JANET T. MILLS
GOVERNOR

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

MICHAEL SAUSCHUCK
COMMISSIONER

WIL O'NEAL
DIRECTOR

Maine Emergency Medical Services Board Meeting
March 4, 2026, at 09:30 a.m.
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)		
Stephen Almquist	X		
Bill Cyr	X		
Amy Drinkwater	X		
Judy Gerrish	X		
Brian Langerman	X		
Jack Lewis	X (Virtual)		
Brent Libby	X		
Julie Ontengco	X (Virtual)		
Rebecca Royer	X		
Laura Sandred	X		
Matthew Sholl	X		
Andy Turcotte	X (Virtual)		
Christopher Whytock	X		

Staff:
- In person: Erin Ludwig, Jason Cooney, Marc Minkler, Soliana Harnish, Melissa Adams, Nicole Sawyer (Assistant Attorney General)
- Virtual: Jason Oko, Robert Glaspy,

Stakeholders & Guests:

- In person: Dennis Russell
- Virtual: Steve Sloan, Dr. Jonnathan Busko, Josh Pobrislo, AJ Gagnon, Amber McCromick, Benjamin Wallace Jr., Bill Wiegmann, Chip Getchell, Don Sheets, Hannah Kaufman, John Lennon, Jon Woodhead, John Wardwell, Lisa Bennett, Daurie Norfolk, Rob Sharkey, Sean Brackett, Shawn Cordwell, Stephen Smith, Jamie Leo, Mike Senecal, Richard Petrie, Chris Pare, Phil MacCallum, Sean Donaghue
-

Agenda Items:

1. Introductions & Introductions of New Board Members

2. Conflict of Interest Disclosures

   Amy Drinkwater disclosed her candidacy for Community Paramedicine licensure and will recuse from that discussion.

3. Modifications to the Agenda

   None

4. Public Comments

   - Dennis Russell from United Ambulance spoke about his Community Paramedicine (CP) education and experience in EMS for context to the CP Education waiver request.
   - Josh Pobrislo from Maine Health spoke about CP conditional and unconditional licensure data and asked the Board to consider the consequences of the existing rule, which, in practice, would require all interested parties who completed their education more than two years ago to retake this training.
   - Dr. Busko, on his own behalf and referencing the Community Care Partnership in Maine (CCPM), also spoke to the challenge to the CP system, now based on the Board's interpretation of its rules requiring licensure based on education completed within the last two years.
   - Daphne Russell from United Ambulance spoke about her initial CP education and experience practicing CP over the last 5 years, which would be affected by the 2-year education restriction.
   - Daurie Norfolk from United Ambulance spoke about her education and experience practicing CP over the last 10 years, which would be impacted by the 2-year education restriction.

- Jon Woodhead from Auburn FD spoke about taking his initial CP education in 2016 and the opportunity to practice CP in other communities with Med-Care and Northeast Mobile Health Services. He looks forward to retiring from the FD and practicing CP full-time with these agencies, but this will be affected by the 2-year education restriction.

5. Past Community Paramedicine Education Policy Review and Waiver Requests
   a. A Memo to the Board explained that the office has received multiple inquiries regarding the review of past education related to CP for purposes of initial licensure. The Board's Rule, Chapter 19, Section 3(4)(B) requires a transcript showing completion of Maine EMS-approved training obtained within two years of the date of application. The office is seeking guidance on how to proceed with either modifying the existing education review policy, granting a waiver of the Board's rule, or rulemaking to account for clinicians impacted by the rule's education requirement who may not have considered persons educated and practicing prior to licensure requirements being established.

      Soliana Harnish states that the office has only completed the review of the Hennipen 2016 curriculum submitted by Dennis Russell, which was used as a template for the education delivered through United Training Center. She and Robert Glaspy conducted the review and identified certain areas that were not consistent with current standards. She states that after this review, they paused all others until the Board can consider the situation and provide the requested guidance to ensure the time spent reviewing the older curriculum is warranted.

      MOTION: To send Chapter 19 to the Rules Committee to work with stakeholders in the CP Committee to address these and any other concerns. (Libby, seconded by Langerman)

      VOTE:

      In Favor: Allen, Cyr, Sandred, Gerrish, Langerman, Libby, Ontengco, Turcotte, Whytock, Royer, Almquist
      Opposed: None
      Abstained/Recused: Drinkwater

      MOTION CARRIES

      MOTION to table this issue and direct staff to work with applicants to provide the items requested by the Board to be able to consider a waiver of Chapter 19, Section 3(4)(B), specifically "obtained within two years of the date of application." (Libby, seconded by Gerrish)

      VOTE:

      In Favor: Allen, Cyr, Sandred, Gerrish, Langerman, Libby, Ontengco, Turcotte, Whytock, Royer, Almquist
      Opposed: None
      Abstained/Recused: Drinkwater

      MOTION CARRIES

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

   The Licensing Board held a disciplinary hearing on February 20, resulting in the revocation of a license. It was the first hearing for this Board. At their regular meeting in February, they tabled one case to allow the applicant to provide a written statement to help the Board determine whether they have been sufficiently rehabilitated to warrant the public's trust, so the Board can take action on the application. The Board completed work reviewing a limited delegation of authority for staff to resolve certain circumstances of rule violations.

[11:23 AM – Chair Cyr directs for a 10-minute break]

7. Old Business
   a. Meeting Minutes – February 4, 2026

      MOTION: To accept the meeting minutes as presented.
      (Libby, seconded by Sandred)
      VOTE:
      In Favor: Allen, Cyr, Sandred, Drinkwater, Gerrish, Langerman, Libby, Ontengco, Turcotte, Whytock, Royer, Almquist
      Opposed: None
      Abstained/Recused: None
      MOTION CARRIES

   b. Maine EMS Director's Update
      Maine EMS Director Wil O'Neal was absent.

   c. Medical Directors' Update
      Given by State Medical Director Matthew Sholl.
      i. PPAEMA: Jason Cooney and Dr. Sholl discussed the communication from Maine EMS and why it has been structured the way it has been to provide awareness without attempting to interpret the federal rules or expectations.
      ii. Measles: There have been 5 confirmed measles cases in Maine, all from the same family or single exposure. We have been working closely with the Maine CDC to monitor and update preparedness measures, including a measles protocol and EMD screening guidance, which can be released if deemed necessary, and increase awareness through a webinar.
      iii. Protocol Review Sub-Group: They have been working to identify a process and timeline for the protocol review. They are scheduling a speaker to come help them learn about "Grade", a structured process for reviewing medical literature. They have also identified a professional librarian resource to help research topics identified by the group.

iv. BLS Representative Applicants: The MDPB hopes to interview candidates in April.
v. Pilot Projects: Nothing new to report on the Sanford Ultrasound, Delta Vents, or MOPR projects.

d. Regional Council Updates
   i. Region One (given by Robert Glaspy)— Region One approved its bylaws yesterday. They are turning their attention to satisfying the requirements of Chapters 15 and 27. They are waiting to see what comes out of the QI Committee to ensure their QI goals are in alignment. They are working on their Regional Plan and trying to ensure they are in compliance with Chapter 27 to obtain funding as soon as it is available.
   ii. Region Two (given by Melissa Adams)— Region Two is excited to have Steve Almquist as the new representative to the Board, here today for his first meeting. The Council reviewed a draft set of bylaws last month and will consider adopting them in March. The Council is working on financial policies as one anticipated step toward eligibility to receive funds allocated through Chapter 27, and is also working to understand what else may be required, when and if, the "business entity" requirement is stricken from the statutory definition for the Council.
   iii. Region Three (given by Jason Oko)—Region Three is beginning conversations about leadership positions. Implementing a peer-to-peer mentor program to connect knowledgeable resources with those needing some support.
   vi. Region Four (given by Jason Oko)—Region Four is beginning conversations about leadership positions. Still no associate medical director or a Regional Manager. One member of the Council has created a hiring pamphlet for the Associate Medical Director. They are hesitant to start working on goals and projects without a Regional Manager.

e. Legislative Updates
   i. Director O'Neal was not available to provide an update.

f. Consider Adopting Proposed Rules Chapters 11, 12, and 14
   i. Jason Cooney advised that the Board had received the final draft of the proposed rules as revised by the Rules Committee following the public comments received. There were no questions.

MOTION: To adopt the rules revisions as presented.
(Cyr, seconded by Gerrish)
VOTE:

In Favor: Allen, Cyr, Sandred, Drinkwater, Gerrish, Langerman, Libby, Ontengco, Turcotte, Whytock, Royer, Almquist
Opposed: None
Abstained/Recused: None

MOTION CARRIES

g. Consider Drafted Responses to Public Comments and Adopting the Basis Statements for Rules Chapters 11, 12, and 14
   i. Jason Cooney advised that the Board had received the draft responses to public comments and draft basis statements for the revisions to the rules as prepared by the Rules Committee. There were no questions.

MOTION: To accept the responses as presented and adopt the basis statements.
(Cyr, seconded by Gerrish)
VOTE:
In Favor: Allen, Cyr, Sandred, Drinkwater, Gerrish, Langerman, Libby, Ontengco, Turcotte, Whytock, Royer, Almquist
Opposed: None
Abstained/Recused: None
MOTION CARRIES

[12:10 PM - Chris Whytock left the meeting.]

8. New Business
   a. EMSC Funding Approvals
      i. Marc Minkler summarized a memorandum that the Board had received, explaining the source of funds now available to the Maine EMS for Children (EMSC) program and the request to approve the receipt and expenditure of those funds for specific projects as outlined. Board members thanked Marc for his diligent and professional coordination of the Maine EMSC Program.

MOTION to accept the transfer of $125,000 from the Maine DHHS/CDC for use by the Maine EMSC program.
(Libby, seconded by Drinkwater)
Vote:
In Favor: Allen, Cyr, Sandred, Drinkwater, Gerrish, Langerman, Libby, Ontengco, Turcotte, Royer, Almquist
Opposed: None
Abstained/Recused: None
MOTION CARRIES

MOTION to approve expenditures by Maine EMSC for up to $94,362.75 for 125 Ferno Kangoofix transport devices and 20 replacement component sets; and to approve expenditures by Maine EMSC for up to $30,637.25 for 2 AHT Baby Pod 20 transport devices and consumables.
(Libby, seconded by Sandred)
Vote:

In Favor: Allen, Cyr, Sandred, Drinkwater, Gerrish, Langerman, Libby, Ontengco, Turcotte, Royer, Almquist
Opposed: None
Abstained/Recused: None

MOTION CARRIES

ii. **MOTION** to approve expenditures by Maine EMSC, including $100,000 to the Maine Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) to deliver Neonatal Resuscitation Programs (NRP); $51,800 for the additional purchase of pediatric transport devices; $10,000 to Health Scholars for the renewal of the Pediatric virtual reality program ; $5,000 for support of the Maine Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics Annual conference; $1,000 for support of the DownEast EMS Conference.
(Cyr, Langerman)
Vote:
In Favor: Allen, Cyr, Sandred, Drinkwater, Gerrish, Langerman, Libby, Ontengco, Turcotte, Royer, Almquist
Opposed: None
Abstained/Recused: None

MOTION CARRIES

b. Maine EMS Annual Data Report (2025)
   i. Darren Davis advised that the Annual Data Report for 2025 is now available and published on our website; a copy of the report was made available directly to Board members with the meeting materials. The 2025 Report includes the same categories of information as last year, as well as new sections on EMD Data and on Slips, Trips, and Falls. There was no discussion.

c. Maine EMS Information Systems Update (February 2026)
   i. Darren Davis advised that there is a new Information Systems update describing the various data use agreements, how Maine EMS data is used, and by whom. There was no discussion.

9. Other
   a. Next meeting – Wednesday, April 1, 2026, 9:30 a.m.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:24 PM.
(Motion by Cyr, seconded by Judy)