



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, November 5, 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 (Virtual)		

Staff:

- In person: Wil O'Neal (Director), Melissa Adams, Victoria Clyde, Jason Cooney, John DeArmond, Soliana Harnish, Erin Ludwig, Anna Masefski, Marc Minkler, Jason Oko, Katie Warwick (Assistant Attorney General)
- Virtual: Darren Davis, Amber McCormick, Ashley Moody, Samantha Andrews (Assistant Attorney General), Nicole Sawyer (Assistant Attorney General)

● **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: Byron Ouellette, Cody Sullivan, Kate Zimmerman
- Virtual: Tim Beals, Bar Harbor Fire Department, Sean Brackett, Sean Donaghue, "A Flannery", Paul Froman, Chip Getchell, John Hoak, David Ireland, Joe Kellner, Aiden Koplovsky, Ryan Maker, Jeremy Ogden, Christopher Paré, Fred Porter, Nicole Sawyer, Don Sheets, Stephen Smith, Eric Wellman

Agenda Items:

1. Introductions
2. Conflict of Interest Disclosures

None.

3. Modifications to the Agenda

Maine EMS Director O'Neal requests two modifications to the agenda:

- To remove item "d. Togus VA Hospital as an Approved Transport Destination" from New Business.
- To add "Recognition of Dr. Kate Zimmerman" under Old Business.

4. Public Comments

None.

5. Maine EMS Licensing Board Update
Given by Board Member Laura Sandred.

The Maine EMS Licensing Board had their inaugural meeting. Board members went through some basic training on how Boards operate and FOIA requests, elected to continue delegating some licensing issues to Maine EMS Staff, and looked at scheduling going forward.

6. Old Business
 - a. Meeting Minutes – October 1, 2025

MOTION: To accept the meeting minutes as presented.
(Drinkwater, seconded by Langerman)

VOTE:

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

Opposed: None

Abstained/Recused: Libby (Abstain)

MOTION CARRIES

b. Maine EMS Director's Update

Given by Maine EMS Director Wil O'Neal.

- i. Maine EMS Director O'Neal yields a portion of his update to Anna Massefski, EMS ConnectME Program Coordinator—Anna reports she has accepted an out-of-state job and that her last day with Maine EMS will be Thursday, November 13, 2025. Anna gave a summary of her time with Maine EMS and her experience beginning and running the EMS ConnectME program. Maine EMS Director O'Neal recognizes Anna for all she has done for the EMS ConnectME program, the Maine EMS office, and the Maine EMS Board of Directors.
- ii. Several Maine EMS Staff and Medical Directors attended a recent DEA training on the Protecting Patient Access to Emergency Medications Act (PPAEMA) regarding scheduled medications. Maine EMS is working actively with partners at the DEA to engage them on whether rulemaking might be required for us to figure out the right way for Maine EMS agencies to be in compliance with the act.
- iii. Regional Counsel Transition—"Regional Counsel Updates" will be added to the Board meeting agendas going forward.
- iv. NASEMSO East Region Meeting—Several Maine EMS Staff will be travelling to the NASEMSO East Region Meeting later this month, representing Maine at the conference and engaging in discussions around whole blood, CCT, etc.

c. Medical Directors' Update

Given by State Medical Director Matthew Sholl.

- i. Protocols—Three of four webinars have been completed. Dr. Sholl gives kudos to the Maine EMS Staff supporting these initiatives. The final webinar will be on November 15, 2025. The revised protocols are on track for December 1, 2025 go-live date. A first draft of a Frequently Asked Questions document has been published. After debriefing this protocol process, thought will start going into the 2027 protocols.
- ii. Pilot Projects—There are no major updates from the three pilot projects currently under way (Delta, Sanford, and MD3); they are all proceeding as expected.
- iii. MDPB's BLS Rep, Emily Wells, stepped down recently. A formal notification will be sent out, and in early 2026, they will be looking at candidates to fill the position.
- iv. The DEA is driving the bus on the Protecting Patient Access to Emergency Medications Act (PPAEMA). Dr. Sholl reports that his understanding is that the responsibilities for medication procurement, storage, management, etc. will be transitioned from hospitals to EMS in the future.
- v. Central Maine Medical Center does not plan to pursue verification as a trauma center going forward; they will no longer be a trauma center as of December 1, 2025, and instead will be a trauma systems hospital. Maine EMS will send out a Clinical Bulletin regarding this issue and its potential impact to stakeholders.
- vi. MDPB is hosting a conference that starts on November 6, 2025. The planning and preparation for the conference has gone well, and roughly 150 people are registered to attend.

- d. Recognition of Dr. Kate Zimmerman
 - i. Previous Maine EMS Board Chair Amy Drinkwater and Current Maine EMS Director Wil O'Neal recognize Dr. Kate Zimmerman for her contributions in her prior role as the Associate State Medical Director.
 - ii. Dr. Zimmerman remarks that it was a difficult decision to step down, but that it has allowed her to explore more ways to help support the EMS system in Maine, such as working with the fellows, helping create more EMS physicians, and conducting more outreach and education for EMS clinicians.

7. New Business

- a. Hermon Fire Department Application Review
 - i. The Hermon Fire Department has applied to upgrade their license from non-transporting to transporting. Chief Sullivan from the Hermon Fire Department is present at the meeting to answer any questions the Board may have.
 - ii. 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:** Yes.
 - 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:** Yes; Hermon is not currently served by a ground transporting ambulance service.
 - C. Public comment(s) received;
 - b. **Board Response:** No; there were no public comments received.
 - 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;
 - c. **Board Response:** Yes; there has been no discipline undertaken.
 - E. An evaluation of the potential impact upon existing ground ambulance and non-transporting services; and
 - d. **Board Response:** Yes.
 - F. The character of the ownership of a proposed service.
 - e. **Board Response:** Yes.

MOTION: To approve the Hermon Fire Department's transporting license application.
(Libby, seconded by Gerrish)

VOTE:

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

Opposed: None

Abstained/Recused: None

MOTION CARRIES

b. CAD Interface Project

Update given by Maine EMS Staff member Jason Oko.

- i. MEFIRS is now receiving incident data from 18 PSAP and dispatch agencies for over 92 fire and EMS agencies. As of October 9, 2025, MIFERS received over 170,000 fire and EMS incidents from the CAD integration project. Rollout of the project is continuing to happen with PSAPs on a one-by-one basis.

c. Personnel Roster Management

Update given by Maine EMS Staff member Jason Oko.

- i. The goal is for rollout to happen in December to all of our regulated EMS agencies and fire EMS agencies, with reminders to go out every 30 days, and actual implementation to happen by June 1, 2026.
- ii. This change will also have an impact on non-EMS fire agencies, so we have collaborated with Fire Marshall's Office to get their support for this project.

d. Togus VA Hospital as an Approved Transport Destination

Per "Modifications to the Agenda", this item was removed from the agenda.

8. Other

- a. Next Meeting – Wednesday, December 3, 2025, 9:30 AM, In-Person

The meeting was adjourned at 10:27 AM.

(Motion by Drinkwater, seconded by Turcotte; unanimously in favor)