



JANET T. MILLS
 GOVERNOR

MICHAEL SAUSCHUCK
 COMMISSIONER

WIL O'NEAL
 DIRECTOR

Maine Emergency Medical Services Board Meeting

Wednesday, January 7, 2026, 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 (Virtual)		
Amy Drinkwater	X (Virtual)		
Judy Gerrish	X		
Brian Langerman	X (Virtual)		
Jack Lewis	X (Virtual)		
Brent Libby	-		
Julie Ontengco	X (Virtual)		
Laura Sandred	X (Virtual)		
Matthew Sholl	X (Virtual)		
Andy Turcotte	X (Virtual)		
Christopher Whytock	X (Virtual)		

Staff:

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

Stakeholders & Guests:

- In person: None

● **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: Steve Almquist, Sean Brackett, Shawn Cordwell, Sean Donaghue, Andrew Gagnon, Chip Getchell, Kathryn Gooch, Nick Hamel, John Hoak, Kelly Klein, Joanne Lebrun, John Lennon, A McPherson, Wallace Mills, Bill Montejo, Sam Nepple, Prianka Sarker, Don Sheets, Marcella Sorg, Jesse Thompson, Benjamin Wallace Jr, Eric Wellman

Agenda Items:

1. Introductions

2. Conflict of Interest Disclosures

None.

3. Modifications to the Agenda

Add “Awards Committee” to New Business, per Board Member Judy Gerrish.

Remove “f. Sustainability Grant Program Legislative Update to the Committee on Education” from New Business, per Maine EMS Director O’Neal.

4. Public Comments

None.

5. Maine EMS Licensing Board

a. Maine EMS Licensing Board Update

Given by Board Member Laura Sandred.

- i. The Licensing Board is exploring ways to preemptively clarify the application process and address the professional responsibilities of being licensed for licensees.
- ii. The Vice Chair of the Licensing Board is now Don Sheets.

b. Physician Representative Interviews

- i. Interview of Dr. Kelly Klein.

MOTION: To nominate Dr. Kelly Klein as the Physician Representative to the Maine EMS Licensing Board.

(Turcotte, seconded by Drinkwater)

VOTE:

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

Opposed: None

Abstained/Recused: None

MOTION CARRIES

6. Old Business

a. Meeting Minutes – December 3, 2025

MOTION: To accept the meeting minutes as presented.
(Drinkwater, seconded by Sandred)

VOTE:

In Favor: Allen, Cyr, Drinkwater, Gerrish, Langerman, 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. Maine EMS is connecting with a new data team on the Maine CDC side, discussing the potential for the data-driven implementation of a whole blood program. Director O'Neal gives appreciation to Maine EMS Staff Members Darren Davis and Jason Oko for their presentation of data to that team.
- ii. The legislative session has started, and Maine EMS has several department bills which center around the reformation of the EMS Board as part of the Blue Ribbon Commission's recommendations, verbiage changes in the Act that helped us establish the Regions to allow for trauma reporting, and community paramedicine affiliation with local agencies. Other bills of interest before the Legislature involve appropriating funding to the Maine Community College System to pay for EMT and Paramedic training, as well as funding for community paramedicine.
- iii. Maine EMS is continuing to work on hiring and will soon be interviewing for the Region Four Regional Manager position and the EMD Licensing Agent position.

c. Medical Directors' Update

Given by State Medical Director Matthew Sholl.

- i. December meeting for MDPB was busy:
 - The agenda included a number of items that the Maine EMS Board will also be seeing (e.g. data use agreements).
 - They continued the dialogue around the Rules Committee's Scope of Practice project and have compiled comments that they will share with the Rules Committee.
 - Debriefing for the next Protocol review process has begun; they are exploring developing a working group of MDPB members to streamline the process.
- ii. Many people are presenting with influenza-like symptoms. The illness is very active right now in Maine and nationally, and one strain in particular is very infectious and virulent.
- iii. The Maine EMS community recently lost John Kooistra, Windham's Deputy Chief; Dr. Sholl shares memories and highlights Kooistra's contributions to

Maine EMS and the field of tactical EMS. A memorial service will be held at Windham High School.

- d. Regional Council Updates from Regional Managers
 - i. Region One (given by Maine EMS Staff Member Rob Galspy)—The Region One RAC has put in a lot of work developing their bylaws, which should be finalized and voted on in their February meeting. They will be looking to discuss how to stay in line with best practices for accounting principles and micro-education opportunities.
 - ii. Region Two (given by Maine EMS Staff Member Melissa Adams)—There are two nominations for representatives from the Region Two Council to serve on the Board: Steve Almquist from Auburn Fire and Chris Moretto from Winthrop Ambulance. Going forward, priorities will be to work on a set of bylaws, offering educational opportunities, and electing a chairperson.
 - iii. Region Three (given by Maine EMS Staff Member Jason Oko)—The full regional council has been successfully seated, and they have taken steps to appoint medical directors; Dr. Lowry was appointed as the Associate Regional Medical Director, and The Board will see the Region Three Medical Director nomination, Dr. Saquet, at its February meeting.
 - iv. Region Four (given by Maine EMS Staff Member Jason Oko)—There are three seats left to fill on this Council, and they are struggling to find an Associate Regional Medical Director.
- e. Region Two Medical Director Nomination: Dr. Seth Ritter

MOTION: To accept the nomination of Dr. Seth Ritter for the Region Two Medical Director position.

(Drinkwater, seconded by Gerrish)

VOTE:

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

Opposed: None

Abstained/Recused: Whytock

MOTION CARRIES

7. New Business

- a. South Berwick Fire Department Application Review
 - i. South Berwick Fire Department is coming to the Board for licensure as a ground ambulance service. Chief Hamel is present to answer any questions the Board may have.
 - ii. Pursuant to the Maine EMS Rules Chapter 3 §4.2., “The Board shall issue a license with a defined 9-1-1 Primary Response Area when a need is demonstrated based on the following criteria...” The Board reviewed Maine EMS Rules Chapter 3, §4.2. and discussed whether or not a need is demonstrated based on the criteria outlined in that subsection:

● **Excellence** ●

PHONE: (207) 626-3860

● **Support** ●

TTY: (207) 287-3659

● **Collaboration** ●

● **Integrity** ●

FAX: (207) 287-6251

- A. The Board finds the applicant’s proposed response time(s), enroute time(s), transport time(s), and time-tolerance(s) are sufficient to protect the health, welfare, and safety of the public within the 9-1-1 Primary Response Area based on evidence provided;
 - a. **Board Response:** Yes
- B. If the 9-1-1 Primary Response Area is currently served by a licensed ground ambulance or non-transporting service, the proposed times above are maintained or improved;
 - a. **Board Response:** Yes
- C. Public comment(s) received;
 - b. **Board Response:** No; no public comments were received.
- D. Discipline undertaken by the Board and any Letters of Guidance that have not expired for the ambulance service currently serving the 9-1-1 Primary Response Area, and the service applying to serve the 9-1-1 Primary Response Area;
 - c. **Board Response:** Yes; York Ambulance, which currently serves the area, does have discipline on file from 2015 but South Berwick has had no discipline by the Board.
- E. An evaluation of the potential impact upon existing ground ambulance and non-transporting services; and
 - d. **Board Response:** Yes
- F. The character of the ownership of a proposed service.
 - e. **Board Response:** Yes

MOTION: To approve South Berwick Fire Department’s transporting license application. (Turcotte, seconded by Allen)

VOTE:

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

Opposed: None

Abstained/Recused: Whytock

MOTION CARRIES

- b. Data Use Agreement: Hospital Data Exchange
 - i. This is a data request from Central Maine Medical Center, who wants to utilize an interface between Maine EMS’s patient care reporting system, MEFIRS, and their electronic health record system for medical record linkage.

MOTION: For the purpose of linkage to patient electronic medical records to allow the release of identifiable patient care information with Central Maine Medical Center for a length of three years.

(Turcotte, seconded by Sandred)

VOTE:

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

Opposed: None
Abstained/Recused: Whytock

MOTION CARRIES

- c. Data Use Agreement: EMS Billing Export
 - i. The Maine EMS Office will work with Assistant Attorney General's office around bulk agreements.

MOTION: To table this agenda item until the Maine EMS Office has had further discussion with the AAG's office.
(Drinkwater, seconded by Turcotte)

VOTE:

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

Opposed: None

Abstained/Recused: Whytock

MOTION CARRIES

- d. Data Use Agreement Extension: University of Maine Overdose Surveillance Data
 - i. This is a request for an extension for the non-fatal opioid overdose patient journey research.

MOTION: To approve the extension of the Data Use Agreement with the University of Maine for a period of three years, to expire on December 31, 2028.
(Sandred, seconded by Drinkwater)

VOTE:

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

Opposed: None

Abstained/Recused: Whytock

MOTION CARRIES

- e. Maine EMS "Year in Review"
Presentation given by Maine EMS Director Wil O'Neal.
- f. Maine EMS Awards Committee
 - i. An Awards Committee needs to be established to review nominations for the 2026 Maine EMS awards.

MOTION: To establish an Awards Committee composed of Directors Drinkwater, Gerrish, Lewis, Ontengco, Sandred, and Turcotte.
(Sandred, seconded by Gerrish)

VOTE:

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

Opposed: None

Abstained/Recused: Whytock

MOTION CARRIES

8. Other

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

The meeting was adjourned at 11:21 AM.

DRAFT