



JANET T. MILLS
 GOVERNOR

MICHAEL SAUSCHUCK
 COMMISSIONER

WIL O'NEAL
 DIRECTOR

Board of EMS Meeting
 March 6, 2024, at 9:30 AM
 Via ZOOM and Chamberlain Conference Room
 Minutes

“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 should strive to promote the core values of excellence, support, collaboration, and integrity. In serving on this Board, we commit to serve the respective providers, communities, and residents of the jurisdictions that we represent.”

Board Member	In Attendance	Late Arrival (if applicable)	Early Departure (if applicable)
Nate Allen	X		
Timothy Beals	X		
Bill Cyr	X		
Laura Downing	X		
Amy Drinkwater	X		
Judy Gerrish	X		
Brandon Giberson	X		
Brent Libby	X		
John Martel			
Matthew Sholl	X		
Steve Smith	X		
Andy Turcotte			
Christopher Whytock	X		
Kate Zimmerman	X		

Staff: Director Wil O’Neal, Deputy Director Anthony Roberts, Anna Massefski, Soliana Goldrich, Marc Minkler, Melissa Adams, Jason Cooney, Jason Oko, Teresa Glick, Darren Davis, Ashley Moody, Robert Glaspy, AAG Samantha Morgan

Stakeholders & Guests: Bill Lee, Ryan Maker, Dennis Russell, AJ Gagnon, Benjamin Wallace Jr., John Lennon, Brian Langerman, Rob McGraw, Joanne Lebrun, Chip Getchell, Joe Kellner, Rebecca Royer, Benjy Lowry, Tammy Steuber, Megan Henshaw, Jonathan Morrison, Cyndie Dugans, John Hoak, Rick Petrie, Michael Senecal, Phil MacCallum, Don Sheets, Dwayne Lee Philbrook

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

1. Introductions

2. Disclosure of any conflicts of interest

Tim Beals will recuse from Case 23-271

3. Modifications to the Agenda

EMS Awards will be added under New Business

4. Public Comments

Benjamin Wallace Jr. – Regarding Chapter 15, he stated that if changes are made to a rule after public comments are closed, he would like to have the opportunity to comment on those proposed changes. He is also concerned that not all comments are being adequately addressed. He expressed concern that Regions 1 and 5 still have no representation on the board.

5. Investigations

a. Investigations Committee February 22, 2024, Meeting Minutes

MOTION to accept minutes as submitted. (Giberson, seconded by Downing)

(Yes) Drinkwater, Downing, Gerrish, Giberson, Smith, Beals

Motion Carries

b. Case 23-271

Tim Beals recused and left the room.

Summary: A licensed EMS Service allegedly permitted paramedic staff to transport mechanically ventilated patients without hospital staff authorized by the sending facility, which may exceed the scope of practice for the paramedic or the expanded scope allowed by the paramedic inter-facility transfer (PIFT) program. The committee recommends the Board dismiss the complaint.

MOTION to approve the committee's recommendation (Libby, seconded by Giberson)

(Yes) Allen, Cyr, Downing, Drinkwater, Gerrish, Giberson, Libby, Smith, Whytock

(Recused) Beals

Motion Carries

Tim Beals returned to the meeting.

c. Case 23-320

Discussion: This case was tabled at the previous meeting. Jason Cooney reviewed the committee's recommendation in the case. Board members confirmed their review of the Data Timeliness 2023 document provided by Maine EMS staff.

MOTION to accept the committee's recommendation with the change of 85% to 94% of the documentation to be submitted within 24 hours (Giberson, seconded by Beals)

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(Yes) Allen, Beals, Cyr, Downing, Drinkwater, Gerrish, Giberson, Libby, Smith, Whytock
Motion Carries

6. Old Business

a. Meeting Minutes

i. February 7, 2024

MOTION to accept the minutes as submitted. (Downing, seconded by Cyr)

(Yes) Allen, Beals, Cyr, Downing, Drinkwater, Gerrish, Giberson, Libby, Smith, Whytock

Motion Carries

b. Maine EMS Director Update

Director Wil O'Neal provided an update on related legislation. He introduced the new Stabilization and Sustainability Grant Program Manager, Victoria Clyde. 147 agencies have applied, and the office is working on outreach to those who have not applied. 20 services have received or are pending payment. The office is working on planning for the sustainability phase of the grant.

c. Community Paramedicine Committee Memo

Soliana Goldrich and Dr. Lowry discussed the memo's contents and associated recommendations with the Board.

d. Approval of Community Paramedicine Scope of Practice

Dr. Lowry gave an overview of the Scope of Practice document. The document can be sent to the Rules Committee for incorporation into a draft rule by reference.

e. Consideration of the adoption of amendments to Chapter 15: Maine EMS Regions and Regional Councils

The Board reviewed the public comments on the rule and the process used to address the comments.

MOTION to adopt the responses to the public comments from the Rules Committee (Libby, seconded by Allen)

(Yes) Allen, Beals, Cyr, Downing, Drinkwater, Giberson, Libby, Smith, Whytock

(No) Gerrish

Motion Carries

MOTION to adopt the basis statement as presented, in response to the public hearings and comments regarding Chapter 15: Maine EMS Regions and Regional Councils (Libby, seconded by Whytock)

Discussion: Gerrish spoke about her hesitation with the lack of clear planning for transitioning from six (6) regions to four (4). Director O'Neal spoke about the value of change, recognizing the hardship of starting the process and encouraging the Board with his support of the process and this change specifically. Libby spoke about the three reports since 2004 which have recommended changes to the Regional structure and reiterated his support for this change. Whytock and Beals also spoke. Beals recognized that the Board lacks regional representation from Southern Maine and Aroostook Regions.

(Yes) Allen, Beals, Cyr, Downing, Drinkwater, Giberson, Libby, Smith, Whytock
(No) Gerrish

Motion Carries

MOTION to adopt Chapter 15 as proposed by the rules committee, following the public hearing and public comment period, and move the rule to the Office of the Attorney General for form and legality (Libby, seconded by Whytock)

Discussion: Steve Smith expressed concerns about the size of the regions and related funding to support the associated workload.

(Yes) Allen, Beals, Cyr, Downing, Drinkwater, Giberson, Libby, Whytock
(No) Gerrish, Smith

Motion Carries

7. New Business

a. Regional Contract Extension

MOTION to extend the regional contracts for one year after the expiration of the current contracts on June 30, 2024. (Gerrish, seconded by Downing)

Discussion: Libby asked if the original RFP was renewable for more than the first one (1) year renewal, and he expressed his concern that the RFP deliverables are not being met. Smith asked what happens if the current contractors don't want to extend their contract.

MOTION amended to table this discussion to allow staff to review the RFP and answer the questions posed. (Gerrish, seconded by Downing)

(Yes) Allen, Beals, Cyr, Downing, Drinkwater, Giberson, Libby, Smith, Whytock

Motion Carries

b. EMS-C MFIMR Review

MOTION to enter executive session pursuant to 1 MRS §405 (6)(E) to receive legal advice (Libby, seconded by Gerrish)

(Yes) Allen, Beals, Cyr, Downing, Drinkwater, Gerrish, Giberson, Libby, Smith, Whytock

Motion Carries

The Board entered executive session at 10:46 am
The Board returned to regular session at 10:51 am

MOTION *to table the request to allow the AG's Office time to review for legality*
(Whytock, seconded by Cyr)

(Yes) Allen, Beals, Cyr, Downing, Drinkwater, Gerrish, Giberson, Libby, Smith, Whytock

Motion Carries

- c. Review of Petition for Rulemaking

MOTION *to deny the petition for rulemaking as the petition was unaccompanied by any certified signatures (Giberson, seconded by Libby)*

(Yes) Allen, Beals, Cyr, Downing, Drinkwater, Gerrish, Giberson, Libby, Smith, Whytock

Motion Carries

- d. Consideration of Emergency Board Meeting for Rule Adoption on Monday, March 11, 2024

Emergency Board Meeting is scheduled for Monday, March 11, 2024, at 8:30 am.

- e. Consideration of the proposal for public comment on a new chapter of rule; Chapter TBD: Community Grant Program

MOTION *to send the proposed chapter on community grant program out for public comment (Cyr, seconded by Allen)*

(Yes) Allen, Beals, Cyr, Downing, Drinkwater, Gerrish, Giberson, Libby, Smith, Whytock

Motion carries

- f. EMS Awards

MOTION *to establish a committee for EMS Awards with a minimum of 3 board members (Smith, seconded by Cyr)*

(Yes) Allen, Beals, Cyr, Downing, Drinkwater, Gerrish, Giberson, Libby, Smith, Whytock

Motion Carries

Steve Smith, Judy Gerrish, Laura Downing, and Wil O'Neal volunteered to be on the committee.

8. Other

- a. Items for next agenda – Emergency Board Meeting

- i. Chapter 25

- ii. Regional contract extension

- b. Next Board meeting is scheduled for April 3, 2024, at 9:30 am, via Zoom.

Meeting adjourned at 11:13 am.