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		
Rebecca Royer	X		
Laura Sandred	X		
Matthew Sholl	Absent		
Andy Turcotte	X		
Christopher Whytock	Absent		

Staff:

- In person: Director Wil O'Neal, Melissa Adams, Jason Cooney, Robert Glaspy, Soliana Harnish, Marc Minkler, Jason Oko, AAG Samantha Andrews, AAG Katie Warwick
- Virtual: Darren Davis, Ashley Moody, AAG Nicole Sawyer

Stakeholders & Guests:

- In person: Mike Drinkwater, Dennis Russell
- Virtual: Rich Kindelan, Joanne Lebrun, Shelby Fenderson, Robin G, Steven Bennett, Stephen Smith, Aiden Koplovsky, Kathryn Gooch, Bar Harbor Fire Dept, Rob Sharkey, Brian M, Shawn Cordwell, Chris Moretto, Sean Brackett, Eric Wellman, Jessica Page, Chip Getchell, John Hoak

Agenda Items:

1. Called to Order by Chairperson Cyr at 09:31.

2. Introductions & Attendance

3. Conflict of Interest Disclosures

   Amy Drinkwater noted a potential conflict regarding the Community Paramedicine Education agenda item. No other conflicts were disclosed.

4. Modifications to the Agenda

   No modifications to the agenda were made.

5. Public Comments

   - **Chief Rich Kindelan (Scarborough Fire Department):** Addressed the board regarding the timeline for Continuous Education Hours (CEHs) and training approvals. He expressed concern that the 10-day window to close out trainings in the roster is no longer feasible for full-time staff working 42-hour shifts. He requested the board consider returning to the previous 20+ day window to avoid making it harder to provide quality CEH training to EMS staff.

6. Old Business
   a. Meeting Minutes – March 4, 2026

      MOTION: To table the March 4, 2026, meeting minutes until the next Board meeting. (Cyr, seconded by Turcotte)
      VOTE:
      In Favor: Allen, Almquist, Cyr, Drinkwater, Gerrish, Langerman, Libby, Ontengco, Turcotte, Royer, Sandred
      Opposed: None
      Abstained/Recused: None
      MOTION CARRIES

b. Maine EMS Director's Update
   i. **Staffing:** The Director provided updates on several open positions. An offer is in negotiation for the Region 4 Regional Manager. The EMP Licensing Agent position was offered to an internal state candidate and is going through HR transition. The Education Coordinator role has been posted.
   ii. **Legislative:** The Director reported that LDs 2128 and 2133 have been enacted. LDs 2132 and 2119 have been engrossed. LD 484 has passed committee and is currently awaiting language review; the office is monitoring it closely to ensure it does not stall.

c. Medical Directors' Update
   Dr. Jack Lewis reported on behalf of the MDPB:
   i. The Protocol Workgroup has been created. An online stakeholder form for protocol suggestions is live, and the group will begin reviewing suggestions in April.
   *ii. **Measles:** In coordination with the Maine CDC, the MDPB is holding off on additional responses as there are no active cases in Maine.*
   iii. The alternate approved devices list is being cleaned up with task assignments given to clarify information.
   iv. The MDPB held a lengthy conversation regarding medical-legal risks inherent to MDPB members and Regional Medical Directors and is actively working on protective strategies.

d. Regional Council Updates
   i. **Region 1:** Working on comprehensive regional plans, QA/QI plans, and navigating business entity language.
   ii. **Region 2:** Thanked local medical directors for participation in Med Talks. Dr. Lewis will present in April. The vote on bylaws was tabled. Working on financial policies to support establishing a business entity to receive grant funds.
   iii. **Region 3 & 4:** Did not meet last month. Region 3 will meet in June for team education. Region 4 is waiting for their Regional Manager.
   iv. **Organization & Funding:** The board engaged in a robust discussion regarding the restructuring of regions into recognized "business entities" (LLCs, 501c3s, etc.) to act as pass-throughs for state grant funding ($250,000 per region over 3 years, with $50,000 earmarked for medical direction). Concerns were raised about the timeline, the burden on volunteers to establish these entities, and potential conflicts of interest. The office noted they are consulting with the AG's office, and regions were encouraged to work with their Regional Managers to map out compliant solutions.

e. Community Paramedicine Education & Waiver Requests
   i. Staff utilized an AI tool to conduct a comprehensive gap analysis between current CP educational standards and the continuing education materials submitted by waiver candidates.
   ii. **Next Steps:** The gap analysis documents will be returned to the candidates, identifying specific deficiencies (e.g., scope of practice, formulary, state laws).

Candidates will then determine how to obtain the necessary education to close those gaps and may submit a formal waiver request to the Board regarding the two-year recency requirement if necessary.

f. Chapter 11 Rules Form & Legality Review
    i. Jason Cooney advised that, following the Form and Legality Review, the AG's office advised striking one specific phrase from the Code of Ethics rule to avoid unnecessarily restricting free speech: *"using technology, including social media, in a way that does not violate client information confidentiality..."*

MOTION: To adopt the rule as Chapter 11 as revised, and adopt the basis statement in response to comments as revised.
(Cyr, seconded by Libby)
VOTE:
In Favor: Allen, Almquist, Cyr, Drinkwater, Gerrish, Langerman, Libby, Ontengco, Turcotte, Royer, Sandred
Opposed: None
Abstained/Recused: None
MOTION CARRIES

g. Ad-hoc Pilot Project Workgroup Memo
    i. The ad-hoc workgroup reported on establishing off-ramps for current pilot projects and drafting rules for future projects.
    - **MD3 Project:** Awaiting an update from Dr. Pieh at the April MDPB meeting.
    - **Delta Vented Patient Project:** Awaiting an update from the T&T committee.
    - **Discussion:** A debate occurred regarding a potential moratorium on *new* pilot projects until the new rules are officially promulgated. Concerns were raised about stifling innovation and delaying potentially life-saving pilots.

MOTION: To place a moratorium on any new pilot projects until the rules are drafted.
(Libby, seconded by Ontengco)

DISCUSSION: Following a discussion about the Board's inherent ability to simply deny unsupported pilot projects without a blanket moratorium, Brent Libby withdrew the motion.
MOTION WITHDRAWN

7. New Business
    a. QI Committee Structure
        i. The QI Committee requested structural changes to realign their representative seats from the historical 6 regions down to the current 4 regions, and to adopt a new tie-breaking procedure.

MOTION to approve the proposed working seat structure for the Quality Assurance and Quality Improvement Committee as presented in the memo, including the realignment of the four regional representative seats and the adoption of the tie-breaking procedure where the committee chair votes only in the event of a tie.
(Almquist, seconded by Turcotte)

Vote:

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

MOTION CARRIES

b. CEH – Just in Time Education
    i. The Board discussed the current requirement that Continuing Education Hours (CEH) must be pre-approved before a class takes place, specifically addressing spontaneous or "just-in-time" training (e.g., crew reviews after a complex call). Board members and the public noted frustration with the strict 10-day roster submission rule.
    Action Taken: Rather than immediately pursuing a formal rule change, the Board established a timeline for staff to develop a comprehensive policy framework addressing these gaps. Staff is directed to provide a draft policy to the Board by the June 2026 meeting, which will then be sent to the Education Committee (EDCOM) for review, before returning to the Board by August.

8. Other
    a. Next meeting – Wednesday, May 6, 2026, 9:30 a.m.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:33 AM.
(Motion by Libby, seconded by Royer)