



JANET T. MILLS
 GOVERNOR

MICHAEL SAUSCHUCK
 COMMISSIONER

WIL O'NEAL
 DIRECTOR

Maine Emergency Medical Services Board Meeting
 Wednesday, December 3, 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	X		
Amy Drinkwater	X		
Judy Gerrish	X		
Brian Langerman	X		
Jack Lewis	X		
Brent Libby	X		
Julie Ontengco	X (Virtual)		
Laura Sandred	X		
Matthew Sholl	X		
Andy Turcotte	X (Virtual)		
Christopher Whytock	X (Virtual)		

Staff:

- In person: Wil O’Neal (Director), Melissa Adams, Erin Ludwig, Marc Minkler, Nicole Sawyer (Assistant Attorney General)
- Virtual: Victoria Clyde, Darren Davis, John DeArmond, Robert Glaspy, Soliana Harnish, Ashley Moody, Jason Oko, Taylor Woodbury

● **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: None
- Virtual: Sean Brackett, Kevin Curry, Sean Donaghue, Chip Getchell, John Hoak, David Ireland, Joe Kellner, John Lennon, Andrea McPherson, Bill Montejo, Christopher Paré, Dennis Russell, Mike Senecal, Don Sheets, Stephen Smith, Eric Wellman, Benjamin Zetterman

Agenda Items:

1. Introductions
2. Conflict of Interest Disclosures

None.

3. Modifications to the Agenda

None.

4. Public Comments

None.

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

The Maine EMS Licensing Board met in November and discussed conflicts, recusals, and use of letters of guidance. The Board also went through how and when outcomes become public, took on several cases, and set its 2026 meeting schedule; The Board will have ongoing meetings on the fourth Thursday of each month at 9:30 AM.

6. Old Business
 - a. Meeting Minutes – November 5, 2025

MOTION: To accept the meeting minutes as presented.

(Langerman, seconded by Drinkwater)

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. Protocol Updates—Director O'Neal will be meeting with a core group of physicians and Staff to review the rollout process.
- ii. Maine Islands Coalition—Director O'Neal attended a meeting held by this group recently (it is a different group from the Legislatively established Island EMS Working Group). They addressed training needs and expressed concern with getting initial and continuing education to the islands. Director O'Neal was able to talk about the grant funds distributed to training centers as well as the work being done to establish formal leadership and advanced clinical EMS programs in the Maine college system.
- iii. Open Maine EMS Staff Positions—Two open positions (an EMD Licensing Agent and the Region Four Manager) were posted, each receiving 10+ applicants. Two other positions were approved in the State budget, but those have yet to be posted as the State has not opened them up for applications yet.
- iv. NHTSA & NEMSIS Meeting—Mobile Health and Community Paramedicine was discussed, as was measuring and addressing physical threats to EMS clinicians and pre-hospital whole blood programs (nationally, 43% were alive on scene but died in hospital. This figure is 12% for Maine, which may be due in part to response and transport times in rural areas).

c. Medical Directors' Update

Given by State Medical Director Matthew Sholl.

- i. Protocols—The final webinar, for which there were 701 Zoom participants, was hosted in November. Dr. Sholl highlights efforts of Drs. Kate Zimmerman and Beth Collamore in this process, expressing his appreciation for their behind-the-scenes work during the two-year review and updates to the protocols, particularly putting together the education and maintaining the actual protocol document. MDPB is the face of the Protocol update, but Maine EMS Staff were instrumental in the process, as well; Dr. Sholl gives credit to Maine EMS Staff members Marc Minkler, John DeArmond, and Jason Oko. He also gives appreciation to Dr. Bethany Nash for her work on every section of the Protocol update, as well as the Protocol formulary document. Director O'Neal also credits Maine EMS Staff member Darren Davis for his hand in the MEMSEd side of the updates.
- ii. Pilot Projects—Neither the Sanford nor the Delta pilot projects had qualifying cases to report since the last check-in.
- iii. MDPB BLS Representative Position—This position will be advertised soon and will be kept open through January, with interviews to happen in the February timeframe. EMTs and AEMTs are eligible for the role. Some interest has already been garnered.
- iv. Scope of Practice Document—MDPB is reviewing it now with comments due by the 10th, so they can discuss it at their December meeting. An update will be provided to the Board at its January meeting.
- v. CARES Data—Dr. Sholl thanks Maine EMS Staff member Ashley Moody for her presentation of cardiac arrest data to the MDPB, collecting measurable metrics

and hospital records as applicable. This type of data allows us to benchmark ourselves against others across the nation. Maine EMS Staff member Marc Minkler shares that Ashley also led an insightful discussion around CARES at the NASEMSO East Region Meeting.

d. Consent Agreement 25-940

- i. Due to a medical procedure scheduled for January, the Licensee is unlikely to be able to meet the terms of the consent agreement executed on September 5, 2025. The Board's consent agreement with the Licensee includes a probationary period of "60 incidents or 6 months, whichever comes first."
- ii. Maine EMS Staff request that the Board consider an amendment to the consent agreement resolving case 25-940 to extend the probationary period for an additional six months, for a total of up to 12 months of probation, or 60 incidents, whichever comes first.

MOTION: To amend the consent agreement on Case 25-940 to offer an extension of the probation, to remain in effect until the Licensee has completed 60 patient contacts as the primary patient caregiver at the ALS level, not to exceed two years from the execution of the original consent agreement.

(Libby, seconded by Drinkwater)

VOTE:

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

Opposed: None

Abstained/Recused: None

MOTION CARRIES

7. New Business

a. Regional Council Updates

- i. Region One (given by Maine EMS Staff member Rob Glaspy)—Bylaws are currently being drafted, and they anticipate voting on those in January. They are discussing monthly education and meeting options going forward (in-person, online, hybrid, etc.)
- ii. Region Two (given by Maine EMS Staff member Melissa Adams)—Medical Directors were voted on, and two representatives to the Board were identified for which they need to go through the Governor's appointment process. They are currently trying to engage service-level medical directors in education initiatives.
- iii. Region Three (given by Maine EMS Staff member Jason Oko)—Met in October for the first time and established a meeting schedule. They advertised the open council positions so they can vote on those at their next meeting.
- iv. Region Four (given by Maine EMS Staff member Jason Oko)—Met in October, but the meeting was not well attended. They are focusing on recruiting an Associate Regional Medical Director to work with Dr. Collamore and setting up a meeting schedule.

- b. Region Two Medical Director Nomination: Dr. Seth Ritter
 - i. The Maine EMS Region Two Council has nominated Dr. Seth Ritter as its Medical Director and is seeking the Board’s approval. Dr. Ritter’s CV was provided to the Board.
 - ii. Dr. Sholl will bring this nomination to the MDPB for a vote at their December meeting and bring it back to the Maine EMS Board in January.

MOTION: To table this agenda item until the MDPB can offer their consultation.
(Libby, seconded by Gerrish)

VOTE:

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

Opposed: None

Abstained/Recused: None

MOTION CARRIES

- c. NERIS Waiver Request: Agency Name
 - i. Fire departments throughout Maine are migrating from the former National Fire Incident Reporting System (NFIRS) standard to a new standard, the National Emergency Response Information System (NERIS). The transition is expected to begin in December 2025 and continue for several months. There are approximately 30 licensed EMS agencies that are governmental agencies that are licensed as agencies separate from their local government’s Fire Department despite functioning as a single agency. Within MEFIRS, both the Fire Department and the EMS Agency are defined and managed as separate entities.
 - ii. The Board does not need to waive a rule here as there is no rule directly applying to this; “Agency Name” is not technically a Licensing Factor per Maine EMS rules.

MOTION: Due to the impending implementation of NERIS, to allow agencies to voluntarily change their name and merge their records in the eLicensure system without the need for a public notice. The Board will disseminate a list of those agencies that have merged after the NERIS implementation.

(Libby, seconded by Drinkwater)

VOTE:

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

Opposed: None

Abstained/Recused: Langerman (Abstain)

MOTION CARRIES

- d. NERIS Waiver Request: Agency Location(s)
 - i. There are approximately 172 licensed EMS agencies that are governmental agencies that are licensed as EMS agencies and also provide fire protection services (and there are another 30 licensed EMS agencies that are governmental

that offer only EMS service but may be, in reality, integrated with their local fire agency). These agencies are busy configuring their agency locations to meet NERIS requirements and deadlines for implementation. In some instances, these changes may involve licensing factors.

- ii. Maine EMS Rules only address changes to physical agency location(s); in other words, “Agency Location” is not a Licensing Factor), and there is no need for a waiver.

MOTION: For the purposes of updating NERIS, to allow agencies to voluntarily change their location in the eLicensure system without the need for a public notice or licensing application if their physical location has not changed.

(Libby, seconded by Drinkwater)

VOTE:

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

Opposed: None

Abstained/Recused: None

MOTION CARRIES

- e. Togus VA Hospital as a Transport Destination

Information provided to the Board by Maine EMS Staff member Melissa Adams.

- i. The Togus VA Hospital is planning to begin accepting patients who are veterans of the US Armed Forces by ambulance transport starting January 1, 2026. This project is driven by a directive from the federal government, which requires that if the VA hospital has an emergency department, it must receive patients by ambulance. If they don't receive patients by ambulance, they must become a level 2 Urgent Care, which would eliminate their OR and inpatient capability.
- ii. This information is provided for the Board's awareness, and no action is required on its part. Maine EMS Staff will work with the Regional and Associate Regional Medical Directors to review and publish the transport decision guidance as appropriate for each of the four EMS Regions in accordance with Maine EMS Pre-Hospital protocols, including, but not limited to: Brown 2: Regional Destination; Blue 11 Transport Destination; Red 2/Lavendar 1/Gray 14 Hospital Consult for Appropriate Destination; and Red 3 Destination Guidance.

- 8. Other

- a. Next Meeting – Wednesday, January 7, 2025, 9:30 AM, In-Person

The meeting was adjourned at 11:12 AM.