



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

J. SAM HURLEY  
DIRECTOR

BOARD OF EMS MEETING  
NOVEMBER 4, 2020  
9:30 AM  
VIA ZOOM  
MINUTES

Members Present: Tim Beals, Brad Chicoine, Joe Conley, Heidi Cote, Laura, Downing, Amy Drinkwater, Judy Gerrish, Joe Kellner, Rich Kindelan, Brent Libby, John Martel M.D., Julie Ontengco, Dennis Russell, Matt Sholl M.D. (ex-officio), Kate Zimmerman D.O. (ex-officio)

Staff: Christopher Azevedo, Sam Hurley, Marc Minkler, Jason Oko, Melissa Adams, Jessica Ricciardelli, Griffin Bourassa, Darren Davis, Katie Johnson (Assistant Attorney General), Ron Guay (Assistant Attorney General)

Stakeholders: Jay Bradshaw, L'easa Blaylock, Chip Getchell, Elizabeth Stivers, Ron Guay, Dayna Emerson, Aiden Koplovsky, Rick Petrie, Sally Taylor, Joanne Lebrun, Debbie Morgan, Benjamin Zetterman, Benjy Lowry, Paul Marcolini, Clair, Peter J. Somerville, Shawn Cordwell, John Brady

9:32

1. Introductions
2. Disclosure of any conflicts of interest  
None
3. Modifications to the agenda
  - a. Mr. Libby would like to add the requests for access to Hospital Hub to the agenda
  - b. Maine EMS Workforce Shortage Task Force
4. Public Comments  
Rick Petrie- Regional EMS Coordinator  
Mr. Petrie shared his concerns regarding the current workforce shortage and the future issues regarding education, recruitment and retention. He is requesting that the Board immediately consider forming a taskforce including both Board members and stakeholders to look into and to alleviate some of these issues.

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With offices located at the Central Maine Commerce Center, 45 Commerce Drive, Suite 1, Augusta, ME 04330

Mr. Kellner (Chair) proposed that the Board add this issue to the agenda for today's meeting.

5. Introduction of new AAG

Mrs. Johnson introduces Ron Guay as the new AAG representative for Maine EMS. Mrs. Johnson states that she will still be available to Maine EMS and the Board during the transition process. Director Hurley thanked Mrs. Johnson on behalf of the Maine EMS Office and the Board for her time and support.

6. Meeting Minutes October 7, 2020

*MOTION: To approve the minutes as amended.*

*Made by: Libby; Seconded by Downing*

*Roll Call Vote (Yes): Beals, Chicoine, Conley, Cote, Downing, Drinkwater, Gerrish, Kellner, Kindelan, Libby, Martel, Ontengco, Russell*

7. Director's Report

Director Hurley

The second edition of the Playbook will be published this afternoon, and it will include information regarding BinaxNow testing. Training for BinaxNow testing will be accessible through MEMSEd.

a. Legislation

We have one piece of legislation that is a carryover from the last general session. "An Act Concerning the Reporting of Healthcare Information to the Emergency Medical Services Board." This has already been passed by the Committee. However, it was not heard during the 2020 session; therefore, it is being brought back to the floor for the upcoming session.

Jason Oko

QA Committee

The QA Committee has released the latest edition of the Newsletter. The next Newsletter is already in the works and will focus on behavioral and mental health calls.

Community Paramedicine Committee

The Community Paramedicine Committee did not meet last month. We are currently working on continuing to format the education guidelines regarding scope of practice, and when that is complete, we will forward them on to the MDPB for their review.

Data Committee

We are currently working on building out the custom data elements for the MEFIRS system with the Schematron adaptation. We are also in the process of transferring this committee to Darren.

Marc Minkler

EMSC Committee

The EMSC Committee did not meet this month; we will be meeting again in December. We continue to work with the perinatal statewide committee; we're working at looking at disparities between hospitals regarding access to OB resources.

We will send out an EMSC national survey in January that will go out to all Maine services.

Chris Azevedo  
Education Committee

The Committee has begun to review the Training Center Standards document for revisions. Aiden Koplovsky, Brian Chamberlain and Fred Porter have been conducting a review of the PIFT and AVOC curriculum. There will be a public forum for review of the AVOC program Friday, November 5<sup>th</sup>.

Aiden Koplovsky (Education Committee)  
The Education Committee is reviewing drafts of the protocols and is working with MDPB to build out the educational content for the protocol changes in December. The Education Committee will not be meeting in November; we will be reconvening in December.

Sally Taylor- Exam Committee  
The Exam Committee is working on PSE portfolios and what that means for testing moving forward.

Griffin Bourassa  
LD2105  
The survey results have been analyzed and the results have been submitted to the LD2105 Committee. We have also sent out a survey to insurance carriers which is being led by the Insurance Association. We are expecting to have results back by our November 10<sup>th</sup> meeting. The Committee has established a work plan for our meetings moving forward.

Melissa  
EMD Committee  
EMD met in October; we held interviews for the open PSAP manager position. The Committee recommended Tim Halls for the position.

Thanks to Delta and Waterville Fire Department for working collaboratively to create a response plan.

## 8. Medical Director Report

### a. MDPB

Dr. Sholl

The MDPB continues to meet on the on the second and fourth Monday of each month in addition to the regular meetings on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of each month. If

anyone is interested in attending these meetings, the information can be found on the Maine EMS website.

We continue to be part of the conversations around vaccinations. Dr. Sholl encouraged everyone to consider how our system can play a substantive role in the dissemination of a vaccine.

MDPB work continues on the protocols. We have completed the brown, purple, gray, yellow and blue sections, and we are currently working on the red section. After that we will move to the gold, green, and orange sections and then the appendix. We have six remaining meetings to do that; we have been discussing an additional meeting or prolonging some meetings to ensure that we have this complete by the April/May 2021 timeline.

Dr. Tinley and Dr. Sholl continue to work on PIFT.

We will be meeting with the subcommittee in the near future to discuss the progress of the Jackman Pilot Project to review the current proposals.

The DEA has created a pathway for providing scheduled medications in the field. EMS services may be required to file for their own DEA license, and they will need to include a service-level medical director. There are also some requirements of that service-level medical director that will need to be delineated. The rules have just started to be published.

Trauma Advisory Committee

Dr. Zimmerman

Continuing outreach for education regarding Mild Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) guidelines; trying to keep patients with mild TBIs at their home hospitals rather than going to trauma centers. We have created a toolkit including an educational video and it is almost ready for distribution.

We are holding off on Rural Trauma Team Development courses currently due to the pandemic and the difficulty meeting or holding these courses in person. We have created a subcommittee to look at the trauma plan review and another subcommittee to create bylaws for the TAC.

We have also reviewed our membership roles and have added trauma program managers from each of the three trauma centers, as well as two at large positions. We will be submitting these to Chairman Kellner for approval.

## 9. Investigations

*MOTION: To approve the minutes of the October 22, 2020 Investigations Committee Meeting.*

*Made by: Beals Seconded by: Drinkwater*

*Roll Call Vote (Yes): Beals, Conley, Downing, Drinkwater, Kellner*

*Abstain: Gerrish*

Case 20-124 has been tabled until the November Investigations Committee meeting.

Case 20-125

Mr. Kellner would like to disclose that the service he is associated with does have a contract with the service from case 20-125 for mutual aid. With the monetary consideration involved, he disclosed this to the Investigations Committee. It was decided there was no bias, so Mr. Kellner participated in the decision.

**Summary: 20-125:** A patient complaint that a licensed EMS service does not have the necessary pediatric medical equipment. The decision-making ability, standards of conduct, and transport policy at this department are also in question.

***The Investigations Committee recommends resolving this case by issuing a letter of guidance, citing the importance of maintaining equipment as per MEMS rules, as well as acquiring the pre-authorization to conduct training courses; to be kept on file for four years.***

*MOTION: To accept the Investigations Committee's recommendation.*

*Made by: Russell; Seconded by: Ontengco*

*Roll Call Vote (Yes): Beals, Chicoine, Conley, Cote, Downing, Drinkwater, Gerrish, Kellner, Kindelan, Libby, Martel, Ontengco, Russell*

Case 20-134

This case has been tabled by the Investigations Committee pending more information from the applicant.

Delegation Orders

Melissa Adams presents

The Investigations Committee reviewed a revised delegation order for MEMS staff to issue a letter of guidance in specific situations, including patient care reporting violations, QA participation violations, and unlicensed practice violations.

***The Investigation Committee's recommendation is to present the formal Delegation Order to the Board for consideration at the November 4<sup>th</sup> meeting.***

*MOTION: To approve the Investigation Committee's recommendation with editorial amendments.*

*Made by: Russell Seconded by: Libby*

*Roll Call Vote (Yes): Beals, Chicoine, Conley, Cote, Downing, Drinkwater, Gerrish, Kellner, Kindelan, Libby, Martel, Ontengco, Russell*

10. Old Business

None

11. New Business

a. Non-Discrimination/Anti-Harassment Resolution

Mr. Hurley presents

This Resolution was distributed and introduced to the Board two months ago, and it was tabled to allow time for legal review. Dr. Zimmerman had questions regarding the wording of the last paragraph, and AAG Guay offered some interpretation. He also stated that he did have some suggestions for revising the wording of the last paragraph.

*MOTION: To table the Non-Discrimination/Anti-Harassment Resolution document so that the MEMS Office and AAG Guay can work on some revisions.*

*Made by: Libby; Seconded by: Russell*

*Roll Call Vote (Yes): Beals, Chicoine, Conley, Cote, Downing, Drinkwater, Gerrish, Kellner, Kindelan, Libby, Martel, Ontengco, Russell*

b. PSE COVID-19 Modifications Renewal

Sally Taylor presents

Due to the recent spike in COVID the Exam committee would like to extend the modified exam guidelines which were slated to end December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2020 to June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2021.

*MOTION: To approve the request of the Exam Committee to extend the modified exam guidelines to June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2021.*

*Made by: Ontengco; Seconded by: Drinkwater*

*Roll Call Vote (Yes): Beals, Chicoine, Conley, Cote, Downing, Drinkwater, Gerrish, Kellner, Kindelan, Libby, Martel, Ontengco, Russell*

c. Data Requests

Director Hurley presents both data requests

i. Frisbie Memorial Hospital (New Hampshire)

Frisbie Memorial Hospital in New Hampshire has requested access to Hospital Hub for patients who are transported to and from their facility.

We previously only granted access explicitly to hospitals in the state of Maine.

*MOTION: To approve the release of identifiable information for patients transported to and from Frisbee Memorial Hospital by licensed Maine EMS crews for the purpose of linkage with patient electronic medical records.*

*Made by: Russell; seconded by Beals*  
*Roll Call Vote (Yes): Beals, Chicoine, Conley, Conley, Cote, Downing, Drinkwater, Gerrish, Kindelan, Libby, Martel, Ontengco, Russell*

ii. Maine General Hospital

This is a request from Maine General Health to expand their current access to patient records to include all patients who are transported from their facility. Director Hurley requested to grant this access to all Maine hospitals who have access to Hospital Hub.

*MOTION: To allow Maine Hospitals access to identifiable data for patients that are departing from their facility by a MEMS licensed service for the purposes of quality assurance and linkage to electronic medical records.*

*Made by: Libby ; Seconded by Russell*  
*Roll Call Vote (Yes): Beals, Chicoine, Conley, Cote, Downing, Drinkwater, Gerrish, Kellner, Kindelan, Libby, Martel, Ontengco, Russell*

d. Rules Comments

Jason Oko presents

Mr. Oko states that the comments have been sent to the Board for review and is seeking approval of the comments. Also, for the Board to direct our office to draft a basis statement regarding the comments that have been submitted.

*MOTION: To request the EMS Office to draft a basis statement regarding the comments that have been received for the Board's approval.*

*Made by: Kindelan; Seconded by: Russell*  
*Roll Call Vote (Yes): Beals, Chicoine, Conley, Cote, Downing, Drinkwater, Gerrish, Kindelan, Kellner, Libby, Martel, Ontengco, Russell*

e. Maine EMS Workforce Shortage Task Force

Mr. Libby states that he would like to see workforce data to help quantify the issue and where to best focus our efforts.

Director Hurley suggests that we wait until the strategic planning process to address this issue. He also suggests that we determine what the problems are now in order to determine what data we need to obtain and then during the strategic planning process we can use this information to address the base issues. Directory Hurley suggests that each Board member submit concerns for data requests by the end of business on November 9<sup>th</sup>, 2020 to be aggregated by the MEMS Office.

Mr. Kellner suggests that the Board use the December meeting to address this issue.

*MOTION: To change the Board meeting time from 9:30 AM to 9:00 AM.*  
*Made by: Russell; Seconded by: Beals*

*Roll Call Vote: Beals, Chicoine, Conley, Cote, Downing,  
Drinkwater, Gerrish, Kindelan, Kellner, Libby, Martel, Ontengco,  
Russell*

12. Other

- a. Items for next meeting agenda
  - i. Work force shortage issues
- b. Next meeting date (Dec. 2, 2020 @ 9:00 AM)

*MOTION: To adjourn at 12:26.*

*Made by: Russell Seconded by: Drinkwater*