

STATE OF LOUISIANA
EMS CERTIFICATION COMMISSION

Louisiana Emergency Medical Services Certification Commission

	Name	Title / Role	Organization / City	Present
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Meeting Minutes
July 24, 2015
628 N. 4th Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802

- The Director of BEMS, Donnie Woodyard, Jr., updated the Commission on the shootings in Lafayette last night.
 - The Director of BEMS, Donnie Woodyard, Jr., asked for a few minutes to bring some things to the attention of the Commission in light of events in Lafayette last night that claimed 3 lives and injured nine.
 - Acadian Ambulance Service, Acadian Fire departments and Acadian Police were all Responders and did a fantastic job of immediately responding and neutralizing the situation caring for the victims in spite of a tragic event
 - The LERN emergency response network was in place to insure that victims were properly triaged to hospitals.
 - An amazing coordinated professional response.
 - Bureau Donnie Woodyard, Jr., commended the Commission for the work that have been done to assure the state is prepared for also
 - Mr. Woodyard asked Vice Chair, Ken Rousseau to consider a Resolution honoring the incredible work and courage and professionalism of the responders.
 - Ken Rousseau agreed that a Resolution would be in order.

- Bureau of EMS Updates continue with Mr. Woodyard brief update from the Bureau on the Licensure System
 - The Licensure system is functioning at a positive and astounding rate.
 - The System has greatly minimized the production of license from inception to completion and we are recognizing a tremendous savings to stakeholders and individuals across the state.

- Mr. Woodyard also updates the Education Program
 - The Bureau will implement a video which will satisfy 100% of the continuing educational requirements.
 - Tentative release date is August, 2015.

The meeting was closed to the public for formal hearings in accordance with LRS 1232.

Vice Chair, Ken Rousseau called the Commission meeting to order at 9:32A.M.
The Vocation was offered by Mark Majors, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

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	COMMISSION SEAT	APPOINTED MEMBER	STATUS	
COMMISSIONERS	Ken Rousseau, Vice Chair	EMS Public Administrator		
	Michael Doiron, Secretary	Louisiana Municipal Association		
	Jonathan P. Johnson	Louisiana State Nurses Association		
	Kenneth C. Salzer	EMT Paramedic		
	Dr. Jeffrey Elder	American College of Emergency Physicians		
	Dr. Cristina M. Zeretzke	American Academy of Pediatrics		
	Dr. Lance Stuke	American College of Surgeons		
	Dr. Leslie Greco	Louisiana State Medical Society		
	Mark Majors	EMS Private Administrator		
	James Wood	EMT Basic		
SUPPORT	David McCay, DHH Attorney Bureau of Legal Services			
	Fabian Blache	Program Manager		
	Bob Brankline	Program Manager		
	Amanda Broussard	Program Manager		
	Elizabeth Fiato	Program Manager		
	Rochelle Grayer	Executive Assistant		
Guests				

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MEETING LOCATION

Building: Bienville

Conference Room: 371

Conference Line: None

MEETING START

Meeting Schedule Start: 9:32A.M.

Meeting Actual Start: 12:03P.M.

Meeting Scribe: Rochelle Grayer

Formal Disciplinary Proceedings:

Mr. Woodyard introduced the 1st case brought before the Commission as Mr. Michael Keener and stated also that a Subpoena was issued for Chief Tabor of Shreveport Fire Dept., as a States witness.

Both Mr. Keener and Chief Tabor were sworn in by Attorney David McCay.

- ❖ Mr. Woodyard addressed the Commission stating that he make recommendations to the Commission in the best interest of the State in issues of licensure and discipline.
- ❖ Mr. Keener submitted an application after being lapsed in the State of Louisiana wherein he self disclosed in 2013 of July he had issue with using controlled substances obtained from the ambulances and replaced the controlled substance with Saline.
- ❖ BEMS office made the determination that you do not meet the requirements for license initially and therefore asked that you come to present at this meeting.
- ❖ In the interest of public safety and your safety I am reserved in making a recommendation, which is in best interest of your personal well being and the public, to reinstate Paramedic license.

Ken Rousseau gave Mr. Keener the opportunity to address the Commission

Mr. Keener's address to the Commission:

- ❖ After about 2 or 3 years of taking Hydrocodone he became hooked on them. Went to several doctors in attempt to wean away from the drug. He was advised by physician going cold turkey was his best option. In trying to go cold turkey he made a very poor decision in that he took a vile of Fentanyl and replaced it with Saline.
- ❖ The next day before that bottle could be administered to a patient he went to Fire Chief and advised him that he had a very bad narcotic problem and really need help. Before a patient could

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potentially be given that bottle of Saline, he told the Fire Chief where it was located. Mr. Keener states that he felt terrible that someone was going to get something that wasn't intended.

- ❖ Immediately after telling the Fire Chief about the bottle of Fentanyl, and that he needed help, he self checked into Shreveport Rehab, 7 days inpatient, which he has documentation from the facility. After treatment for 7 days inpatient, he attended outpatient treatment for 3 weeks. He wanted to continue in after care, but his insurance would not pay for it.
- ❖ He is going to AA meetings, 2 or 3 meeting each week since being out of rehab, which he will provide the documentation from August through March on behalf of his sobriety up to this point.
- ❖ On August 1, he was contact by Shreveport Police department that a criminal investigation started on his behalf. The Fire Chief disclosed to the Police department that Mr. Kenner had tampered with a bottle to Fentanyl. He was then charged with obtaining a CDS by fraud and malfeasance in office.
- ❖ The Prosecutor in Caddo Parish placed Mr. Keener through a Pre-Trial Diversion program.
- ❖ The program was completed with no indiscretions, and Mr. Keener have the documentation to attest same.
- ❖ All charges against Mr. Keener in the matter were dismissed upon his positive completion of the Pre-Trial Diversion Program.
- ❖ Mr. Keener submitted a letter stating that he did not want to be a Paramedic right now and that the wanted to drop back to EMT or intermediate status where he would not be around narcotics.
- ❖ Two years sobriety on July 25, 2015.
- ❖ He is asking at this time, to practice as EMT or Intermediate where he could still practice his skill but not have potential risk of being around narcotics.

He lost his father during his senior year in high school, his mother went to prison, his Grandmother whom he lived with passed away in March, 3 months time he loss every family member he had. Lived at Fire station in Atlanta Texas for almost a year. The Fire dept before his marriage, was his first love. He shared that to substantiate how important EMS and Fire service is to him. The Fire Station was his home during his college years and Paramedic training. Fire service is very important to him and after his back injury and being hooked on narcotics and after being fired by Shreveport Fire Department, he realized his passion about this service. He continues that he is not ready to be a Paramedic and not ready to be exposed to the handling of Narcotics, but hopefully one day in the future, he will partition the Board or National Registry to retake his test and re take practical, to re-attain his Paramedic status.

Mr. Woodyard asked if Chief Tabor was aware of the incident when it happened and was there disciplinary action taken. Chief Tabor replied yes, and advised

- ❖ Mr. Keener brought it to his attention, he was placed on administrative leave immediately, which is civil service guidelines for fire department in Louisiana and during that time he was off w/pay then w/o pay then he was terminated.
- ❖ Chief Tabor acknowledged that Mr. Keener worked at couple of Paramedic agencies close by and had worked at a ambulance service during his time off from their department.
- ❖ Chief Tabor submitted a letter from the Chief Shreveport Fire Department which outlined his concerns and gave recommendations for disciplinary actions for the Commission to consider.

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Copies of the letters were made and disseminated to the Commissioners.

After being sworn in Fabian Blache gave overview of his investigation

- ❖ Received feedback from Registry on application process through certification events outline more on the punitive side of this law enforcement.
- ❖ Mr. Keener filled out form for Paramedic recert signed and dated on 3/13/2014.
- ❖ The concern with the document is on page 1, 2nd question wherein Mr. Blache read the question in its entirety, noting that Mr. Keener response to that question was “no,” which brought serious concerns about not being honest. That’s a concern for us and for Registry.

Mr. Keener was given an opportunity to clarify.

- ❖ In answering the question Mr. Keener states he was either convicted of felony or he wasn’t.
- ❖ Didn’t realize that he had to report to National Registry or the Board, he felt only if he was convicted should he report the incident.
- ❖ He wanted to be transparent because when he was ready to come back to EMS he didn’t want any discrepancy in his paperwork because he understands how serious this is. He states he have not worked in an EMS field, he has taken jobs such as Pipeline Company, Survey Company, as he did not have a license to work because he was inactive as a Paramedic, and was not practicing as an EMS professional

Ken Rousseau ask that the room clear so the Board may deliberate.

The following was determined for Mr. Keener:

- ❖ Allowed to do EMT Basic
- ❖ Three cycles of probation (6 years)
- ❖ Random drug screens at his expense
- ❖ No narcotics in his system prescribed or not prescribed
- ❖ Mandate that he ONLY work for Shreveport Fire Department in capacity of EMT Basic
- ❖ Should you feel the need to work outside the Shreveport Fire Department you should come to The Bureau and ask permission to do extra shifts somewhere else

The next case being brought before the Commission introduced by Mr. Woodyard:

Mr. Clement and his criminal background was introduced to the Commission, however because of the lengthy court documentation, Mr. Woodyard asked for a continuance in the matter, in order that the Bureau will continue their investigation and have Mr. Clement return to the Commission on September 25, 2015

Mr. Rousseau explained to Mr. Clement that there is just not enough information to render a decision today, but asked Mr. Clement to give Mr. Blache all information

Mr. Woodyard asked Mr. Clement to confirm the following charges

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- ❖ Submitting to possession of drugs and firearms
- ❖ Possession of controlled substance, schedule 1 and 2
- ❖ Possession of drug paraphernalia
- ❖ Possession of firearms, search of person
- ❖ Fleeing an officer
- ❖ Possession of Blue lights
- ❖ Reckless drivers

Motion was called to have Mr. Clement random drugs test and criminal background check with the financial burden on Mr. Clement, motion 2nd by Mr. Majors.

Mr. Woodyard set a date of September 25, 2015, for Mr. Clement to return, to continue the finding of their investigation.

Mr. Rousseau brought final topic of discussion before leaving, question for clarification from Tracy Wolf. Wants clarification of field blood draws of blood and alcohol testing.

Mr. Rousseau asked Mr. Woodyard to research the latest law and any restrictions from the Bureau.

Summary Suspension for Timothy Gilbert, charged with burglary arson and conspiracy. He was served with a subpoena and he willfully chose not to attend today, so Mr. Woodyard made the Motion that the Summary suspension be continued until he comes before the Commission or at the end of his termed license cycle and which time he cannot apply for license or he must come for a hearing.

Mr. Woodyard asked for the same exact Motion for Jeremy West who was involved in th same exact case, same exact charges, and is also an EMR. Motion was

The Commission meeting adjourned at 12:03pm.

- Tentative meetings scheduled for 2015
May 29, 2015 July 24, 2015 September 25, 2015 December 4, 2015

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