



STATE OF MAINE
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY
MAINE EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES
152 STATE HOUSE STATION
AUGUSTA, MAINE 04333



JANET T. MILLS
GOVERNOR

MICHAEL SAUSCHUCK
COMMISSIONER

J. SAM HURLEY
DIRECTOR

INVESTIGATIONS COMMITTEE MEETING

Thursday, March 23, 2023

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

One tap mobile: +13017158592, 91542570561# US

MINUTES

- I. Called to order at 09:11
Chairman Beals read the Mission Statement.
- II. Attendance
Committee Members Present: Tim Beals, Amy Drinkwater, Judy Gerrish, Dr. Brandon Giberson, Laura Downing
Committee Members Absent: Steve Smith, Andrew Turcotte
Maine EMS Staff: Jason Cooney, Melissa Adams, AAG Samantha Morgan, Soliana Goldrich
Guests: Candice Davis, Fred Porter, Paul Hewey, Lauren Carter, Neil Bergeron, Polly Wood
- III. Public Comment: None
- IV. Modification to Agenda: None
- V. Investigations
 - A. **Case 23-270; The licensee was present and participated in an Informal Conference with the Committee.**

Summary: The licensee is alleged to have omitted and inaccurately recorded material information from a patient care report by documenting the disposition of the incident as "No Patient Found/Contact", failing to document patient contact, vital signs, and medical history, and is alleged not to have worn appropriate Personal Protective Equipment.

Motion to enter executive session pursuant to 1 M.R.S. §405(6)(F) to review confidential information regarding case 23-270. (Downing, seconded by Giberson)

The committee entered executive session at 09:18.
The committee returned to public session at 10:06.

Action:

MOTION to recommend that the Board resolve the complaint through a consent agreement with a warning for violation of Maine EMS Rules Chapter 11 §1(14), (15), and (31); probation for 180 days, during which the licensee will complete four (4) hours of documentation training to include patient sign-offs, complete ride-time in an emergency setting with a sponsoring agency and record 25 patient interactions as a patient caregiver under the supervision of another licensed provider, the sponsoring agency will provide a report to Maine EMS on the licensee's performance during these interactions; and the licensee must complete a 24 hour BLS refresher. (Beals, seconded by Giberson)

Vote:

In Favor: Downing, Drinkwater, Giberson, Gerrish, Beals

Opposed: None

Abstained/Recused: None

PASSED

B. Case 22-216; The licensee was present and participated in an Informal Conference with the Committee.

Summary: The licensee allegedly responded to a request for medical transport while under the influence of alcohol. The licensee did not make patient contact.

Motion to enter executive session pursuant to 1 M.R.S. §405(6)(F) to review confidential information regarding case 22-216. (Downing, seconded by Gerrish)

The committee entered executive session at 10:08

The committee returned to public session at 11:08

Action:

MOTION to recommend the Board resolve this complaint through a consent agreement with a warning for violation of Maine EMS Rules Chapter 11 §1 (5) and (7); a suspension of the EMT and EMD license for eight (8) days, with credit for voluntarily suspending practice from January 13 to January 21, 2022; and the licensee must engage in counseling with a licensed therapist or social worker regularly and submit quarterly reports to the EMS Office for a period of one (1) year. (Giberson, seconded by Drinkwater)

Vote:

In Favor: Downing, Drinkwater, Giberson, Gerrish, Beals

Opposed: None

Abstained/Recused: None

PASSED

C. Case 22-248; The licensee was present but did not participate in an Informal Conference.

Drinkwater recused herself.

Summary: It is alleged that despite previous remediation at the service level for the clinical care of cardiac patients, the licensee failed to recognize and appropriately treat cardiac arrhythmias on two incidents.

Action:

MOTION to recommend that the Board dismiss this case with a letter of guidance reinforcing that the Board encourages the licensee to seek additional training in cardiac rhythm recognition and advanced life support care with their Regional Office; the letter will stay on file for two license cycles. (Giberson, seconded by Gerrish)

Vote:

In Favor: Gerrish, Downing, Giberson, Beals

Opposed: None

Abstained/Recused: Drinkwater

PASSED

D. Case 22-255

Summary: It is alleged that an Emergency Medical Technician regularly directs the actions of higher licensed clinicians to the detriment of patient care.

Action:

MOTION to recommend that the Board dismiss the complaint. (Beals, seconded by Giberson)

Vote:

In Favor: Gerrish, Downing, Giberson, Drinkwater, Beals

Opposed: None

Abstained/Recused: None

PASSED

Giberson left the meeting.

VI. Old Business

A. Complaint Investigation Policy and Clinical Care Matrix

MOTION to recommend that the EMS Board consider a limited delegation of authority for authorized staff to process clinical care complaints according to the *Complaint Investigation Policy* and *Clinical Care Matrix*. (Beals, seconded by Drinkwater)

In Favor: Gerrish, Downing, Drinkwater, Beals

Opposed: None

Abstained/Recused: None

PASSED

VII. New Business: None

VIII. Adjourned at 12:12
Next Meeting: Thursday, April 27, 2023