

**Minutes of the
EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES BOARD
Day 2 - Tuesday, February 27, 2024**

To view a recording of the February 27th meeting, please follow the link below:
<https://tdh.streamingvideo.tn.gov/Mediasite/Play/e4170baffff64b0c9eda72e428b6c6f31d>

CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

- The meeting was called to order at 0900 by Chairman Steve Hamby. 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>13 Members Present, 0 Member Absent = Quorum</i>		

Also, present:
 Brandon Ward,
 Director -
 Office of

Emergency Medical Services
 Tory Ferguson, Regulatory Board Administrative Assistant 3
 Aaron Kinser, EMS Consultant At-Large
 Ronda Webb-Stewart, Senior Associate Counsel – Office of General Counsel
 Timothy Peters, Senior Associate Counsel – Office of General Counsel
 Kertyssa Smalls, Senior Associate Counsel – Office of General Counsel

CONSENT ORDER

Jason Greer, License #37916

- Ms. Kertyssa Smalls of OGC presented a consent order for voluntary surrender of the respondent’s license. *After review, a motion to accept the order as written was duly made by Drew Hooker and properly seconded by Jason Tunstall. Joyce Noles recused from the vote. All others voted in favor and the motion passed.*

APPLICANT APPROVAL

Jason Bizzle, License # 38266

Mr. Bizzell has completed all discipline except probationary period. Has completed Paramedic training and would like to upgrade. Director Ward would like to request a conditional licensure approval.

- *A motion was duly made by Jeffrey Bagwell and properly seconded by Greg Miller. Joyce Noles recused. All other members voted in favor of the motion and the motion passed.*

CONTESTED CASE HEARINGS

- The Honorable Judge Kim Summers, Administrative Law Judge was assigned to the Board on this date.

The following cases were heard by the EMS Board on this date:

1. 17.34-234300A TENNESSEE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH v. John M. Lins – Represented by Counsel Gordon Byars.
2. 17.34-230744A TENNESSEE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH v. Dustin Willis Coffindaffer – Will testify remotely via WebEx/Teams.

John M. Lins, License # 21811

- Mr. Tim Peters will be representing the State in this matter.
- Chairman Hamby recused himself from this case. Mr. Greg Miller assumed the role of Chairman.
- The hearing Docket and process of hearing were explained. Attorneys for the department and the respondents were introduced for the record.
- Mr. Peters and Mr. Byars both provided opening statements to the Board.
- Mr. Peters and Mr. Byars both introduced several exhibits to the Board.
- A brief recess was taken at 0936 to organize documents. The case resumed at 0942.
- Paramedic Erynn Tauchen of Knoxville Fire Department was sworn in as a witness for the State via Teams meeting. She was asked questions by Mr. Peters and Mr. Byars. The State ended their presentation of proof.
- Mr. Byars called the respondent John Lins to the stand to testify. He was asked questions by Mr. Byars and Mr. Peters. The Board members then asked questions of the respondent. The respondent’s proof was closed, and a brief recess was called at 1104.
- Mr. Peters and Mr. Byars provided closing statements.
- Judge Summers reminded the Board members of the rules of deliberation and directed them to determine if the State had met the burden of proof and if the respondent had indeed violated the laws. She then turned the floor back to Vice Chairman Miller for the Board to deliberate.

A motion was duly made by Drew Hooker and properly seconded by David Blevins that rules were violated, and the burden of proof was met by the state. 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	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>Ayes 11; Nays 1; Recusal 1; Absent 0 - Motion Passed</i>			

A motion to accept the Findings of Fact as presented was duly made by Jeffrey Bagwell and properly seconded by Jeanie Diden. 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	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>Ayes 12; Nays 0; Recusal 1; Absent 0 - Motion Passed</i>			

A motion to accept Conclusions of Law was duly made by Shannon Morphis and properly seconded by Jason Tunstall. 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	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>Ayes 11; Nays 1; Recusal 1; Absent 0 - Motion Passed</i>			

A motion for Disciplinary Action as proposed was duly made by Drew Hooker and properly seconded by Jason Tunstall. After lengthy discussion, the motion failed.

<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		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>Ayes 5; Nays 7; Recusal 1; Absent 0 - Motion Failed</i>			

A motion for Disciplinary Action of 4 years of probation, additional training/education to include 6 hours of penetrating injuries, and 6 hours in trauma, as well as an evaluation of PTSD treatment was made by Chris Wheat and properly seconded by Joyce Noles. After a significant discussion, the motion failed.

<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		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>Ayes 2; Nays 9; Recusal 1; Absent 0 - Motion Failed</i>			

A motion was duly made by Jeffrey Bagwell and properly seconded by Shannon Morphis for Disciplinary Action of 6-month suspension, 4 years of probation, additional training/education to include 6 hours of penetrating injuries, and 6 hours in trauma was initially proposed, it was amended to add 4 hours of assessment, 4 hours of resuscitation, 4 hours of ethics, 4 hours of internal policy/protocol training, as well as an evaluation of PTSD treatment. Drew Hooker and *Stacy Prater requested additional amendments of additional hours and requirement of in-person or CAPCE F5 courses. 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	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>Ayes 10; Nays 2; Recusal 1; Absent 0 - Motion Passed</i>			

Approve policy statement with removal of “revocation” and replace with “the action taken” by Tim Bell and properly seconded by Dr. Jared McKinney. 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	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>Ayes 11; Nays 1; Recusal 1; Absent 0 - Motion Passed</i>			

A recess was taken from 1217-1230.

Dustin Willis Coffindaffer, License # 214477

- Dr. McKinney and Tim Bell recused themselves from this matter.
- Mr. Peters will be representing the State in this matter and the respondent will be representing himself.
- Mr. Peters provides an opening statement as well as the respondent.
- Mr. Peters then provided the proof for the State.
- Mr. Coffindaffer was sworn in by Judge Summers and then provided testimony.

A motion was duly made by Greg Miller and properly seconded by Stacy Prater that rules were violated, and the burden of proof was met by the State. 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			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>Ayes 11; Nays 0; Recusal 2; Absent 0 - Motion Passed</i>			

A motion was duly made by Greg Miller and properly seconded by Jason Tunstall to accept the Findings of Fact as presented. 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			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>Ayes 11; Nays 0; Recusal 2; Absent 0 - Motion Passed</i>			

A motion to accept the Conclusions of Law was duly made by David Blevins and properly seconded by Jeffrey Bagwell. 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			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>Ayes 11; Nays 0; Recusal 2; Absent 0 - Motion Passed</i>			

A motion for Disciplinary Action as written was duly made by Drew Hooker and properly seconded by Stacy Prater. 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			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>Ayes 11; Nays 0; Recusal 2; Absent 0 - Motion Passed</i>			

A motion to approve the Policy Statement as written was duly made by David Blevins and properly seconded by Jeff Bagwell. 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			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>Ayes 11; Nays 0; Recusal 2; Absent 0 - Motion Passed</i>			

This concluded the contested case hearings for this date. The Board requested a lunch break for 45 minutes to return at 1350.

EMS RULES DISCUSSION

- Ms. Rhonda Webb-Stewart spoke to the members concerning rule changes and presents proposed language for review.
- Emergency rules for training supplement have been submitted to Attorney General’s office. Air Ambulance rules are complete, working on adding permanent pay supplement rules.
- Ms. Webb Stewart asked the members to consider requiring CE Broker usage. Director Ward stated there are potentially up to 17,200 licensed personnel that could qualify for the stiped program. The State office has one employee dedicated to this program. This would be an easier and more organized fashion in which to review training that has been submitted. Stacy Prater mentioned a way for the submitting services to review what was entered.
- Discussions about services that wished to opt out of the supplement program and potential conflicts with legislation. Ms. Webb-Stewart will add a statutory citation within the rule.
- *A motion was duly made by Greg Miller and properly seconded by Jeffrey Bagwell to add language in section A pursuant to state law. The motion passed unanimously.*
- *A motion was duly made by Jason Tunstall and properly seconded by Stacy Prater to remove the words “CE Broker” add language regarding “a Board Approved Continuing Education Tracking System”. The motion passed unanimously.*
- *Discussion regarding unclaimed supplement funding. A motion was duly made by Drew Hooker and properly seconded by David Blevins to approve recommended steps for unclaimed property. The motion passed unanimously.*

- *Discussion regarding occurrences prior to distribution of supplement. A motion was duly made by Drew Hooker and properly seconded by Jeffrey Bagwell to approve as suggested. The motion passed unanimously with a voice vote.*
- *A motion was duly made by Greg Miller and properly seconded by Dr. Jared McKinney to amend “the balance of the training pay supplement after appropriate deductions removed as referenced in J, shall be distributed to recipient within 30 days. The motion passed unanimously.*

TRAINING/OTHER BUSINESS

- Ms. Webb-Stewart requests a motion if funds are available, to send an attorney or member to represent the EMS Board at a continuing education opportunity. *A motion was duly made by Joyce Noles and properly seconded by Shannon Morphis supporting such. The motion passed.*
- Director Ward reminded the Board members to complete mandatory Edison trainings.
- Drew Hooker asked to request EMR to EMT bridge course study be sent to the education committee for study and gap analysis. *A motion was duly made by Shannon Morphis and properly seconded by Jeffrey Bagwell regarding such. After discussion about potential pitfalls and the need to likely involve the TBR, the motion passed by a unanimous voice vote.*
- *A motion was duly made by Drew Hooker and properly seconded by Chris Wheat to send information on the Drug Reboot and Recovery mental health program to the leadership and advancement committee. After discussion, the motion passed by a unanimous voice vote.*
- *A motion was duly made by Drew Hooker and properly seconded by Jason Tunstall to send to Clinical Issues review and discuss field determination of death protocol/guideline and changes that may be necessary around the state. The motion passed unanimously on a voice vote.*
- Question by Mr. Hooker regarding an individual licensee on a non-transport unit, who is responsible for the patient ultimately. Director Ward opines that the 911 transport service has the ultimate authority. If the first arriving units cancel the other responding units, they have resumed responsibility for the patient at that point.
- It was mentioned that the Board requests home addresses/contact information be removed from the website.
- Stacy Prater mentioned Clinical Issues Committee was intended to be cancelled at the upcoming meeting because of the absence of a chair. *A motion was then duly made by Mr. Prater and a proper second was provided by David Blevins to require the election of a vice chair at their March meeting to prevent the cancellation of meetings. As amended, Mr. Prater added that the Clinical Issues meeting in March would be reinstated and the Co-Chair shall be a physician. The motion passed unanimously.*

The meeting was adjourned at 1525 hours.