

**Tennessee Medical Laboratory Board  
April 25, 2025  
Full Board Meeting  
Minutes**

**Meeting Date:** April 25, 2025

**Time:** 9:02 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  
Danielle Gibson, MD-Pathologist  
Chris Litle, MT-Medical Laboratory Supervisor  
James A. Vaughan, MD-Pathologist Educator  
Penny Asbell, MD- Non-Pathologist Physician  
Marilyn (Buffy) Key, MT-Hospital Administrator  
Diana Varela-Citizen Representative  
Andrew Stanton – CT-Cytotechnologist

**Vacant Positions:** Pathologist  
Medical Technologist-General

**Members Absent:** Matthew Hardison, Ph.D., Independent Lab Mgr/Adm.

**Staff Present:** Shyamali Bhattacharya, Ph.D., Director  
Kyonzte Hughes- Toombs, Deputy Director, HRB  
Nina V. Smith, MT Consultant Administrative Office  
Ronda Webb-Stewart, Senior Associate Counsel  
Mina Girgis, Board Administrator  
Debbie Haggard, MT Consultant/Supervisor WTRO  
Fowlen Anders, MT Consultant/Supervisor ETRO  
Robert Sommer, MT Consultant/Supervisor MTRO  
Misty Rector, MT Consultant/Surveyor WTRO  
Kathy Dunn-McPhall, MT Consultant/Surveyor MTRO  
Pam Frederick, MT Consultant/Surveyor ETRO

**Staff Absent:** Tracy McLemore, MT CLIA Director

**CLIA Manager/Representative:** None.

**Introduction of Board Members:**

Board members and staff made their introductions to the audience.

**Quorum:**

Ten (10) board members were present, which constituted a quorum.

**Call To Order:**

The meeting was called to order at 9:02 a.m. CDT by Jennifer Chandler, the Board Chairman.

**Presiding Officer:**

Mrs. Chandler conducted the meeting.

**Approve Minutes:**

**P & E Committee Meeting**

A motion to approve the January 23, 2025, Personnel & Education Committee minutes was made by Mr. Litle  
Second: Mr. Barker  
The minutes were approved as written.

**Full Board Meeting**

A motion to approve the January 24, 2025, Full Board meeting minutes was made by Ms. Briggs.  
Second: Mr. Litle  
The minutes were approved as written.

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

Ms. Briggs reported the actions of the Personnel & Education Committee meeting, April 24, 2025.

Motion to ratify Committee actions: Dr. Gibson  
Second: Dr. Vaughan  
The report was accepted as presented by Ms. Briggs.

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

Ronda Webb-Stewart, Esq. presented a Petition for Order of Compliance requested by Lab Plus LLC at Ascension Saint Thomas West Hospital (License # 2027). The facility satisfied all stipulations required in the Consent Order dated 07/19/2023. The facility requested the lifting of the ordered one year probation.  
A motion to accept the Petition for Order of Compliance, which lifted the one-year probation was made by Dr. Vaughan  
Second: Dr. Asbel

**Presentations to the Board:**

The statistical report for July 1, 2024-March 31, 2025, was presented by Ms. Teresa Phillips, Executive Director.

Two (2) individual was monitored during this period, two (2) regulatory.

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

One (1) agreement activated

Motion to accept the TNPAP report: Mr. Little  
Second: Mrs. Briggs

**Investigations Report**

Barbara Granum  
OIV Admin. Services Asst.2

Ms. Granum's investigative report included the following:

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

Investigative Licensed Laboratory Facilities: (2025)

Two (2) new complaints

Zero (0) closed complaints

- Zero (0) insufficient evidence
- Zero (0) closed letter of concern
- Zero (0) closed
- Zero (0) referred to OGC

Four (4) currently open complaints

Investigative Licensed Laboratory Personnel: (2025)

Five (5) currently open complaints

Investigative Licensed Laboratory Schools: (2025)

Zero (0) currently open complaints

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

No report was presented.

**Financial Report**

Noranda French  
Fiscal Director

### **Legislative Update**

Holt Whitt  
Assistant Commissioner of Legislative  
Affairs

No report was presented.

Surveyor Update  
Bobby Sommer, MT  
CLIA MTRO, Supervisor

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

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

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

#### **1. Erlanger-North Campus** Chattanooga, TN

Trisha McClellan, BS, RRT  
POCT Specialist  
Rita Stewart  
Laboratory Support Services Coordinator

The request was to permits Registered Respiratory Therapists to perform & report the hs-TnI (high sensitivity troponin) utilizing i-STAT system cartridge. Tests are performed campus wide at Erlanger North.

Motion: Mr. Litle  
Second: Dr. Gibson  
The exemption request was approved.

#### **2. Erlanger-East Campus** Chattanooga, TN

Trisha McClellan, BS, RRT  
POCT Specialist

The request was to Permit Registered Nurses, Registered Respiratory Therapists, Paramedics, Registered Radiological Technologists, Registered Cardiovascular Invasive Specialists, and Cardiovascular Technologists to perform and report the hs-TnI (high sensitivity troponin) utilizing i-STAT. Tests are performed campus wide at Erlanger East

Motion: Mr. Litle  
Second: Mr. Barker  
The exemption request was approved.

Rita Stewart  
Laboratory Support Services Coordinator

The request was to Permit contractual CRNAs to perform and report the Sodium, Potassium, Chloride, CO<sub>2</sub>, Ionized Calcium, Glucose, BUN, Creatinine, Hematocrit, Lactate, Blood Gases, Activated Clotting time, and hs-TnI (high sensitivity troponin) utilizing i-STAT. Tests are performed campus wide at Erlanger East

Motion: Ms. Briggs

Second: Mr. Stanton

The exemption request was approved.

**3. Baroness Erlanger Hospital Laboratory**  
Chattanooga, TN

Trisha McClellan, BS, RRT  
POCT Specialist

The request was to Permit Registered Nurses, Registered Respiratory Therapists, Paramedics, Registered Radiological Technologists, Registered Cardiovascular Invasive Specialists, and Cardiovascular Technologists to perform and report the hs-TnI (high sensitivity troponin) utilizing i-STAT. Tests are performed campus wide at Erlanger East

Motion: Dr. Gibson

Second: Mr. Little

The exemption request was approved.

Rita Stewart  
Laboratory Support Services Coordinator

The request was to permit contractual CRNAs to perform and report the Sodium, Potassium, Chloride, CO<sub>2</sub>, Ionized Calcium, Glucose, BUN, Creatinine, Hematocrit, Lactate, Blood Gases, Activated Clotting time, and hs-TnI (high sensitivity troponin) utilizing i-STAT cartridge. Tests are performed campus wide at Erlanger Baroness

Motion: Ms. Briggs

Second: Mr. Little

The exemption request was approved.

**4. Vanderbilt University Medical Center**  
Nashville, TN  
Lauren Wieronski, MLS(ASCP)<sup>CM</sup>  
Diagnostic Laboratory Team Leader

Josh Mawyer, MPH, MLS(ASCP)<sup>CM</sup>  
Manager, Point of Care Testing

The request was to permit state Licensed Registered Nurse, Certified Anesthesia Technician, Licensed Certified Perfusionist, ECMO Specialist, Interventional Technician to perform Activated Clotting Time (ACT) testing utilizing the GEM Hemochron 100 analyzer throughout the VUH Operating Room, VUH Radiology, VUH Cardiovascular Intensive Care Unit (CVICU), VUH Cardiac Catheterization Laboratory

Motion: Mr. Little

Second: Dr. Vaughan

Abstained: Mr. Stanton

The exemption request was approved.

**5. Vanderbilt Wilson County Hospital**

Lebanon, TN

Lauren Wieronski, MLS(ASCP)<sup>CM</sup>

Diagnostic Laboratory Team Leader

Josh Mawyer, MPH, MLS(ASCP)<sup>CM</sup>

Technical Specialist, Point of Care Testing

The request was to permits state Licensed Registered Nurse, Certified Anesthesia Technician, Licensed Certified Perfusionist, ECMO Specialist, Interventional Technician to perform Activated Clotting Time (ACT) testing utilizing the GEM Hemochron 100 analyzer throughout the Vanderbilt Wilson County Hospital (VWCH)

Motion: Dr. Vaughan

Second: Mr. Litle

Abstained: Mr. Stanton

The exemption request was approved.

**6. Ascension St. Thomas West**

Nashville, TN

Roxanne Willadsen, Point of Care coordinator

The request was to permit Perfusionists in the Cardiovascular Surgery Room (OR) to perform and report the citrated K, KH, RTH, FFH and the platelet Mapping ADP and AA testing utilizing the Haemonetics TEG6s system cartridge instrument and methodology.

Motion: Ms. Briggs

Second: Dr. Gibson

The exemption request was approved.

**7. CHI Memorial Hospital - Chattanooga**

Chattanooga, TN

Kevin Hopkins, RRT, BSRC, MBA

The request to permits Licensed Respiratory Therapists ABG endorsed to perform and report arterial blood gases (ABG) pH, pCO<sub>2</sub>, pO<sub>2</sub>, electrolytes (Sodium, Potassium, Chloride, Ionized Calcium), Hematocrit, and co-oximetry (tHb, O<sub>2</sub>Hb, COHb, MetHb, HHb, sO<sub>2</sub>) parameters testing throughout facility but primarily in the CVICU, ER, CCU, and RT department utilizing the WERFEN GEM premier 5000 instrument

Motion: Mr. Litle

Second: Mr. Barker

The exemption request was approved.

**8. CHI Memorial Hospital - Hixson**

Hixson, TN

Kevin Hopkins, RRT, BSRC, MBA

The request to permits Licensed Respiratory Therapists ABG endorsed to perform and report arterial blood gases (ABG) pH, pCO<sub>2</sub>, pO<sub>2</sub>, electrolytes (Sodium, Potassium, Chloride, Ionized Calcium), Hematocrit, and co-oximetry (tHb, O<sub>2</sub>Hb, COHb, MetHb, HHb, sO<sub>2</sub>) parameters testing throughout facility but primarily in the CVICU, ER, CCU,

and RT department utilizing the WERFEN GEM premier 5000 instrument.

Motion: Dr. Gibson

Second: Mr. Stanton

The exemption request was approved.

**9. Ascension St. Thomas-Midtown**

Nashville, TN

LaKisha Prowell,

LabCorp Laboratory Operations Manager

The Request to permit Registered Respiratory Therapists (RRT), Certified Respiratory Technicians (CRT), Registered Nurses, and Licensed Practical Nurses in the neonatal intensive care unit (NICU) to perform and report pH, pO<sub>2</sub>, pCO<sub>2</sub>, TCO<sub>2</sub>, HCO<sub>3</sub>, BE, sO<sub>2</sub>, K, Na, Ca, Cl, Glu, Bili, Hgb and Lactate testing utilizing the ABL90 blood gas instrument and methodology.

Motion: Ms. Briggs

Second: Mr. Barker

The exemption request was approved.

**10. Prisma Health- Blount Memorial Hospital**

Maryville, TN

Shawna Frazier, MLT, POC coordinator,

The request to permit Registered Nurse to perform and report ACT testing in the Surgery Department utilizing Hemochron Signature Elite meter.

Motion: Dr. Vaughan

Second: Mr. Little

The exemption request was approved.

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

Nothing was presented.

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

A. Public Chapter 1046

Senior General Counsel, Ronda Webb- Stewart, discussed that until the current rule rewrite is finished, the Board could adopt the CMS policy of 5 labs per Director in the interim.

Motion that a director may direct up to 5 Labs can be administratively approved and then ratified at the following Board meeting: Ms. Briggs  
Mr. Little

Senior General Counsel, Ronda Webb- Stewart, presented a Policy statement with the definition of the word “rural” from Public Chapter 1046 that used the definition from Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA). The Board adopted HRSA’s definition of “rural” on January 24, 2025. The board will need to change Rule 1200-06-03 according to Ms. Webb-Stewart.

Motion to adopt Policy statement containing the definition of “rural”: Mr. Litle

Second: Dr. Vaughan

Motion passed.

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

Nothing to present.

**Reports/Requests:**

**Board Director’s Report**

Kyonzte Hughes-Toombs, Esq., MBA, CHC

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

The website continues to be updated as needed.

**Staffing updates:**

New Director of the Medical Laboratory Board is Shyamali Bhattacharya, Ph.D., MT (ASCP, AMT)

Board meeting dates for 2025 were presented.

**Vacancies on the Board:**

- Pathologist

**Board positions that expired on December 31, 2023:**

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

**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.

January-March 2025 (completed biennial, initial, & complaint surveys only):

West TN – 18 surveys

Middle TN – 14 surveys

East TN – 19 surveys

January-March 2025 (completed all survey types):

West TN – 23 surveys

Middle TN – 20 surveys

East TN – 22 surveys

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

Motion to approve the report: Mr. Barker

Second: Ms. Briggs

The report was accepted as given.

**Board Attorney Report**

Ronda Webb-Stewart

Senior Associate Counsel

Senior Associate Counsel Ronda Webb- Stewart gave her Office of General Counsel report for the First Quarter of 2025:

- The Conflict-of-Interest Policy was reviewed with the Board members.
- Two (2) open cases.
- OCG is completing its internal review of the Medical Laboratory Board Rules.

**Disciplinary Report**

Ronda Webb-Stewart

Senior Associate Counsel

Senior Associate Counsel Ronda Webb-Stewart gave the Disciplinary Report for the First Quarter of 2025:

Four (4) licensees are being monitored.

- Two (2) with terms of reprimand.
- One (1) on probation.
- One (1) on suspension.

Motion to accept the Office of General Counsel Report and the Disciplinary Report as given: Mr. Little

Second: Dr. Vaughan

The report was accepted as given.

Ronda Webb-Stewart discussed amendments to Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 68, Chapter 29, relative to Medical Laboratories to be effective July 1, 2025.

HB 702- SB 267- Section 69-29-122 (c), is amended by deleting the subsection and substituting:

(1) A collection station operated by a medical laboratory owner that is a licensee of a medical laboratory in this state does not require an additional license, without regard to where specimens collected at the medical laboratory owner's collection stations are transported, as long as the medical laboratory owner of the licensed medical laboratory retains ownership of the medical laboratory and oversight of the collection stations, including maintaining and producing to the board in the event of a complaint investigations all relevant and non-privileged records associated with the collection stations for purpose of oversight by the board.

(2) A collection station operated by a person who is not a medical laboratory owner of a medical laboratory located in this state and licensed by the board must have a license issued by the board.

(3) All collection stations must comply with rules prescribed by the board.

HB 466- SB 1385- Section 69-29, Part 1, is amended by adding the following as a new section:

(a) Each medical laboratory shall have a medical laboratory supervisor readily available for consultations during all hours when tests are performed.

(b) A medical laboratory shall not require a medical laboratory supervisor to be on laboratory premises.

Ronda Webb-Stewart requested the formation of a task force to implement these legislative changes to the Rules 1200-06-01 and 1200-06-03.

The following board members volunteered for the task force:

Ms. Chandler

Ms. Briggs

Mr. Barker

Mr. Litle

**Regional Surveyor Reports:**

Complaint Investigations

Proficiency Testing Events

Regional Offices:

East, Middle, and West TN

**ETRO Report: 1st Quarter**

Fowlen Ivey, MT

Consultant/Surveyor

East Tennessee Regional Office –First 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)

**MTRO Report: 1st Quarter**

Bobby Sommer, MT

Consultant/Surveyor

Middle Tennessee Regional Office–First 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: 1st Quarter**

Misty Rector, MT

Consultant/Surveyor

West Tennessee Regional Office –First Quarter 2025:

Complaint Investigations: One (1)

Unsuccessful Proficiency Testing: One (1)

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

**Board Ratifications Initial Facility Applications:**

**1. TriStar Bellevue ER**  
Nashville, TN 37221

Hospital Laboratory

Specialties: Hematology, Clinical and Routine Chemistry, Urinalysis (dipstick only).

Medical Laboratory Director: Frances Cate, M.D.  
Pathology Clinical/ Pathologic Anatomic

Surveyor: Bobby Sommer, MTC II  
Supervisor/Surveyor/MTRO

**2. Associated Pathologists, LLC DBA PathGroup**  
Crossville, TN 38555

Independent Laboratory

Specialties: Pathology, Histopathology, Oral Pathology, Cytology

Medical Laboratory Director: Kristan Ahler, M.D.  
Pathology Clinical/ Pathologic Anatomic  
Surveyor: Bobby Sommer, MTC II  
Supervisor/Surveyor/MTRO

**3. Quest Diagnostics, Inc.**  
Franklin, TN 37067

Collection Station

Specialties: operates as a collection station.

Medical Laboratory Director: Andrew Young, MD  
Surveyor: Robert Sommer, MTCII  
Consultant/Surveyor/MTRO

**4. Quest Diagnostics, Inc.**  
Smyrna, TN 37167

Collection Station

Specialties: operates as a collection station.

Medical Laboratory Director: Andrew Young, MD  
Surveyor: Robert Sommer, MTC II  
Consultant/Surveyor/MTRO

**5. Quest Diagnostics, Inc.**  
Clarksville, TN 37040

Collection Station

Specialties: operates as a collection station.

Medical Laboratory Director: Andrew Young, MD  
Surveyor: Debbie Haggard, MT-Consultant/Surveyor/  
WTRO

**6. Any Lab Test Now**  
Lakeland, TN 38002

Collection Station  
Specialties: operates as a collection station.

Medical Laboratory Director: Sunil Radhakrishna Kurup,  
MD  
Surveyor: Misty Rector, MT  
Consultant/Surveyor/MTRO

**7. Vanderbilt Dermatopathology**  
Nashville, TN 37204

Independent Laboratory  
Specialties: Pathology, Histopathology

Medical Laboratory Director: Jeffrey P. Zwerner, M.D.  
Dermatology/ Dermatopathology  
Surveyor: Bobby Sommer, MTCII  
Supervisor/Surveyor/MTRO

**8. Analyze Pathology**  
Knoxville, TN 37923

Independent Laboratory  
Specialties: Histopathology

Medical Laboratory Director: Madison Hannay, D.O.  
Dermatology/ Dermatopathology  
Surveyor: Fowlen Ivey,  
MT-Supervisor/Surveyor/ETRO

Motion: Ms. Briggs  
Second: Dr. Vaughan

**Other Business:**

Ronda Webb-Stewart requested to combine the July  
Board meetings.  
July 24th P&E meeting will start at 10:00 AM and the Full  
Board meeting will start at 11:00 AM.

Motion: Mr. Barker  
Second: Mr. Litle

**New Business:**

Nothing to present.

**Public Comment:**

None to present.

**Adjournment:**

The meeting was adjourned at 10:31 a.m. CDT with no further business to discuss.

Motion to adjourn: Mr. Little

Second: Mr. Barker