

Board Meeting Minutes

October 7, 2022

APPROVED
12/2/2022

Board Members Present

Director David Adams
Rep. John Eplee
Sen. Michael Fagg
Dr. Greg Faimon
Sen. Faust-Goudeau-virtual
Rep. Broderick Henderson
Comm. Ricky James
Director Deb Kaufman-virtual
Chief Shane Pearson
Director John Ralston-virtual
Comm. Bob Saueressig
Director Jeri Smith

Guests

Con Olson TECHs
Craig Isom Med Trans
Jon Antrim AMR
Clay Cox LifeSave
Virtual
attendees listed
at the bottom

Staff Present

Joseph House, Exec. Director
Curt Shreckengaust, Dep. Dir.
James Reed
Carman Allen
Chad Pore
Suzette Smith
Terry Lower
James Kennedy
Kim Cott-virtual

Board Members Absent

Dr. Joel Hornung
Dr. Martin Sellberg

Attorney

Call to Order

Chief Pearson called the Board Meeting to order on Friday, October 7, 2022 at 9:00 a.m.

Chief Pearson called for a motion to approve the minutes.

Director Adams moved to approve the August 5, 2022 minutes. Director Smith seconded the motion. No further discussion. No opposition noted. The motion carried.

Investigations Committee Actions

Chief Pearson called on Director Smith to give the Investigations Committee report. Director Smith gave the following Investigations Committee report.

- The consent agenda was approved by the committee for two individuals; one who had narcotic violations and the other was for a CEU audit.

- Two individuals were convicted of aggravated assault charges and their licenses were revoked.
- There was a report that an individual suffered an overdose at work. An investigation revealed it was unfounded.
- Two individuals were transporting a patient down the stairs when the wheel accidentally became locked resulting in the patient (who was strapped down) slightly injuring their elbow. It was determined that the individuals were not responsible and the case was dismissed.
- Two individuals were involved in a medication mix up when they administered sodium bicarbonate instead of dextrose. Both individuals were fined.
- A service was found to have an expired Medical Director for two flights and was fined.

That concluded the Investigations Committee report.

Office Update

Chief Pearson called on Director House to give the Office Update. Director House reported the following.

- Doniphan County EMS is a new service effective September 30th for the west side of the county and the east side will fall under the new service on January 1, 2023.
- Inspections of all services should be completed by November 1st.
- James Reed and Mary-Elaine Skinner attended the KEMSA conference and were available to answer questions for the participants.
- They also ran our booth at the Kansas State Fair in September, which was a great success. Director House thanked the services that participated. The Kansas Highway Patrol administered CPR to an individual at the fair. They cited our booth with helping them remember the timing of the compressions because they had repeatedly heard the song “Staying Alive” by the Bee Gees used for our CPR training. The patient did have a spontaneous return of circulation from the CPR.
- Director House stated that we are expecting 4,332 providers to renew by December 31st and thus far 537 have completed the process. The breakdown is 117 EMRs, 2,600 EMTs, 372 AEMTs, and 2,007 Paramedics to renew. There are 75 renewal applications that are awaiting Continuing Education (CE) to be verified. He asked that providers not wait until the last week of December to renew. The policy change at the end of last year requires proof of CE for recertification. Applicants won’t be renewed without CE being verified.
- Director House reported that in the past training reports were due 15 days after each quarter. That has been discontinued and there is currently no deadline for entering the training reports. We hoped people would keep up. But 4th quarter of 2021 is still seeing a high volume of calls for people trying to enter October-December 2021. Director House would like to consider putting a deadline back in place. He would prefer to receive the information seven days after class has ended so that the information is up to date as people renew.

Dr. Faimon made a motion to move forward to make a regulation change to establish a deadline of 30 days to submit training reports. Director Smith seconded the motion. No further discussion. No opposition noted. The motion carried.

- Director House gave a report on the progress of the NEMSIS 3.5 updates. We have five beta services using this version. They are Finney County EMS, Haskell County Ambulance Service, Kearney County EMS, Clay County EMS and Fredonia Regional Ambulance. The next phase will include Butler County EMS, Pawnee County EMS, Barber County Ambulance Service, and TECHs Inc. Mr. Pore made Kansas the 2nd state using this version and the 1st to submit over 100 reports. The official NEMSIS deadline for the complete transition is January 1, 2024. Our goal is to have it in place by the 1st quarter of 2023. Mr. Pore discussed the elements to change for improvements. He said services are not having problems transitioning to the new version.
- Director House worked with Jason White, MARCER, on tracking AED placements across the state. Currently we have a paper form that is to be sent to the local EMS service. That form often gets sent back to our office and must then be sent to the service. The intent was for responders to know an AED is in the area. Missouri has a good solution. There is a free public registry that would map with telecommunication centers to show where AED devices are in the state. There would also be the ability to track AED locations where Narcan, epinephrin and Stop the Bleed kits are included. In talking with the 911 Coordinating Council they support this. Questions were raised about its ability to integrate with the 911 system and CAD vendors and the answer was “yes” to both. Director House wants this to be live by the end of the year.
- Director House attended a meeting of the Technical Education Authority (TEA), which is statutorily required to report to the Kansas Board of Regents (KBOR) in disbursing funds for technical education. This included discussion of the amount of money that colleges receive for Emergency Medical Services education classes. The TEA asked colleges about credit hours and costs using the five years from 2015 to 2019. They found the amounts are for instructors, staff, institutions, and extraordinary costs. EMT and paramedic levels have been receiving \$121 of extraordinary costs per credit hour. The TEA looked at the EMT and calculated a total of \$13 for extraordinary costs. So they reduced both levels to zero due to overpaying significantly for years. It was suggested to use new numbers. An updated recommendation would return EMT to \$31 and paramedic to \$61 as the numbers are there to support it. They put it on hold until November 18th.

Dr. Eplee moved that we endorse leaving the funding level where it is since they are without new information on extraordinary costs. Director Adams seconded the motion. There was discussion that the Executive Committee could change the support after the extraordinary costs data comes in. No opposition noted. The motion carried.

- As the NASEMSO representative to the CAPCE Board, Director House will be heading to their board meeting next week. They will be looking at linking National EMS Coordinating Data Base to the CAPCE repository. He was asked to facilitate the joint National EMS Leadership Forum, which is a nineteen member organization, in conjunction with EMS World. He is also the NASEMSO representative to the Commission on Accreditation of Medical Transport Systems. It’s been pointed out that there is a pretty significant gap in state rules related to medical escorting and what the scope of practice is for that individual. This will be a three day meeting to review 20 programs.

That concluded the Office Update report.

Old Business

- There was no old business.

New Business

- Director House led the discussion of the Standard of Care for EMS. The board members received a brief in their packet. It is important to note a potential terminology conflict regarding the definition of standard of care being different for medical doctors vs EMS providers. For medical doctors it indicates what you are going to do and for EMS providers it indicates what is considered appropriate as care. In an effort to establish a standard of care in Kansas the recommendation is to use the NASEMSO Model Clinical Guidelines, which are designed to be an evidence based approach to EMS care where evidence exists, and a consensus based approach where there is not enough strong evidence. Con Olson spoke for TECH's EMS and as the President of the Administrators Society for KEMSA. The Society agrees that this is a great place to begin when writing protocols but that their biggest concern was being in an investigation and not meeting these guidelines. Questions were raised about whether it was under regulation or not, and the answer was, it is not. Director House said it is just a guidance, but it would support Investigation Committee decisions and other internal processes during which the Board and Board staff are called upon to determine the appropriateness of the care provided. Director Adams suggested the document be put out to service directors with an explanation. Representative Eplee asked for a summary of the guidelines to see at the December meeting.

Representative Eplee moved to send the NASEMSO document out to services and get comments back to Board staff to discuss at the December meeting. Director Smith seconded the motion. No further discussion. No opposition noted. The motion carried.

- Director House introduced the topic of the EMS workforce in Kansas. He stated that we consistently hear that Kansas has a workforce shortage, yet our numbers are growing. We just don't have them working in EMS in Kansas. The number of paramedics has almost doubled in 10 years, but many are working in clinical settings. He does not know that a policy could be made that would be effective. Currently there are five generations in the workforce. This has never happened before. A look at how generations are motivated can be used as a tool for services. It can help them see what to do to make their service a place employees want to be. Director House also wants to look at capturing calls where transport is denied. Two places in regulation require reporting. He will work on a way to capture these calls and make it nice and easy. A request for service can be denied if there is inadequate staffing, if it is a hospital request, law enforcement request, or another ambulance is on site. Large services have minimum staffing levels. If staff are not

available, they may pull trucks from service, but we can't see that. We are not seeing the data supporting the fact that there is an impact occurring regarding staffing. We are not seeing an increase in response time. Director House is trying to find ways to identify an impact is occurring. One service is looking for funding to help with recruitment saying it is becoming a wage war. One suggestion was made to provide down time during a shift, and be more flexible with time off, i.e., not requiring them to take the whole shift off, or having permanent substitutes, allow them to trade time, and paying for school or allowing them to attend during shift. Commissioner Saueressig suggested that Kansas Work Force might be something that could help with the cost for training. Two services have publicly stated that they are not having any trouble with recruitment and retention and Director House said he would reach out to them to see if they would make a presentation to the Board on their successful practices.

- Senator Michael Fagg was called on to introduce himself as a new Board member. A lifetime resident of El Dorado he spent 47 years in banking. He serves as a Senator for District 14 and is on four committees in the Senate. Vice-Chairman Pearson welcomed him to the Board.

That concluded the new business.

Public Comment

No public comment.

Director Smith moved that the meeting be adjourned. Director Adams seconded the motion. No further discussion. No opposition noted. The motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 11:06 a.m.

Virtual Guests

Brandon Beck
Dave Johnston
Karl Leech
Tom Miller
Jason White
Jeff Smith
Frank Williams
Wendy O'Hare
Nathan Sturchio
Stacey Wespi
A. Hamilton