



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, May 7, 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 | | | |
| Bill Cyr | X | | |
| Laura Downing | X | | |
| Amy Drinkwater | X | | |
| Judy Gerrish | X | | |
| Brian Langerman | X | | |
| Jack Lewis | X | | |
| Brent Libby | X | | |
| Julie Ontengco | X (Virtual) | | |
| Matthew Sholl | | | |
| Steve Smith | PENDING REAPPOINTMENT | | |
| Andy Turcotte | | | |
| Christopher Whytock | X (Virtual) | | |
| Kate Zimmerman | X | | |

Staff:

- In person: Wil O'Neal (Director), John DeArmond, Soliana Goldrich, Erin Ludwig, Anna Massefski, Jason Oko, Taylor Parmenter, Samantha Andrews (Assistant Attorney General)
- Virtual: Victoria Clyde, Darren Davis, Amber McCormick, Ashley Moody

● 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

Stakeholders & Guests:

- In person: Chip Getchell, Rick Petrie
- Virtual: Jonnathan Busko, Jonathan Cote, Everett Flannery, Paul Froman, AJ Gagnon, John Hoak, David Ireland, Joe Kellner, Aiden Koplovsky, Joanne Lebrun, John Lennon, Maine Ambulance Association, Mount Desert Fire Department, Christopher Paré, Fred Porter, "Robert's iPhone", Mike Senecal, Don Sheets, Stephen Smith, "Jon Z"

Agenda Items:

1. Introductions

2. Conflict of Interest Disclosures

None.

3. Modifications to the Agenda

None.

4. Public Comments

None.

5. Investigations

a. Committee Meeting Minutes – April 22, 2025

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

VOTE:

In Favor: Downing, Drinkwater, Gerrish, Libby

Opposed: None

Abstained/Recused: None

MOTION CARRIES

6. Old Business

a. Meeting Minutes – April 2, 2025

MOTION: To approve the meeting minutes as presented.
(Libby, seconded by Downing)

VOTE:

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

Opposed: None

Abstained/Recused: None

MOTION CARRIES

b. Maine EMS Director's Update

Given by Maine EMS Director Wil O'Neal.

- i. Legislative Updates—Staff are tracking 27 bills, including two from the Maine EMS office, one of which has passed. Director O'Neal highlights the following bills for the Board:
 1. LD969: An Act to Increase Emergency Medical Services Provider Training Opportunities—Maine EMS was against this bill, and it was voted “Ought Not to Pass” by the legislature. The bill would have allowed licensure courses to be offered by municipalities not associated with licensed training centers.
 2. LD1510: An Act to Establish Statutory Deadlines for Processing Applications for Emergency Medical Services Personnel—This bill would require Maine EMS to act on applications for licensure within 30 days of receipt or they would move to the Commissioner's office for a disposition. The Maine EMS office pulled data related to these points and found that, over a two-year period, 42 applications of 1,926 exceeded 30 days in review. Reasons for delayed decisions on applications included a review of criminal history, unprofessional conduct, or action taken against a professional license or application for professional licensure and needed revisions due to errors in original submissions, among others. Only one application (0.01%) had a delay in processing due to an error made by Maine EMS staff. The average number of days to issue licensure upon receipt of application was seven.
- ii. Team Updates, Recognition:
 1. Several staff are set to attend a conference hosted by the National Association of State EMS Officials (NASEMSO) in Grand Rapids, MI in May. This is an opportunity for staff to connect with and learn from peers in the field.
 2. In March, the federal government notified Maine's Department of Health and Human Services that several grants would be terminated, including the health disparities grant. This meant that Maine EMS had to put a hold on conditional grants that had been awarded to ten Maine EMS-licensed agencies for community paramedicine work. The awardees were in various phases of the contracting process, and all contracts were halted. The terminated grants also affect systems of care work, and the substance use and EMS for Children grants may also be in jeopardy.
 3. O'Neal recognizes Jason Cooney and Melissa Adams for their work pulling together licensing data; Marc Minkler and Melissa Adams for their work which resulted in an international body adopting changes to their medical priority system and protocols around labor and delivery; Victoria Clyde and Marc Minkler for encouraging agencies on the fence about applying for the sustainability grant, providing them with information and support; Anna Massefski for representing Maine EMS during Take ME to Work day, leading several activities for participants; and Jason Oko and the Board for their efforts around the EMS awards.

c. Medical Directors' Update

Given by Associate State Medical Director Kate Zimmerman.

- i. Maine Operational Physician Response (MOPR) Program Update—A complete report out was received, and there will be quarterly reports from this project going forward.
- ii. Medication Shortages—It appears the Cyano Kit shortage is lessening, as is the shortage of other medications, such as Lorazepam and Midazolam.
- iii. Measles Event—During the last MDPB meeting, there was a discussion about measles statistics, as well as about how to transport affected patients and the work being done in the background.
- iv. Protocol Review Update—The review of protocols should be complete by the end of June, and then attention will be shifted to education and white papers in preparation of a December 1, 2025 rollout.

d. Critical Access Physician Extender (CAPE) Project Presentation

Presentation given by Dr. Jonnathan Busko.

- i. A copy of the presentation can be found here: [CAPE Pilot Project Summary.pdf](#)

e. National EMS Week / Maine EMS Awards

i. EMS Week Events:

1. Memorial Ceremony—Wednesday, May 21, 2025 at 11:00am at the Maine EMS Memorial Site, Augusta, ME.
2. Awards Ceremony—Wednesday, May 21, 2025 at 1:00pm at the State House Hall of Flags, Augusta, ME.

ii. 2025 Awards Nominations:

MOTION: To accept the Awards Committee's recommendations for awards recipients for 2025.

(Libby, seconded by Cyr)

VOTE:

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

Opposed: None

Abstained/Recused: Langerman (Abstain)

MOTION CARRIES

7. New Business

a. Community Paramedicine Grant Funding

Given in Maine EMS Director's Update.

b. Transfer and Transport Committee Update

Given by Board Member Bill Cyr.

- i. The Transfer and Transport Committee is getting ready to launch, with its first meeting coming up. Initially, there were to be five physician positions, and the rest would be for agency leaders and providers. However, only four physicians

applied, and two of those were for the same position. The first order of business will be to start work on critical care transport (CCT) licensure for agencies and paramedics, along with education for paramedics on what that would look like.

8. Other

- a. Rules Committee Update—Libby reports that the Rules Committee has started work on Scope of Practice and will be looking to hold joint meetings with the MDPB since there will be parallels with their work on the protocols.
- b. The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Maine EMS Board of Directors will be held in-person on Wednesday, June 4, 2025, starting at 9:30 AM.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:21am.

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