



**Minutes of the  
EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES BOARD  
Iris Room at 665 Mainstream Drive, Nashville, Tennessee  
Day 3 – Friday, March 21, 2025**

To view a recording of the March 21, 2025 meeting, please follow the link below:

<https://tdh.streamingvideo.tn.gov/Mediasite/Play/eb00e47709474267882bef8392d6aaf11d>

**CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL**

- The meeting was called to order by Chairman Steve Hamby at 0900 AM. The roll was called, finding 13 members present and 0 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		<b>12 Members Present, 1 Member(s) Absent = Quorum</b>		

**Also, present:**

Brandon Ward, Director

Hansel Cook, Assistant EMS Director

Tory Ferguson, Regulatory Board Administrative Assistant 3

Ellen Gose, Senior Associate Counsel – Office of General Counsel – serving as EMS Board Advisory Attorney

Kertyssa Smalls, Senior Associate Counsel – Office of General Counsel

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

- A motion was made by David Blevins and second by Chris Wheat for approval of the minutes of the December 11, 2024 meeting. The motion was approved unanimously by all present.***

**ELECTION OF NEW CHAIR**

***David Blevins nominates Drew Hooker, second by Jason Tunstall. Steve Hamby, Jeff Bagwell, David Blevins, Jason Tunstall vote yes. Tim Bell, Dr. Jared McKinney, Greg Miller, Shannon Morphis, Joyce Noles, and Chris Wheat voted no. Jeanie Diden and Drew Hooker abstained, Stacy Prater was absent.***

**Greg Miller nominates Steve Hamby with second by Chris Wheat. Jeffrey Bagwell, Tim Bell, David Blevins, Drew Hooker, Dr. Jared McKinney, Greg Miller, Shannon Morphis, Joyce Noles, Jason Tunstall, and Chris Wheat voted yes. Steve Hamby and Jeanie Diden abstained. Stacy Prater was absent. Steve Hamby was elected as Chair.**

#### **ELECTION OF VICE CHAIR**

**Chris Wheat nominates Drew Hooker with a second by Jeffrey Bagwell. Jeffrey Bagwell, David Blevins, Greg Miller, Jason Tunstall, and Chris Wheat vote yes. Steve Hamby, Tim Bell, Dr. Jared McKinney, Shannon Morphis, and Joyce Noles voted no. Jeanie Diden and Drew Hooker abstained. Stacy Prater was Absent.**

**Tim Bell nominates Greg Miller with a second by Chris Wheat. Jeffrey Bagwell, Tim Bell, David Blevins, Jeanie Diden, Dr. Jared McKinney, Shannon Morphis, Joyce Noles, Jason Tunstall, and Chris Wheat voted yes. Drew Hooker and Greg Miller abstained. Stacy Prater was absent. Greg Miller was elected Vice-Chair.**

#### **BOARD SCHEDULE APPROVAL**

- **Judge Cambron requested extra meeting dates for continued meetings in May, July, or August. Greg Miller made a motion for August 25-26, 2025 with a second by David Blevins. Roll was called, Bagwell voted no, Stacy Prater was absent, all others voted yes, the motion passed indicating that a quorum would be present for this meeting if dates are selected.**
- **A motion to consider dates for potential July 8-9, 2025 meeting was made by David Blevins and second by Dr. McKinney. Roll was called, Stacy Prater was absent, the motion passed indicating that a quorum would be present for this meeting if dates are selected.**
- **June 16-18, 2025 was discussed. Oversight Committee will meet at 0800 on June 16, 2025. Motion by Blevins and second by Greg Miller to approve dates as revised, all present voted yes by affirmation. Motion passed.**

#### **OGC REPORT**

- Ms. Ellen Gose served as the Board Advisory Attorney, covered the conflict or interest statement, also citing 72 current open cases. Air ambulance and permanent pay supplement rules have moved to governor's office for review. Moral character, EMT to Paramedic, and disciplinary modifications have been moved to internal department review.
- OGC can put wording in a consent order that disciplinary action mandated CE cannot be used for pay supplement. This is not currently in rules but can be added to final order. **Motion by David Blevins and second by Dr. Jared McKinney that OGC on all consent, agreed, contested cases where training is recommended, that such training going forward is not allowed to be used for the training pay supplement. In discussion, Greg Miller suggested adding a column to indicate if an employee was under disciplinary action that would be affected by this.** The roll was called, and the motion passed with all present in-favor.

#### **TNPAP REPORT**

- Director Ward presented a submitted report from Ms. Teresa Phillips in her absence. A request for an overview historical report will be requested for a future meeting from TNPAP.

## INVESTIGATIONS SUMMARY

Assistant Director Chip Cook informed the Board that there are 63 individual complaints being investigated by himself and 22 complaints by other consultants. There are 2 meetings per month with OGC including complaint review and case review.

## AIR AMBULANCE

- Chairman Robbie Tester provided a brief report. No Air Ambulance meeting in March. The committee is awaiting rule completion. The equipment and medication lists have been completed as well. Mr. Tester stated that he believes that there will be many positive changes to the equipment lists that will be beneficial for air medical services.

## AMBULANCE COMMITTEE

- Chairman Rick Valentine provided a report of the March 5<sup>th</sup> meeting, citing a re-election of himself as committee Chair and Jonathan Rodgers as Vice Chair. Established workgroups are working on ambulance service licensure rules and telemedicine rules.
- One goal is to simplify licensing for ambulance services and an understanding of their classifications, as well as accounting for the EMS apprentice and EMR roles on ambulances, as well as appropriate level of providers for specific systems.
- ***A motion was made by David Blevins and a second by Jeanie Diden to table Ambulance Committee rule proposals until a later meeting when the telemedicine rules are ready. The motion passed after a roll call vote.***

## CLINICAL ISSUES

- No report

## COPEC

- Mr. Alex Whitley provided a report. He provided documents related to a COPEC project for pediatric readiness for services across the state. This would recognize levels of preparedness by ambulance services in the state as related to preparedness for response to pediatric emergencies. Similar programs have been adopted in at least 9 other states. ***A motion was made by Drew Hooker and second by David Blevins to table until the next meeting for OGC and office consultation. After discussion, it was amended to say that the Board would support the COPEC efforts and place it on the June agenda to allow OGC to review. The motion passed after a roll call vote.***

A break was observed at 1035 AM.

## EDUCATION COMMITTEE

- Director Ward provided the report, citing reelection of Greg Johnson as Chair, Kirk Harris as Vice Chair, and Dana Knueven as secretary.
- A request for review of the ventilator training program was made by Vanderbilt for a review of instructor and clinician qualifications. A workgroup was formed for this request and will reach out to clinical issues for assistance. Tim Bell provided his willingness to assist with the workgroup if desired and provided a history of the ventilator program over the years.
- The committee discussed and approved updated equipment lists for EMS training programs

- Continued discussion of idea of an EMR to EMT bridge program. It is done in other states but no available data. The workgroup found no need for it in TN but were supportive of a pilot if one was proposed.
- A 92% pass rate for the practical was found for the new TN practical. There was a discussion of why NR left the previous practical. The committee was adamant to continue the practical in current form.
- Mental Health workgroup continuing to meet to develop a curriculum and objectives.
- Documentation Workgroup formed and will work with Leadership and Advancement on this.
- Also discussed whitepaper request and will discuss further next meeting.

### **LEADERSHIP AND ADVANCEMENT**

- Director Ward provided a brief report of the last meeting.
- Phil Sanderson was reelected as Chair, Kenny Moffitt as Vice-Chair, and Nathan Sweet as secretary.
- Practitioner wellness and patient safety workgroup continuing to develop mental health and wellness presentation for providers. Would like to rollout at TASA 2026.
- Recruitment workgroup working with Frontline Marketing on potential online and app development.
- Exploring potential funding options for special projects.
- Task Force for Professional Standards and Mentorship group will send letters to 100 individuals who had previous action from the Board to collect data to assist in prevention of issues prior to occurrence.
- Documentation project to begin soon.

### **DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

- None

### **MEDICAL DIRECTOR REPORT**

- None

### **FIRST RESPONDER COMMITTEE**

- Jeff Beaman provided a brief report on the initial meeting on March 17<sup>th</sup>.
- Jeff Beaman was elected Chair, Brian Collins was elected Vice-Chair, and Debbie Patterson was elected Secretary.
- Accepting resume and cv for 2 remaining openings on this committee
- Looking for direction from board members for future tasks and direction. David Blevins requested the committee to review the rules for necessary rule updates as related to the First Responder community. He encouraged them to work with other committees as well for common goals. ***A motion by Greg Miller and second by Drew Hooker to charge the First Responder Committee with investigating and researching the processes of first respondership in communities throughout the state to ensure we are providing the highest level of service, the most efficient way to the citizens of Tennessee. That includes concerted efforts in training, equipment, and protocol between first responder organizations and the primary EMS system they are assisting. The motion passed after a roll call vote.***

### **OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE**

- Committee Chairman Greg Miller provided the report of the March meeting. Greg Miller was reelected as Chair, Drew Hooker as Vice-Chair, and Jeanie Diden as Secretary.

- The committee reviewed all attendance logs of all committees for 50% attendance. The Office will notify those individuals that did not meet the attendance requirements that they are no longer on said committee. The chair of these committees will be notified to solicit interest in replacement members.
- Air Ambulance: requirements met by all members
- Ambulance Service Committee: requirements met by all members or a proxy.
- Clinical Issues Committee: Brandon Quillen, Kevin Deaton, Dr. Bracken Burns, and Dr Mike Revelle did not meet the 50% attendance requirement and will have replacement recommendations submitted to the Oversight Committee.
- Education Committee: Chris Demott, Merry Mattix, Frank Miller Jay Burks, Joseph Creecy, and Paula Todd did not meet the 50% attendance requirement and will have replacement recommendations submitted to the Oversight Committee.
- Leadership Matt Tidwell and Cory Prater did not meet the 50% attendance requirement and will have replacement recommendations submitted to the Oversight Committee.
- Change recommendations were addressed as the next topic. On Clinical Issues Committee, Gary Ross left, and recommendation is pending.
- Jamie Layhew has moved into a new role and Scott Boyd has retired and both need replacement on First Responder Committee Mr. Boyd suggested Jesse Bishop to replace his seat. Oversight Committee voted this as appropriate.
- The committee approved Baker McCool replaced Lynn Sikes representing Dyersburg State and Joseph Creecy was also removed due to role changes from the Education Committee
- The committee asked that the EMS Office circulate the document to all newly elected committee chairs that was created for committee operation/function by the Board that was approved in September. It was also requested that attendance requirements be reiterated to all appointed members.
- ***A motion was made by David Blevins and second by Jeffrey Bagwell to support all recommendations above. All members voted in favor and the motion passed.***

#### **OLD BUSINESS**

- Tim Bell asked for update on Morris & McDaniel. Director Ward informed the members that the test is complete, validated, referenced, and ready for administration.
- Tim Bell asked about the pay supplement. Director Ward provided an update and noted that the information has been transferred to departments outside the EMS office for further reviews. Mr. Bell also wanted to suggest that 'in-type' training could be researched further for a more inclusive approach for all providers.

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

- Robby Tester of Erlanger Health came to the Board to request design approval for a new pediatric neonatal transport unit. The unit can accommodate 2 full-size stretchers for both mother and baby. The exterior design of the unit had been previously submitted to the state office and was rejected by the office around the 18<sup>th</sup> of January. The agency requested to present the matter to the Board for further discussion. Assistant Director Chip Cook explained the history of the design approval process and stated that there was not a conflict, but the office desired that there be some guidance from the Board as this is outside the normal. Several members provided opinions and insights. **A**

***motion was made by Drew Hooker and a second by Jeffrey Bagwell for approval of the design with modification of changes to any safety concerns related to location of markings near emergency lighting or the location of an ambulance permit that would cause a safety issue. After discussion, the roll was called, Jason Tunstall and Steve Hamby voted no, and the motion passed after a roll call vote.***

- David Blevins provided information and words of caution related to alcoholic beverages, other drinks, candy bars, and food items that are now infused with THC, hemp, and other products that could be cause for action and he wished to relate this to the public as some of these are not always readily identified

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

- There was no public comment

The meeting was adjourned at 1216 PM.