to improve neonatal care and treatment in the state with “maternal deserts” that exist in the state due to closures of OB centers around the state. She provided statistics related to OB services and treatment or lack of. She requested assistance with training requirements of NRP for providers, other education, and training for umbilical vein catheterization.
- *A motion duly made by David Blevins and properly seconded by Jeffrey Bagwell to send equipment changes to Clinical Issues. All members voted in favor and the motion passed.*
- *A motion was duly made by Tim Bell and was properly seconded by Drew Hooker that it be recommended that all Paramedics attend an NRP course. All members voted in favor.*

PUBLIC COMMENT

- Chief Tony Watson of Pigeon Forge Fire Department approached the Board about the Advanced Curriculum and his perceived issue that the course is too difficult. Ms. Webb-Stewart informed the Board that no action could be taken on this, and it could not be discussed due to not being properly sun shined. She directed him to send correspondence to the EMS office to be placed on the agenda. It was also noted that anytime there was a question related to how the Board or Committee operates, the EMS office or OGC should be contacted.

The Wednesday, March 20, 2024 meeting was adjourned at 1410.