



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, February 4, 2026, 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)		X (11:07 AM)
Bill Cyr	X		X (11:34 AM)
Amy Drinkwater	X		
Judy Gerrish	X		
Brian Langerman	X		
Jack Lewis	X (Virtual)		
Brent Libby	X		
Julie Ontengco	X (Virtual)		
Laura Sandred	X		
Matthew Sholl	X		
Andy Turcotte	X		
Christopher Whytock	X (Virtual)		

Staff:

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

Stakeholders & Guests:

- In person: Chip Getchell, Don Sheets

● **Excellence** ● **Support** ● **Collaboration** ● **Integrity** ●

PHONE: (207) 626-3860

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

- Virtual: Sean Brackett, Bob Brown, Kevin Curry, Sean Donaghue, Everett Flannery, AJ Gagnon, John Hoak, David Ireland, Joe Kellner, John Lennon, Bill Montejo, Christopher Paré, Dennis Russell, Mike Senecal, Stephen Smith, Eric Wellman, Benjamin Zetterman

Agenda Items:

1. Introductions
2. Conflict of Interest Disclosures

None.

3. Modifications to the Agenda

Add “Update on Accreditation of Community Colleges” to New Business, per Board Member Gerrish.

Add “Update on LD2128” to New Business, per Board Member Libby.

4. Public Comments

Public Comment was submitted by Joe Kellner, Chief Executive Officer of LifeFlight of Maine, and read by Chair Cyr regarding agenda item “Data Use Agreement: EMS Billing Export.” Kellner asked that the Board consider a standing approval to allow for billing exports to be built without the need for the Board to vote on the approval of each individual one and avoid the additional bureaucratic step.

5. Maine EMS Licensing Board Update

Given by Board Member Laura Sandred.

Several cases were discussed at the last meeting of the Maine EMS Licensing Board, including ones involving unlicensed practice and concerns about patient danger. They also discussed how to resolve cases in-depth and are working on delegation orders to the Maine EMS office.

6. Old Business

- a. Meeting Minutes – January 7, 2026

MOTION: To accept the meeting minutes as presented.

(Drinkwater, seconded by Gerrish)

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. Hiring—Interviews took place for the Region Four Manager and the EMD Licensing Agent positions. Maine EMS staff members Adams, DeArmond, and Glaspy joined Director O'Neal on the interview panel for those. Candidates have been selected, and offers are expected to go out soon.
- ii. Legislative Updates—Maine EMS presented LD2128: An Act to Reorganize the Emergency Medical Services' Board to Implement the Recommendations of the Blue Ribbon Commission to Study Emergency Medical Services in the State and discussed LD2133: An Act Regarding Licensing of Community Paramedicine Services and Clinicians at the State House.
- iii. Board Appointments—A representative from Region Two was presented to the Governor for nomination, and Rebecca Royer has also been appointed to the Board.
- iv. Funding—
 - Maine EMS is continuing to work closely with the CDC and the High Consequence Infectious Disease Network team. \$400,000 in funding was received for that.
 - Maine EMS is also working with DHHS on the use of the rural healthcare transformation funding for Community Paramedicine. It is a significant amount of money, and our efforts will primarily focus around rural areas of pain, connectivity, workforce expansion, and innovative ideas.

c. Medical Directors' Update

Given by State Medical Director Matthew Sholl.

- i. The LifeFlight of Maine Clinical Practice Committee joined MDPB's latest meeting.
- ii. Pilot Projects—We are coming up on three-year mark for two of the pilot projects (MD3 / MOPR [Maine Operational Physician Response] & Delta); both started officially in May 2023 and were approved for a period of three years at that time.
 - The projects MDPB has been asked to review/approve have been increasingly complex in recent years.
 - Dr. Sholl asks the Board to consider a way to bring together Maine EMS Staff, Board Members, and MDPB Representatives to discuss how to move forward (e.g., extensions of projects v. termination) and determine a process that doesn't stifle innovation and doesn't overwhelm the MDPB as the body that evaluates these projects. Maine EMS Rules only say it is at the discretion of the Board whether or not to continue pilot projects. To that end, the Maine EMS office could put together a document covering precedence to bring back to the Board, or the Board could form a subcommittee with at least one member from each of the Board, the Rules Committee, and the MDPB to meet in advance of the next Board meeting.
- iii. Dr. Sholl offers that we need a larger workforce to deal with the complexities of the Protocols; MDPB will trial a group to work on behalf of the MDPB in

● **Excellence** ●

PHONE: (207) 626-3860

● **Support** ●

TTY: (207) 287-3659

● **Collaboration** ●

● **Integrity** ●

FAX: (207) 287-6251

preparing materials for the MDPB's discussion and deliberation. This group would not necessarily make end recommendations but might make a summary recommendation for the MDPB to consider and vote on, with the voting and the approval of all protocols still going through the MDPB. The group will consist of the two State Medical Directors, Drs. Beth Collamore, Rachel Williams (Pediatric Medical Director), and Bethany Nash (Clinical Pharmacologist), two Regional Medical Directors, and Colin Ayer (ALS representative) and will be supported by Maine EMS Staff. This group's inaugural meeting will take place this month.

- iv. National Association of EMS Physicians (NAEMSP) Meeting—14 people represented Maine at this meeting. The biggest focus at the national level is Whole Blood and pre-hospital transfusions; there was also continued discussion around obstetrics and the diminishment of inpatient obstetric services across the country, as well as lift assists and the vulnerabilities of lift assists, among other topics. Dr. Lewis was the recipient of the EMS Medicine Early Career Medical Director Award from NAEMSP & Stryker; it is a two-year award that comes with some significant funding to support the activities of a young physician in EMS.

MOTION: To develop an ad hoc committee to discuss and consider off ramps for the MD3 and Delta pilot projects and make recommendations to the Board at its April meeting.

(Langerman, seconded by Sandred)

VOTE:

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

Opposed: None

Abstained/Recused: None

MOTION CARRIES

MOTION: To extend the MOPR and Delta pilot projects until May 31, 2027.

(Libby, seconded by Turcotte)

VOTE:

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

Opposed: None

Abstained/Recused: None

MOTION CARRIES

MOTION: To establish Langerman (as a member of the Board), Turcotte (as a member of the Rules Committee), and Drs. Sholl and Lewis (as members of the MDPB), as well as a Maine EMS staff member, as members of the ad hoc committee, with Langerman being the interim Chair of the committee.

(Cyr, seconded by Libby)

VOTE:

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

Opposed: None
Abstained/Recused: None

MOTION CARRIES

- d. Regional Council Updates
 - i. Region One (given by Board Member Langerman)—Region One is looking at combining two existing working documents for their bylaws into a final format for approval. They are also discussing whether or not to set up a non-profit corporation or an LLC to be able to receive and distribute funds as needed.
 - ii. Region Two (given by Maine EMS Staff Member Melissa Adams)—At their last meeting, they received a “MED Talk” from one of their service-level medical directors, Scott Smith; he covered chemical and physical restraints and ethics. Region Two hopes to engage a service-level leader at each of their monthly meetings. Additionally, they were able to cover the first draft of their bylaws, as well as a conflict of interest and a remote participation policy; the next priorities will be to prepare financial policies, followed by quality assurance, licensure education, and pharmacy agreements.
 - iii. Region Three (given by Maine EMS Staff Member Jason Oko)—Region Three has also started reviewing their bylaws and hopes to adopt them at their March meeting. Region Three is in the process of identifying their mission, vision, and values.
 - iv. Region Four (given by Maine EMS Staff Member Jason Oko)—The search for an Associate Regional Medical Director continues. Region Four will vote on draft bylaws at their February meeting.

[11:07 AM—Board Member Allen excuses himself from the remainder of the meeting]

- e. Data Use Agreement: EMS Billing Export
 - i. Maine EMS requests that the Board approve 28 data integrations identified as exports that would contain EMS patient care data to include Personally Identifiable Information (PII) and Protected Health Information (PHI).

MOTION: To delegate to the Maine EMS office the ability to create necessary end points including patient identified information allowing for linkage with patient electronic records with a yearly report back to the Board of who is covered under this delegation. (Sandred, seconded by Langerman)

VOTE:

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

Opposed: Whytock

Abstained/Recused: None

MOTION CARRIES

MOTION: To direct the Rules Committee and the Maine EMS office to re-evaluate the statute and any of the Rules that pertain to Maine EMS licensed entities' data, specifically ownership of the data and where it lives.

(Libby, seconded by Drinkwater)

VOTE:

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

Opposed: None

Abstained/Recused: None

MOTION CARRIES

[11:34 AM—Chair Cyr directs for a 10-minute break and excuses himself from the remainder of the meeting; Chair-Elect Turcotte to lead the meeting in Chari Cyr's stead]

7. New Business

- a. Region Three Medical Director Nomination: Dr. David Saquet

MOTION: To accept the nomination of Dr. David Saquet for the Region Three Medical Director position.

(Libby, seconded by Drinkwater)

VOTE:

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

Opposed: None

Abstained/Recused: None

MOTION CARRIES

- b. Approval of New EMS "Service of the Year" Award Categories

- i. The Maine EMS office proposes splitting the Service of the Year Award into four categories to mirror the core goals of the Maine EMS Vision and Plan (Service of the Year for: 1) Advancing EMS Clinical Care; 2) Driving EMS System Evolution and Innovation; 3) Strengthening the EMS Workforce; and 4) Enhancing Community and System Integration).

MOTION: To adopt the reimagined "Service of the Year" award structure consisting of the four categories (Advancing EMS Clinical Care, Driving EMS System Evolution and Innovation, Strengthening the EMS Workforce, and Enhancing Community and System Integration) as presented, while maintaining and reaffirming support for all other existing Maine EMS award categories.

(Libby, seconded by Gerrish)

VOTE:

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

Opposed: None

Abstained/Recused: None

MOTION CARRIES

- c. MD1 / Smart MD Pilot Project Approval
 - i. Maine EMS Director O’Neal presented to the Board on the MOPR pilot project.
 - ii. MD1 went before the MDPB in March 2025, with direction to go through the licensing process first; this matter has not come back to the MDPB yet, and Dr. Sholl states he is not aware that the licensure factor has been satisfied yet.

- d. Sustainability Grant Program Legislative Update to the Committee on Education
Given by Maine EMS Director Wil O’Neal.
 - i. [Maine EMS Report on LD722](#)

- e. Update on Accreditation of Community Colleges
Given by Maine EMS Staff Member John DeArmond.
 - i. Accreditation review happens every five years for paramedic programs. In Maine, the accrediting body is the Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs upon the recommendation of the Committee on Accreditation of Educational Programs for the Emergency Medical Services Professions (CoAEMSP, or CoA for short).
 - ii. Four of our five paramedic programs were at the five-year mark, and CoA site visits were conducted; all programs will be issued new accreditation that will last for the next five years.

- f. Update on LD2128
Given by Maine EMS Director Wil O’Neal.
 - i. [LD2128 Legislative Document](#)
 - ii. This bill effectively reduces the size of the Maine EMS Board to five non-regional appointed members (from 12), as was directed in a two-phase plan which also created the Maine EMS Licensing Board. There would be a three-year transition between this Board and the new Board should this legislation pass.
 - iii. Board Member Libby expresses concerns with increased bureaucracy, lack of communication, and lack of direction.
 - iv. Board Member Langerman requests the Board be notified when a bill goes from an LR to an LD and is assigned a number going forward.

8. Other

- a. Next Meeting – Wednesday, March 4, 2026, 9:30 AM, In-Person

The meeting was adjourned at 12:55 PM.

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