



**Minutes of the
EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES BOARD
Iris Room
First Floor 665 Mainstream Drive Nashville, TN 37243
Thursday, September 18, 2025**

To view a comprehensive recording of the meeting, please follow the link below:
<https://tdh.streamingvideo.tn.gov/Mediasite/Play/2eb7eee90b574248bde32dcfa8fadb1a1d>

CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

- The meeting was called to order by Chairman Steve Hamby at 0900 AM. The roll was called, and a quorum was present.

<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	Arrived @ 0953		Jason Tunstall	X	
Drew Hooker	X		Chris Wheat	X	
Dr. Jared McKinney	X		11 Members Present, 2 Member(s) Absent = Quorum		

Also, present:

Brandon Ward, Director
 Hansel Cook, Assistant EMS Director
 Tory Ferguson, Regulatory Board Administrative Assistant 3
 Kertyssa Smalls, Senior Associate Counsel – Office of General Counsel
 Ellen Gose, Senior Associate Counsel – Office of General Counsel
 Tim Peters, Senior Associate Counsel – Office of General Counsel
 Honorable Judge Shannon Barnhill - Administrative Law Judge, TN Secretary of State
 Court Reporter

CONTESTED CASE

- Jeffery Luna, AEMT License #35021 – not present.** The members discussed a motion for default. **Motion by Tim Bell and second by Jason Tunstall to proceed in default.** During discussion, the respondent contacted OGC by phone and there was confusion with date. Mr. Bell elected to withdraw the motion. **A**

motion by David Blevins and second by Drew Hooker to continue matter to December meeting. The motion passed. The contested case hearing concluded at 0926.

CONSENT/AGREED ORDERS

- **Alexander Michael Miles, EMT License #217662, Case #2024043161** - Proposed discipline of 3-year probation \$650 Civil penalty. ***Motion by Drew Hooker and second by Dr. McKinney to approve. Motion passed after roll call vote.***
- **Andrew Bergmann, AEMT License #215420, Case #2024042881** - Proposed discipline of TNPAP and 3-year probation. ***Motion by Greg Miller and second by David Blevins to approve. Motion passed after roll call vote.***
- **Dana Gail Wilson, License #209365, Case #2024020941** - Proposed discipline of \$1250 and 25 hours of CEU within 30 days of ratification. CE hours may not be used for renewal or EMS pay supplement. ***Motion by Greg Miller and second by David Blevins to approve. Motion passed after roll call vote.***
- **Anthony Johnson EMR License #19602, Docket #17.34-254141A** - Proposed discipline of 6-month suspension and 3-year probation. ***Motion by Dr. Jared McKinney and second by David Blevins to approve. Motion passed after roll call vote.***
- **Tina P. Denison, AEMT License #40317 Case #2025001681** - Proposed discipline of \$1250 and 25 hours of CEU within 30 days of ratification. CE hours may not be used for renewal or EMS pay supplement. ***Motion by David Blevins and second by Drew Hooker to approve. Motion passed after roll call vote.***

*Jeanie Diden arrived at 0953

TNPAP REPORT

- Ms. Teresa Phillips provided a report of the period from July 1, 2024 - June 30, 2025. A year over year comparison report will be provided later. Ms. Phillips later reported that the positive UDS had decreased since the prior year.

APPLICANT UPGRADE

- **Jose Bermudez Jr. AEMT license #217119** - request to upgrade license on probation/conditional license agreement. ***Motion by David Blevins and second by Stacy Prater. Motion passed after roll call vote.***
- **Rachel Checchi, AEMT license #212877** - request to upgrade license on probation/conditional license agreement. ***Motion by Drew Hooker and second by Jeanie Diden to approve. Motion passed after roll call vote.***

AIR AMBULANCE REPORT

- Robbie Tester provided a brief report. The new air ambulance rules will have equipment list removed and will be in a format like ground unit required equipment list. This will allow the list to be updated on an annual basis if needed. A request for changes to the approved air ambulance equipment list was provided to the members. ***A motion by David Blevins and second by Chris Wheat to accept equipment list as presented. The motion passed after a roll call vote.***

AMBULANCE COMMITTEE

- No significant information was provided due to lack of quorum at last meeting.

FIRST RESPONDER COMMITTEE

- Mike Terrill provided a brief update of the last meeting. No items required action.

OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE

- Greg Miller provided a report of the last meeting on 09/16/2025. Air Ambulance requested to add Justin Andrews to a role previously held by [Renee Bargaze](#) ? First Responder committee requested that Debbie Patterson will temporarily be replaced by Angie Sullivan. ***Motion by David Blevins and second by Chris Wheat to accept recommendations. The motion passed.***

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

- Gibson County EMS, AMR Knox, AMR Blount, and TCAT Crump requested to upgrade to AEMT. Unicoi County requested to begin service based EMT program. All met the requirements. ***Motion by David Blevins and second by Jason Tunstall. The motion passed.***
- Director Ward discussed review audit of the pay supplement program. He and Assistant Director Cook will be meeting with regional directors' associations to provide better information.
- Also noted was the essential equipment grant, which is currently open to accept applications. Deadline is 10/22/2025 at 2pm CST. Applications should have been delivered by Melissa Painter to ambulance service email.
- Director Ward requested Mr. Jason Fox to speak about the first ethics course that was recently held at the state office EMS conference room. The course included 9 hours of content. The next course opportunity is December 8th.
- The members reviewed the annual service report.

OGC REPORT

- Ms. Smalls reviewed the OGC conflict of interest statement. She reviewed the rule making process and the status of pending rule changes and review. Also discussed was the caseload and the process for complaint intake. Mr. Blevins also asked about the EMT to Paramedic rules and the good moral character letter changes to rules. Ms. Smalls also discussed the possibility of using a consent agenda format for future meetings. ***A motion was made by David Blevins and second by Shannon Morphis to add a consent agenda to the meetings.*** Discussion related to the time for reporting from committees to the consent agenda. Ms. Smalls stated that she will work with the office to have a workflow that will determine items for consent agenda versus a standard in-person report. ***The motion passed after a roll call vote.***

CLINICAL ISSUES COMMITTEE

- Dr. Joe Holley provided a report on the Clinical Issues Committee as referenced by minutes of the previous meetings and position statements.
- Discussion of required equipment list recommendations were presented to the members. 2.5 and 3.0 cuffed ET tubes requested to be substituted with uncuffed ETT moving forward. **Motion by Drew Hooker and second by Chris Wheat to approve. The motion passed.**
- Also discussed some pediatric and adult pulse oximetry probe is ineffective for infant and neonate populations. The disposability and availability of the items are inconsistent. There is a perceived gap in ability to determine accurate pulse oximetry in those less than a weight of 10kg. After discussion, it was determined that further research and discussion on if cost prohibitive and availability to services. **Motion by Chris Wheat and second by David Blevins to add recommendation to Required Equipment list that encourages services to obtain infant pulse oximetry probes.** The services should realize that this will likely be a required equipment item in the 2027 year. **The motion passed after a roll call vote.**
- Discussion of ventilators and related guidelines position statement. **Motion by Tim Bell and second by Dr. Jared McKinney to adopt with nomenclature changes. The motion passed after a roll call vote.** Dr. Holley will make changes to approved clinical practice document later and present for addition.
- A lunch break was taken from 1222-1315. Ms. Diden was absent after this point in the meeting.
- Dr. Holley continued his report with discussions related to licensed providers working outside the ambulance or ER setting. The desire was to infer that regardless of the setting, a licensed provider is subject to the rules of the Board regardless of the setting, medical oversight is required if the provider is utilizing their licensure. Providers may be held accountable for rule violations outside their traditional settings.
- **Motion by Dr. Jared McKinney and second by Jason Tunstall to accept statement regarding scope of practice outside of traditional EMS “ EMS Board of the State of TN retains its regulatory authority over all licensees regardless of the practice environment; therefore, violations of the EMS practice act or Board rules may result in discipline of the practitioner’s license”. The motion passed after a roll call vote.**
- Discussion about patient insulin pump malfunction and if the device or similar could be disconnected if necessary due to potential patient harm. Dr. Holley requested to implement the ACP related to this or to amend an existing document related to patient-controlled devices. **Motion to approve by Drew Hooker and second by David Blevins. The motion passed.** It was suggested that services implement policies and conduct training for these instances and devices.
- Application and transmission of EKG/12 lead monitoring was discussed. Clinical issues opined that if a physician deems a patient requires cardiac monitoring in transport, it should be expected that a paramedic attend the patient. **Motion to approve the statement as presented by Drew Hooker and second by David Blevins. The motion passed.**
- Glucometers by EMR were discussed by clinical issues. This was not recommended due to requirement of CLIA and a license.
- Intraosseous devices beyond cardiac arrest was discussed. It is covered in the advanced clinical practice and now the national scope. **A motion was made by David Blevins and second by Drew Hooker to retire outdated intraosseous access approved clinical practice. The motion passed.**
- Patellar reduction procedure was discussed by the clinical issues committee and was recommended from age 10 and above by ACP. Training must occur at the service level and be included in the service protocols. **Motion by Dr. Jared McKinney and second by Stacy Prater to approve. The motion passed. Shannon Morphis voted no.**

- Discussion of substitution of individual with a nursing license versus EMS license on an ambulance. It was discussed that a nurse must have an EMT license to operate on a regular ground ambulance. Who is required on specialty care and other transports.

NEW BUSINESS

- Honorary titles discussion by David Blevins. The ambulance committee may look at this in the future. Director Ward noted that the department has issued a “honorary” certificate in the past, but indicated it held no weight and did not appear in the system. Also noted, were individuals who were no longer were able to practice, but wanted to still maintain a license, but weren’t physically able to do the job. Director Ward indicated that an individual would need to meet the requirements. ***Motion by Tim Bell to allow ambulance committee to review the request for this item. Chairman Hamby stated that he believed the Board is a regulatory Board and are tasked with enforcing regulations. Roll was called, David Blevins recused, Tim Bell, Greg Miller, Joyce Noles, Jason Tunstall, and Chris Wheat voted YES. Steve Hamby, Jeanie Diden, Drew Hooker, Dr. Jared McKinney, Shannon Morphis, and Stacy Prater voted NO.***
- Request for assignment of CEU hours for preceptors was made by Mr. Blevins. He would like to assign the Education Committee to review potential for this as a plan. ***Motion by Drew Hooker and second by Jason Tunstall to send to education for review. Roll was called and the motion passed. David Blevins recused.***

PUBLIC COMMENT

- None

The meeting adjourned at 1524