

NORTHERN NEVADA
Public Health

**Emergency Medical Services Advisory Board
Meeting Minutes**

**Thursday, August 7, 2025
9:00 a.m.**

Members

Kate Thomas (Chair) – Interim County
Manager, Washoe County

Dr. Nicholas Von Foerster – Emergency
Room Physician

Jackie Bryant (Vice-Chair) – City Manager,
City of Reno

Chad Kingsley – District Health Officer,
Northern Nevada Public Health

Dion Louthan – City Manager, City of Sparks

Joe Macaluso – Vice President of Risk
Management, Renown

This meeting was held virtually via Zoom.

1. *Roll Call and Determination of Quorum

Vice-Chair Hodge called the meeting to order at 9:00 am.

The following members and staff were present:

Members present: JW Hodge, representing Jackie Bryant
 Erin Dixon, representing Chad Kingsley
 Joe Macaluso
 Dr. Von Foerster

Ms. Zaski verified that a quorum was present.

Staff present: Dania Reid
 Dr. Nancy Diao
 Andrea Esp
 Kesley Zaski
 Anastasia Gunawan

2. *Public Comment

Limited to three (3) minutes per person. No action may be taken.

Vice-Chair Hodge opened the public comment period. As there were no public comments, Vice-Chair Hodge closed the public comment period.

3. Consent Items (For Possible Action)

Matters which the Emergency Medical Services Advisory Board may consider in one motion. Any exceptions to the Consent Agenda must be stated prior to approval.

A. Approval of Draft Minutes

May 29, 2025

Mr. Macaluso moved to approve the draft minutes. Dr. Von Foerster seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

4. *District Board of Health approval of the appointment of Nicholas Von Foerster to the Emergency Medical Services Advisory Board (EMSAB) for the Emergency Room Physician Representative for a three (3) year term beginning on July 24, 2025 and ending July 23, 2028.

Andrea Esp

Ms. Esp reported that the District Board of Health appointed Dr. Nicholas Von Foerster as the new ER Physician Representative for EMSAB at the July meeting. The previous EMSAB meeting approved a revision to the bylaws that no longer required the ER Physician to be a representative of PMAC. Ms. Esp provided an introduction of Dr. Von Foerster.

Dr. Von Foerster thanked the board for the appointment and expressed his gratitude. Dr. Von Foerster reported that he is currently an ER Physician with Northern Nevada, an EMS Physician, and a Medical Director with Reno Fire. He noted that with his experience from the line crews in the field, follow through with continuity of care in the ER, and his role as Medical Director with Reno Fire, he looks forward to bringing valuable perspectives to the EMSAB.

JW Hodge expressed his gratitude to Dr. Von Foerster for joining the team and looks forward to his contributions.

5. Discussion and Possible Action to Establish a Workgroup to Explore Development of an EMS Licensure and Permitting Program in Coordination with Northern Nevada Public Health (NNPH), Pursuant to Assembly Bill 102 (2025), Which Authorizes District Boards of Health in Counties with Populations of 100,000 or More to Establish, Manage, and Coordinate Local Oversight of EMS in Mid-Sized Counties, Including Washoe County; the Board May Also Identify Entities to Be Represented on the Workgroup.

The Workgroup Shall Include, at a Minimum, Invitations to Participate Extended to:

- One or more consumer representatives
- EMS agencies currently licensed to operate in Washoe County
- One representative from each jurisdiction within Washoe County (i.e., City of Reno, City of Sparks, and Washoe County)

Participation in the Workgroup is Voluntary; Identified Entities Shall Be Invited but Not Required to Participate. (FOR POSSIBLE ACTION)

Chad Kingsley

Ms. Erin Dixon, representing Chad Kingsley

The discussion focused on Assembly Bill 102, which allows Northern Nevada Public Health to coordinate local oversight for populations over 100,000. This shift from state to local control could bring significant changes and associated costs. To evaluate the impact and gather community input, a small work group was proposed. The group would review the details and make recommendations. At minimum, it was suggested the work group include invitations to all consumer representatives, all EMS agencies licensed in Washoe County (not limited to 911 systems), and representatives from the City of Reno, City of Sparks, and Washoe County.

The board discussed whether to establish a working group to evaluate the impacts of Assembly Bill 102. Mr. Hodge supported the idea, emphasizing the need for a clearly defined scope to keep the group focused, with Mr. Macaluso agreeing. Dr. Von Foerster agreed, opining that the bill could significantly affect EMS authority and regional hierarchy. Overall, there was consensus in favor of forming the work group, with agreement on the importance of setting clear intentions and parameters. Ms. Esp stated that the EMS Program has already begun preliminary research on possible program structures and fee models. The board discussed who will establish guidelines and framework of the workgroup. It was noted that the workgroup would evaluate the want and need for NNPH to oversee the licensing requirements, making a recommendation to EMSAB and subsequently to District Board of Health.

Mr. Hodge recommended the motion for the formation of the working group based on the direction of AB102, to include one consumer, one representative from every licensed EMS agency, one representative from each jurisdiction, one representative from the EMS Advisory Board which does not include a NNPH staff member, with possible inclusion of Dr. Von Foerster.

A charter or outline should be included to identify scope of work, inclusion of goals, and a timeline.

Mr. Macaluso approved the motion. Dr. Von Foerster seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Washoe County legal, Ms. Reid, will evaluate the formation of the working group and advise if it should comply with open meeting law.

6. *EMS Oversight Program and Performance Data Updates – Joint Advisory Committee Activities, Special Projects, EMS Planning, Data Performance, REMSA Health Franchise Agreement Updates, REMSA Health Exemption Requests, Community Services Department Reviews, Mass Gatherings and Special Events Reviews.

Andrea Esp

Ms. Esp reported that the program has been working with the JAC to determine how to measure performance in the region outside of response time only. Research is being conducted on different metrics whether that is possibly patient outcomes or adherence to protocols.

Dr. Von Foerster stated that there is a physician statement from the National Association of EMS Physicians specifically regarding recommendations for performance evaluation outside of just response times, noting there may be some beneficial data already nationally recommended that is available for the JAC discussions.

Mr. Hodge recommended an agenda item and presentation of the recommendations included in the aforementioned article at the next board meeting.

7. *Agency Reports and Updates

A. *REMSA Health EMSAB Report, Adam Heinz
Data Performance Report, EMS Operations Report

Mr. Adam Heinz presented REMSA Health's report and extended a welcome to Dr. Von Foerster. Mr. Heinz noted that REMSA Health internally measures, tracks, and benchmarks about 85% of what is recommended in the article that Dr. Von Foerster cited earlier in the meeting.

B. *City of Sparks Fire Department EMSAB Report, Chief Jeff Sullivan

Data Performance Report, EMS Operations Report

Chief Jeff Sullivan presented the EMS Operations Report and highlighted that it has been just over a year since entering into a partnership with REMSA Health for the ambulance in Wingfield Springs and has surpassed 1000 transports since June, with positive feedback. Five fire recruits have graduated and there are three paramedics attending paramedic school, being sponsored by an AFG grant.

C. *Truckee Meadows Fire and Rescue EMSAB Report, Chief Joe Kammann

Data Performance Report, EMS Operations Report

Chief Joe Kammann presented the EMS Operations Report. Standard training operations continue over the last several months and they received video laryngoscopes that has allowed expansion of their QA program by performing chart reviews with the ability to record on airway. TMFR is working on additional QA processes with Renown and Northern Nevada on continuity of care of trauma services. Gearing up for wildland fire season, multiple apparatus' have been sent out to different states for assistance. Richard Edwards was hired as new Fire Chief last month. He comes from the Stockton area and has been busy making his introductions amongst the community.

D. *Reno Fire Department EMSAB Report, Chief Cindy Green

Data Performance Report, EMS Operations Report

Chief Cindy Green presented the EMS Operations Report and welcomed any questions.

8. *Board Comment

Limited to announcements or issues for future agendas. No action may be taken.

No board comment at this time.

9. *Public Comment

Limited to three (3) minutes per person. No action may be taken.

Vice-Chair Hodge opened the public comment period.

As there was no one wishing to speak, Vice-Chair Hodge closed the public comment period.

Adjournment

Vice-Chair Hodge adjourned the meeting at 9:29 a.m.
