



JANET T. MILLS
 GOVERNOR

MICHAEL SAUSCHUCK
 COMMISSIONER

WIL O'NEAL
 DIRECTOR

Maine Emergency Medical Services Board Meeting
 Wednesday, January 8, 2025, at 9:00 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			
Bill Cyr	X		
Laura Downing	X		
Amy Drinkwater	X		
Judy Gerrish	X		
Brian Langerman	X		
Jack Lewis	X (virtual)		
Brent Libby	X		
Julie Ontengco	X		
Matthew Sholl			
Steve Smith	<i>PENDING REAPPOINTMENT</i>		
Andy Turcotte	X (virtual)		
Christopher Whytock	X		
Kate Zimmerman			

Staff:

- In person: Wil O’Neal (Director), Anthony Roberts (Deputy Director), Melissa Adams, Victoria Clyde, Jason Cooney, Darren Davis, Robert Glaspy, Erin Ludwig, Anna Massefski, Marc Minkler, Samantha Andrews (Assistant Attorney General)
- Virtual: Alex Gibson, Amber McCormick, Jason Oko

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

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

Stakeholders & Guests:

- In person: Brendan Byther, Miles Carpenter, Jon Duke, David Kinney, Rick Petrie, Jason Peasley, Robert Russell, Prianka Sarker, Marcella Sorg, Betsy Stivers
- Virtual: "Amy – Lisbon EMS", Jessica Benson-Yang, Derek Booker, Lynda Clancy, Daniel Clark, Ashlyn Cochran, Zhannae Cummings, Kevin Curry, Sean Donaghue, "Elizabeth", AJ Gagnon, Chip Getchell, Tamara Hunt, David Ireland, "Jay", "Jay B", "Kathy", Joe Kellner, "Kerry's iPhone", Aiden Koplovsky, Joanne Lebrun, Jack Lewis, Andrew Lowe, "Matt", Chuck McMahan, Kelly Meehan-Coussee, "Michel", "Mike R", Eric Miller, Bill Montejo, Ryan Nizolek, Jeremy Ogden, Fred Porter, "Reed", "Reeves", Jay Reeves, Alexander Rezk, "RFD", Lori Rice, Rebecca Royer, Dennis Russell, Dave Saquet, Don Sheets, Rebekah Smith, Stephen Smith, Nikole St. Germain, Rachel Sukeforth, Jesse Thompson

Agenda Items:

1. Adjudicatory Hearing for Case No. 24-343.

Drinkwater is recused. Cyr acting as Chair.

MOTION: To approve the consent agreement as presented.

(Libby, seconded by Langerman)

VOTE:

In Favor: Cyr, Downing, Gerrish, Langerman, Lewis, Libby, Ontengco, Turcotte, Whytock

Opposed: None

Abstained/Recused: Drinkwater (Recused)

MOTION CARRIES

Drinkwater returns as Chair.

2. Introductions
3. Conflict of Interest Disclosures

Drinkwater will recuse from the Town of Rockport Application Review item.

4. Modifications to the Agenda

The State Police Tactical Unit Waiver Request item will be moved from New Business to Old Business, after the Town of Rockport Application Review item.

5. Public Comments

None.

6. Investigations

- a. Committee Meeting Minutes – December 19, 2024

MOTION: To accept the Investigations Committee meeting minutes.
(Drinkwater, seconded by Downing)

VOTE:

In Favor: Downing, Drinkwater, Libby, Turcotte

Opposed: None

Abstained/Recused: Gerrish (Abstained)

MOTION CARRIES

- b. Case 24-865

- i. Summary: The licensee notified Maine EMS of a new criminal conviction for Disorderly Conduct, a Class E crime, with conduct related to the profession.
- ii. The Investigations Committee recommends that the Board dismiss the complaint with a letter of guidance, citing Maine EMS Professional Conduct Rule, Chapter 11, §1(14) and the NAEMT Code of Ethics, to be kept on file for two licensing cycles.

MOTION: To accept the Investigation Committee’s recommendation to dismiss the complaint with a letter of guidance.

(Cyr, seconded by Libby)

VOTE:

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

Opposed: None

Abstained/Recused: None

MOTION CARRIES

7. Old Business

- a. Meeting Minutes – December 4, 2024

MOTION: To approve the December 4, 2024 Maine EMS Board meeting minutes.
(Libby, seconded by Langerman)

VOTE:

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

Opposed: None

Abstained/Recused: None

MOTION CARRIES

- b. Maine EMS Director Update

Given by Maine EMS Director Wil O’Neal.

- i. Erin Ludwig has joined the Maine EMS team as Office Specialist and will be taking on the role of Board Liaison.

- ii. Deputy Director Anthony Roberts is leaving Maine EMS. His last day will be Friday, January 10, 2025.
 - iii. Maine EMS's highlights and accomplishments from 2024 were reviewed.
- c. Medical Director Update
- i. Not Available.
- d. Town of Rockport Application Review
- i. The Town of Rockport has submitted an application to license the Rockport Fire Department as a new ground ambulance service. Their complete application package includes a new consultancy report.

Drinkwater is recused. Cyr acting as Chair.

The Board reviewed Maine EMS Rules Chapter 3, §4 and discussed whether or not the applicant meets the following criteria outlined in that subsection:

- 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;
- 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;
- C. Public comment(s) 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;
- E. An evaluation of the potential impact upon existing ground ambulance and non-transporting services; and
- F. The character of the ownership of a proposed service.

MOTION: To approve the license, having weighed the facts of Chapter 3, §4.
(Libby, seconded by Downing)

VOTE:

In Favor: Cyr, Downing, Gerrish, Langerman, Lewis, Libby, Ontengco, Turcotte, Whytock
Opposed: None
Abstained/Recused: Drinkwater (Recused)

MOTION CARRIES

Drinkwater returns.

- e. State Police Tactical Unit Waiver Request
- This item was moved from New Business to Old Business by the Board.*
- i. The State Police Tactical Unit, which has a non-transporting service license, is seeking a waiver of certain rules around equipment requirements.

- ii. The Board invited Dr. Dave Saquet, Medical Director for the Maine State Police Tactical Unit, to speak on this item.

Drinkwater asked the Board the list of questions from Maine EMS Rules, Chapter 13, §2, which are as follows:

1. Whether the person or organization seeking the waiver took reasonable steps to ascertain the rule and comply with it:
 - a. **Board Response:** Yes
And does this weigh in favor of granting the waiver?
 - b. **Board Response:** Yes
2. Whether the person or organization seeking the waiver was given inaccurate information by an agent or employee of the State EMS program:
 - a. **Board Response:** No
And does this weigh in favor of granting the waiver?
 - b. **Board Response:** Yes
3. Whether the person or organization seeking the waiver, or any other individual or group, would be significantly injured or harmed if the rule were not waived:
 - a. **Board Response:** No
And does this weigh in favor of granting the waiver?
 - b. **Board Response:** Yes
4. Whether waiver of the rule in the particular case would pose a health or safety risk to the public at large or a particular individual or community:
 - a. **Board Response:** No
And does this weigh in favor of granting the waiver?
 - b. **Board Response:** Yes
5. Whether waiver of the rule in the particular case would establish a precedent that would unduly hinder the Board or Office of EMS in its administration of Maine's EMS System:
 - a. **Board Response:** No
And does this weigh in favor of granting the waiver?
 - b. **Board Response:** Yes

MOTION: To grant the waiver without expiration unless there are changes in any licensing factor.

(Cyr, seconded by Gerrish)

VOTE:

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

Opposed: None

Abstained/Recused: None

MOTION CARRIES

- f. Board Review of Update to Maine EMS Complaint Policy
 - i. The Board reviewed an updated Maine EMS Complaint Policy, which is effective immediately.

- ii. There were no comments or suggestions made by the Board. No action was taken.
- g. Consideration of Public Comments & Proposed Responses, Basis Statement, and Proposed Modifications to Chapter 27: Implementation of EMS Sustainability Program
 - i. The Board reviewed the newly proposed language for Chapter 27 of Maine EMS Rules, which would govern the implementation of Maine EMS's Sustainability Program.
 - ii. Based on public comments received, the Rules Committee modified the proposed rule to change how grant funds are allocated to training centers. The maximum funding allocation was reduced to \$833,000. Additionally, the total available amount was reduced by \$1.5 million, with \$1 million being reallocated to transporting services and \$0.5 million being reallocated to non-transporting services. EMS Staff also proposed a change to the allocation algorithm.

Board Chair directed for a 10-minute break without objection.

MOTION: To publish for public comment the draft proposal of Maine EMS Rules Chapter 27 with the following modifications:

- Under Section 6.1.A., §2, delete criteria (a)-(e) and move the subsection's headers to Section 7;
- Under Section 6.1.A., remove §3: Scoring Range; and
- Under Section 6.1.A., §2, add in the staff-proposed allocation algorithm for the administration of funds, as amended during this meeting.

(Libby, seconded by Ontengco)

VOTE:

In Favor: Downing, Drinkwater, Gerrish, Lewis, Libby, Ontengco, Whytock

Opposed: Cyr, Langerman, Turcotte

Abstained/Recused: None

MOTION CARRIES

- h. Committee Vacancies and Application Process Review
 - i. The link for committee applications is now open on the Maine EMS website: [Maine EMS Committee Application Form](#).
 - ii. There will be more committee membership information shared during the next meeting.
- 8. New Business
 - a. Review of EMSC QI Project
 - i. The request is for approval of a Quality Improvement (QI) study by the Maine EMS for Children (EMSC) program on the use and effectiveness of the KangooFix neonatal transport device. Survey results would be reported to stakeholders and partners to better understand the use of transport devices during emergency, non-emergency, and interfacility transports of patients under 29 days of age.

MOTION: To approve the EMSC QI project using deidentified patient data.
(Libby, seconded by Ontengco)

VOTE:

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

Opposed: None

Abstained/Recused: None

MOTION CARRIES

- b. Nonfatal Opioid Overdose Patient Journey Presentation
Presented by Eric Miller, Prianka Sarker, and Dr. Marcella Sorg
 - i. This presentation can be accessed on the Maine EMS website: [Nonfatal Patient Journey Task Force Presentation](#)
 - c. Annual Data Report
 - i. Maine EMS's 2023 Data Report can be accessed on the Maine EMS website: [Annual Data Report 2023](#)
 - d. State Police Tactical Unit Waiver Request
This item was moved to Old Business.
9. Other
- a. There was discussion on the new multi-factor authentication requirement;
 - b. The next meeting of the Maine EMS Board of Directors will be held in-person on February 5, 2025, starting at 9:30 AM.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:33 PM.

(Motion by Libby, seconded by Cyr; unanimously in favor)