



STATE OF MAINE
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY
MAINE EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES
152 STATE HOUSE STATION
AUGUSTA, MAINE 04333



JANET T. MILLS
GOVERNOR

MIKE SAUSCHUCK
COMMISSIONER

WIL O'NEAL
DIRECTOR

**Medical Direction and Practices Board – January 21, 2026
via Zoom**

- Members present:* Dr. Matthew Sholl, Dr. Jack Lewis Dr. Kelly Meehan-Coussee, Dr. Seth Ritter, Dr. Tim Pieh, Dr. Dave Saquet, Bethany Nash, PharmD, Colin Ayer, Dr. Beth Collamore, Dr. Pete Tilney, Dr. Benjy Lowry, Dr. Rachel Williams
- Members Absent:* Dr. Kelly Klein, Dr. Bob Brown
- MEMS Staff:* Marc Minkler, Jason Oko, Wil O’Neal, Jason Cooney, Soliana Harnish, Darren Davis, Rob Glaspy, Ashley Moody, Katie Warwick, Esq. (AG Office), Nicole Sawyer, Esq. (AG Office), Taylor Woodbury (1110)
- Stakeholders:* Chip Getchell, Aiden Koplovsky, Brian Langerman, Bar Harbor FD, Eric Wellman, Joanne Lebrun, John Moulton, Michael Reeney, Rob Sharkey, Sean Brackett, Steve Smith, Dr. John Martel, Clif Whitten, Tyler Vesey, Dr. Taylor Gammons, Dr. Joe Minichiello, Tessa Byard. Sean Donaghue, Dennis Russell, Car 9 Cell Phone, Wagner Westbrook Fire, Steve Sloan, Everett Flannery

“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 clinicians. 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 clinicians, communities, and residents of the jurisdictions that we represent.”

- 1) The meeting begins at 0905 with a quorum. Sholl is chair.
- 2) Introductions
- 3) MDPB Minutes
 - a. **Tabled to February**
- 4) State Update
 - a. O’Neal provided an overview of the current status regarding the DEA's rulemaking process, emphasizing that it remains voluntary until final rulemaking is completed. He also mentioned the upcoming NAEMSP meeting. He shared

updates on the stabilization sustainability report, the completion of the first round of interviews for the Region 4 manager and licensing agent positions, and the establishment of a permanent EMS commission as directed by the state legislature in LD245.

- b. The meeting also included a detailed explanation by Warwick of the legal immunity provisions for MDPB members under Maine law, which was of particular interest to the regional medical directors. The focus was on any legal immunity for regional medical directors under the EMS Act. Regional medical directors are protected when acting in their official capacity, particularly for quality assurance activities and medical direction. Pieh raised questions about the scope of their duties and potential need for clearer delineation. O'Neal clarified that the duties are outlined in EMS rules. He also discussed regional medical director pay for the initial three-year period will be funded through a grant to the Regional Advisory Council. The group discussed whether to seek explicit immunity language in the statute, but O'Neal noted that this might not be feasible for the current legislative session. Attorney General Warwick and Sawyer clarified that Section 93 provides broad immunity for decisions made by state medical directors, but not for direct medical care. They explained that the Maine Tort Claims Act would apply in cases involving medical care. The group discussed the potential for creating a specific carve-out for medical directors, but the AGs advised against issuing formal memos due to legal risks and changing circumstances. They suggested that future questions about regional medical director roles should go through O'Neal to determine if further consultation with the AG's office is warranted.
 - c. Regional Plan – **Motion by Collamore to endorse Dr. Saquet's appointment as Regional Medical Director for Region 3, 2nd by Meehan-Coussee. Brief discussion, Approved unanimously with Dr. Saquet abstaining.**
 - d. BLS position applications – no applicants yet
- 5) Alternate Devices – NONE
- 6) Special Circumstances Protocols – NONE
- 7) Pilot Projects
- a. Delta Pilot moved to end of meeting
 - b. MD3 – No report this month
 - c. Sanford – Pilot Project Update – Moulton provided an update on the Sanford ultrasound project, reporting 3 uses of ultrasound in the past month, including 2 STEMIs that were transported to MMC - Portland, with all procedures being completed before transport except for 2 cases done en route.
- 8) Medication Shortages
- a. Nash reports on medication shortages, specifically noting difficulties in obtaining pre-mixed amiodarone bags at the hospital level, though vials remain available.

The group discussed updates on supply chain disruptions, influenza, and measles cases. Nash reported no current interruptions to supply chain despite Pfizer bowing out of manufacturing but noted increased surveillance during the respiratory season.

9) Emerging Infectious Diseases

- a. Sholl highlighted the significant drop in influenza cases after high numbers in late 2025, while measles cases remained elevated in South Carolina. The team agreed to continue monitoring measles (currently 558 cases as of Jan 16 nationally) and implementing protective measures.

10) Protocols

- a. Discussed the ongoing review of the formulary by Minkler, which is 75% complete and expected to be finished this week. The group planned to review the updated formulary and provide feedback within a set timeline.
- b. Debrief on the previous protocol review process, focusing on what worked, what didn't, and what could be improved for future reviews.
 - i. Meehan-Coussee suggesting having assigned authors for each section
 - ii. Sholl proposes to form a dedicated protocol workgroup to meet and coordinate with the MDPB
 - iii. Ritter emphasizing the need to limit changes to high-impact ones.
 - iv. Nash highlighted the success of webinars in educating staff. The group also addressed issues with webinar attendance confirmations causing confusion for agency leaders, with O'Neal noting a remedy was in place.

11) Alternate Devices

- a. None

12) Special Circumstances Protocols

- a. None

13) Data Use Agreements

- a. None

14) Old Business

- a. Education/Exam Committee – DeArmond reported ongoing challenges with out-of-state and online education programs not complying with Maine's rules.
- b. QI – Getchell – canceled their meeting and is working on a new meeting schedule. Committee has a draft QI manual and will seek approval from the MDPB and board before finalizing it.

- c. Community Paramedicine – Lowry – provided updates on community paramedicine initiatives, including upcoming conferences and educational sessions.
- d. EMSC – Minkler – Describes submission of a continuation report to HRSA and ongoing work with pediatric emergency care.
- e. TAC – Moody – reports on information on CARES closing for 2025 and new school district requirements for emergency preparedness and AED planning.
- f. MSA – Moody – provides general updates
- g. Data Committee – will not meet in February but will have a meeting in March
- h. EMD – Adams – provides EMD updates, including the addition of a licensed mental health professional to the committee and progress on emergency mental health dispatch protocols

15) **Motion by Sholl to enter executive session under the auspices of one MRS, subsection 4056F, for discussions of information contained in records made, maintained, or received by a body or agency when accessed by the general public to those records is prohibited by statute. 2nd by Collamore. Unanimous approval.** Executive session entered at 1101. Exited executive session at 1119.

16) **Meeting adjourned at 1121 and transitioned to LifeFlight of Maine meeting, minutes recorded by LifeFlight of Maine.**

17) Next MDPB meeting will be February 18, 2026, at 0930.

Minutes by Marc Minkler.