



JANET T. MILLS
 GOVERNOR

MICHAEL SAUSCHUCK
 COMMISSIONER

WIL O'NEAL
 DIRECTOR

Maine Emergency Medical Services Board Meeting

Wednesday, March 5, 2025, at 9:30 AM
 Champlain Conference Room
 Draft 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.”

Attendance:

Board:

Board Member	In Attendance	Late Arrival (if applicable)	Early Departure (if applicable)
Nate Allen	X (virtual)		
Bill Cyr			
Laura Downing	X		
Amy Drinkwater	X		
Judy Gerrish	X		
Brian Langerman	X		
Jack Lewis	X (virtual)		
Brent Libby	X		
Julie Ontengco			
Matthew Sholl	X		
Steve Smith	<i>PENDING REAPPOINTMENT</i>		
Andy Turcotte	X (virtual)		
Christopher Whytock	X (virtual)		
Kate Zimmerman	X		

Staff:

- In person: Wil O’Neal (Director), Melissa Adams, John DeArmond, Soliana Goldrich, Erin Ludwig, Anna Masefski, Marc Minkler, Taylor Parmenter, Smantha Andrews (Assistant Attorney General)
- Virtual: Victoria Clyde, Jason Cooney, Darren Davis, Ashley Moody, Jason Oko

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

Stakeholders & Guests:

- In person: Laura Begin, Lila Bernard, Warren Beverage, Emily Black, Randall Grondin, Jessie Hallowell, David Hanscom, Violet Howe, Aiden Koplovsky, Adaline Koskela, Maddie Lattimer, Kim Lipp, Jon Mason, Courtney Naliboff, Becca Osgood, Bella Petillo, Butch Russell, Don Sheets
- Virtual: Craig Bouchard, John Cordts, Shawn Cordwell, Sean Donaghue, Paul Froman, Chip Getchell, Bob Hand, John Hoak, David Ireland, John Lennon, Phil MacCallum, Amanda McPherson, "Melissa", Bill Montejo, "D Nichols", Jeremy Ogden, Christopher Paré, "Robert's iPhone", Dennis Russell, Michael Schmitz, Rick Smith, Stephen Smith, Benjamin A Wallace Jr, Ashley Wax-Armstrong, Eric Wellman

Agenda Items:

1. Introductions
2. Conflict of Interest Disclosures

None.

3. Modifications to the Agenda

The EMS ConnectME Recognition Event will be moved as necessary to accommodate an 11:00am start time.

4. Public Comments

None.

5. Investigations

- a. Committee Meeting Minutes – February 25, 2025

Voting on the Investigations Committee meeting minutes is tabled.

- b. Case 24-340

- i. Summary: It is alleged that the licensee engaged in unprofessional conduct on a call for service by failing to provide patient care and by failing to appropriately manage patient remains on one occasion.
- ii. The Committee recommends the Board dismiss the complaint due to insufficient evidence of any violation(s).

MOTION: To approve the Committee's recommendation on Case 24-340.
(Libby, seconded by Langerman)

VOTE:

In Favor: Allen, Downing, Drinkwater, Gerrish, Langerman, Lewis, Libby, Whytock

Opposed: None

Abstained/Recused: Turcotte (Abstain)

MOTION CARRIES

c. Case 23-318

- i. Summary: A licensee allegedly performed EMD services on 44 occasions while their license was expired.
- ii. The Committee recommends the Board resolve the complaint with a letter of guidance to remain on file for two license cycles.

MOTION: To approve the Committee's recommendation on Case 23-318.

(Libby, seconded by Langerman)

VOTE:

In Favor: Allen, Downing, Drinkwater, Gerrish, Langerman, Lewis, Libby, Turcotte, Whytock

Opposed: None

Abstained/Recused: None

MOTION CARRIES

d. Case 23-319

- i. Summary: A licensed EMD Center permitted EMDs to perform EMD services with expired licenses.
- ii. The Committee recommends the Board offer the licensee a consent agreement with a reprimand, citing 32 MRS §90-A.5(D) and 32 MRS §90-A.5(H): Maine EMS Rules, Chapter 3-A. §6.

MOTION: To accept the Committee's recommendation on Case 23-319.

(Libby, seconded by Allen)

VOTE:

In Favor: Allen, Downing, Drinkwater, Gerrish, Langerman, Lewis, Libby, Turcotte, Whytock

Opposed: None

Abstained/Recused: None

MOTION CARRIES

6. Old Business

a. Meeting Minutes

- i. February 5, 2025

MOTION: To approve the meeting minutes as submitted.

(Turcotte, seconded by Downing)

VOTE:

In Favor: Downing, Drinkwater, Gerrish, Langerman, Lewis, Libby, Turcotte, Whytock

Opposed: None

Abstained/Recused: Allen (Abstain)

MOTION CARRIES

- ii. February 20, 2025

MOTION: To approve the meeting minutes as submitted.
(Langerman, seconded by Libby)

VOTE:

In Favor: Downing, Drinkwater, Gerrish, Langerman, Lewis, Libby, Turcotte

Opposed:

Abstained/Recused: Allen (Abstain), Whytock (Abstain)

MOTION CARRIES

- b. Maine EMS Director's Update

Given by Maine EMS Director Wil O'Neal.

- i. Chapter 27 of Maine EMS Rules was signed into law as of February 25, 2025. Director O'Neal recognizes the Maine EMS Board, Staff, and legal counsel for the quality of their work on this. The public will be notified of the funding opportunity on March 12, 2025, with an open date of March 17, 2025 for grant applications, pending Board approval to open the application process.
- ii. The Maine EMS podcast has aired its second episode and is available on Spotify.
- iii. Legislative updates:
 1. LD871: An Act to Exempt All Persons, Including Health Care and Emergency Services Personnel, from COVID-19 Vaccine Requirements was brought up for the Board's awareness.
 2. Board members are asked to let Director O'Neal know when there are any bills that are of interest to them that they would like to be discussed at future Board meetings.
- iv. There is currently a measles outbreak, which has spread from Texas to New Mexico. There have also been two cases in New York City and three cases in New Jersey. Maine EMS is working with Dr. Sholl on issuing a clinical bulletin on this issue.
- v. The Community Self-Determination Grant application process has closed. Five grants totaling \$200,000 will be awarded, with over 20 towns looking to collaborate between the funded projects. There is currently a bill before the legislature sponsored by Senator Curry that would make \$200,000 available to continue the grant for the 2025-2026 fiscal year (LD583: An Act to Support Informed Community Self-Determination in Emergency Medical Services Planning).

c. Medical Directors' Update

Given by Statewide Medical Director Matthew Sholl.

- i. Dr. Sholl gives an update on the review of MDPB Protocols, thanking everyone who has worked on this for their efforts. A rollout date of December 1, 2025 is anticipated.
- ii. Pilot Project Updates:
 1. Sanford went live with their project to use ultrasounds to place IVs at the end of January/beginning of February. They reported out on three cases so far.
 2. Regarding the Delta stable-vented-patient project, there has not been a pilot project patient in several months (i.e., they have not seen a patient who has been exclusively managed by Delta staff or the team that Delta has trained). There have been many cases in which the patient has been co-managed by Delta and hospital staff during IFT.
- iii. Events being tracked:
 1. National Cyano Kit shortage—A bulletin has been issued. Dr. Sholl gives special thanks to those who responded to the Northern New England Poison Control Center to offer their support and resources.
 2. Hemorrhagic fever in the Democratic Republic of Congo—There have been a number of cases of a virus akin to Ebola or Marburg. Testing shows it is either a mutated strain or a novel virus. There has not been any spread outside of the DRC.
 3. Measles—A bulletin is in progress, and Dr. Rachel Williams created and shared an informatic white paper with MDPB which is being personalized for EMS clinicians and will be released imminently. Cases have mostly been contained to the Southwest in communities where there have been exemptions for vaccination (roughly 93% of cases were in individuals who were not vaccinated). Cases have spread to New York, New Jersey, Rhode Island, and Washington state, likely due to international travel to communities that had outbreaks.
- iv. A clinical bulletin regarding OB closures is nearly ready for dissemination. The purpose of the bulletin will be to raise awareness about existing protocols, educational opportunities, and available resources, as well as encourage communication between services and hospitals. More OB closures are anticipated in Maine, and 46% of hospitals do not currently have OB services. Special thanks is given to EMS Staff Marc Minkler for his work around this, interfacing with the OB and pediatrics communities.

7. New Business

- a. EMS ConnectME Recognition Event
Moved to after the Lisbon Emergency Vehicle Lettering Waiver Request.
- b. Education in the Maine EMS System
Presentation given by Don Sheets (Maine Community College System).
 - i. A copy of the presentation can be found here: [EMS Through the Lens of Education.pdf](#)

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c. Lisbon Emergency Vehicle Lettering Waiver Request

- i. Lisbon Emergency, a private, non-profit ambulance service, is the transporting service for Lisbon, Bowdoin, and Bowdoinham. They are proposing an 18-month trial merger with the Lisbon Fire Department to provide services within the town of Lisbon. The merger would involve the use of the town's ambulance, which would be leased to Lisbon Emergency. They are seeking a waiver from the Board specific to the lettering of the town's vehicle, which says Lisbon Fire Department, for Lisbon Emergency to be able to use it for transporting purposes for the duration of the 18-month trial period. There are two citations (Maine EMS Rules, Chapter 3, §11.5.A. and §13.1.L.) which would require the vehicle to be lettered or have the logo of the agency, which in this case would be Lisbon Emergency.

To consider when determining whether to waive a rule, Drinkwater reviewed the list of questions from Maine EMS Rules, Chapter 13, §2 with the Board:

1. Whether the person or organization seeking the waiver took reasonable steps to ascertain the rule and comply with it:
Board Response: Yes
And does this weigh in favor of granting the waiver?
Board Response: Yes
2. Whether the person or organization seeking the waiver was given inaccurate information by an agent or employee of the State EMS program:
Board Response: No
And does this weigh in favor of granting the waiver?
Board Response: Yes
3. Whether the person or organization seeking the waiver, or any other individual or group, would be significantly injured or harmed if the rule were not waived:
Board Response: Yes
And does this weigh in favor of granting the waiver?
Board Response: Yes
4. Whether waiver of the rule in the particular case would pose a health or safety risk to the public at large or a particular individual or community:
Board Response: No
And does this weigh in favor of granting the waiver?
Board Response: Yes
5. Whether waiver of the rule in the particular case would establish a precedent that would unduly hinder the Board or Office of EMS in its administration of Maine's EMS System:
Board Response: No
And does this weigh in favor of granting the waiver?
Board Response: Yes

MOTION: To grant a waiver of Maine EMS Rules, Chapter 3, §11.5.A. and §13.1.L. to Lisbon Emergency to lease and license an ambulance owned by the Town of Lisbon and its Fire Department, and is marked as such, for a period of 18 months.

(Libby, seconded by Downing)

VOTE:

In Favor: Allen, Downing, Drinkwater, Gerrish, Langerman, Lewis, Libby, Turcotte, Whytock

Opposed: None

Abstained/Recused: None

MOTION CARRIES

Board Chair directed for a 5-minute break without objection.

d. EMS ConnectME Recognition Event

Moved from the first item of New Business

- i. EMS staff member and ConnectME Program Coordinator Anna Masefski recognizes the achievements of the first cohort of Learners in the EMS ConnectME program, which rolled out just over a year ago. Masefski shows appreciation for the services and Mentors participating in the program.
- ii. John Mason, Chief Strategy Officer at JMG, an educational non-profit serving over 12,000 students in Maine-based public schools, colleges, and universities, spoke to JMG's role in the ConnectME program, thanking program participants.
- iii. Several Learners and Mentors from Bethel and North Haven shared their experiences in the program.
- iv. Completion certificates were awarded to Learners.

e. Review of Delegation of Authority to Board for Staff to Issue Letters of Guidance

- i. Summary: The Board considered a revision to its existing Limited Delegation of Authority to Maine EMS Staff to Issue Letters of Guidance policy, specifically addressing the incorporation of ambulance operator licensure within this policy.

MOTION: To approve the proposed changes to the Limited Delegation of Authority to Maine EMS Staff to Issue Letters of Guidance policy.

(Libby, seconded by Turcotte)

VOTE:

In Favor: Allen, Downing, Drinkwater, Gerrish, Langerman, Lewis, Libby, Turcotte, Whytock

Opposed: None

Abstained/Recused: None

MOTION CARRIES

- f. Review of Chapter 27 Sustainability Grant Application
 - i. Now that Chapter 27: Implementation of EMS Sustainability Program has been signed into law, Maine EMS needs the Boards approval to open the application process. Staff member Jason Oko reviewed the application questions and process with the Board.

MOTION: To accept the Maine EMS Sustainability application as presented.
(Langerman, seconded by Gerrish)

VOTE:

In Favor: Allen, Downing, Drinkwater, Gerrish, Langerman, Lewis, Libby, Turcotte, Whytock

Opposed: None

Abstained/Recused: None

MOTION CARRIES

- 8. Other
 - a. The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Maine EMS Board of Directors will be held in-person on Wednesday, April 2, 2025, starting at 9:00 AM.
 - i. This meeting will begin with a hearing on case 24-871.
 - b. Director Libby requests an update on the Regional Transition at the next meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:43 am

(Motion by Langerman, seconded by Gerrish; unanimously in favor)