

**Tennessee Medical Laboratory Board  
October 24, 2025  
Full Board Meeting  
Minutes**

**Meeting Date:** October 24, 2025

**Time:** 9:01 a.m. CDT

**Location:** Tennessee Department of Health  
Division of Health Licensure and Regulations  
Metro Center Complex, Iris Room, Ground Floor  
665 Mainstream Drive  
Nashville, TN 37243

**Members Present:**

Jennifer Chandler, MT-Med. Technologist General-Chair  
Jerry Barker, MT-Hosp Lab Mgr/Admin. Dir.-Vice-Chair  
LeeAnne Briggs, MT- Med. Technologist Educator  
Chris Litle, MT-Medical Laboratory Supervisor  
James A. Vaughan, MD-Pathologist Educator  
Marilyn (Buffy) Key, MT-Hospital  
Administrator(virtually)  
Diana Varela-Citizen Representative

**Vacant Positions:**

Pathologist  
Medical Technologist-General

**Members Absent:**

Matthew Hardison, Ph.D., Independent Lab Mgr/Adm.  
Penny Asbell, MD- Non-Pathologist Physician  
Andrew Stanton – CT-Cytotechnologist  
Danielle Gibson, MD-Pathologist

**Staff Present:**

Shyamali Bhattacharya, Ph.D., Director  
Nina V. Smith, MT Consultant Administrative Office  
Kertyssa D. Smalls, Senior Associate Counsel  
Mina Girgis, Board Administrator  
Adidas Eddings, MT Consultant 2  
Reuben M. Windom, MT Consultant 1

**Staff Absent:**

Debbie Haggard, MT Consultant/Supervisor WTRO  
Fowlen Anders, MT Consultant/Supervisor ETRO  
Misty Rector, MT Consultant/Surveyor WTRO  
Kathy Dunn-McPhall, MT Consultant/Surveyor MTRO  
Pam Frederick, MT Consultant/Surveyor ETRO

**CLIA Manager/Representative:**

Tracy McLemore, MT CLIA Director

**Introduction of Board Members:**

Board members and staff made their introductions to the audience.

**Quorum:**

Seven (7) board members were present, which constituted a quorum of seven (7).

**Call To Order:**

The meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m. CDT by Jennifer Chandler, the Board Chairman.

**Presiding Officer:**

Ms. Chandler conducted the meeting.

**Approve Minutes:**

**P & E Committee Meeting**

A motion to approve the July 24, 2025, Personnel & Education Committee minutes was made by Ms. Briggs  
Second: Mr. Litle

The report was accepted as given with the Chairman voting.

**Full Board Meeting**

A motion to approve the July 25, 2025, Full Board meeting minutes was made by Mr. Barker  
Second: Dr. Vaughan

The report was accepted as given with the Chairman voting.

**Ratification of Initial Determinations  
P & E Committee Meeting:**

Ms. Briggs reported the actions of the Personnel & Education Committee meeting, October 23, 2025.

Motion to ratify Committee actions: Dr. Vaughan  
Second: Mr. Litle

The report was accepted as given with the Chairman voting.

**Consent, Agreed, Compliance Orders, and Letters of Reprimand:**

Nothing to present

**Presentations to the Board:**

**Tennessee Professional Peer Assistance Program (TNPAP)**  
Teresa Phillips, Executive Director

The statistical report for July 1, 2025-September 30, 2025, was presented by Mrs. Teresa Phillips-executive Director.

One (1) individual was monitored during this period, one (1) regulatory.

One (1) referral one (1) from employer and one (1) from TDH regulatory (Board orders)  
Referral Reason Impairment and UDS workplace two (2)

Zero (0) agreement activated zero (0) Discharges, reason was monitoring non-compliance regulatory one (1) and declined TNPAP services non regulatory one (1)

Motion to accept the TNPAP report: Mr. Little  
Second: Mr. Barker

The report was accepted as given with the Chairman voting.

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**Investigations Report**  
Franziska Braunleder- Leib  
OIV Admin. Services Asst.2

Ms. Braunleder- Leib 's investigative report included the following:

Monitored Practitioners (Facilities): (January-October 2025)

Investigative Licensed Laboratory Facilities: (2025)  
Six (6) new complaints  
Three (3) closed complaints  
Five (5) currently open complaints

Investigative Licensed Laboratory Personnel: (2025)  
three (3) currently open complaints

Investigative Licensed Laboratory Schools: (2025)  
Zero (0) currently open complaints

Motion to accept the report: Dr. Vaughan  
Second: Ms. Briggs

The report was accepted as given with the Chairman voting.

**Financial Report**

Kyonzte Hughes-Toombs., Esq., MBA, CHC,  
Deputy Director  
Interim Fiscal Director

Ms. Hughes-Toombs presented the preliminary FY2025 Fiscal Report ending June 30,2025, which compared the actual revenue and expenditures for the past the past three years (FY 2023, FY2024, FY 2025 (to date)). The values were compared with little changes between FY 2023-FY2025. Fiscal year 2025 ( to date) showed an increase of total expenditure compared to FY2023. She also presented information regarding the expenditure sources for all three years which included the following: salaries, travel, communication, supplies & materials, Grants & subsidies, computer Related items, and state professional services. maintenance/repairs

Motion to accept the report: Mr. Litle  
Second: Ms. Briggs

The report was accepted as given with the Chairman voting.

**Legislative Update**

Carter Grayson  
Legislative Liaison of Legislative  
Affairs

Nothing to present

Surveyor Update  
Tracy McLemore, MT  
CLIA Director

Mr. McLemore presented a written report to the Board regarding the surveyor workload.

Motion to accept the report: Mr. Litle  
Second: Mr. Barker

The report was accepted as given with the Chairman voting.

**Point of Care Exemptions 1200-06-03-.16(1):**

**A. Ascension St. Thomas Rutherford,**  
Murfreesboro, TN

Kevin Adcock, BS, RRT  
Laboratory Manager

The request was to permit RNs and LPNs in Interventional Radiology to perform and report ACT testing utilizing the Abbott i-STAT System instrument and methodology.

The request was to permit LPNs facility wide, to perform and report ACT, pH, PCO2, PO2, NA, K+, CL,

iCA, Glu, Hct and lactate utilizing Abbott i-STAT System instrument and methodology.

Motion: Dr. Vaughan

Second: Mr. Litle

The report was accepted as given with the Chairman voting.

**B. University of Tennessee Medical Center**  
Knoxville, TN

Patricia Cole, MT  
Point of Care Coordinator

The request was to permit Mechanical Circulatory Support Specialist (ECMO specialists) in the OR and the Cardiovascular Intensive Care Unit (CVICU), to perform Viscoelastic testing utilizing the Quantra Hemostasis Analyzer system. Parameters include Clot Time (CT), Heparinase Clot Time (CTH), Clot Time Ratio (CTR), Clot Stiffness (CS), Fibrinogen Contribution to Clot Stiffness (FCS), and Platelet Contribution to Clot Stiffness (PCS).

Motion: Ms. Briggs

Second: Mr. Barker

The report was accepted as given with the Chairman voting.

**University of Tennessee Medical Center**  
Knoxville, TN

Patricia Cole, MT  
Point of Care Coordinator

The request was to permit Licensed Nurses in the Ambulatory Surgery and Pre-Operative Department to perform pH, pCO<sub>2</sub>, pO<sub>2</sub>, Ionized Calcium, Sodium, Potassium, Glucose, Hematocrit, and Hemoglobin testing on the CG8+ cartridge utilizing the i-STAT instrument.

Motion: Mr. Barker

Second: Mr. Litle

The report was accepted as given with the Chairman voting.

**C. Big South Fork Medical**  
Oneida, TN  
Kim Turner,  
Point of Care Coordinator

The request was to permit Registered Nurses, Licensed Practical Nurses in the Emergency Department, and Medical Surgery Unit to perform and report the hs-TnI testing utilizing the i-STAT instrument and methodology (i-STAT hs-TnI cartridge).

Motion: Dr. Vaughan

Second: Ms. Briggs

The report was accepted as given with the Chairman voting.

**D. Vanderbilt Wilson County Hospital**

Lebanon, TN

William Stetka, Point of care coordinator

The request was to permit Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetists, and Registered Nurse to perform pCO<sub>2</sub>, pH, pO<sub>2</sub>, sodium, potassium, chloride, ionized calcium, glucose, lactate, hematocrit, total hemoglobin, oxyhemoglobin, carboxyhemoglobin, methemoglobin, reduced hemoglobin, and measured oxygen saturation testing in the Respiratory Department, Emergency Department, Intensive Care Unit and Cardiac Catheterization Lab and Operating room (OR) utilizing the IL GEM Premier 7000 with iQM<sub>3</sub> instrument and methodology.

Motion: Mr. Barker

Second: Mr. Litle

The report was accepted as given with the Chairman voting.

**Vanderbilt University Medical Center**

Nashville, TN

Josh Mawyer, Pont of care coordinator

The request was to permit Paramedics to perform and report pH, blood gases, electrolytes, glucose, lactate, hemoglobin, and hematocrit testing facility wide in areas of Vanderbilt University Hospital (VUH) and Monroe Carell Jr. Children's Hospital at Vanderbilt, utilizing the IL GEM Premier 7000 instrument and methodology.

Motion: Mr. Litle

Second: Dr. Vaughan

The report was accepted as given with the Chairman voting.

**E. TriStar Centennial Medical Center**

Nashville, TN

Sandra Towner, Supervisor, Transfusion service

The request was to permit CRNAs, Certified Perfusionists, and Registered Nurses to perform hemostasis testing using the TEG6s analyzer, in the Cardiovascular OR suite utilizing the Global HN cartridge, Global Hemostasis with Lysis Cartridge and the platelet mapping cartridge.

Motion: Ms. Key

Second: Mr. Litle

The report was accepted as given with the Chairman voting.

**F. Parkridge Camp Jordan FSER**  
Chattanooga, TN  
Brittney Smith, Supervisor

The request was to permit Registered Nurses, and Paramedics to perform & report CBC and Diff analyses in the Free-standing Emergency Department utilizing Sysmex XP-300 instrument and methodology.

Motion: Mr. Litle

Second: Mr. Barker

The report was accepted as given with the Chairman voting.

**Parkridge Camp Jordan FSER**  
Chattanooga, TN  
Brittney Smith, Supervisor

The request was to permit Registered Nurses, and Paramedics to perform & report basic metabolic panel, Lactic acid, blood gases analyses in the Free-standing Emergency Department utilizing Siemens ePOC instrument and methodology.

Motion: Mr. Barker

Second: Dr. Vaughan

The report was accepted as given with the Chairman voting.

**Parkridge Camp Jordan FSER**  
Chattanooga, TN  
Brittney Smith, Supervisor

The request was to permit Registered Nurses, and Paramedics to perform & report PT and PTT analyses in the Free-standing Emergency Department utilizing Hemochron Signature Elite instrument and methodology.

Motion: Dr. Vaughan

Second: Mr. Litle

The report was accepted as given with the Chairman voting.

**Parkridge Camp Jordan FSER**  
Chattanooga, TN  
Brittney Smith, Supervisor

The request was to permit Registered Nurses, and Paramedics to perform & report Occult Blood, Gastric Occult blood in the Free-standing Emergency Department utilizing Hema Prompt instrument and methodology.

Motion: Ms. Briggs

Second: Dr. Vaughan

The report was accepted as given with the Chairman voting.

**Parkridge Camp Jordan FSER**  
Chattanooga, TN  
Brittney Smith, Supervisor

The report was to permit Registered Nurses, and Paramedics to perform & report Amylase, Magnesium, phosphorous, Comprehensive metabolic panel analyses in the Free-standing Emergency Department utilizing Abbott Piccolo instrument and methodology.

Motion: Mr. Litle

Second: Mr. Barker

The report was accepted as given with the Chairman voting.

**Parkridge Camp Jordan FSER**  
Chattanooga, TN  
Brittney Smith, Supervisor

The report was to permit Registered Nurses, and Paramedics to perform & report BNP, DDIM, Troponin, Urine Drug screening analyses in the Free-standing Emergency Department utilizing Quidel Triage Meter instrument and methodology.

Motion: Ms. Briggs

Second: Dr. Vaughan

The report was accepted as given with the Chairman voting.

**Parkridge Camp Jordan FSER**  
Chattanooga, TN  
Brittney Smith, Supervisor

The report was to permit Registered Nurses, and Paramedics to perform & report Flu A 7 B plus SARS, RSV, Strep A analyses in the Free-standing Emergency Department utilizing Quidel Sofia instrument and methodology.

Motion: Mr. Barker

Second: Mr. Litle

The report was accepted as given with the Chairman voting.

**Parkridge Camp Jordan FSER**

Chattanooga, TN  
Brittney Smith, Supervisor

The report was to permit Registered Nurses, and Paramedics to perform & report pregnancy and UA analyses in the Free-standing Emergency Department utilizing Clinitek Status instrument and methodology.

Motion: Mr. Litle

Second: Dr. Vaughan

The report was accepted as given with the Chairman voting.

**G. Blount Memorial Hospital**  
Maryville, TN  
Shawna Frazier, Point of care Coordinator

The report was to permit Nurse Anesthetists, CRNAs in the Surgical Department to perform and report Activated Clotting Times (ACT) and CG8's (NA, K, Glu, H/H, ABG, ionized CA utilizing the iSTAT instrument and methodology.

Motion: Mr. Barker

Second: Dr. Vaughan

The report was accepted as given with the Chairman voting.

**Blount Memorial Hospital**  
Maryville, TN  
Shawna Frazier, Point of care Coordinator

The report was to permit Radiological Technologists (RT), Registered Nurses (RN), Registered Cardiovascular Invasive Specialists (RCIS) in the Cath Lab and Critical Care Units to perform and report Activated Clotting Times (ACT) utilizing the iSTAT instrument and methodology.

Motion: Dr. Vaughan

Second: Ms. Briggs

The report was accepted as given with the Chairman voting.

**H. TriStar Southern Hills Medical Center**  
Nashville, TN  
Anthony Dinsay, Laboratory Director

The report was to permit Registered Nurses (RNs) and Respiratory Therapists (RTs) to perform and report co-oximetry procedures (oxyhemoglobin, methemoglobin, total hemoglobin and carboxyhemoglobin) in the Cath Lab and ER utilizing the Avox 4000/Avox 1000E system.

Motion: Dr. Vaughan

Second: Mr. Litle

The report was accepted as given with the Chairman voting.

**Direct More Than Three (3) Labs 1200-06-03-.13(5):**

Alexander Thurman, M.D

The motion was made to table to January,2026 meeting request due to quorum and conflict of interest of board members.

Abstained: Ms. Chandler, Mr. Litle

Frances Kate, M.D.

Motion: Dr. Vaughan

Second: Mr. Litle

The report was accepted as given with the Chairman voting.

Charles Beavers, M.D.

Motion: Mr. Litle

Second: Dr. Vaughan

The report was accepted as given with the Chairman voting.

**Discuss, Review, And Take Action, if Needed:**

**Review and Discuss the Licensure of Medical Laboratory Directors:**

Nothing to present.

**Reports/Requests:**

**Board Director's Report**

Shyamali Bhattacharya, Ph.D., MT (ASCP, AMT)  
Director

The report included statistical data concerning laboratory personnel, facilities, training programs, and health fair/health screening events during the third Quarter of 2025.

The website continues to be updated as needed.

Staffing updates:  
None

Board meeting dates for 2026 were presented.

YEAR 2026	
<b>P &amp; E:</b>	<b>Full Board:</b>
01/22/2026	01/23/2026
04/23/2026	04/24/2026
07/23/2026	07/24/2026
10/22/2026	10/23/2026

Vacancies on the Board:

- Pathologist

Board positions that expired on December 31, 2023:

- Chris Litle-Medical Laboratory Supervisor
- Michael Johnson-Medical Technologist  
Generalist

Board positions that will expire on December 31, 2024:

- Andrew Stanton-Cytotechnologist
- Jennifer Chandler-Medical Technologist
- Jerry Barker-Hospital Laboratory  
Manager/Administrative Director

The Personnel, Laboratory Facility, and Training Program regulations are currently awaiting Rulemaking Hearings.

2025 State Licensure Surveyor Workload Targets:

West TN – 59 surveys

Middle TN – 52 surveys

East TN – 40 surveys

Each region will be incorporating the remote survey process along with onsite surveys.

The target survey workload is three (3) state-licensed laboratory surveys per fully trained surveyor per month.

July- September 2025 (completed biennial, initial, & complaint surveys only):

West TN – 35 surveys

Middle TN – 44 surveys

East TN – 55 surveys

July- September 2025 (completed all survey types):  
West TN – 54 surveys  
Middle TN – 47 surveys  
East TN – 64 surveys

A copy of this report is kept on file in the administrative office.

Motion to approve the report: Ms. Briggs  
Second: Mr. Barker  
The report was accepted as given with the Chairman voting.

**Board Attorney Report**  
Kertyssa D. Smalls  
Senior Associate Counsel

Senior Associate Counsel Kertyssa D. Smalls gave her Office of General Counsel report for the Third Quarter of 2025:

- The Conflict-of-Interest Policy was reviewed with the Board members.
- One (1) open case.
- OCG is completing its internal review of the Medical Laboratory Board Rules.

**Disciplinary Report**  
Kertyssa D. Smalls  
Senior Associate Counsel

Senior Associate Counsel Kertyssa D. Smalls gave the Disciplinary Report for the third Quarter of 2025:

Four (4) licensees are being monitored.

- Two (2) with terms of reprimand.
- One (1) on probation.
- One (1) on suspension.
- Zero (0) on Revoked/Surrendered.

Motion: Dr. Vaughan  
Second: Mr. Litle  
The report was accepted as given with the Chairman voting.

**Regional Surveyor Reports:**

Complaint Investigations  
Proficiency Testing Events  
Regional Offices:  
East, Middle, and West TN

**ETRO Report: 3rd Quarter**  
Fowlen Ivey, MT  
Consultant/Surveyor

East Tennessee Regional Office – third Quarter 2025:

Complaint Investigations: Zero (0)

Unsuccessful Proficiency Testing: Zero (0)

- First Occurrence (two in a row or two out of three) unsatisfactory scores: One (1)
- Second Occurrence (three in a row or three out of five) unsatisfactory scores: Zero (0)

**MTRO Report: 3rd Quarter**  
Misty Rector/Surveyor  
Consultant/Surveyor

Middle Tennessee Regional Office–third Quarter 2025:

Complaint Investigations: Zero (0)

Unsuccessful Proficiency Testing: Two (2)

- First Occurrence (two in a row or two out of three) unsatisfactory scores: Two (2)
- Second Occurrence (three in a row or three out of five) unsatisfactory scores: Zero (0)

**WTRO Report: 3rd Quarter**  
Debbie Haggard, MT  
Consultant/Surveyor

West Tennessee Regional Office –third Quarter 2025:

Complaint Investigations: One (1)

Unsuccessful Proficiency Testing: One (1)

- First Occurrence (two in a row or two out of three) unsatisfactory scores: one (1)
- Second Occurrence (three in a row or three out of five) unsatisfactory scores: Zero (0)

Motion: Mr. Litle

Second: Mr. Barker

The report was accepted as given with the Chairman voting.

**Board Ratifications Initial Facility Applications:**

- A. Vanderbilt Ingram Cancer Center, Coolspring
- B. Freeman Diagnostics, LLC

Motion: Dr. Vaughan

Second: Ms. Briggs

The report was accepted as given with the Chairman voting.

**Other Business:**

**New Business:**

Board Members Officer's election

Chairman of Full Board: Ms. Chandler

Motion: Mr. Barker

Second: Dr. Vaughan

The report was accepted as given with the Chairman voting

Vice Chairman of Full body: Mr. Litle

Motion: Mr. Barker

Second: Dr. Vaughan

The report was accepted as given with the Chairman voting.

Chairman of Personnel and Education committee: Ms. Briggs

Motion: Dr. Vaughan

Second: Mr. Litle

The report was accepted as given with the Chairman voting.

**Public Comment:**

None to present.

**Adjournment:**

The meeting was adjourned at 10:24 a.m. CDT with no further business to discuss.

Motion to adjourn: Mr. Litle  
Second: Ms. Briggs