



**Minutes of the
EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES BOARD
Wednesday, September 18, 2024
Iris Room at 665 Mainstream Drive, Nashville, Tennessee**

To view a recording of the September 18th meeting, please follow the link below:
<https://tdh.streamingvideo.tn.gov/Mediasite/Play/7958344ab380466584ec3f2db0fa78a11d>

Day 1 - Wednesday, September 18, 2024

CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

- The meeting was called to order by Chairman Steve Hamby. The roll was called, finding 13 members present and 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 Member(s) 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
 Ronda Webb-Stewart, Senior Associate Counsel – Office of General Counsel - EMS Board Advisory Attorney
 Kertyssa Smalls, Senior Associate Counsel – Office of General Counsel
 The Honorable Judge Michael Begley, Administrative Law Judge, TN Secretary of State

MOMENT OF SILENCE

- Director Ward announced to the members the recent deaths of Former Board Member Mr. James Ross, RN and Paramedic Jeremy Sutton. Chris Wheat also announced the recent death of Paramedic Ronnie Farmer. A moment of silence was then observed in honor and memory of these providers.

RECOGNITION

- Ms. Tierra Green was recognized for her commitment to improving leadership and participation in the NAEMT Leadership Lighthouse Program, which is a national leadership and mentoring program.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- *A motion was made by David Blevins second by Chris Wheat to approve the June 26-27, 2024 meeting minutes. The motion passed after a voice vote with all present in favor.*

CONTESTED CASE HEARING

- The Honorable Judge Michael Begley, Administrative Law Judge, TN Secretary of State introduced himself and will be overseeing the contested case hearing. He provided an overview of the process for the hearing and provided instructions to the Board. Ms. Kertyssa Smalls, Senior Associate Counsel – Office of General Counsel will be representing the TDH in the matter.
- ***TDH vs respondent J. Craig Bledsoe, License #31171*** – When the docket was called, it was found that Mr. Bledsoe was not present. Ms. Smalls states she has had no contact with Mr. Bledsoe personally, and requests to proceed in default. She presented exhibits to the Board as allowed by the Judge. Ms. Smalls also presented proof of service of notice of hearing with the respondent. Judge Begley stated he felt the appropriate attempts at service had been made and requested the Board to proceed as desired. ***A motion was made by Drew Hooker and second by Chris Wheat to proceed in default. The motion passed after a unanimous voice vote.***
- Mr. Bledsoe appeared at 0924. Judge Begley called for a 10-minute recess to discuss.
- After a discussion with Mr. Bledsoe, ***a motion was made by David Blevins and second by Jason Tunstall to vacate the previous default vote and reopen the case. The motion passed after a voice vote with all present in favor.***
- Mr. Bledsoe was placed under oath by the Judge. Ms. Smalls provided a review of proposed evidence. Mr. Bledsoe was called as a witness and was asked questions by Ms. Smalls. Mr. Bledsoe provided a brief statement. Both rested. The members asked questions of the respondent.
- ***A motion was made by David Blevins and second by Jeffrey Bagwell to accept the Findings of Fact. Roll was called, all members voted in-favor and the motion passed.***
- ***A motion was made by David Blevins and second by Chris Wheat to accept the Conclusions of Law excluding #8. Roll was called, McKinney, Tunstall, Prater, Hamby voted no, all other members voted in-favor and the motion passed.***
- ***A motion was made by Tim Bell and seconded by David Blevins to strike things that are not applicable to the final order. Sentence 1-4 and change to “respondent was present”. Greg Miller asked if this was necessary. Judge stated the more information provided is better. Roll was called, all members voted in-favor and the motion passed.***
- ***A motion was made by Drew Hooker and second by Jeffrey Bagwell to approve the disciplinary action with a correction to the license number. Roll was called, all members voted in-favor and the motion passed.***
- ***A motion was made by David Blevins and second by Chris Wheat to accept the Policy Statement as written. Roll was called, all members voted in-favor and the motion passed.***

5-minute recess at 1007.

CONSENT ORDERS

- ***Brittany Avila, License #38110, Case# 2022026421*** – Proposed discipline 3-year probation and must present proof of all CEU upon renewal until petitions to have this stipulation removed. ***A motion was made by Drew Hooker and second by Greg Miller to approve as written. Roll was called, all members voted in-favor and the motion passed.***
- ***Clint Collins, License #209773, Case #2023030741*** – Proposed discipline is 3-year probation. ***A motion was made by Greg Miller and second by Jeffrey Bagwell to accept as written. Jason Tunstall recused. Roll was called and the remaining 12 members voted to approve.***
- ***Jeremy Tillman, License #31260, Case #2023014521*** – Proposed discipline of TNPAP and 3-year probation. ***A motion was made by Drew Hooker and second by Stacy Prater to accept as proposed. Joyce Noles recused. Roll was called and the remaining 12 members voted to approve.***

- **Michael Morgan, License #212259, Case #2023009141** - Proposed discipline of TNPAP and 3-year probation. *A motion was made by Jeffrey Bagwell and second by Dr. Jared McKinney to approve as proposed. Roll was called, all members voted in-favor and the motion passed.*

TNPAP REPORT

- Ms. Teresa Phillips provided a report of July 1, 2023-June 30, 2024.

APPLICANT APPROVAL

- The discussion of the first 2 applicants was held in executive session at the direction of Ms. Webb-Stewart.
- **Lawrence Inman** – (David Blevins recused). *A motion was made by Drew Hooker and second by Jeffrey Bagwell for conditional licensure with a 1-year probation. Roll was called and the remaining 12 members voted to approve.*
- **Lee Newman** - *A motion was made by Drew Hooker and second by Shannon Morphis for conditional licensure with a 1-year probation. Roll was called, all members voted in-favor and the motion passed.*
- **Donnie Bender** – (Joyce Noles recused) *A motion was made by Stacy Prater and second by Shannon Morphis to accept. Roll was called, all members voted in-favor and the motion passed.*

MORRIS & MCDANIEL TESTING CONTRACT

- Ms. Kim Anderson came to the Board to speak about the testing instrument and to address any concerns with the members.
- Several questions were asked of Ms. Anderson by the members related to job analysis, test questions production, subject matter expert selection, beta exam testing, testing preparation, certifying agencies, statistics, validity, and numerous other issues. Stacy Prater alluded to existence of a document that is purported to be used as a study guide to help insure successful passage of the examination. Director Ward and Assistant Director Cook stated that no such document has ever been sent to or reported to the office so that an investigation could occur. Director Ward also states that the exam continues to have failures, despite the supposed existence of this study guide.
- Ms. Webb-Stewart spoke to the steps that should be employed to remedy the exam, the timeline to develop an exam, format, question cycling, timeline to complete the task. She also reiterated that this was a sole source no cost contract. Other vendors could not be used to provide the exam in lieu of Morris & McDaniel.
- Mr. Hooker requests to work toward a computer adaptive test, to cycle questions every 2 years.
- Ms. Anderson reviewed several exam construction scenarios for question development. Ms. Webb-Stewart requests the members to provide a response from the Board to Morris-McDaniel ASAP.
- *A motion was made by Stacy Prater and seconded by Drew Hooker that requests item writers to come up with a minimum 300 questions/items for 2- 150 question exams to be distributed within 6 months of approval, an alternate exam of 150 questions within 9 months, and a request to have questions rotate and change in exam every 2 years and move to computer-based testing at a community college. Any additional fees will be passed on to the students. Ms. Anderson stated that the change so frequent could cause an issue with gaining a historical perspective of scores. Roll was called, all members voted in-favor and the motion passed.*

A brief lunch break was taken for approximately 1 hour until 1345.

Haywood County Ambulance Authority Director Chris Milton came before the Board to discuss potential for a dual role due to anticipated growth in the future with significant expansion anticipated with the Ford Motor Company plant and the things that it brings. The question was asked for clarification regarding if the ambulance owned by Haywood County Ambulance Authority could provide an ambulance to the Haywood County fire department for those individuals to use the ambulance authority unit to run calls without getting a new license for this purpose. The members asked questions of Mr. Milton. It was clarified that the rules would require a separate license for this to occur.

EDUCATION COMMITTEE

- Mr. Greg Johnson provided a brief update to the Board relating information of the last meeting on 09/18/2024.
- A workgroup was created to create a mental health curriculum for mental health during initial EMS education.
- The practical testing scenario workgroup shared a sample scenario to the committee, and it was shared with the Board at this meeting as a sample of what will be used during testing.
- No action was taken on the EMR to EMT bridge potential. More discussion will be held with stakeholders.
- A workgroup was formed for update of EMT and AEMT equipment lists for educational programs.
- The qualifications in the rules for instructors were discussed and would be further reviewed by a group appointed by the Education Committee.
- A recommendation of a military request to use TN clinical sites was discussed. David Blevins asked if this should be handled as we would a regular educational institution.
- A contingency plan for an unanticipated interruption in service at an educational program or institution was discussed and what rules, regulations, or laws may be referenced to address this.
- Greg also recognized Dr. Jared McKinney, Eric Clauss, and Phil Sanderson as they had recently presented a leadership course at EMS World Expo after being chosen out of over 800 submissions.
- ***A motion was made by Drew Hooker and second by Jeff Bagwell to approve the military clinicals as approved by the Education Committee and the office.***
- ***A motion by was made by David Blevins and second by Jason Tunstall to require all initial educational programs to create a contingency plan for an unanticipated interruption in service at an educational program or institution. The motion passed on a voice vote.***
- David Blevins asked if it further thought had been put into the long-term feasibility of the psychomotor exam. Greg stated that the plan was to revisit this in the first quarter of next year.

CLINICAL ISSUES

- Director Ward presented the report in Dr. Holley's absence.
- A clinical practice was recommended that will allow Paramedics to use a ventilator device that has a non-invasive mode for CPAP/BiPap. The current trends indicate that stand alone CPAP/BiPap devices are becoming rarer and tend to be included as a non-invasive function on a ventilator, rather than a separate piece of equipment. A motion was made by Drew Hooker and second by Chris Wheat to approve the recommendation from Clinical Issues that a Paramedic can utilize a non-invasive BiPap or CPAP through a ventilator (in a non-invasive mode) to the recommendations of the manufacturer. ***The motion passed on a voice vote.***
- Umbilical Vein Catheterization by paramedic was brought forth by Williamson Medical Center and Mary Lee Lemley for an approved clinical practice for UVC after approved NRP course and competency training every 6 months. ***A motion was made to approve the recommendation of Clinical issues by Dr. Jared McKinney and second by Greg Miller. The motion passed on a voice vote.***
- ***A motion was made by Greg Miller and second Drew Hooker by to approve the use of pulse oximetry at all levels. The motion passed on a voice vote.***
- A discussion to approve the use of glucometers by EMR level was discussed. CLIA waivers were discussed, and it was determined that no action would be taken.
- Intranasal Epinephrine (NEFFY) for anaphylaxis was recommended for and approved clinical practice. ***A motion was made by Greg Miller and second by Drew Hooker for approval as recommended. The motion passed on a voice vote.***
- Approved clinical practice recommendation of transportation of a patient with an infusion of a medication that is unfamiliar to the provider. ***A motion was made by Greg Miller and second by Stacy Prater for approval of the request. The motion passed on a voice vote.*** Drew Hooker mentioned a transportation guide used by EMS in Alabama to assist with situations such as these may be of use to TN providers.
- Ambulance Equipment list was reviewed. The committee reviewed including a scoop stretcher that covers the entire back and could suffice as a spine board, so it was decided to make no changes. It was decided to make no changes to the equipment list for this. Drew Hooker mentioned that it was recommended by the American Academy of Pediatrics and TN Perinatal advisory committee to have uncuffed tubes for 2.5, 3.0, and 3.5, as a cuffed tube is still too large. ***A motion was made by Joyce Noles and second by Shannon Morphis to approve as recommended. Drew Hooker voted no; the remaining 12 members voted yes. The motion passed.***

- Clinical Issues discussed providers working in a location outside the rules. Examples would be IV Hydration, doctor's office, dental office, sports medicine, etc. Further review and discussion will be upcoming.
- Discussions related to telemedicine rules and the necessity were held. Requested a provider from an agency that provides these services will be invited to the committee meeting in the future.
- David Blevins asked about the proposed changes for the COMPACT licensed individuals. This was still in process at the time of this meeting and was to be discussed at the next meeting. Greg Miller stated that he felt it was urgent and discussion was held related to this. Director Ward voiced deep concerns with this. Shannon Morphis asked if stipulations could be placed on the COMPACT without voiding it. Ms. Webb-Stewart requested language for an exclusionary period.
- ***A motion was made by Greg Miller and second by Chris Wheat that if you are employed in the capacity of EMT, AEMT, or Paramedic, or any of the levels of licensure in the state of TN under the COMPACT agreement, you must obtain licensure via reciprocity within 180 days of the beginning of your employment. This would be effective on the date of passage. The motion was amended to say that the service must self-report within 30 days any person working under the compact as an EMS provider shall obtain reciprocity within 180 days of the beginning of your employment in the state. It was determined to make this an administrative Board policy initially and then as a rule change. Roll was called, all members voted in-favor and the motion passed.***
- Clinical Issues requested to open the blood administration up for all services, ***a motion was made by Drew Hooker, and second by Stacy Prater to open the project to other services that wish to participate, they must follow the pilot project rules. The motion carried on a voice vote.***

SCHOOL APPROVAL

- AMR Blount – EMT Basic
- Community Healthcare AEMT upgrade
- ***A motion was duly made by Jeffrey Bagwell and properly seconded by Jason Tunstall for approval. Drew Hooker recused. The motion passed.***

OFFICE POLICY REQUEST

- Director Ward presented an office policy request related to early expiration. If 8 months or less remaining in a license, move license expiration forward to 2-year mark to offset short expiration. ***A motion was made by Dr. Jared McKinney and properly seconded by Shannon Morphis. The motion passed on a voice vote.***

ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2023

- Director Ward presented the annual report to the members.

The meeting adjourned for the day at 1540.