

## Board Meeting Minutes

December 2, 2022

**APPROVED**

**2/3/2023**

### Board Members Present

Dr. Joel Hornung  
Director David Adams  
Rep. John Eplee  
Dr. Greg Faimon  
Sen. Faust-Goudeau-virtual  
Comm. Ricky James  
Director Deb Kaufman-virtual  
Chief Shane Pearson  
Comm. Bob Saueressig  
Dr. Sellberg - virtual  
Director Jeri Wheatley

### Guests

Con Olson	TECHs
Craig Isom	Med Trans
Dave Johnston	Reno Co EMS
Heather Pollet	Coffeyville CC
Brenda Pursley	Coffeyville CC
Charles Foat	Johnson Co CC
Chris Alexander	KC Regional Fusion Center
Frank Williams	Butler Co EMS
Angela Hamilton	Sedgwick Co EMS
Brian Pope	Life Star
Monika Heller	Reno Co EMS

### Staff Present

Joseph House, Exec. Director  
James Reed  
Carman Allen  
Chad Pore  
Suzette Smith  
Terry Lower  
James Kennedy  
Mary-Elaine Skinner

### Board Members Absent

Senator Michael Fagg  
Rep. Broderick Henderson  
Director John Ralston

Virtual attendees  
listed at the  
bottom

### Call to Order

Chairman Hornung called the Board Meeting to order on Friday, December 2, 2022 at 9:00 a.m.

Chairman Hornung called for a motion to approve the minutes.

***Commissioner Saueressig moved to approve the October 7, 2022 minutes. Chief Pearson seconded the motion. No further discussion. No opposition noted. The motion carried.***

### Standing Items

Chairman Hornung called on Director House for Variance Approved.

- Director House reported that there had been a request for a variance regarding ambulance lettering and it was approved.

### Investigations Committee Actions

Chairman Hornung called on Director Wheatley to give the Investigations Committee report.

Director Wheatley gave the following report.

- The first case was regarding a provider who was arrested and charged with violent crimes against another person. The provider's certification was suspended.
- The next case went into Executive Session and no binding action was taken.
- One case was passed over.

That concluded the Investigations Committee report.

### Office Update

Chairman Hornung called on Director House to give the Office Update. Director House reported the following.

- Director House asked Mr. Pore to report on the progress of the update to NEMSIS version 3.5. He stated that Regions II and IV had participated in training the past week. Our goal is for all services to be ready by the end of June, which well exceeds the national deadline. Ten agencies have already switched over. The first agency using a third party vendor has been added. Chief Pearson talked about the need to report mileage to and from a call. Mr. Pore stated that the state site only requires loaded mileage. But with NEMSIS version 3.5 the decision was made to track all mileage. It lets services know what miles are EMS-related. Director House stated he gets requests to estimate how quickly vehicles will depreciate. He was also recently asked about mileage due to the chip shortage. Chief Pearson felt this was a local issue. There was a lengthy discussion on the need to change from loaded mileage to trip mileage. Director House replied that he often gets requests about mileage from various entities, such as NHTSA or the Kansas Department of Transportation. They use the information to determine what roads might need repair or replacement due to increased usage of heavier vehicles, such as ambulances. The information could also be used to estimate depreciation/replacement of an ambulance. If the information is gathered in KEMSIS, it would keep local agencies from having to supply the information when contacted. Chairman Hornung called for an end to the discussion and said that the state was trying to be proactive.
- Director House reported that a no cost contract with PulsePoint had been entered into which would provide a mapped layer of where AED's are placed within the state of Kansas. Kansas City area counties are already using this. This information will be available to 911 dispatchers. The 911 Coordinating Council is very excited about this opportunity. EMS, emergency management, law enforcement, and fire departments will also have access to this information. It might end up as an annual inspection. The underlying structure should be in place by January 1<sup>st</sup>.
- Director House stated that there were about 2800 providers to renew by the end of the year and about 400 of those have renewals pending because they do not have all the required information.
- Director House attended the Kansas Hospital Association meeting, which he described as being a great discussion. He stated that there is support for local EMS. There were three round table discussions and the table was full for all three sessions.

That concluded the Office Update report.

### Old Business

Chairman Hornung called on Director House to give an update on a standard of care for EMS in Kansas. Director House reported he did send out the NASEMSO clinical guidelines and asked services what questions and concerns were out there. He did not get any responses. Therefore, it is not ready for action.

That concluded the old business.

### New Business

#### **Sponsoring Organization Approval:**

Director House brought before the Board the question of reinstating Coffeyville Community College as a Sponsoring Organization. An investigation was launched on their Sponsoring Organization after a Paramedic class was completed without ever gaining Board approval. The college stopped offering education to figure out the situation. Director House met with the EMS staff and college officials in late November and is satisfied with the support he saw for the program. Brenda Pursley and Heather Pollet, from Coffeyville Community College, were present to discuss their Sponsoring Organization request. Chairman Hornung asked them what changes have been made. They reported that they removed the instructor who did not get the proper approval and stop gaps were put in place to assure approval from KBEMS and before students can enroll. When asked about the students who took the course, Ms. Pursley provided the following information. The students enrolled and went through the course at the college, tested and passed exams before clinicals. At that point it was discovered KBEMS approval was never gained. The college entered into an agreement/settlement between the college and students. There were lawyers involved and the two students were taken care of. There was also an EMT course with an estimated 10 students that was stopped mid-stream because there was no course approval. The college reimbursed those 10 students. The college staff stated that they thought the students were satisfied with the outcome.

*Director Wheatley moved to approve the Coffeyville Community College application to regain Sponsoring Organization status. Dr. Eplee seconded the motion. Discussion was held including Chief Pearson asking if we could make it conditional. Commissioner James stated he does not see the Board accepting that they are sorry when two students did all the work. Director Wheatley said there was a need for education in southeast Kansas. The motion carried with one opposed.*

#### **KC Fusion Center**

Mr. Chris Alexander, from Kansas City Regional Fusion Center, gave a presentation on the services they provide. The organization was created from a concept starting after 9/11 and includes sharing information with local, state and federal levels to prevent terrorist attacks.

There are currently 80 Fusion Centers. Kansas primarily focuses on intelligence and Bio-Agriculture. The KC Fusion Center started 15 years ago and provides information to their specific nine counties in the Kansas City area. Their mission is information sharing, collaboration and production, and dissemination of information to combat domestic and international terrorism, cybersecurity, protecting critical infrastructure and key resources, and mitigating threats of violence that could result in mass casualties. Mr. Alexander became their Fire/EMS Analyst starting last March. He is trying to build outreach. He started in EMS in Topeka 40 years ago and worked in Kansas City for 20 years. What he wants to bring to EMS is information. They publish an EMS Watch Line and have published nine so far in 2022. All products are Official Use Only. Those individuals interested in receiving their information should contact Mr. Alexander.

## **Statutory and Regulatory Updates**

Director House discussed the legislative meeting packet from August. He had asked for comments on four main items: elimination of the Instructor Coordinator certification which will move forward in the next legislative session; an AED Registry; include other health related occupations to supervise students during clinical training; and authorized activities for paramedics. He reported that he had not received any comments upon these statute and regulation changes. On the agency's proposal to increase penalties at the Paramedic level for failing to follow authorized activities, Board staff is working with legal counsel. A significant increase in fines is being looked at. This would include a First Violation of \$1,000; a Second Violation of \$2,500; and a Third Violation of \$5,000. There is discussion of giving more flexibility rather than suspension.

***Chief Pearson moved to approve the AED Registry and to allow Physician Assistants and Respiratory Therapists to supervise students during clinical training. Director Wheatley seconded the motion. No further discussion. No opposition noted. The motion carried.***

***Director Wheatley moved to authorize EMR's and/or EMT's to obtain serial EKG's, but only if an ALS provider is providing primary care. Commissioner Saueressig seconded the motion. No further discussion. No opposition noted. The motion carried.***

***Dr. Faimon moved to allow EMT's the ability to monitor an established saline lock. Dr. Eplee seconded the motion. No further discussion. No opposition noted. The motion carried.***

Addressing written orders (specific for the paramedic level) were discussed. Current law does not address written orders or verbal orders when direct communication is not maintained. The proposed change would enable a paramedic to do as directed by the medical director via written order. Dr. Faimon was concerned for the air medical side who cannot stay in contact with the medical director. Chairman Hornung and Director House reminded the Board that there are currently 4 scenarios where activities are authorized and the only one that allows for following an order requires direct communication to be maintained. Another step is the need to define "written order". Dr. Eplee said the Revisor's Office will write up the statute change. It was noted that leaving the language as it currently is written and given the current practice, there is a significant liability. He said now is the time just to start the process.

***Chief Pearson moved to proceed with a statutory change for addressing written orders (specific for Paramedic level). Director Wheatley seconded the motion. There was some additional discussion. No opposition noted. The motion carried.***

The item regarding graduated sanctions for violations of paramedic authorized activities was tabled.

***Dr. Faimon moved to proceed with changes for clarification regarding EMR nebulizer therapy, capillary blood sampling by the EMT level, and the ability of an AEMT to maintain an IO. Director Wheatley seconded the motion. No further discussion. No opposition noted. The motion carried.***

### **Recognition**

Director House recognized, thanked, and presented a plaque to the following Board Members whose terms are coming to an end.

- Commissioner Bob Saueressig has served as a County Commissioner for the 5<sup>th</sup> District of Coffey County and as a KBEMS member for six years.
- Commissioner Ricky James has served as a County Commission for the 1<sup>st</sup> District in Linn County since 2015 and as a KBEMS member for seven years.
- Representative Broderick Henderson has served 28 years as a Representative in the House of Representatives for the 35<sup>th</sup> House District in Kansas City and as a KBEMS member for 11 years.
- Commissioners James and Saueressig both thanked Director House for the opportunity to serve and stated that they felt this was a very well run Board.

### **Public Comment**

Dave Johnston, Region III Chair, raised concerns about the new format of Board and Committee meetings. He is still getting questions about the change and feels there is a gap of providers who do not know the new format. He felt additional information was needed. He was also concerned that comments are due when the packet is not out timely. He said opportunities and collaboration are missed by the Planning and Operations Committee not having ad hoc committee members' input.

Frank Williams asked about the best practices regarding how to handle written orders and their potential inclusion within protocols until legislative updates occur.

### **Executive Session**

***Director Wheatley moved to go into Executive Session to discuss actions of the Executive Director that are pertinent to personnel matters relating to non-elected personnel for 15 minutes. The Board's Executive Director was asked to remain present for this session. The Board will reconvene the meeting at 11:25 a.m. at this current location. Chief Pearson seconded the motion. No further discussion. The motion carried.***

The Board moved into Executive Session at 11:10 a.m.

The Board was reconvened in open meeting at 11:25 announcing that they took no binding action during the Executive Session.

***Commissioner Saureissig moved that the meeting be adjourned. Commissioner James seconded the motion. No further discussion. No opposition noted. The motion carried.***

Meeting adjourned at 11:26 a.m.

#### Virtual Guests

Wendy O'Hare  
Brandon Beck  
Nathan Sturchio  
Tom Miller  
Stacey Jordan  
Nick Larmer  
Chris Cannon  
Scott Stueven  
Cliff Moore  
Rick Robison  
Heather Scruton