

AEMS Board of Governors

February 18, 2026

Minutes

Members of Board of Governors in Attendance: Peggy Baker; Marcia Barry, RN; Bruce Barnhart, RN; Eileen Blackstone; Suzanne Buchanan, RN; Franco Castro-Marin, MD; Doug Costal; Garth Gemar, MD; Annie Giagni, RN; Cori Hayes; Gaby Iskander, MD; Steven Maher, MD; Tracy Moroney, RN; Martin Murphy; Kristin Niehoff, RN; Sandra Nygaard; Beth Ranney, MD; Chris Riddle; Roy Ryals; Barbara Schaffer, RN; Julie Smith; Ryan Southworth, DO; Alyson Welch.

Distinguished Guests in Attendance: Ligia Castro; Fernando Cortes; Stephen Ferris; Joe Gibson; Shauna Griffith; Christopher Hale; Jon Holmes; Josephine Johnson; Andrew Johnston; Bud Londeree; Manuel Montano; Savannah Sandlin; James Stoltenberg; Amanda Wigman.

- I. Call to order: 12:01pm
- II. Approval of Minutes
 - a. MOTION: Approve the minutes as presented
 - b. ACTION: Passed without dissent
- III. Executive Director's Report
 - a. Monthly Activities: report distributed
 - i. Update on future educational opportunities
 - ii. Nomination process for AzDHS EMCT/Trauma awards (3/16 submission deadline)
 - b. AzDHS Contract FY25 & FY26 status: no updates
 - c. Contacts Update: submission link provided
- IV. Board Officers' Reports
 - a. Treasurer's Report:
 - i. Financial Reports
 1. MOTION: Approve the financial reports as provided
 2. ACTION: Passed without dissent
 - ii. 2026 Membership Campaign: Invoices plan to send by end of month. Link to list and submission form attached.
 - iii. Discussion regarding pending legislation and impact on regional council operations
 - b. Chair's Report
 - i. Executive Committee Report
 1. Survey: Dr. Southworth reviewed goal of survey sent to board members for review and comments/suggestion. Goal to distribute across the AEMS region to align organization activities/goals with stakeholder needs and contractual obligations. All members encouraged to contact Dr. Southworth with any feedback/questions.
 - ii. Regional Update Report
 1. Central Region EMS Medical Directors Consortium
 - a. Central Regional EMS Guidelines Updates: No recent meeting
 2. ROCC: group evaluating standardized Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) and protocol among automatic aid agencies.
 - iii. Rural
 1. OBLS: University of Connecticut has not received notice of continuation. Current funding expired 9/30/25 and any equipment was returned. Ongoing discussions about potential future training related to curriculum availability. Education committee also seeking other OB related EMS education.

2. County Reports
 - a. Pinal County: update on expanded Banner ER capacity being developed
3. Arizona Fire District Association: No report
- iv. Open Forum: Further questions for Chief Hale regarding current legislation
- v. Board Transitions
 1. Elections
 - a. Floor Nominations: None offered for available positions
 - i. MOTION: Close nominations for both listed positions
 - ii. ACTION: passed without dissent
 - b. Representative Acting as a Prehospital Care Manager for their Hospital Employer, Representing a Non-trauma Center Hospital
 - i. Elected: Jon Holmes, Banner Estrella Medical Center
 - c. Representative of a Rural EMS Provider Agency (Non-Tribal)
 - i. Elected: Fernando Cortes, MD, Florence/Fire Medical Department
 2. Vacancies: all vacant and no incumbents
 - a. Vice-Chair, Officer of the Board and Executive Committee Member (nominees must come from within the Board)
 - b. One Emergency Medical Care Technician (EMCT-B), serving their employer in a predominantly non-administrative capacity
 - c. One representative recommended by a statewide fire district association (letter to be submitted)
 - d. Representative from a public employer of emergency medical care technicians (EMCTs), from distinct political subdivision with a population of between 50,000 and 500,000
 - e. Representative of the administration of non-trauma center hospital
 - f. Planning/Outreach Chair: must be nominated from within the functional group as specified by orders of conduct.

V. State Report

- a. BEMSTS Activities: Update on new staffing assignments. The department is neutral on any legislation currently in committee. The department is responding to any questions regarding impact and/or clarification needed. Request for nominations for EMCT/Trauma recognition awards.
 - i. Chief Hale responded to board member requests for clarification and will assure follow-up as requested.
- b. SHARE Update: no update
- c. The Arizona Pre-Hospital Information & EMS Registry System (Az-PIERS): no update
- d. Pediatric: Separate recognition program and nominations are now open
- e. State Committees: No updates

VI. Functional Group Review

- a. Planning & Outreach:
 - i. Chair position vacant – as discussed earlier, nomination/election process outlined in orders of conduct

ii. Education Committee:

1. New Co-Chairs: Jon Holmes and Glen Trainor
2. EMS CE Fall Forum: CEs distributed. Next session 12/10/26
3. EMS Odyssey Conference: 6/11/26
 - a. Schedule set and promotional material to be distributed soon
 - b. Pediatric Training Simulation: 4/30/26. Currently have 16 spots available. 1 session in am and 1 session in pm. To be held at the Air Methods training facility
4. Topical Focus / Lunch N Learn / Central Region Profile: members encouraged to submit ideas for presentations

iii. Outreach

1. BEMSTS Annual Awards Nominations: Links provided

b. Patient Management

i. Categorization:

1. Discussion regarding stroke categories: Primary, Primary+/Thrombectomy capable, comprehensive
2. Pediatric categorization criteria under review to streamline and clarify
3. Forms being updated to improve clarity for completion

ii. Transfer of Care: No report

1. Sector Reports: No reports

iii. RED Book update: No update

iv. Phoenix Stroke Center Coalition

- a. Brief review on ongoing collaboration with categorization

v. Trauma: no update

vi. Additional Reports: None

VII. Program and Committee Reports: None

VIII. Old Business: None

IX. New Business: None

X. Call to Public: none

XI. Adjournment: 1:13pm

Next AEMS Board of Governors Meeting: April 15, 2026