



EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

Date: January 19th, 2024

Time: 10:00 am

Location: MADE at Plainfield

1610 Reeves Rd.

Plainfield, IN 46168

Members Present: G. Lee Turpin – *Private Ambulance/ Chairman*

Matthew Shady – *Training Institution*

John Zartman – *Paramedics*

Dr. Jim Nossett – *Medical Director*

Lori Mayle – *Air Medical Services*

Joel Thacker – *Executive Director of Indiana Dept. of Homeland Security*

Members Present Online: Darin Hoggatt – *Municipal Fire*

Jerry Harder – *EMTs*

Dr. Sara Brown – *Trauma Physicians*

Matthew McCullough – *Volunteer Fire EMS*

Andrew Bowman – *Emergency Nurses*

Mary Ann Dudley – *Volunteer EMS*

Ex-Officio Members: Kraig Kinney (*Indiana State EMS Director*) – (non-voting)

Dr. Eric Yazel (*Indiana State EMS Medical Director*) – (non-voting)

Members Not Present: Brian Herwig – *Hospital EMS*

Others Present or Present by Teleconference: Stan Frank, Robin Stump, Emily Castor, and other members of the EMS community.

Complete video of this meeting can be viewed at the following link:

<https://acadisportal.in.gov/acadisviewer/Registration/ListOfAvailableTraining>

CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

Meeting was called to order at approximately 10:00am by Chairman Lee Turpen. Robin Stump called roll and announced quorum. Everyone stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

ADOPTION OF MINUTES

- ❖ Adoption of minutes from the November 29th, 2023, session.

A motion was made by Commissioner Zartman to approve the minutes from the previous meeting listed above. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Thacker. Roll call vote was taken:

**G. Lee Turpen: Yes Matthew Shady: Yes Darin Hoggatt: Yes
Jerry Harder: Yes John Zartman: Yes Dr. Sara Brown: Yes
Andrew Bowman: Yes Mary Ann Dudley: Abstain Dr. Jim Nossett: Yes
Lori Mayle: Yes Joel Thacker: Yes**

HONORARY CERTIFICATES

- 1) *EMS Director's Award:*
- 2) *EMS Star of Life:*
- 3) *Certificate of Remembrance:*
- 4) *Certification of Appreciation:* Timothy Wilder and Clifton L. Crafton.
- 5) *Stork Award:* Jordan Boulard, Jordan McBarron, Darius Mousavi, Troy Golding, Meghan Poe, Samantha Holloway, Whitney Chaney, Dan Renz, Timonthy Hamon, Meghan Davilo, Amanda Carter, Mathew Deakin II, and Caleb Carver.
- 6) *Cardiac Saves:* Lauren Troxell, Bryan Corn, and Michael Hicks.
- 7) *Retirement:* David G. Anderson.

INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

- 1) Trauma System Update— Director Kinney stated that there was a state trauma care commission meeting held, this is their second meeting, and he discussed that the main project has been their grants. They currently have a couple of applications that include an EMS component. Director Kinney and Dr. Yazel presented on what they are doing for EMS as well as discussing the continued interest in tracking interfacility transfers as it impacts trauma and Patient outcomes.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

- 1) Director Kinney reviewed the current bills that are moving through Legislation, and he reminded everyone that this is a short session with no budgetary items this year. Director Kinney stated that the deadline for the submission of new bills has passed And then reviewed The important dates to note during this legislative session, Including the last day for Adjournment of both houses on Thursday, March 14, 2024. Director Kinney highlighted HB 1118 (Mental Healthcare for First Responders) Which requires a mental health program

within FSSA to cover first responder treatments, HB 1142 (Hoosier First Responder Metal of Self-Sacrifice) Which requires IDHS to have a program for a first responder, killed, or seriously injured in the line of duty to have recognition, and HB 1302 (Emergency Medical Services) which requires a county executive to report to IDHS information about EMS coverage in their county and for IDHS to provide a final report to a study committee. At this time these have not been passed and have all been assigned to committees.

Director Kinney also reviewed HB 1378 (Coverage for MIH services) This requires health plans to cover MIH Services performed in Delaware, White and Montgomery counties for a three-year period and DOI to compile a report, HB 1385 (Payment for ambulance services) this covers ambulance service billing, and coverage, and SB 54 (Marion county fire Consolidation) Wayne Township Fire Department is under consideration to be merged into Indianapolis Fire Department, SB 60 (Safe Haven of Infants) this updates, the Safe Haven law, and requires EMS to transport a child not a hospital to be transported to a hospital, and also requires a registry be created and accessible to EMS, SB 142 (Coverage for MIH services) This requires a state employee health plan to cover MIH services. Lastly SB 296 (Administrative Proceedings) this establishes that the office of administrative legal proceedings be the ultimate authority over administrative proceedings where OALP is engaged and SB 297 (Administrative Rules) Proposed administrative rules with compliance costs over \$1 million would require OMB Review and analysis, and report to the legislative council, and certain rules may be held until the Legislature passes a bill authorizing the role.

EMS FOR CHILDREN

- 1) Dr. Eric Yazel, on behalf of EMSC, reported that the EMS-C assessment is launching in May, and they will plan to share more information on social media in the future. He stated that EMS-C is in the beginning stages of designing a pre-Hospital pediatric readiness program. They will also begin looking at national programs in existence and best practices to design a two-tier program in Indiana.

INDIANA FIRE CHIEF'S ASSOCIATION

- 1) Director Kinney, on behalf of IFCA, reported that the association, primarily Chief Jarrod Sights and Chief Danny Sink, have been an active part of the Indiana EMS 2025 group and that they have been working on their upcoming conference, which will be in the first week of October and will be moving to Noblesville this year. There will be more information on this in the future.

INDIANA EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES ASSOCIATION (IEMSA)

- 1) Gary Miller reported that the association is currently accepting nominations for both the provider of the year awards, and the golden siren awards. Mr. Miller states that the Golden Siren award is for those who have served in EMS for 25 years or more and have made a significant impact in EMS and the state of Indiana, and stated the provider awards are for EMTs, paramedics, educators, dispatchers, agency, leaders, and services. Mr. Miller stated that the deadline for the Golden Siren award is quickly approaching, February 16th, so be

sure to submit those nominations soon. You can do so by going to their website (<https://iea18.wildapricot.org/>). Mr. Miller also reported that their joint conference with the ENA will be held November 20th through the 22nd.

- 2) Kim Godden, the legislative chair for the IEMSA, updated the commission on House Bill 1385. Mrs. Godden stated that in October 2018 all fire service, private, nonprofit, hospital based ambulance service received a letter from anthem Blue Cross Blue Shield (now known as Eleva) that said, whether you're in network or out of network, you're going to be paid a certain rate, and that is what in essence created a balance bill to all the patients and through their association, had attempted to pass some legislation. Mrs. Godden stated initially, there was movement to move into a prohibition of balance billing, which brought the association together, and this was able to be stopped. After the pandemic, the association was able to pass some legislation requiring insurance providers to fairly negotiate. They developed nine criteria, those nine criteria that any insurance company would have to negotiate with the ambulance provider, look at what rate the labor rates are in the region, what are the service levels that are being provided, response times, Certain metrics to be, and to negotiate a fair reimbursement rate. At that time legislation passed and went into law, and none of the commercial providers adhered to the legislation and used any of the criteria to negotiate. She stated that the bill introduced this year will set the reimbursement rate to the set charges, whether that be your local community set charge or fire department, etc. this legislation says that the commercial that if we cannot meet and reach at fair negotiation, with the insurer, if the insurer does not want to negotiate your rate That can be agreed-upon, Then the insurer has to pay the set rate that is set by the local ordinance or 500% of the Medicare reimbursement rate on the bill. Mrs. Godden stated that this bill goes to committee the following Wednesday.

EDUCATIONAL OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE

- 1) Commissioner Zartman stated Commissioner Zartman reported that the committee will be meeting in the coming weeks to discuss the Advanced EMT psychomotor aspect and will have more on that at the next commission meeting.

MOBILE INTEGRATED HEALTH COMMITTEE

- 1) Director Kinney reported the most recent Mobile Integrated Healthcare Committee Meeting was on December 8th, and they continue to have good turnout. Director Kinney stated the committee recommended approval for MIH Programs at Deaconess EMS, Franciscan Health Crown Point EMS, and Gas City Fire Rescue, FSSA designated a new member of the committee in their membership position, Dr. Ty Sullivan, and heard from the Bloomington Fire Department regarding their MIH program, and the committee had good discussion on MIH conference offerings in the future. The next meeting will be on February 9, 2024, at 10 AM at MADE.
- 2) Emily Castor presented the new MIH program that are up for consideration: Deaconess EMS, Franciscan Health Crown Point EMS, and Gas City Fire Rescue.

A motion was made by Commissioner Zartman to approve all MIH programs as presented. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Thacker. Roll call vote was taken:

G. Lee Turpen: Yes **Matthew Shady:** Yes **Darin Hoggatt:** Yes
Jerry Harder: Yes **John Zartman:** Yes **Dr. Sara Brown:** Yes
Andrew Bowman: Yes **Mary Ann Dudley:** Abstain **Dr. Jim Nossett:** Yes
Lori Mayle: Yes **Joel Thacker:** Yes

NEW BUSINESS

- 1) Director Kinney presented the current reciprocity requirements and processes. Director Kinney explains that reciprocity for EMS is the recognition of education or credentials from another jurisdiction. He further explains the national registry of EMTs, which is the national EMS certifications organization, which does two primary tasks that include initial certification, competency, testing, and a national certification or registration that includes renewal requirements, like continuing education. NREMT EMT certification means that one has demonstrated competency for their certification level, it does not Grant any privileges to use those skills as that is reserved to the states and a state issued certification is really a licensed to practice meaning that the state has authorized to utilize their EMS credentials and function in the profession. Director Kinney then explained the impact of reciprocity to the EMS compact and states that Indiana joined the EMS compact in 2020 with adoption of SEA61 that created IC 16–31.5, He is Indiana’s compact Commission designee and states that he is chairperson of the compact as well. The compact allows individuals to go state to state without obtaining multiple licenses and creates what is called a “Privilege to practice”, and this applies to member states on a temporary basis. Director Kinney noted that Indiana is landlocked, as the states surrounding do not in the compact at this time. The biggest utilizer of the compact appears to be air medical as they bring in providers to cover shifts, things of that nature, that in the past were More challenging, because they had to figure out how to become Indiana Certified or licensed. Director Kinney reviewed The Indiana MR, initial certification and reciprocity guidelines, Stating that To hold an EMR certification one must be 14 years of age or older, they must complete the commission, approved, EMR course, and successfully pass written and practical skills exam and for reciprocity, they must be 14 years of age or older, hold a valid certification from another state, or the NREMT, or be trained in military with equivalent training, or hold an Indiana physician’s license to practice, or successfully complete a course of study equivalent, to the Indiana EMR curriculum and successfully complete the EMR written and practical.

Director Kinney reported that The Indiana initial EMT certification one must be 18 years of age or older, must complete an EMT course based upon the Indiana EMT curriculum, and must successfully pass the EMT written and psychomotor Exam with note that the commission has approved the NREMT as Indiana’s EMT written exam and the commission has approved the Indiana psycho motor examination process as well. It is noted that all New EMT candidates are tested for minimum competency consistent with national

standards. The Indiana reciprocity EMT certification Rule, states one must be 18 years of age or older, and have one of the following pathways: Hold a valid certification or license as an EMT from another state and successfully complete the Indiana written, and practical exams, Military reciprocity with equivalent training for the EMT curriculum and successfully complete the Indiana written, and practical exams, Be a physician with unlimited license to practice medicine in Indiana, and successfully complete the Indiana written and practical, Have completed the course equivalent to the EMT curriculum and successfully completes the written and Practical exams, Or hold a valid in our EMT registration and successfully complete the Indiana written and practical exam. Director Kinney posed the question, if one passes the initial competency, you can make an agreement to have a certification and do your continuing education. Should the commission make individuals retest If Indiana is recognizing other state offices, and recognizing the national registry, should we be making them take a written and practical exam? He noted that individuals can obtain a temporary certification if they hold a current valid EMT certification from another state while they obtain their formal reciprocity. Director Kinney reviewed the AEMT and Paramedic reciprocity and stated they are similar in nature to that of the previously reviewed certification levels.

Director Kinney stated that he'd like to streamline this as much as possible, but for all out of state reciprocity and national registries, he would like to see to see Indiana get rid of the written and practical exam and accept certifications and licensures from those outside entities. Director Kinney stated in order to do so, the commission would have to change those rules, as those are the rules, but They would be able to do a general waiver, for example, like one that is done at the primary instructor level, until those rules are written.

Chairperson Turpen Stated that he is in support of a rule rewrite as EMS Is one of the only portions of healthcare that require Additional examinations to practice outside of their original certification and or licensing state.

Commissioner Zartman also stated his support, but questioned if they are addendum to the basic EMT certification that must be done on Acadis Prior to becoming certified, such as POST. Director Kinney Confirmed this by stating that those education modules are considered part of the application process. Commissioner Zartman than asked if it would be automatic for someone that wanted an Indian certification or licensure, that is not actively working in the state of Indiana, but holds a certification and or license in another state or would it be a requirement that they have to be coming to Indiana to work for a provider? Director Kinney stated that it depends on the level of certification that the provider is seeking as EMT's are not required to be affiliated with a service provider, and in theory can just seek out an Indiana certification if they would like, but the Advanced EMT and paramedic do require a provider affiliation prior to certification or licensure.

Director Kinney stated that the options for the commission today would be to either advise them to do an initial waiver, and once in support, then he can draft a general waiver, and

subject to an appeal it would apply to those applicants for reciprocity, or the commission can look into drafting a non-role policy, but that is unlikely as it is not in written form yet.

After further discussion with public participants in the audience It was determined that there was no urgency to make a decision on this subject, and it was recommended by commissioner Zartman that Director Kinney, and a few commissioners work together and propose some kind of document to present at the next commission meeting in March. Chairperson Turpen directed that Director Kinney would work with Commissioner Zartman, Commissioner Hoggatt, and Commissioner Mayle to develop a written non-rule policy for consideration at the next meeting.

OLD BUSINESS

- 1) Robin Stump reported on the upcoming 2024 Solar Eclipse. This will be on April 8th, 2024, from approximately 1:45pm to 4:30pm. Ms. Stump points out the areas that will be most impacted by the Solar Eclipse, as it is predicted to go through most of the state other than the upper northwest corner. Ms. Stump stated the importance of attending the local briefings regarding the upcoming eclipse as most areas are to have record numbers of eclipse viewers. For resources and additional information on the 2024 Solar Eclipse you can visit <http://www.in.gov/dhs/solar-eclipse-2024/>. On the website you can find resources such as Eclipse Basics, Exercise in a box (typically an hour to go through), the path of totality, eye safety, education booklist – K-12, and travel preparedness. If you have any questions, please reach out to IDHS or your local EMA director for further information.
- 2) Dr. Yazel stated that at the last commission meeting, he had discussed the scope of practice and put together an FAQ list, and after that meeting, he felt there was an issue that should be clarified further on the scope of practice. He recounted that Commission had approved intranasal glucagon but at the last meeting There was mention of glucagon auto injector. After further discussion, not only around, but throughout the United States, these auto injectors have proven to be prohibitive as they tend to cost Approximately \$600 for a dose. Dr. Yazel Stated that to approve the use of an auto injector. There would need to be a formal motion and vote to add that to the scope of practice and with that would the commission also want to consider allowing a draw up method for IM Glucagon injections as well. He stated that the drawn-up method is more effective when discussing cost alone. After some discussion it was determined that Dr. Yazel will look into this topic more and present a one-page summary of his findings to the commission for continued discussion at a future meeting.

ASSIGNMENTS

- 1) Reciprocity Non-Rule Policy.
- 2) Glucagon Policy.

ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEEDINGS

- 1) Administrative Proceedings
 1. Waiver Orders
 - a) Personnel Waiver
 - b) Provider Waiver
 - I. 836 IAC 2-2-1-(g): Allow non 24/7 at paramedic level.
 - a. Clarksville Fire Department
 2. Discipline Orders
 - a) Personal
 - I. Letter of Reprimand
 - II. Probation—2 Years
 - III. Suspension—Emergency Order
 - IV. Revocation
 - a. Holinger, Campbell O.
 - b) Provider
 - I. Vigiles Training Institution
 3. Appeal Update – Hillary Egan
 - a) Jerel Simkins v. IDHS

STAFF REPORTS

1) Data Registry – Ken Foster

Ken Foster reported that in 2023 EMS reporting reached 99.7% and fire reporting is up to 77%, which is a large jump from two years ago when it was approximately 40% reporting. Mr. Foster stated that the NEMSIS version 3.5 Transition has been successful, it was anticipated to have glitches or problems, but so far has not been an issue, this has been as of December 1, 2023, in Indiana.

2) Operations Report – Robin Stump

Robin Stump reminded everyone that in January there are a lot of staffing changes, so when changes occur, please remember to Communicate those changes with the field staff So that they can make those changes and add them to the database as well as distribution list for things such as commission meeting reminders, and information.

3) Certifications and Compliance Report – Kraig Kinney

Director Kinney reported that the fourth quarter for 2023 ended on December 31, 2023, this quarter was similar to the last. He states that as of December 31, 2023, 24,541 clinicians are certified persons, of those only 16 were audited, and of those there were zero sanctions. Director Kinney reported that 34 individuals checked yes notifying them of an arrest or conviction during the fourth quarter of 2023, of those, 12 Individuals have been resolved with either clearing or a sanction issued, 22 have had further information requested, seven have pending criminal cases, and zero are scheduled for team review at next meeting.

4) EMS Education and Training – Kari Lanham

Director Kinney reported that education coordinator Kari Lanham held the PI quarterly update, and attendance was very good. He stated that Mrs. Lanham will also have a

preliminary meeting with Commissioner Zartman on February 5th to discuss psychomotor exams for A-EMTs and in hopes of creating some work product, to bring back to the committee, and eventually the commission.

STATE EMS DIRECTOR'S REPORT

- 1) Director Kinney reported that the Indiana EMS 2025 meetings have had great turnout, thus far from all stakeholder partners, as well as excellent discussion. He reminded the Commission of the goal of the group, which is to create a white paper of what recommendations they suggest improving EMS on a variety of levels. Director Kinney reviewed the six main discussion topics, which include EMS funding, EMS, workforce, EMS, education and careers, EMS, safety, EMS operations, and EMS essential function. He reports that at their January 18 meeting they reviewed EMS education and career pathways with excellent discussion and hopes to have some recommendations from that. There is an upcoming meeting on February 14, 2024, this will be hosted by the Indiana Hospital association, from 10 AM to 4 PM at the hospital association offices. Director Kinney invited the Commission members to attend these meetings virtually or in person. There are invites available. Contact the office for more information.

Director Kinney then reported on Health First EMS Readiness, reminding all that this is the Governor's Public Health Commission's recommendations combined with using the EMS readiness funding, which is roughly \$6.4 million for equipment training, instructor development, and training institution equipment grants. The most recent being the training institution equipment grant, which received a total of 31 eligible training institution applications, totaling approximately \$1.5 million and requests. Director Kinney reviewed the upcoming EMS funding projects, which include EMS online education courses, the bid process has been submitted and is being developed, the Bowen Center continued funding for workforce initiatives into 2024, RAPID Interfacility transfer pilot-whose bid process has been initiated, and EMT student electronic, testing preparation, package for all EMS students-bid process being developed currently. As well as ACADIS Funding-this would add an additional module(s) for continuing education tracking through portal accounts, and instructor development, which includes NAEMSE Instructor course online course scholarships and an in-person course in spring of 2024, along with specialty continuing education, professional development for existing primary instructors.

Director Kinney stated that The Indiana EMS Workforce Assessment from the Bowen Center for Health Workforce Research and Policy will be coming out soon, it is currently in the final stages with their graphic design department will be finalized and ready for report in the coming weeks. He also indicated that the Indiana EMS annual report for 2023 will be completed soon; this will be ready for report at the next Commission meeting in March.

Director Kinney announced the EMS office is planning for EMS provider forums this year, The dates, times, and locations are still in the works, but will be finalized and distributed in the near future. He also, reported that the Handtevy Pediatric Resuscitation System is getting closer as now in the contract stages, there is a draft that is agreeable to both

parties, and it is waiting for approval on the procurement side with hopes to have an announcement at the next EMS commission Meeting.

STATE EMS MEDICAL DIRECTORS REPORT

- 1) Dr. Yazel spoke about the RAPID team proposal, also known as the Interfacility Transfer Pilot, as of right now, there has been some delay due to all of the moving parts, But he is anticipating having an official information discussion, possibly after a state in-service one month to be able to answer questions, questions as it is ideal to have a good strong pool of applicants as this Has large potential within the state of Indiana. He also mentioned his monthly State in-service, which has been averaging around 100 providers per meeting, and is open to topic discussions moving forward, as well as if you have information to provide to the group that you would like him to announce on your behalf, please reach out to him with those details.

Dr. Yazel Also stated there has been some legislation regarding mental health support for first responders, that a few bills were introduced a couple years ago, and some that are continuing to see movement forward. He reported that he is a part of a group that has been working together to talk about what are the best practices for mental health support for our first responders, such as pre-employment, counseling and support, a peer support project, which could be a virtual monthly meeting That would allow providers to discuss various topics and decompress.

Dr. Yazel reported that they are starting a major data project regarding behavioral health Transfers. He stated that providers across the state know the issues along with the service as well as hospital staff, and to find a solution there Has to be concrete data that shows what is happening in our state.

CHAIRMAN'S REORT AND DIRECTION

- 1) Commissioner Turpen reiterated the importance of preparing for the upcoming Total Solar Eclipse. He stated that communities should have a plan in place.

NEXT MEETING

Next EMS Commission meeting will be on Friday, March 8th, 2024, beginning at 10:00am at MADE at Plainfield, 1610 Reeves Rd, Plainfield, IN 46168.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned by consensus.