

Board Meeting Minutes

October 2, 2020

Approved
12/4/2020

Board Members Present

Dr. Gregory Faimon - phone
Rep. Broderick Henderson
Dr. Joel Hornung
Comm. Ricky James
Director Deb Kaufman -phone
Chief Shane Pearson
Mr. Chad Pore
Director John Ralston - phone
Comm. Bob Saueressig
Director Jeri Smith

Guests

Mike Johnson
Galen Anderson
Brent Rouse

Representing

NW Ks Amb Serv
AMR
Finney Co EMS

Staff Present

Joseph House, Exec Director
Terry Lower
Suzette Smith
Jim Reed
Mary-Elaine Skinner

Board Members Absent

Rep. John Eplee
Sen. Faust-Goudeau
Dr. Martin Sellberg
Mr. Dennis Shelby

Attorney

Whitney Casement

Call to Order

Chairman Hornung called the Board Meeting to order on Friday, October 2, 2020 at 9:05 a.m.

Vice-Chairman Pore made a motion to approve the August 7, 2020 minutes. Director Smith seconded the motion. No discussion. No opposition noted. The motion carried.

Old Business

Chairman Hornung called upon Director House who reported there were no decisions made since the last meeting related to COVID-19 that require Board affirmation.

Planning and Operations Committee

Chairman Hornung called upon Chief Pearson to provide the Planning and Operations Committee report. Chief Pearson provided the following report:

- Director House provided a KEMSIS update and reported that things were going well and so far there have been almost 300,000 runs this year.
- Director House reported there has been a data request regarding the drug Romazicon/Flumazenil. He is working on redacting and will put that information out.
- He is urging services to more closely look at their Q/A and Q/I process because there appear to be multiple errors regarding drug administration: such as inaccurate doses and inaccurate medication names (as an example, Flumazenil documented instead of Fentanyl).
- We are working on a timeline when Licensure will be able to communicate with Elite to propagate updates and are hoping that the timeline is done by the end of this year for implementation within six to nine months.
- Mr. James Reed reported that they have completed 140 inspections, 109 CE audits, and they had their first initial course audit for 2020. They are starting back up with unannounced ambulance inspections.
- Mr. Reed stated that Northwest Kansas Ambulance requested a variance for lettering on a loaner ambulance.
- Director House discussed the EMS Compact. He will be looking into how to put the Compact into regulations. In December he will bring ideas of how to utilize the benefits of the Compact.
- Mr. Reed reported that Osborne County EMS has relinquished their permit and AMR has taken over providing ground ambulance service.
- Mr. Reed introduced Mary-Elaine Skinner as the new EMS Specialist who has been on board for eight months, but due to the pandemic, has been unable to attend a Board meeting in person until now.
- Director House shared that he has a survey request of how services are handling opioids during the pandemic. He also will be posting and sending out surveys on monitors as a KRAF assessment and another on what medications attendants are allowed to use within their scope of practice.
- St. Lukes/Cushing Hospital closed last night at 7:00 p.m.

That concluded the Planning and Operations Committee report.

Medical Advisory Council (MAC)

Chairman Hornung stated that the council wants to develop a pathway for local credentialing to be considered adequate for recertification. They would like for the process to be a suitable alternative or addition to current renewal pathways. Discussion in the council led to the fact that the regulatory structure is already in place, but there needs to be a way for local services to be able to create a cognitive assessment that the Board could approve for continuing education purposes.

It was noted that this process needs to be setup in a manner to be attainable by all services, not just those with deep pockets, but with the understanding that item writing and validation does take resources.

The MAC invited Board members to attend their next meeting as they review the process one service took in developing a cognitive test for credentialing purposes.

They also talked about a request to endorse legislation with the intent to clearly identify Dispatchers as First Responders. Director House stated that this was already in place in Kansas.

That concluded the MAC report.

Education, Examination, Training and Certification Committee

Chairman Hornung called upon Vice-Chairman Pore to provide the EETC report. Vice-Chairman Pore gave the following report.

- No variances were processed.
- There have been 23 total BLS exam sites with 803 examined. There was discussion on if we had seen a drop in exam candidates, which there has been. There has also been a drop in enrollments. Staff will look at how that will impact EMS in the next few years.
- Dr. Foat, from the Education Development Task Force, said they had met on August 1st. They discussed the AEMT medication list, K.A.R. 109-17, NREMT question format, Technology Enhanced Items (TEI), and COVID-19 challenges in EMS Education. There was a webinar that was scheduled for September 24th on TEI, but the speaker had to reschedule, so that will now be on October 9th. Their next meeting will be held on October 22nd at 2:00 p.m.
- The Sponsoring Organization regulations have gone through the Division of Budget and were a little delayed due to a large amount of regulations filed by KDHE. They gave them back to make some edits and will be returned to the Department of Administration sometime next week.
- There was discussion about I/C credentialing. Some of the problems associated with IC credentialing could be solved by the Sponsoring Organization Regulations and looking at pass rates. They agreed to discuss again in December.

- A similar discussion occurred regarding the credentialing of EMS providers as what occurred during the MAC meeting.
- There was discussion on the length of the certification period. Director House explained that there was no problem at the agency level in making changes, and it had previously been a one year period. After looking at a number of states' certification periods, ours seemed to be in line with other states around us. The decision was to leave it as is.
- There was discussion on making online renewals mandatory. This would cut down on staff entry time. This would allow the system to be modified to look at a person's CE in order to assess if they had met the requirements necessary to renew. Only about 5% of renewals are done by paper.

Vice-Chairman Pore made a motion to open K.A.R 109-6-2 to require online renewal. Director Smith seconded the motion. No discussion. No opposition noted. The motion carried.

- The Education Manager Report was given by Deputy Director Shreckengaust who reported renewals for 2020 opened on September 1st. There are 4,785 providers that need to renew and as of October 1st there have been 282 completed. There are 109 I/C renewals for 2020 and as of October 1st there have been 10 that have completed the process to renew. A question was raised about how the continuing education cycle was counted. Some people thought it was January 1st to December 31st. It is not. It is from the date your certification is issued, or re-issued for renewals, until December 31st of your renewal year.

That concluded the EETC report.

Investigations Committee

Chairman Hornung called upon Vice-Chairman Pore to provide the Investigation Committee report. Vice-Chairman Pore gave the following report.

- There was previous action on two AEMT's who made a transfer with insulin hanging. The Director of the service was contacted and asked for clarification. The committee was satisfied with the response.
- A case regarding falsification of signature that the agency reported. The employee was terminated. Committee found a violation occurred and accepted local action.
- An individual was found to have falsified his renewal application, did not cooperate with investigation, and was found to have current and previous felonies he did not report. Committee recommendation was to revoke.
- A case for failure to safeguard a patient where required safety measures were not taken and the patient was dropped. One of the crew members had previous disciplinary action with a 90 day stayed suspension. The Committee lifted the stayed part of the suspension to impose the 90 day suspension. The second received a fine and a stayed suspension.
- There was another case involving patient care that involved seven individuals plus the committee asked staff to open two more case numbers. The committee decided to revoke one individual's certification; place one individual on 90 day suspension; fine one

individual \$200; give a 60 day suspension to one individual, and a 30 day suspension to three individuals.

- Whitney Casement, attorney for the Board, shared information about what the response should be if someone wants to talk about an ongoing disciplinary case or final action, which was to refer them to legal counsel and not discuss the case.

That concluded the Investigations Committee report.

Office Update

Chairman Hornung called upon Director House to provide the Office Update. Director House provided the following information:

- The regulations are moving through. There was a slight formatting issue on one but that has been resolved.
- There has been some confusion about earning CE after certification is renewed. CE's can start being earned after the date your renewal was issued. You do not have to wait until after December 31st to start earning CE for your next renewal.
- Surveys will be going out. We are looking forward to the results to see how Kansas performed.

That concluded the Office Update report.

Public Comments

- Director Michael Johnson, from Northwest Kansas Ambulance Service, provided comments and made a verbal request for the Board to consider granting a variance that would allow his service to send one certified staff member and an Emergency Vehicle Operator (EVO) to drive on interfacility transfers. He stated a reporting requirement each time the transport occurs and to come back in December to report.
- Ms. Casement pointed out that the Board gave the Executive Director authority to grant a variance due to staffing shortages following the Board's guidance document.
- The Board recommended that Director Johnson submit a variance request to Director House on this issue.

Chairman Hornung thanked Region VI for the refreshments.

Chairman Hornung adjourned the meeting at 9:52 a.m.