



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, August 6, 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		
Amy Drinkwater	X		
Judy Gerrish	X		
Brian Langerman	X		
Jack Lewis	X		
Brent Libby	X		
Julie Ontengco	X		
Laura Sandred	X		
Matthew Sholl	X		
Andy Turcotte	X		
Christopher Whytock	X		X

Staff:

- In person: Wil O’Neal (Director), Melissa Adams, Jason Cooney, Erin Ludwig, Anna Massefski, Jason Oko, Samantha Andrews (Assistant Attorney General)
- Virtual: Victoria Clyde, John DeArmond, Robert Glaspy, Amber McCormick, Ashley Moody

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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, Chip Getchell, Aaron Lee, DC Stanley, Fran Stanley, Peggy Stanley
- Virtual: Bar Harbor Fire Department, "beth", Sean Brackett, Sean Cordwell, Jonathan Cote, Rachel Daube, Paul Eubank, AJ Gagnon, "gregoires", Lynne Hale, Brandon Irwin, "johnc", "Katie's iPhone (2)", Joe Kellner, John Lee, John Lennon, Kevin McAdam, Joshua McGreevy, "Mike", Bill Montejo, "OfficeManager", "Samuel's Iphone", Sean M. Scrooc, Donald Sheets, Stephen Smith, "Greg T", Town of Medway, "UtilityClerk", Benjamin A. Wallace Jr., Ashley Wax-Armstrong, Eric Wellman

Agenda Items:

1. Introductions
2. Conflict of Interest Disclosures

None.

3. Modifications to the Agenda

None.

4. Public Comments

Bruce Cox—Expresses that granting Medway a transporting license would not improve healthcare quality in the region and states that there are already two services providing that level of care.

Peggy Stanley—Believes that granting Medway a transporting license would be a financial hardship for Medway residents, as well as East Millinocket, stating that the town's budget cannot realistically cover a transporting ambulance service.

5. Investigations
 - a. Committee Meeting Minutes

MOTION: To accept the Investigations Committee June and July meeting minutes as written.

(Drinkwater, seconded by Sandred)

VOTE:

In Favor: Turcotte, Sandred, Gerrish, Drinkwater

Opposed:

Abstained/Recused: Libby (Abstain), Langerman (Abstain)

MOTION CARRIES

6. Old Business

a. Meeting Minutes – June 4, 2025

MOTION: To approve the meeting minutes as presented.

(Turcotte, seconded by Cyr)

VOTE:

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

Opposed: None

Abstained/Recused: None

MOTION CARRIES

b. Maine EMS Director's Update

Given by Maine EMS Director Wil O'Neal.

- i. Team Kudos—Soliana Goldrich was nominated to be chair of NASEMSO's Community Paramedicine – Mobile Integrated Health (CP-MIH) Committee; Jason Cooney will be chairing NASEMSO's Licensure Committee.
- ii. Infectious Diseases / Hemorrhagic Fevers—The next phase of work that Maine EMS is doing is identifying agencies to create a corridor of transport from Maine's northern border to the Massachusetts General Hospital.
- iii. Data / Donor Services—There were just over 2,500 opportunities for a referral to be made, and there were 83 successful referrals in the past year. Each referral has the potential to affect up to 75 different lives. There will be a focus on providing education to hospital clinicians and other providers to increase the percentage of successful referrals.
- iv. Legislative Updates—The next session of the Legislature will begin in January. A working group was established under LD841; they are tasked with assessing the long-term sustainability of EMS for island communities.

c. Medical Directors' Update

Given by State Medical Director Matthew Sholl.

- i. Protocols—The deadline of September 1, 2025 is the deliverable date for the education piece of the MDPB's work on the Protocols. Dr. Sholl gives special thanks to all of the MDPB members, as well as several EMS staff for their contributions to the process. They are on track to roll out an online MEMSEd training around September 1st; an online medical consultation summary document has been approved and finalized; and a summary change document for EMS clinicians and stakeholders is also in the works. MDPB will be hosting around four webinars to give the community an opportunity to learn more about these updates.
- ii. Pilot projects:
 1. Delta Stable-Ventilated-Patient Project—There have been a number of fruitful conversations with the Delta team.
 2. Sanford Ultrasound-Guided IV—The Sanford group reported out some of their summary data from a 6-month period last month; there have

been 13 cases and a 77% success rate in using the ultrasound device to place IVs.

3. MD3 Program—There has been some summary information from the MD3 Program shared with the MDPB regarding their efforts. Dr. Sholl informs the Board he can share some of the materials upon request.
 - iii. Measles—The number of cases is trending downward, and as of this report, there are no outbreaks in the New England area.
 - iv. New England Donor Services—Dr. Sholl gives kudos to Jason Oko for his interface with this group. They are attempting to address the barriers to getting more referrals, recognizing that there are more opportunities for donations that can be meaningful for living patients.
- d. Committee to Nominate Candidates for the Next Chairperson-Elect
 - i. The Committee consisted of Board members Gerrish, Langerman, and Whytock. They have identified Andy Turcotte as the nominee for the next Chairperson-Elect, and Turcotte has accepted the nomination.

MOTION: To accept the Committee’s nomination.

(Libby, seconded by Ontengco)

VOTE:

In Favor: Allen, Cyr, Drinkwater, Gerrish, Langerman, Libby, Ontengco, Sandred, Whytock

Opposed: None

Abstained/Recused: Turcotte (Abstain)

MOTION CARRIES

- e. Transfer and Transport Committee Update
Given by Board Member Bill Cyr.
 - i. The Committee met last month for the first time and will meet on the second Monday of each month going forward; they are looking for nominations for Chair of the Committee; next steps will be centered around setting goals for the Committee.

7. New Business

- a. Approval of Medical Direction and Practices Board’s Nominee for Associate State Medical Director
 - i. MDPB and Maine EMS staff put out a notice mid-May and accepted nominations for one month for the Associate State Medical Director position; four applications were received, and three candidates were interviewed (one of the applicants did not meet the base requirement of being an in-state physician practicing in emergency medicine).
 - ii. The MDPB presents to the Board their nominee for the position, Dr. Jack Lewis.

MOTION: To accept the MDPB’s nomination of Dr. Jack Lewis as the Associate State Medical Director.

(Cyr, seconded by Gerrish)

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● **Collaboration** ●

● **Integrity** ●

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VOTE:

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

Opposed: None

Abstained/Recused: None

MOTION CARRIES

b. Data Request: Pathways for Maine Program

Given by Maine EMS Staff Member Jason Oko

- i. Cumberland County Health is interested in having correctional inmates who provide consent be monitored for overdoses after release; they have requested that Maine EMS be one of the data sources for this study up until the end of September 2026. Cumberland County Health would provide Maine EMS with names and dates of birth, which staff would match in PCRS for a suspected overdose. The MDPB is in support of this program, and the study has been approved by USM's IRB.

MOTION: To approve the data request for the Pathways for Maine Program through Cumberland County Health to release identified patient information upon request to last until September 30, 2026.

(Libby, seconded by Turcotte)

VOTE:

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

Opposed: None

Abstained/Recused: None

MOTION CARRIES

c. Medway Fire Department Application Review

- i. The Medway Fire Department has applied to upgrade their license from non-transporting to transporting. The application was submitted on August 1, 2025, and the Board has 70 days to consider the application (until October 10, 2025).
- ii. The Board heard a statement from Aaron Lee (Fire Chief, Medway Fire Department).
- iii. Pursuant to the Maine EMS Rules Chapter 3 §4.2., "The Board shall issue a license with a defined 9-1-1 Primary Response Area when a need is demonstrated based on the following criteria..." The Board reviewed Maine EMS Rules Chapter 3, §4.2. and discussed whether or not a need is demonstrated based on the criteria outlined in that subsection:
 - A. The Board finds the applicant's proposed response time(s), enroute time(s), transport time(s), and time-tolerance(s) are sufficient to protect the health, welfare, and safety of the public within the 9-1-1 Primary Response Area based on evidence provided;
 - a. **Board Response:** No; lacking sufficient data.

- B. If the 9-1-1 Primary Response Area is currently served by a licensed ground ambulance or non-transporting service, the proposed times above are maintained or improved;
 - a. **Board Response:** No; lacking sufficient data.
- C. Public comment(s) received;
 - a. **Board Response:** Yes.
- D. Discipline undertaken by the Board and any Letters of Guidance that have not expired for the ambulance service currently serving the 9-1-1 Primary Response Area, and the service applying to serve the 9-1-1 Primary Response Area;
 - a. **Board Response:** Yes.
- E. An evaluation of the potential impact upon existing ground ambulance and non-transporting services; and
 - a. **Board Response:** No.
- F. The character of the ownership of a proposed service.
 - a. **Board Response:** Yes.
- iv. The Board expressed several concerns with the application, including insufficient data, and asks the applicant to provide more information in order to better evaluate the application.

MOTION: To table the Medway Fire Department’s transporting license application, pending further information from the applicant.

(Libby, seconded by Cyr)

VOTE:

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

Opposed: None

Abstained/Recused: None

MOTION CARRIES

[Chair Drinkwater calls for a 10-minute recess]

- d. An Implementation Plan for the Establishment of the Maine Emergency Medical Services Licensing Board

Given by Maine EMS Director Wil O’Neal.

- i. As mandated by Public Law 2025, Chapter 491, the Maine EMS Licensing Board is to be established and operational by September 24, 2025. This change is consistent with the strategic recommendations outlined in the "Maine EMS Vision and Plan" and approved by the Board in April 2023, which called for a clear separation between system-level planning and the licensing and regulation of individual practitioners. The core rationale for this legislative change is the principle of bifurcated governance: separating the broad, system-level policymaking and oversight functions from the specific, quasi-judicial responsibilities of professional licensure and discipline. This separation is designed to enhance due process for licensees, mitigate potential conflicts of

interest, and allow each board to develop specialized expertise in its respective domain.

[Board Member Whytock excuses himself for the remainder of the meeting]

- ii. The Board calls for an emergency meeting to take place at 9:00 AM on Wednesday, August 27, 2025 in order to interview candidates for the Maine EMS Licensing Board, a 7-member body to include:
 1. Maine EMS Director, or Director's designee
 2. Advanced EMS Representative
 3. Basic EMS Representative
 4. Emergency Medical Dispatch Representative
 5. EMS Administrator Representative
 6. Hospitals Representative
 7. Licensed Training Centers Representative
- iii. The Board directs staff to put out a bulletin, collect applications for the Maine EMS Licensing Board, put together a list of interview questions, and have any materials sent to the Board the Friday prior to the emergency.

MOTION: To direct the Rules Committee to do the rules for Chapters 11, 12, and 14.
(Langerman, seconded by Turcotte)

VOTE:

In Favor: Allen, Cyr, Drinkwater, Gerrish, Langerman, Libby, Ontengco, Sandred, Turcotte

Opposed: None

Abstained/Recused: None

MOTION CARRIES

- e. EMSC VR Contract Renewal Request
 - i. EMS for Children Program Manager, Marc Minkler, requests the approval of \$10,712.25 for renewal of the Maine EMS for Children virtual reality program, the only EMS pediatric education model using scenarios and treatments vetted through the American Academy of Pediatrics. The funding source is the federal EMSC State Partnership Grant, #6H33MC31622-08-01, and has been approved by HRSA.

MOTION: To approve the request for funding for the VR contract, as well as the request for funding for the MaineHealth conference.

(Cyr, seconded by Ontengco)

VOTE:

In Favor: Allen, Cyr, Drinkwater, Gerrish, Langerman, Libby, Ontengco, Sandred, Turcotte

Opposed: None

Abstained/Recused: None

MOTION CARRIES

- f. EMSC / MaineHealth Conference Funding Request
This agenda item is addressed under item e. of New Business.
 - i. EMS for Children Program Manager, Marc Minkler, requests the approval of up to \$18,000 in three different expenditures for support of an EMS conference sponsored by MaineHealth at its Maine Medical Center-Portland campus that is scheduled for November 7 and 8 of 2025. The Maine EMSC program would like to support the pediatric portion of this conference, and funding would be entirely from the federal HRSA EMSC State Partnership Grant.

- g. Waiver Request: Annual Regional Comprehensive Plan
 - i. The Regional Management Team requests that the Board waive the citation in Chapter 15 §2.4.C. of the Maine EMS Rules requiring Regional Councils to submit a comprehensive Regional Plan to the Board “no later than August 15 of each calendar year” until August 1, 2026.

Drinkwater asked the Board the list of questions from Maine EMS Rules, Chapter 13, §2, for consideration when determining whether to waive a rule. The consideration factors are as follows:

1. Whether the person or organization seeking the waiver took reasonable steps to ascertain the rule and comply with it:
 - a. **Board Response:** Yes.
And does this weigh in favor of granting the waiver?
 - b. **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:
 - a. **Board Response:** No.
And does this weigh in favor of granting the waiver?
 - b. **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:
 - a. **Board Response:** Yes.
And does this weigh in favor of granting the waiver?
 - b. **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:
 - a. **Board Response:** No.
And does this weigh in favor of granting the waiver?
 - b. **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:
 - a. **Board Response:** No.
And does this weigh in favor of granting the waiver?
 - b. **Board Response:** Yes.

MOTION: To grant the waiver of the citation in Chapter 15 §2.4.C. regarding Regional Councils and the comprehensive Regional Plan for this year, with a Regional Plan to be submitted by August 15, 2026.

(Libby, seconded by Cyr)

VOTE:

In Favor: Allen, Cyr, Drinkwater, Gerrish, Langerman, Libby, Ontengco, Sandred, Turcotte

Opposed: None

Abstained/Recused: None

MOTION CARRIES

8. Other

- a. Emergency Meeting—Wednesday, August 27, 2025, 9:00 AM, Hybrid
- b. Next Regularly Scheduled Meeting—Wednesday, September 3, 2025, 9:00 AM, In-Person
 - i. This meeting will begin with a hearing

The meeting was adjourned at 12:42 PM.

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