



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

WIL O'NEAL
DIRECTOR

Maine Emergency Medical Services Board Meeting

Wednesday, April 2, 2025, at 9:30 AM

Champlain Conference Room

Approved 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	X		
Laura Downing	X		
Amy Drinkwater	X		
Judy Gerrish	X		
Brian Langerman	X (virtual)		
Jack Lewis	X (virtual)		
Brent Libby	X		
Julie Ontengco	X		
Matthew Sholl	X		
Steve Smith	PENDING REAPPOINTMENT		
Andy Turcotte	X (virtual)		
Christopher Whytock	X		
Kate Zimmerman	X		

Staff:

- In person: Melissa Adams, Victoria Clyde, Jason Cooney, Erin Ludwig, Anna Massefski, Marc Minkler, Jason Oko, Taylor Parmenter
- Virtual: Samantha Andrews (Assistant Attorney General), John DeArmond, Soliana Goldrich, Amber McCormick, Ashley Moody

● Excellence ● Support ● Collaboration ● Integrity ●

PHONE: (207) 626-3860

TTY: (207) 287-3659

FAX: (207) 287-6251

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

Stakeholders & Guests:

- In person: Bruce Cox, Mike Drinkwater, Fran Stanley, Ossie Stanley, Eric Wellman
- Virtual: "Jay B", "Celina", "Denise", Everett Flannery, AJ Gagnon, Chip Getchell, John Hoak, Joanne Lebrun, Aaron Lee, John Lennon, Lincoln News, Addison Matthews, Kevin McAdam, Rob McGraw, Joshua McGreevy, Amanda McPherson, "Melissa", Bill Montejo, "Nicole's iPhone", Jeremy Ogden, Christopher Paré, "Robert's iPhone", "Robertsa", Mike Senecal

Agenda Items:

1. Introductions
2. Conflict of Interest Disclosures

None.

3. Modifications to the Agenda

None.

4. Public Comments

Bruce Cox, a resident of Medway, provided comment on Medway Fire Department's application for licensure. Specifically, Cox raised concerns about the limited funds for healthcare services and municipal financial improprieties.

5. Investigations

- a. Committee Meeting Minutes – March 25, 2025

MOTION: To accept the Investigations Committee meeting minutes as written.
(Drinkwater, seconded by Libby)

VOTE:

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

Opposed: None

Abstained/Recused: None

MOTION CARRIES

- b. Case 24-346

- i. Summary: It is alleged that the licensee, who was the EMS clinician primarily responsible for patient care, caused a physical or emotional injury to a patient as the result of deviating from the applicable standard of care, on one occasion.
- ii. The Committee participated in an Informal Conference with the licensee on March 25, 2025, and recommends the Board resolve the complaint by offering the licensee a consent agreement with a warning citing a violation of 32 MRS §90-A.5.F. Violation of any reasonable standard of professional behavior,

conduct, or practice that has been established in the practice for which the licensee is licensed, specifically the practice regulated by the Maine EMS Rules, Chapter 5 §4.A., which states a licensee may perform emergency medical treatment when the licensee practices in accordance with Maine EMS protocol.

MOTION: To accept the Committee’s recommendation on Case 24-346, modifying the §90-A.5.F. citation to §90-A.5.H.
(Libby, seconded by Whytock)

VOTE:

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

Opposed: None

Abstained/Recused: None

MOTION CARRIES

6. Old Business

a. Meeting Minutes – March 5, 2025

MOTION: To approve the meeting minutes as submitted.
(Turcotte, seconded by Gerrish)

VOTE:

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

Opposed:

Abstained/Recused: Cyr (Abstain)

MOTION CARRIES

b. Maine EMS Director’s Update

Given by Chair Drinkwater and EMS Staff on behalf of Maine EMS Director Wil O’Neal.

- i. Stabilization and Sustainability Grant Updates (given by EMS staff member Victoria Clyde)—Phase one of the Stabilization grant closes April 30, 2025, with 1st quarter reports due April 15th. Of the 184 recipients, a small number will be using the funding to pay wages through June 30th. At that point, the grant program will be closed. The Sustainability grant opened on March 17, 2025, with 58 applications received so far. These are going through the evaluation and approval process.
- ii. Regional Transition Update (given by Chair Drinkwater)—The regional transition continues, with fireside chat meetings resuming for the Regional and Associate Regional Medical Directors. There was a delay in the hiring process for the four Regional Manager positions, which has since been resolved; offers are with HR for approval.
- iii. Community Planning Grant Update (given by EMS staff member Jason Oko)—The Review Committee consists of Amy Drinkwater, Andy Turcotte, and Wil O’Neal. Award letters have been sent to the first four applicants, and the review committee will meet to review three more applications for the remaining \$21,000. The office is providing testimony on a bill before the Legislature that

would provide additional funding to continue the Community Planning Grant program for another two cycles at \$200,000 per cycle.

c. Medical Directors' Update

Given by Statewide Medical Director Matthew Sholl.

- i. Protocol Review Update—There are two sections left to review of the Protocols, with the goal of completing those sections by the end of the MDPB's May meeting. The MDPB will then transition into working on deliverables, such as drafting education and supporting documents (e.g., white papers).
- ii. Update on Pilot Projects:
 1. Delta Stable-Ventilated-Patient Project—63 ventilated patients have been moved by the Delta team. Of those, 96.8% were completed alongside hospital staff; only 3.2% of cases were moved by just critical care paramedics and count as true pilot project cases. There is one year remaining in the pilot project.
 2. Sanford Ultrasound-Guided IV—There were three cases between the Board's February and March meetings. One case was performed in a hospital at the request of hospital staff. Regarding metrics, the average time to perform the procedure is 4.5 minutes. They are also tracking the amount of time on scene and how much time it takes to move the patient towards definitive care.
 3. Maine Operational Physician Response (MOPR) Program—The first half of the project's metrics have been reported out on, with a full report likely by the Board's May meeting. Dr. Brown is seeking to do a similar project in the York County area; he is working with Melissa to ensure compliance with the licensing components before the proposal returns to the MDPB.
- iii. Measles Event—The National CDC is reporting out weekly on this, and around 480 cases across 20 states (including Vermont and Rhode Island) have been reported. 93% of these cases are outbreak related (i.e., there are three or more cases, and they demonstrate community spread). Maine CDC is monitoring potential cases in Maine; so far no one has tested positive. The Maine EMS data team is proactively working on a model to track suspected cases.
- iv. Clinical Bulletins—Two have been published since the last Board meeting, including one for measles and one for closures of OB services.
- v. Maine's Healthcare System—Dr. Sholl notes increasing challenges in the system to fund hospitals, especially in wake of changes at the federal level and the ramifications of those at the state level. EMS will likely be asked to support the healthcare system through expected financial and operational challenges, such as changes in service lines, hospitals closing, staff layoffs, and the transportation of patients, and more critical patients, across longer distances.

d. Update on Chapter 27: Implementation of EMS Sustainability Grant Program

Given in Maine EMS Director's Update by EMS Staff member Victoria Clyde.

7. New Business

- a. Critical Access Physician Extender (CAPE) Project Presentation
Presentation to be given by Dr. Jonnathan Busko.

MOTION: To table this agenda item until the end of the meeting to see if Dr. Busko arrives to present.

(Libby, seconded by Gerrish)

VOTE:

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

Opposed: None

Abstained/Recused: None

MOTION CARRIES

- b. Medway Fire Department Application
- i. The Town of Medway (which was previously licensed as a transporting service) is applying for a new, non-transporting service license.

MOTION: To issue the non-transporting license with the condition that EMS Staff bring any application for a transporting license back to the Board.

(Turcotte, seconded by Cyr)

VOTE:

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

Opposed: None

Abstained/Recused: None

MOTION CARRIES

- c. National EMS Week / Maine EMS Awards
- i. An Awards Committee needs to be established to review nominations for Maine EMS awards.
- ii. There will be an Awards Ceremony that will be held on the same day as the Memorial Ceremony during National EMS Week at the State House Hall of Flags (date TBD).

MOTION: To establish an Awards Committee composed of Directors Downing, Gerrish, and Ontengco.

(Libby, seconded by Cyr)

VOTE:

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

Opposed: None

Abstained/Recused: None

MOTION CARRIES

- d. Critical Access Physician Extender (CAPE) Project Presentation
Presentation to be given by Dr. Jonnathan Busko.

MOTION: To table this agenda item until the May meeting of the Board of Directors.
(Drinkwater, seconded by Libby)

VOTE:

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

Opposed: None

Abstained/Recused: None

MOTION CARRIES

8. Other

- a. Update on Critical Care Committee—Cyr reports that he was notified of six applicants so far; he is working with EMS Staff to review the applications.
- b. Meeting Materials—Dr. Zimmerman requests an email notification when things are added to the SharePoint folder containing meeting materials for the Board.
- c. The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Maine EMS Board of Directors will be held in-person on Wednesday, May 7, 2025, starting at 9:30 AM.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:23am.

(Motion by Cyr, seconded by Libby; unanimously in favor)