



**Minutes of the  
EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES BOARD  
Thursday, November 2, 2023  
Iris Room at 665 Mainstream Drive, Nashville, Tennessee**

To view a recording of this meeting, please follow the link below:  
<https://tdh.streamingvideo.tn.gov/Mediasite/Play/d909e19af31d4c33bcd69f8aa94c274e1d>

**CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL**

- The meeting was called to order at 0906 by Chairman Steve Hamby. Members were asked to state their name for the record. Finding 12 members present and 1 absent, a quorum was established.

<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>12 Members Present, 1 Member 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  
 Nita Jernigan, EMS Consultant Region 3  
 Brian Tompkins, EMS Consultant Region 4  
 Dwight Davis, EMS Consultant Region 5  
 Kevin Cagle, EMS Consultant Region 7  
 Mike Duck, EMS Consultant Region 8  
 Dr. Joe Holley, Medical Director  
 Ronda Webb-Stewart, Senior Associate Counsel – Office of General Counsel  
 Timothy Peters, Senior Associate Counsel – Office of General Counsel

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

- A motion to approve the September 20, 2023 meeting minutes was duly made by David Blevins and was properly seconded by Drew Hooker. The motion passed with a unanimous voice vote.*

**TRAINING PAY SUPPLEMENT STATUTE**

- Ms. Rhonda Webb-Stewart, Senior Associate Counsel – Office of General Counsel who serves as the Board advisory attorney came forward to discuss draft language for the rule that will be necessary to supplement the annual \$800 pay training stipend program for licensed full-time ambulance personnel. She reviewed the statute and solicited questions from the members regarding potential rule language.
- Defining full-time employment: Employed by a TN licensed ambulance service as 30 hours per week minimum in order qualify for this stipend.
- Discussion about defining training center and the 3 different groups that could potentially provide the educational training (college, service based, I/C training officer). Training Center to be defined as: “Educational programs as approved by the State of Tennessee Office of EMS.”
- Proof of completion must be submitted by licensed service within 30 business days, following notification from the department.
- Director Ward requests service to submit proof of completion to EMS office in a similar fashion as in fire and law enforcement does in their similar stipend programs. This will reduce a significant amount of paperwork and potential confusion.
- Define testing: decided to strike item referring to 1 hour of testing.
- Discussion of in-person/online acceptance. Director Ward spoke on EMS courses being taught at service level via Teams with participants being on camera and able to communicate with one another like CAPCE F5. Often the EMS office will provide approval of the course prior to the course as “in person”. Recommendation to use wording as “live, interactive, and/or approved by the office of EMS.”
- “Department means Office of EMS”.
- EMR level personnel are not licensed. They are Certified. Word as Certified and or Licensed.
- “The agency or group providing the training shall be the custodian of records for all training and attendance materials for a period of a minimum of 5 years from the date of completion of the course.”
- 40 hours of Training shall be completed to scope of practice for current level of licensure or certification, except when the student was enrolled in an EMS Board approved education program.
- Payment procedures: EMS Office does not issue checks for anything. The accounting department of TDH handles this. Timeline for issuance of payment was initially removed due to inability to make directives to another department. It was then decided “Within 30 calendar days or the next appropriate pay cycle after which the funds were disbursed to the ambulance service”.
- Discussion of audit procedures and need to be as simplistic as possible. Audits will be conducted annually by the EMS office. Records to be maintained for 60 months minimum after payment. All accounts subject to Comptroller audit.
- Ms. Webb-Stewart will put all changes into a clean copy and return for a vote.

#### APPLICANT APPROVAL

- Dylan Goodman, an EMT candidate wishes to receive approval to continue education due to CBC findings. After discussion, ***a motion was duly made by Drew Hooker and properly seconded by Greg Miller. The motion passed with all present voting in favor.***
- Peter Ohara wishes to gain licensure via reciprocity in TN as a Paramedic. Mr. Ohara has CBC findings and was requested to appear before the Board and address the issues. Jason Tunstall recused himself from this matter. After numerous questions from the Board, ***a motion was duly made by Greg Miller and properly seconded by Drew Hooker to deny the request until further information can be provided. The motion passed with all present in favor, and one recusal after a roll call vote.***

A lunch break recess was taken from 1235-1330.

#### STATEWIDE RADIO SYSTEM PROJECT

- Mr. Jeff Gray, Director of the Tennessee Advanced Communications Network (TACN) briefed the members on the status of the TACN radio project with funding from grants. TACN is its own department under the TN Department of Safety and Homeland Security. He provided a brief overview of the system, and that the network will be built out over the next couple of years with allocated funding. The goal is a single integrated statewide system. Hospital Emergency Departments and 911 dispatched ambulance services will be eventually able to join the network if desired. A P25 compatible tri-band radio will be provided and will be installed by a local service provider. The RMCC will also have these capabilities. The first installs are taking place currently in Putnam County as a pilot project. The project also includes tower site build out.

### **SCHOOL APPROVALS**

- Medical Center EMS – upgrade to AEMT
- Monroe County EMS – upgrade to AEMT

***A motion was duly made by Drew Hooker and properly seconded by Jeffrey Bagwell for approval. Joyce Noles recused from the vote. The motion passed with all present voting in favor after a roll call vote.***

### **NATIONAL REGISTRY PSYCHOMOTOR CHANGES**

- The current National Registry Psychomotor exam will be sunset on June 30, 2024. Due to rule requirements, a solution will need to be in place on July 1<sup>st</sup>. A proposed solution was presented to the Board. It was determined to send the matter to the Education Committee for a review.

### **CONDITIONAL LICENSE APPROVAL**

- Ms. Ariel Shahan appeared before the Board to request conditional license approval for upgrade to Paramedic. ***A motion was duly made by Greg Miller and properly seconded by Shannon Morphis. The motion passed after a roll call vote with all present voting in favor.***

### **COMMITTEE ON COMMITTEES**

- Greg Miller serving as the Chair of the “Committee on Committees” provided a report of the activity of the first meeting on October 25, 2023. Some committees were re-named, restructured, and some were added.
- **Air Ambulance Committee** - The committee will meet quarterly, and all members must meet the 50% attendance requirement. Members as follows: Robbie Tester, Mark Pierce, John Smith, Kevin Nooner, Matt Owens, Cindy Bailey, Les Roberts, Renee Jacobs, Nita Jernigan, Brian Tompkins. Consultants will be non-voting. ***A motion was duly made by Jeffrey Bagwell and properly seconded by Jason Tunstall for approval. Greg Miller recused himself. The roll was called, and the motion passed with all others present voting in favor.***
- **Ambulance Service Committee** - The committee will meet quarterly, and all members must meet the 50% attendance requirement. Members will be composed of 2 names from each of the 8 regions. A primary and an alternate. Only one person in attendance may vote. A request to TASA was sent for a primary and alternate from that organization as well. These names should be available for the January meeting. Kevin Cagle and Jonathan Beaty will serve as consultant non-voting members. ***A motion was duly made by Drew Hooker and properly seconded by Chris Wheat for approval. Greg Miller recused himself. The roll was called, and the motion passed with all others present voting in favor.***
- **Clinical Issues Committee** - The committee will meet quarterly, and all members must meet the 50% attendance requirement. Members as follows: Dr. Joe Holley will be the chairman, AEMT Gary Ross, Paramedic Chris Cox, Critical Care Paramedic Brandon Quillen, Community Paramedic Kevin Spratlin, EMS Administration Jonathan Wood, Training Officer David Burdett, Dr. Jeremy McCreary – Adult ER physician, Dr. Tucker Anderson – Pediatric ER physician, Medical Directors of the 3 Grand Divisions Dr. Amanda Derington – Medical Director, Dr. Ron Buchheit, Dr. Michael Revelle, Matt Owens – Air Ambulance Committee representative, to be determined Ambulance Service committee representative, TBD COPEC representative, TBD Trauma Care Advisory Committee representative, Mary-Lee Lemley Pediatric Neonatology representative. ***A motion was duly made by Stacy Prater and properly seconded by Jason Tunstall to approve. Greg Miller recused himself. The roll was called, and the motion passed with all others present voting in favor.***
- **Education Committee** - The committee will meet quarterly, and all members must meet the 50% attendance requirement. Members as follows: East Division: Kirk Harris, Jason Fox, William Andrews, Mike Terrill, Katie

Hall, John Reeves, Mark Eidson and Kurt Aukerman. Middle Division: Greg Johnson, Houston Austin, Chris Davis, Eric Jesse, Shannon Morphis, Dana McDonald, January Bukowitz, and Paula Todd. West Division: Aaron Carl, Mark Walker, Kenneth Oxford, Baker McCool, Merry Mattix, Frank Miller, Kevin King, and Mike Alberson. Russell Gupton and Brian Tompkins will serve as consultant non-voting members. Mr. Greg Johnson will serve as the Chair. ***A motion was duly made by Joyce Noles and properly seconded by Drew Hooker to approve. Greg Miller recused himself. The roll was called, and the motion passed with all others present voting in favor.***

- **Leadership and Advancement Committee** – This will be a newly formed committee. The committee will meet quarterly, and all members must meet the 50% attendance requirement. Members as follows: Eric Clauss (Chairman), Matt Tidwell, Greg Miller, Cory Prater, Kenny Moffitt, Jeremy Crook, Nathan Schrupp, one representative of “young guns” rising leaders’ group, Phil Sanderson, Tyler Starnes, Nathan Sweet, TJ Manis, Director Ward and Assistant Director Cook will serve as consultant non-voting members. ***A motion was duly made by Chris Wheat and properly seconded by Jeffrey Bagwell to approve. Greg Miller recused himself. The roll was called, and the motion passed with all others present voting in favor.***

**TRAINING PAY SUPPLEMENT RULE DISCUSSION CONTINUED**

- The proposed emergency rule for pay supplement and the air ambulance rules will be tied together and sent through at the same time so that the emergency rule can be in place by January 1, 2024.
- Ms. Webb-Stewart reviewed proposed emergency rule language and presented to the members. After review, amendments, and discussion on the various sections, ***a motion for approval was duly made by Drew Hooker and properly seconded by David Blevins. The roll was called, and the motion passed with all present voting in favor.***

**CONSENT ORDER**

- ***Stephen Utley, License # 23474 – Patient Abandonment/Neglect Practice, Unethical Conduct – Proposed Disciplinary action of Revocation.***

A motion was duly made by Greg Miller and properly seconded by Jeanie Diden to accept the consent order as agreed and written. Jason Tunstall recused from the vote. With all others present voting in favor, the motion passed.								
<i>Board Member’s Name</i>	<i>Aye</i>	<i>Nay</i>	<i>Recused</i>		<i>Board Member’s Name</i>	<i>Aye</i>	<i>Nay</i>	<i>Recused</i>
Chairman Steve Hamby	X				Vice-Chairman Greg Miller	X		
Jeffrey Bagwell	X				Shannon Morphis	X		
Tim Bell	ABSENT				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>Ayes 11; Nays 0; 1 Absent; 1 Recusal - Motion Passed</i>			

**OLD BUSINESS**

- **Out of state clinical rotations** – out of state educational institutions have requested to be allowed to send students into Tennessee to perform clinical rotations at local services. It was noted that the process was desired by the previous Board due to limited oversight without a clear pathway of institutional approval. Ms. Webb-Stewart stated that any information gathered from another state, agency, or professional source for potential rule making should be provided to assist in the process and the necessity of such. After significant discussion, and the desire for more information, ***a motion was duly made by Drew Hooker and properly seconded by Jeanie Diden to recommend the issue be returned to the Education Committee for further review and to also review at the process in other states. David Blevins recused from the vote. The roll was called, and the motion passed with all others present voting in favor.***
- **EMT to Paramedic Pathway** – David Blevins provided information to the Board on this matter. This would allow a licensed EMT to proceed directly into a Paramedic Program. He stated that the proposal may need to be reviewed

so that it could be made up to date if necessary. The outcome of this would be to hopefully produce more Paramedics in a shorter time span without sacrificing quality. The discussion of this matter has been ongoing for nearly 7 years. After discussion by the members and various questions, *a motion to return the matter to the education committee for further study was duly made by Joyce Noles and properly seconded by Chris Wheat. David Blevins recused from the vote. The roll was called, and the motion passed with all others present voting in favor.*

**The members requested a 10-minute break. The recording stopped at this point. I am unsure of what else was discussed.**

The meeting was adjourned.