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STATE OF MAINE
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY
MAINE EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES
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MICHAEL SAUSCHUCK
COMMISSIONER

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DIRECTOR

INVESTIGATIONS COMMITTEE MEETING

THURSDAY JUNE 24, 2021 09:00-10:30

ZOOM: <https://maine-ems-gov.zoom.us/j/91542570561>

MINUTES

Call to Order at 09:00

Members Present: Tim Beals, Joe Kellner, Judy Gerrish, Laura Downing, Joe Conley, Amy Drinkwater

Staff: Melissa Adams, Griffin Bourassa, Jason Oko

Office of Attorney General: Ron Guay

“The mission of Maine EMS is to promote and provide for a comprehensive and effective Emergency Medical Services system to ensure optimum patient care with standards for all providers. All members of this board/committee should strive to promote the core values of excellence, support, collaboration, and integrity. In serving on this Board/Committee, we commit to serve the respective providers, communities, and residents of the jurisdictions that we represent.”

Case Reviews

1. Informal Conference (09:00) – Case 21-174

Summary 20-174: A licensee offered to sell fake vaccination cards through social media.

MOTION: *To enter executive session pursuant to 32 M.R.S. § 90-A(3) and 1 M.R.S. § 405(6)(E) & (F) to receive legal advice and to conduct an informal conference concerning case number 21-174, which shall include the minutes of this case that are recorded to this point. (Kellner, second by Gerrish)*

Roll call vote:

Gerrish - yes

Downing – yes

Drinkwater – yes

● **Excellence** ● **Support** ● **Collaboration** ● **Integrity** ●

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With offices located at the Central Maine Commerce Center, 45 Commerce Drive, Suite 1, Augusta, ME 04330

Conley – yes
Kellner – yes

Entered executive session at 09:08

MOTION: To exit executive session. (Drinkwater, second by Conley)

Roll call vote:

Gerrish - yes

Downing – yes

Drinkwater – yes

Conley – yes

Kellner – yes

Executive Session ended at: 09:28

Discussion for guidance on social media posting and/or other public commentary and/or displays:

It was determined that any statement by a licensed individual or entity that could undermine the healthcare system will be investigated and potentially considered misconduct.

MOTION: The Committee recommends resolving case 21-174 by issuing a letter of guidance to stay on file for 4 years; citing the importance of being mindful of communications - recognizing that as a representative of emergency services, one has the potential to undermine public confidence during a public health emergency. (Kellner, second by Gerrish)

Roll call vote:

Kellner - yes

Gerrish – yes

Downing – yes

Drinkwater – yes

Conley – no

Beals - yes

Old Business - None

New Business

1. Proposed policy for standardized QA review/QA reviewer expectations or requirements as a part of a consent agreement or probationary condition.

Discussion ensued about the QA proposal; specifically, apprehension about requiring a third-party reviewer who is not otherwise affiliated with the EMS agency, who would be allowed access to that agency's patient care reports. Jason Oko advised that it would be possible to restrict the third-party reviewer to patient care reports for the impacted licensee only. There was a larger discussion about the potential to use pre-qualified, state-contracted, QA reviewers. There will be additional review of this proposal that will likely result in revisions and additional feedback. This will be scheduled during Old Business for the July meeting.

Amy Drinkwater left the meeting at 09:57

Jason Oko joined the meeting at 10:10, Jason Oko left the meeting at 10:18

Next meeting will be Thursday, July 22, 2021 at 9:00

MOTION: To adjourn. (Kellner, seconded by Gerrish)

Adjourned at 10:31