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Dr. Joel E Hornung, Chair  
Joseph House, Executive Director

Laura Kelly, Governor

## Board Meeting Minutes

June 2, 2023

**APPROVED**  
**8/4/2023**

### Board Members Present

Dr. Joel Hornung  
Director David Adams  
Dr. Greg Faimon  
Director Deb Kaufman-virtual  
Chief Shane Pearson  
Director John Ralston  
Dr. Martin Sellberg-virtual  
Sen. Faust-Goudeau-virtual  
Rep. Stephanie Clayton  
Rep. John Eplee  
Director Jeri Wheatley

### Guests

Craig Isom  
Dave Johnston  
Dave Beam  
Kara Lawrence  
Jason Zink  
Kent Vosburg  
Monica Heller  
John Hultgren  
Stacy Wespi  
Con Olson  
Tracy Cleary  
Jon Antrim  
Clay Cox

Med Trans  
Reno Co EMS  
Dickinson Co EMS  
Pawnee Co EMS  
Pawnee Co EMS  
Junction City FD  
Reno Co EMS  
Dickinson Co EMS  
Wichita Fire  
TECH EMS  
EagleMed/GMR  
GMR  
LifeSave

### Staff Present

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

### Board Members Absent

Sen. Michael Fagg

Virtual attendees  
listed at the  
bottom.

### Call to Order

Chairman Hornung called the Board Meeting to order on Friday, June 2, 2023 at 9:02 a.m.

Chairman Hornung called for a motion to approve the minutes.

***Director Wheatley moved to approve the April 7, 2023 minutes. Director Ralston seconded the motion. No further discussion. No opposition noted. The motion carried.***

Director House reported that there had been one request for a variance regarding the lettering on a loaner ambulance and that it had been approved. No request for staffing variances.

### Investigation Committee Report

Chairwoman Wheatley stated that the Investigations Committee had accepted the staff recommendations for the four consent agenda items. They heard a case regarding an individual who falsely represented herself as a certified provider and during the service inspection it was found she was not. Attendant was referred for criminal prosecution and the service received multiple violations and several fines. Another case involved three EMS providers who transported a patient to the hospital in a private vehicle while following the ambulance. All three were fined.

## Office Update

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

- Director House stated that the NEMESIS v3.5 upgrade is on target for implementation by January 2024. Version 3.4 will sunset.
- Thirteen regulations pertaining to the Instructor Coordinator have been updated to revise and strike language. Eight regulations are being revised, mostly deletions. There are some updates to change attendant to provider and also a change to the primary instructor. Five regulations are being revoked in their entirety.
- K.A.R. 109-2-2 was returned by the Attorney General's office because they had some concern regarding the description of vehicles. The regulations should be back before the Board in October.
- A federal grant opportunity that will fund two awardees has opened this week and is due July 28th. It is a 2 year grant for 2 million dollars for a demonstration project that addresses National Emergency Communication Plan implementation gaps, and can enhance existing communication infrastructure, specifically to improve the delivery of rural medical care. We are looking to submit an application, similar to one in South Dakota, regarding the provision of telemedicine in an ambulance. Ours might not qualify since another state is already doing this.
- Kim Cott has moved across to the Issuance section in our office. We continue to seek another person for that department as well as an investigator. The qualified applicant pool is small.
- There is a concern regarding individuals testing before we are notified of passing the class. By regulation the Board must be notified at least seven days before students are allowed to test. This affects the integrity of the exam. We are noticing it more regarding the cognitive exam than skills exam. The Sponsoring Organizations are approving individuals to exam. Our only disciplinary action is to rescind the Sponsoring Organization authorization.
- There are currently 9,882 EMS providers total and that is up 124 since April. EMRs are at 219, EMTs are 5,844, which is up 48 providers. AEMTs are at 912 which is up 17 providers. Paramedics are at 2907 which is up 60 providers. Still seeing a lot of folks coming in from out of state.
- National Registry Cognitive exam results for 1<sup>st</sup> attempt only, since January 1<sup>st</sup> are averaging 68.2% which is up 10.4% from where we were last year. Director House thanked those sponsoring organization who have been following through on their quality improvement plans. He also thanked the Board for instituting the 70% passing rate requirement. That is the only policy change we have had within the time period.

- The Compliance section reports all services renewed on time. Director House thanked the services for this effort. So far this year 82 services have been inspected, 64 audits of continuing education providers, and 15 audits of initial courses are completed.
- The State Fair is in September. Please contact Jim Reed or Mary Elaine Skinner if you would like to showcase your service. We are very excited to report that our booth has moved to a more desirable location, and we expect a considerable increase in foot traffic this year.
- The NASEMSO annual conference will take place June 11-15<sup>th</sup> with Mr. Pore and Director House attending.
- The annual KEMSIS users group meeting will be held on July 10<sup>th</sup> in Salina with the legislative brainstorming session on July 11 at the same location.
- EMS Memorial Weekend of Tribute will be in Washington, D.C. on July 21-23.
- There will be 10 BLS exam sites and 2 mobile testing sites in June.

That concluded the Office Update.

### New Business

Chairman Hornung instructed the Board that the next topics would be discussed in a hearing format and would need to either be tabled, assigned for someone to do, create a committee, schedule another hearing, or decide not to proceed. Chairman Hornung called on Director House to discuss the New Business. Director House reported the following.

- The topics will be presented in the following format: Introduction and review of the Board brief, summary of the brief with focus on current policy, and then look at what the states around us plus Texas are doing, because we transport there frequently. He will also provide any information from a national entity that might be applicable. The Board staff opinion will not be given unless specifically asked for.
- 2023PS0004-Allowing non-clinical, EMS Administrator based training to be considered approved CE for renewal purposes: The topic was submitted by KEMSA and became a discussion point because of questions regarding the KEMSA administrator's workshops being an acceptable course for CE. The Board did broaden the request to be all non-clinical EMS based administrator training. Eleven comments were received with one received the day after the deadline. The existing policy states that Continuing Education is a formally organized learning experience that has education as its explicit principal intent and is oriented toward the enhancement of EMS practice, values, skills, and knowledge. The contiguous states and Texas allow for current National Registry Certification to equal, meet or exceed their state continuing education requirements for renewal with some exceptions. None of the states have a certification for an Administrator. Questions and/or comments were heard from Director Adams, Mr. Con Olson, Chief Dave Johnston and Dr. Faimon. Vice-Chairman Pearson asked Director House if credit is currently allowed now for administrative courses. Director House said continuing education has to match the educational standards that the Kansas Board of EMS requires for each provider.

***Dr. Sellberg moved to send the topic of allowing non-clinical, EMS Administrator training as approved continuing education to the Education Committee for discussion. Dr. Eplee seconded the motion. No further discussion. No opposition noted. The motion carried.***

- 2023PS0005-Addition of Provider Well-being as a required category of CE for renewal purposes. This topic was submitted by KEMSA Board of Directors asking for the requirement of one hour of provider well-being training for all provider levels. In Kansas, Provider Well-being would fall under the category of Flex or Operations in the Kansas Continuing Action Plan. None of the five surrounding states has Provider Well-being as a specific topic. Chairman Hornung asked about the availability of classes on the topic and was informed they were becoming more available and were offered by CAPCE entities. Director House stated that to make such a change in the plan would require it going through the legislative process. The consensus seemed to be that provider well-being is a timely topic and could be a component of Local requirement.

***Director Kaufmann moved that Provider Well-being as a required category of continuing education should be moved to the Education Committee for discussion. Director Wheatley seconded the motion. No further discussion. No opposition noted. The motion carried.***

- 2023PS0008-Addition of certification for Critical Care Paramedic. This topic was also submitted by the KEMSA Board of Directors. There is no current policy regarding this topic. Kansas Statute has a very specific process for credentialing health care personnel and a new certification level request would invoke that process. Creating an endorsement could bypass the process. Of the surrounding states, one has the certification and two offer endorsements. It is considered a specialty certification and there is an International Board of Specialty Certification that has an examination based upon a core curriculum. The University of Maryland Baltimore County Paramedic program also offers a program. The question was raised about the certification limiting how a current paramedic practices in Kansas. Director House said it would limit the paramedic if it was an occupational license. Currently, paramedics are performing the critical care skills with their certification. Questions were raised regarding the pros and cons of having the endorsement in Kansas.

***Director Ralston moved to send the topic of certification for Critical Care Paramedic back to Board staff for further research. Director Wheatley seconded the motion. No further discussion. No opposition noted. The motion carried.***

- 2023PS0009-Addition of certification for Mobile Integrated Health. This topic was submitted by the KEMSA Board of Directors. There is no current policy regarding this topic. Five comments were received, with one of them after the deadline. Director House reported that providers are typically called Community Paramedics and the delivery is called Mobile Integrated Health units. Nebraska has a Community Paramedic and three states offer endorsements limited to paramedics. This level is considered a specialty certification. Chairman Hornung stated that he was uncertain of our need to be involved since we are emergency medicine dealing with pre-hospital care while this topic gets into home health care. This would require help sorting out standards of care. Director Wheatley said this would fall under local integrated health and involve a lot of other entities. Director House stated that he felt that EMS had been doing mobile integrated health for years, just calling it part of ambulance services. There is now a funding stream associated with Mobile Integrated Health care and that would require some oversight. Director Adams said in working with insurance companies they want to

know that they are getting what they are paying for. Chairman Hornung stated the Board does not have enough information to proceed.

***Director Adams moved to send the topic of certification for Mobile Integrated Health back to Board staff for more information. Director Ralston seconded the motion. No further discussion. No opposition noted. The motion carried.***

- Director House mentioned updating the Board's Strategic Plan. There was discussion on the process and to include the Board and some Board staff. Chairman Hornung will get with Director House to find a date and time this fall.

That concluded the New Business report.

### **Public Comment**

Senator Faust-Goudeau shared that she had been at the ribbon cutting for an AMR service in Sedgwick County.

***Director Wheatley moved to adjourn. Vice-Chairman Pearson seconded the motion. No further discussion. No opposition noted. The motion carried.***

There being no further business before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 10:30 a.m.

### **Virtual Guests**

Troy Armstrong  
Chris Cannon  
Mike Morgan  
Karl Leach

Nick Larmer  
Jason Hudson  
Jeff Smith  
Brandon Beck

Angela Hamilton  
Zach Bieghler  
Pete Rogers