

EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Quarterly meeting

June 17, 2026

5800 West Tenth Street, Room 906

Little Rock, AR 9:00 a.m.

MINUTES

Members present: Jason Guthrie, Harold Shray, Brandon Morshedi, Joe Martin, Amanda Newton, Latricia Maynard, Mack Hutchinson, Bradley Schulz, Greg Brown, Keith Edmonds, David Jones, Jeff Tabor, David Jones

Also in attendance - Renee Mallory, Christy Kresee, Jerrilyn Jones, Chuck Thompson, Craig Smith, Cameron Coker

Jeff Tabor, presiding

1. *Welcome and Roll Call - Tabor
Congratulations to Dr. Jerrilyn Jones on her appointment to the National EMS Advisory group.

2. *Approval of minutes from March meeting - motion by Morshedi to approve, second by Edmonds -- approved

3. *Administrative Hearings (2)
Craig Smith - one hearing continued at the request of the licensee. One hearing held RE: John Keeling

4. *Waiver application for paramedic licensure by applicant who has a disqualifying conviction
Craig Smith
Motion to grant waiver by Tabor, second by Morshedi - motion passed

5. *Public Comment Procedures - Craig Smith

-At the start of meeting, there were note-taking Bots (AI) in the meeting. Those were removed from Teams online. The notes of the Bots are not a part of the official record/transcript. Asking that if they are sent out that they not be used. The Bots will be removed each time from the meetings.

-Reminder that under FOIA, when committee members (as little as two people) contact each other in any way regarding committee business, that constitutes a 'meeting' that did not have proper notice. Members need to send information to staff where information can be properly disseminated. Discussion should be held at meetings for which the public was provided proper notice.

-Process for Public Comment - Tabor

Committee wants to offer public comment opportunities. Public comments should be submitted to Health Department, to Ms. Kresee or on website. There will be a time limit on public comments, probably to three minutes.

6. *Sub-Committee Reports

A. Air Ambulance -Maynard

No new agenda items. If committee wants to bring forward ideas, suggestions, please let the sub-committee know.

B. Clinical Practices - Morshedi

Two sub-committee meetings held 4/20 and 5/18. Discussed adding two new treatment in place guidelines for the management of break-through seizures and asymptomatic hypertension.

Also discussed modifications to rules regarding RSI, adding a clause and other simple modifications to PAI guidelines. Will ask for review and approval of both treatment in place guidelines and the modifications to RSI rules and PAI language.

C. Data, Innovation and Technology - Hutchinson

Sub-committee met on June 9. Discussed statewide time sensitive bands, universal band that would be placed on every EMS patient.

Recommendation to committee is combine current trauma and stroke band into a single time sensitive band, and continue to place this band on trauma and stroke patients only. Currently no benefit to a universal band on every EMS patient, but by combining trauma and stroke band into a single time sensitive band would allow a platform for future added registries.

Also reviewed and approved advisory on recommendation for a statewide CARES registry for cardiac arrest.

D. Professional Safety - Guthrie

Met virtually on May 18 to discuss reduction of lights and siren response, getting baseline data for the state, reimbursement, driver training. Position statement addresses purpose, scope, problems and evidence prepared by Morshedi.

Next meeting in July plan to have an insurance subject matter expert offer information.

-Professional Safety Committee -- Continued

Would like to come up with a framework for better process. Plan is to have proposals finalized for public comment and brought to committee at September meeting. Tabor - purpose is to provide support for EMS agencies should they choose to implement the national efforts of reducing lights and sirens.

E. Preparedness and Education - Shray

Met on May 1 and May 18 to discuss critical care paramedic licensure within state. Discussion of impact from reimbursement. Members reaching out to insurance agencies to get information/answers. Document is in draft mode.

F. Sustainability and Efficiency - Newton

No items referred to committee.

7. *Action Items

A. Banding - Hutchinson - motion to support recommendation to combine current trauma and stroke band into a single time sensitive band. Morshedi - second. Much discussion - pause this to allow the hospital association to give feedback. Concern for rural hospitals and expense involved (new softwares). Moving forward would have to involve the hospital associations. Also discussion on how to distinguish between stroke and trauma- it's based on chief impression. Also recommended to ask health department to consider.

Smith - Any changes recommended and approved by committee are recommendations that committee is asking the Department of Health to consider. Department will evaluate whether it can implement, whether implantation will require programmatic change, rule change or a law change. Rule change has to go through rule promulgation process, ending in legislative approval. The department has process for law changes. Capacity of committee members is in service to the Department of Health. Committee members cannot speak on behalf of the committee or the department.

Mallory - Currently trauma bands are required by rule; stroke is not. Department considers recommendations.

Action item - (continued)

Hutchinson - revised/amended motion to present recommendation and to get further information from other entities (EMTA, Arkansas Ambulance Association, Hospital Association, software companies) affected by the change. will bring back to committee further information. Motion was seconded by Morshedi.
Motion passes.

B. Updated Treatment in Place Guidelines -- Morshedi motion to approve updated treatment in place guidelines (# 7 and 8) for seizures and asymptomatic hypertension, and two additions to wording. Second by Edmonds. Motion passes.

C. Use of paralytics - Morshedi - motion to add two wording/clauses for EMS services and providers regarding use of paralytics. Second by Schulz. Discussion of potential different interpretations and equipment lists. Motion amended to add following wording - Paralytics may only be carried by agencies approved to perform RSI services. Original motion amended to include that clarification. Second by Jones. Motion passes.

D. Motion by Morshedi to correct date to PAI guidelines, and to add wording on continuous four-phase waveform. Second by Hutchinson. Motion passes.

E. CARES registry - Look into Arkansas participation in cardiac arrest registry to enhance survival - Motion by Morshedi to adopt guideline. Second by Edmonds. Discussion - funding source of possible two-year scholarship. Dr. Jones and Dr. Mallory emphasized need for sustainability and funding sources. Motion passes.

8. New Business

-ALS to BLS release for statewide protocol - recommended to send to Clinical Practices Sub-Committee for further study. Motion by Morshedi, second by Newton. Motion passes.

- Minimum requirements to be a designated EMS Medical Director for an agency - Motion by Morshedi, second by Hutchinson to send to Clinical Practices sub-committee for further discussion. Motion passes.

- New Business - continued

- Recommendations for added legal protections for EMS quality improvement and peer review.

Mallory - better for professional associations to act on this. Smith - should go through associations/industry, not sub-committees or EMS committee. Needs to start with industry members outside of EMS committee. Morshedi will do more review.

9. Proposal for AR EMS Accreditation Manual Revision - Need for manual revision - Shray motion to move this to the Preparedness and Education sub-committee for comprehensive review of AR EMS Accreditation Manual, and to make proposals for improvements for standards and requirements for education and training, to see what better outcomes can occur in the state. Seconded. Motion passes.

10. Pre-Hospital Blood Transfusion - Tabor
Need blood in Arkansas. Motion by Tabor to ask the committee to provide annual award during EMS week to the agency with most blood donations. Want to provide recognition to agencies who host events for blood donations. Morshedi second. Motion passes.

Meeting adjourned at 1:30 p.m.
Next meeting is September 16, 2026

