



## New EMS Board Seated

The new Board of Emergency Medical Services was officially seated and held their first meeting on September 20, 2023. The board heard two cases which took up most of the meeting time. They will hold their next meeting on October 25 in the Poplar Room at 665 Mainstream Drive to construct committees. The meeting can be livestreamed by clicking on the link embedded in the Sunshine Notice. The meeting schedule and Sunshine notice can be found on the state EMS website <http://tn.gov/health/ems>.

The new board consists of Dr. Jared

McKinney of Vanderbilt (term ends 2024); Jeanie D. Diden of UT Lifestar (2024); Glenda Noles of Medical Center EMS (2024); Greg Miller, of Amerimed EMS (2024); Steve Hamby of Knox County Health Department (2025); Robert Christian Wheat of Hickman County EMS (2025); Jeffery Bagwell of Rural Metro Fire (2025); Jason Tunstall of Memphis Fire Department (2026); William Drew Hooker of Community Healthcare Ambulance (2026); Tim Bell of Cannon County Rescue Squad (2026); David Blevins of Roan State Community College (2027);

Stacy Prater of Erlanger Life Force (2027); Shannon Morphis of Ascension Saint Thomas (2027).

The EMS Board elected Mr. Steven Hamby as Chairman of the Board. Mr. Hamby's career in EMS began with Morgan County EMS, where he rose to the rank of Director before taking on the role Region 2 EMS Consultant for the Tennessee Department of Health. Mr. Hamby had retired from the state and is employed by the Knox County Health Department as their Emergency Response Coordinator. Hamby's

*Continued on page 2*

## Real-Time Traffic Data

The Tennessee Department of Transportation (TDOT) is collaborating with EMS and other stakeholders to revamp its Traffic Incident Management System (TIMS). This initiative offers Regional Medical Communications Centers (RMCCs) access to TDOT's high-quality video feeds from their SmartWay cameras.

At a recent TIMS, the discussion revolved around the sharing of technology and plans for improving the existing system. One of the developments from this workshop is the offer

by TDOT to share live feeds at higher resolution than available to the public on the SmartWay website.

To gain access to these valuable resources, RMCCs need only contact TDOT and complete a no-cost contract.

EMS Consultants can contact TDOT's Jinney Settles or Chris Morton to start the process for their RMCC. By working together, we can navigate the road ahead with greater ease and security. This awareness tool can allow us to better serve our population.



# EMAC Withdrawal

As we prepared to support our EMS colleagues following a less severe hurricane in Florida, we faced unexpected hurdles. The EMAC contract was withdrawn, when the hurricane's intensity fell short of predictions.

However, our challenges run deeper. COVID-19 and a shortage of personnel have left us reeling. A sense of reluctance among some new hires to serve others at previous levels has

emerged.

Balancing our commitment to both local and external needs during crises is a tough task. We've observed a decline in mutual aid responses due to turf battles and strained resources.

The solution is within reach. Multiple EMS Consultants offer essential training like the Ambulance Strike Team Member and AST Leader courses, preparing field personnel for EMAC response. Mentoring within our

communities can bridge the gap.

Many agencies who have manpower and equipment to send are reluctant due to lagging reimbursements from prior responses.

It is important to work with not only the State EMS Office, but also your local EMA office and TEMA. Together we can help get the paperwork together in the format needed with all necessary documentation to get you reimbursed—even if it takes time.



## Training Stipend

In January of 2024 the EMS Training Stipend takes effect. The law passed last year by the Tennessee legislature provides for an \$800 pay supplement for full-time ambulance service employees who have successfully completed an inservice training program of at least 40 hours during their employment each year.

The pay supplement is in addition to the full-time employee's regular pay. The EMS Board is tasked with establishing the rules as to what satisfies the requirement.

## New EMS Board *Continued from page 1*

experience with front-line EMS work, the workings of the Tennessee Department of Health, a metro health

department, and the state's Office of EMS should enable him to effective chair the board.

department, and the state's Office of EMS should enable him to effective chair the board.

***The EMS Board has scheduled a special meeting on October 25th to construct committees. The meeting can be seen live.***

department, and the state's Office of EMS should enable him to effective chair the board.

The EMS Board has more meetings scheduled on November 2, December 6, 7, and 8, 2023. Another meeting is

contact the Office of Emergency Medical Services or look for posted Sunshine notices and meeting schedules on the OEMS Website.



New EMS Board Begins Rulings