

**Minutes of the  
EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES BOARD  
Wednesday, June 21, 2023  
Iris Room at 665 Mainstream Drive, Nashville, Tennessee**

- Link to Live Video Stream:

<https://tdh.streamingvideo.tn.gov/Mediasite/Play/ed56dfad1b934e18b76a1212eba519581d>

**CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL**

- The Chair Dr. Smith called the meeting to order at 9:04 am CST.

Ms. Tory Ferguson conducted a roll call finding 9 members present and 4 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>
Chair Dr. Sullivan Smith	X			Twila Rose	X	
Jeff Beaman	X			James Ross, RN		X
Dr. Seth Brown	X			Dennis Rowe	X	
Greg Miller	X			Tim Strange		X
Brad Phillips	X			Tyler White		X
Randy Porter		X		Jeanne Yeatman, RN	X	
Brian Robinson	X			<i>9 Present; 4 Absent; Quorum present</i>		

**Also, present:**

Brandon Ward, Director - Office of Emergency Medical Services  
Hansel Cook, Assistant EMS Director  
Tory Ferguson, Regulatory Board Administrative Assistant 3  
Dr. Joe Holley, Medical Director  
Paul Richardson, Associate Counsel – Office of General Counsel  
Matthew Gibbs, Deputy General Counsel – Office of General Counsel  
Russell Gupton, EMS Consultant at-large  
Nita Jernigan, Region 3 EMS Consultant  
Britnei Outland, EMS Data Manager  
Dwight Davis, Region 5 EMS Consultant  
Kevin Cagle Region 7 EMS Consultant  
Mike Duck, Region 8 EMS Consultant

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

- *A motion was duly made by Dennis Rowe and properly seconded by Jeff Beaman for minutes to stand as read. The vote was unanimous.*

**LEGISLATIVE UPDATE**

- Grayson Carter, Legislative Liaison from the TDH, provided a brief report of the wrap-up of the 2023 legislative session as related to the TDH and the Board of EMS.

**OGC REPORT**

- Matthew Gibbs, Deputy General Counsel – Office of General Counsel provided the OGC report, citing 58 total cases in the OGC office with 13 for this meeting as Consent Orders. There are 12 other matters that will be heard in hearing throughout the rest of the year.

**COPEC/CECA REPORT**

- Natasha Kurth presented the joint annual COPEC report covering educational hours offered throughout the year. Also discussed information related to EMS survey, hospital discharge for children with special needs program, and noted delivery of over 230 pediatric safety transport devices that have been delivered to services throughout the state.
- A motion was duly made by Dennis Rowe and properly seconded by Jeff Beaman for approval of the report. The motion passed unanimously among all present.*

**TNPAP REPORT**

- Teresa Phillips provided the TNPAP reports from 07/01/22 – 03/31/2023.

**SCHOOL & APPLICANT APPROVALS**

- An individual that previously signed an agreed order with OGC had asked to speak to the Board because he did not agree with what he had signed. The individual was called and was found not present at the time of the report and failed to show during the meeting.
- Director Ward presented 4 programs for approval. TCAT Murfreesboro, TCAT Crump, University of Memphis, and Acadian Memphis all applied for approval of an EMT Basic program. Each received a site visit and were found to be in compliance. *A motion was duly made by Brad Phillips and properly seconded by Jeff Beaman. The motion passed with all present in favor.* It was noted that all 30 positions as allowed by TCA for a service-based program have been filled.
- Mr. Tim Strnad appeared before the Board due to previous CBC concerns that he wanted to provide prior to attending an EMS program. He had presented at the last meeting and was requested to return with further information. *After reviewing the information and a brief discussion, a motion was properly made by Jeff Beaman and properly seconded by Greg Miller. The motion passed unanimously among all present.*
- Mr. Matthew Singleton appeared before the Board to discuss previous CBC concerns prior to enrolling in an EMS program. After presentation and discussion among the members, it was discussed that Mr. Singleton should return to the Board and provide further information from his healthcare professionals and therapists about his fitness for duty. *A motion was duly made by Brad Phillips and properly seconded by Dr. Seth Brown to table the request until further information is provided. The motion passed with all present in favor.*

**CONSENT/AGREED ORDERS**

- 13 consent orders were considered in this meeting.

***Chase Batten, License #215141 - Substance Abuse Violation – Proposed Discipline of TNPAP.***

A motion was duly made by Brad Phillips and properly seconded by Jeff Beaman for approval as proposed. 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>
Chair Dr. Sullivan Smith	X			Twila Rose	X		
Jeff Beaman	X			James Ross	Absent		
Dr. Seth Brown	X			Dennis Rowe	X		
Greg Miller	X			Tim Strange	Absent		
Brad Phillips	X			Tyler White	Absent		
Randy Porter	Absent			Jeanne Yeatman, RN	X		
Brian Robinson	X			<i>9 Ayes; 0 Nays; 4 Absent; 0 Recusal - Motion Passed</i>			

**Jose Bermudez, License #217119 - Unprofessional Conduct, Practice Outside Scope – Proposed discipline of 3-year probation, 4-hour ethics course, AEMT refresher.**

A motion was duly made by Dennis Rowe and properly seconded by Brad Phillips for approval as proposed. 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>
Chair Dr. Sullivan Smith	X				Twila Rose		X	
Jeff Beaman	X				James Ross	Absent		
Dr. Seth Brown	X				Dennis Rowe	X		
Greg Miller	X				Tim Strange	Absent		
Brad Phillips	X				Tyler White	Absent		
Randy Porter	Absent				Jeanne Yeatman, RN	X		
Brian Robinson	X				<b>8 Ayes; 1 Nays; 4 Absent; 0 Recusal - Motion Passed</b>			

**Joshua Brown, License #213889 – Substance Abuse Violation – Proposed discipline of TNPAP.**

A motion was duly made by Brad Phillips and properly seconded by Dennis Rowe for approval as proposed. 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>
Chair Dr. Sullivan Smith	X				Twila Rose	X		
Jeff Beaman	X				James Ross	Absent		
Dr. Seth Brown	X				Dennis Rowe	X		
Greg Miller	X				Tim Strange	Absent		
Brad Phillips	X				Tyler White	Absent		
Randy Porter	Absent				Jeanne Yeatman, RN	X		
Brian Robinson	X				<b>9 Ayes; 0 Nays; 4 Absent; 0 Recusal - Motion Passed</b>			

**Rachel Checchi, License #212877 – Practicing on Expired License – Proposed discipline of 3-year probation.**

A motion was duly made by Brad Phillips and properly seconded by Dennis Rowe for approval as proposed. 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>
Chair Dr. Sullivan Smith	X				Twila Rose	X		
Jeff Beaman		X			James Ross	Absent		
Dr. Seth Brown		X			Dennis Rowe		X	
Greg Miller		X			Tim Strange	Absent		
Brad Phillips	X				Tyler White	Absent		
Randy Porter	Absent				Jeanne Yeatman, RN		X	
Brian Robinson		X			<b>3 Ayes; Nays; 4 Absent; 0 Recusal - Motion FAILS</b>			
After further discussion, a motion to reconsider the above was then duly made by Greg Miller and properly seconded by Twila Rose for approval as proposed. 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>

Chair Dr. Sullivan Smith	X			Twila Rose	X		
Jeff Beaman	X			James Ross	Absent		
Dr. Seth Brown	X			Dennis Rowe	X		
Greg Miller	X			Tim Strange	Absent		
Brad Phillips	X			Tyler White	Absent		
Randy Porter	Absent			Jeanne Yeatman, RN		X	
Brian Robinson	X			<i>8 Ayes; 1 Nays; 4 Absent; 0 Recusal – Motion Passed</i>			

**Wayne Eades II, License #217202 – Substance Abuse Violation – Proposed discipline of TNPAP**

A motion was duly made by Jeff Beaman and properly seconded by Jeanne Yeatman for approval as proposed. 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>
Chair Dr. Sullivan Smith	X			Twila Rose	X		
Jeff Beaman	X			James Ross	Absent		
Dr. Seth Brown	X			Dennis Rowe	X		
Greg Miller	X			Tim Strange	Absent		
Brad Phillips	X			Tyler White	Absent		
Randy Porter	Absent			Jeanne Yeatman, RN	X		
Brian Robinson	X			<i>9 Ayes; 0 Nays; 4 Absent; 0 Recusal - Motion Passed</i>			

**Cory Friend, License #39502 - Falsification – Proposed discipline of 3-year probation and ethics course.**

A motion was duly made by Brad Phillips and properly seconded by Jeanne Yeatman for denial of order and request a stricter punishment for the respondent. After discussion of potential suggested disciplinary actions, the motion for denial 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>
Chair Dr. Sullivan Smith	X			Twila Rose	X		
Jeff Beaman	X			James Ross	Absent		
Dr. Seth Brown	X			Dennis Rowe	X		
Greg Miller	X			Tim Strange	Absent		
Brad Phillips	X			Tyler White	Absent		
Randy Porter	Absent			Jeanne Yeatman, RN	X		
Brian Robinson	X			<i>9 Ayes; 0 Nays; 4 Absent; 0 Recusal - Motion Passed</i>			

**Alexis Hackney, License #215244 – Substance Abuse Violation – Proposed discipline of TNPAP**

A motion was duly made by Greg Miller and properly seconded by Jeanne Yeatman for approval as proposed. 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>
Chair Dr. Sullivan Smith	X			Twila Rose	X		

Jeff Beaman	X			James Ross	Absent		
Dr. Seth Brown	X			Dennis Rowe	X		
Greg Miller	X			Tim Strange	Absent		
Brad Phillips	X			Tyler White	Absent		
Randy Porter	Absent			Jeanne Yeatman, RN	X		
Brian Robinson	X			<i>9 Ayes; 0 Nays; 4 Absent; 0 Recusal - Motion Passed</i>			

**Casey Hatfield, License #37528 – Substance Abuse Violation - Proposed discipline of TNPAP**

A motion was duly made by Greg Miller and properly seconded by Brad Phillips for approval as proposed. 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>
Chair Dr. Sullivan Smith	X			Twila Rose	X		
Jeff Beaman	X			James Ross	Absent		
Dr. Seth Brown	X			Dennis Rowe	X		
Greg Miller	X			Tim Strange	Absent		
Brad Phillips	X			Tyler White	Absent		
Randy Porter	Absent			Jeanne Yeatman, RN	X		
Brian Robinson	X			<i>9 Ayes; 0 Nays; 4 Absent; 0 Recusal - Motion Passed</i>			

**George Huzjak, License #212433 - Unprofessional Conduct – Proposed discipline of letter of professional reprimand, 3-year probation, and ethics course**

A motion was duly made by Greg Miller and properly seconded by Dennis Rowe for approval as proposed. After significant discussion, it was recommended that OGC return with further information or have the respondent appear before the Board. 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>
Chair Dr. Sullivan Smith		X		Twila Rose		X	
Jeff Beaman		X		James Ross	Absent		
Dr. Seth Brown		X		Dennis Rowe		X	
Greg Miller		X		Tim Strange	Absent		
Brad Phillips		X		Tyler White	Absent		
Randy Porter	Absent			Jeanne Yeatman, RN		X	
Brian Robinson		X		<i>0 Ayes; 9 Nays; 4 Absent; 0 Recusal - Motion FAILED</i>			

**Eric Knowlton, License #215099 – Substance Abuse Violation - Proposed discipline of TNPAP**

A motion was duly made by Brad Phillips and properly seconded by Dennis Rowe for approval as proposed. 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>
Chair Dr. Sullivan Smith	X			Twila Rose	X		
Jeff Beaman	X			James Ross	Absent		

<b>Dr. Seth Brown</b>	X			<b>Dennis Rowe</b>	X		
<b>Greg Miller</b>	X			<b>Tim Strange</b>	<b>Absent</b>		
<b>Brad Phillips</b>	X			<b>Tyler White</b>	<b>Absent</b>		
<b>Randy Porter</b>	<b>Absent</b>			<b>Jeanne Yeatman, RN</b>	X		
<b>Brian Robinson</b>	X			<b>9 Ayes; 0 Nays; 4 Absent; 0 Recusal - Motion Passed</b>			

***Joshua Patrick, License #42220 – Unlicensed Practice – Voluntarily Surrendered***

A motion was duly made by Dennis Rowe and properly seconded by Greg Miller for approval as proposed. Motion Passed.							
<b><i>Board Member's Name</i></b>	<b><i>Aye</i></b>	<b><i>Nay</i></b>	<b><i>Recused</i></b>	<b><i>Board Member's Name</i></b>	<b><i>Aye</i></b>	<b><i>Nay</i></b>	<b><i>Recused</i></b>
<b>Chair Dr. Sullivan Smith</b>	X			<b>Twila Rose</b>	X		
<b>Jeff Beaman</b>	X			<b>James Ross</b>	<b>Absent</b>		
<b>Dr. Seth Brown</b>	X			<b>Dennis Rowe</b>	X		
<b>Greg Miller</b>	X			<b>Tim Strange</b>	<b>Absent</b>		
<b>Brad Phillips</b>	X			<b>Tyler White</b>	<b>Absent</b>		
<b>Randy Porter</b>	<b>Absent</b>			<b>Jeanne Yeatman, RN</b>	X		
<b>Brian Robinson</b>	X			<b>9 Ayes; 0 Nays; 4 Absent; 0 Recusal - Motion Passed</b>			

***Bailey Peralta, License #216265 – Substance Abuse - Proposed discipline of TNPAP***

A motion was duly made by Jeff Beaman and properly seconded by Twila Rose for approval as proposed. Motion Passed.							
<b><i>Board Member's Name</i></b>	<b><i>Aye</i></b>	<b><i>Nay</i></b>	<b><i>Recused</i></b>	<b><i>Board Member's Name</i></b>	<b><i>Aye</i></b>	<b><i>Nay</i></b>	<b><i>Recused</i></b>
<b>Chair Dr. Sullivan Smith</b>	X			<b>Twila Rose</b>	X		
<b>Jeff Beaman</b>	X			<b>James Ross</b>	<b>Absent</b>		
<b>Dr. Seth Brown</b>	X			<b>Dennis Rowe</b>	X		
<b>Greg Miller</b>	X			<b>Tim Strange</b>	<b>Absent</b>		
<b>Brad Phillips</b>	X			<b>Tyler White</b>	<b>Absent</b>		
<b>Randy Porter</b>	<b>Absent</b>			<b>Jeanne Yeatman, RN</b>	X		
<b>Brian Robinson</b>	X			<b>9 Ayes; 0 Nays; 4 Absent; 0 Recusal - Motion Passed</b>			

***Ariel Shahan, License #41908 – Substance Abuse - Proposed discipline of TNPAP***

A motion was duly made by Jeff Beaman and properly seconded by Brad Phillips for approval as proposed. Motion Passed.							
<b><i>Board Member's Name</i></b>	<b><i>Aye</i></b>	<b><i>Nay</i></b>	<b><i>Recused</i></b>	<b><i>Board Member's Name</i></b>	<b><i>Aye</i></b>	<b><i>Nay</i></b>	<b><i>Recused</i></b>
<b>Chair Dr. Sullivan Smith</b>	X			<b>Twila Rose</b>	X		
<b>Jeff Beaman</b>	X			<b>James Ross</b>	<b>Absent</b>		
<b>Dr. Seth Brown</b>	X			<b>Dennis Rowe</b>	X		

Greg Miller	X			Tim Strange	Absent		
Brad Phillips	X			Tyler White	Absent		
Randy Porter	Absent			Jeanne Yeatman, RN	X		
Brian Robinson	X			<i>9 Ayes; 0 Nays; 4 Absent; 0 Recusal - Motion Passed</i>			

**AIR AMBULANCE COMMITTEE**

- Robbie Tester provided the Air Ambulance Committee report, citing desired proposed changes to Air Ambulance Standards. The committee had met on numerous occasions to review current rules and finalize changes that were approved at the Tuesday June 14 meeting. Mr. Tester provided the members with a brief overview of these changes. Team composition, supplies, Physician on aircraft, shift hours, licensure/certification, and language changes were some items discussed for proposed revision. The Board members asked Mr. Gibbs the process for rulemaking due to Mr. Gibbs stated that internal review will take 6 months to 1 year plus 152 days of notice. ***A motion was duly made by Dennis Rowe and properly seconded by Jeanne Yeatman to send the proposed changes to OGC to begin the process. The motion passed unanimously among all present.***

**CONTINUING EDUCATION**

- Chairman Mr. Kirk Harris a brief overview of the meeting held on June 20<sup>th</sup>. Of note was a letter from the committee to the incoming Board and the office voicing their continued support and desire to continue to serve

**INITIAL EDUCATION**

- Interim Chairman David Blevins presented the report from the meeting held on June 20<sup>th</sup>. The committee had made several recommendations that they wanted to present to the Board.
  - Request removal of the requirement for letters of Evidence of Good Moral Character for various license levels. ***A motion was duly made by Brad Phillips and properly seconded by Jeff Beaman. The motion passed unanimously among all present.***
  - Out-of-state clinical process & EMT to Paramedic pathway – Dennis Rowe stated that he believed it was in the best interest of all involved to table this until the incoming EMS Board is seated and allow them to take this up at another time as they may have differing opinions than the current Board. There was a lengthy conversation about the clinical coordination situation and the roles that would be required. Mr. Gibbs opined that the more that he heard about the issue, the more he felt that the process needed to be included in a rule. Discussion continued aspects of this topic for a lengthy period. Brad Phillips and Greg Miller both stated that they believed to have authority on this issue, a rule would be in order. Mr. Gibbs stated that the process would not be enforceable as a policy. No further action was taken. It was decided to leave this to the new Board.
  - AEMT Scope of Practice Modules – live vs simulated patient on most all the skills for clinical component. Some services had requested some of these be able to be simulated. No recommendation for change came from the committee.
- The committee expressed their thankfulness to the Board and voiced desire to continue their work with the next appointed Board.

**MEDICAL DIRECTOR REPORT**

- Dr. Joe Holley presented a brief report with a summary of information that he was not able to present at the last meeting in the interest of time. Clinical Issues did not meet prior to this Board meeting.
- The last Clinical Issues Committee meeting addressed potential updates to the Quality Assurance/Improvement process that was first implemented in the early 1990s.
- The committee also discussed a more adequate method for drug error reporting.
- AEMT administration of Epinephrine was discussed and clarified it was only for a cardiac arrest when used by the AEMT.
- Oxygen was approved to be used on a stretcher van for individuals with existing oxygen needs.
- A pilot study in Williamson County for EMR use of mechanical CPR devices was approved.

- Clarification that the use of buckle locks/locking cot straps were only for restraint of patients as required by clinical consideration/physician order/protocol for psychiatric transport. They are not to be used as a general safety device for securing the patient to the cot during a routine transport. Assistant Director Cook informed the Board that hospital staff had voiced the concerns that the services were inappropriately restraining the patients and had altered the buckles with screws and non-manufacturer supported techniques. Dr. Seth Brown inquired about information from other states. Dr. Smith also echoed the same. Brian Robinson stated that condoning the use of these devices could void the manufacturer warranty or affect seatbelt operation could be a potential liability. Jeff Beaman stated he was not in favor of locking a patient that does not meet the psychological profile that could require such. ***A motion was duly made by Dr. Brown requesting further information from other states on this topic and was properly seconded by Twila Rose. The motion passed unanimously among all present.***
- ***A request from the Board to accept the committee report in entirety came in the form of a motion and not requiring a second, the motion passed unanimously among all present.***

#### **DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

- Director Ward wished to speak on behalf of the office to express appreciation to the EMS Board for the work they have done. A certificate was then presented to all those Board members in attendance.

Having no further business to come before the Board on this date, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 1:10 p.m. after a motion was duly made by Dennis Rowe and properly seconded by Jeff Beaman.