

ALABAMA BOARD OF HOME MEDICAL EQUIPMENT

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MEETING

Board Meeting

April 20, 2021

With proper and required notice having been provided to the Alabama Secretary of State's Office along with posting on the websites of the Alabama Secretary of State and the Alabama Board of Home Medical Equipment Board, a meeting of the Alabama Board of Home Medical Equipment was held on Tuesday, April 20, 2021, at 60 Commerce Street, Suite 1440, Montgomery, Alabama. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic and pursuant to Section III Open Meeting Act of the Proclamation issued the 18th day of March, 2020, by Governor Kay Ivey, attendance was also perfected via in person and ZOOM audio/video conferencing. The meeting was called to order at 10:01 a.m. by Chairperson Lisa Wells.

A quorum having been established and maintained; the following Board members were present:

Lisa Wells – virtual
Jason Jones – virtual
Andy Alvarez – virtual
Don Jones – virtual
Robert Beard – virtual
Vernon Johnson – virtual - joined meeting at 10:05 a.m.
Rep. Chris Sells – in person – left meeting at 11:26 a.m.
Susan F. Haigler – virtual – left meeting at 10:50 a.m.

Also present was Claire Austin, Executive Director; Brenda Holden (virtual) and Will Parker, Administrative Support; and Michael Nunnelley (virtual), Board Attorney, Alabama Attorney General's Office. Absent Board Members was Dr. Randall Lee Murphy. Ms. Cynthia Raulston, Atty. with Alabama Ethics Commission (virtual) joined the meeting at 10:10 a.m. and left the meeting at 10:53 a.m. at the conclusion of her training.

Due to attendance via video conferencing, all voting actions of the Board were verified by the Board Chair. The motion to approve the agenda was made by Robert Beard and seconded by Andy Alvarez. All voted in favor and the agenda was approved. The reading of the minutes of the February 12, 2021 was completed individually and a motion to approve the minutes was made by Andy Alvarez and seconded by Jason Jones. All voted in favor and the minutes were approved. Two members were reappointed: Vernon Johnson and Robert Beard. The Oath of Office was presented by Claire Austin and the two members were sworn in for another term.

Ms. Raulston, Atty provided ethics training for the Board Members with detailed information required on the Ethics Forms. She explained why the forms are required for all Appointed Officials. She also provided information on ethical practices as Board Members.

The Chair Reported to the Board that even though they approved The Austin Group's contract at their last meeting for four years, it has been explained that they can only extend it one year at a time. Also, she informed the Board they can increase the contract each year but by no more than 5%. After some discussion Jason Jones motioned to increase the contract by 5% which was seconded by Vernon Johnson. The Board voted to approve a 5% increase for the approved year. Voting in favor were Lisa Wells, Jason Jones, Robert Beard, Chris Sells, and Andy Alvarez. There was no objection and Don Jones abstained from voting.

The Executive Director's Report was provided by Claire Austin and Will Parker related to applications for renewal, new and pending licenses as well as a financial report to include funds received and expenses paid.

The Board Attorney from the Attorney General's Office provided information pertaining to a settlement the Board is working on. The offer has not been finalized as of yet, but all parties are agreeable to completing a deal.

The next meeting of the Board will be August 3, 2021.

There being no further business the motion to adjourn was made by Jason Jones and seconded by Robert Beard. All voted in favor to adjourn and the meeting was adjourned at 11:32 a.m.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Lisa Wells". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above a solid horizontal line.

Lisa Wells
Board Chair