

HME Board Minutes

11:00AM – CST

December 10, 2024

In Person

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 the meeting was held on Tuesday, December 10, 2024, at 60 Commerce Street, Suite 1440, Montgomery, Alabama. The meeting has been called to order at 11:03 a.m. by Chairman Jason Jones.

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

Jason Jones

Don Jones

Robert Beard

Michael Hadden

Jennifer Weathers

Sunny Smith

Lisa Wells – via Zoom

Also present was Claire Austin, Executive Director, Will Parker, Administrative Support, and Hunter Sims, Board Legal Counsel.

After reading the agenda that was emailed prior to the meeting, the motion to approve the agenda was made by Don Jones and seconded by Jennifer Weathers. The Board unanimously approved the agenda. After reading the minutes, there was a motion made by Michael Hadden and seconded by Sunny Smith to approve the minutes. The Board unanimously approved the minutes.

The Board Chair Jones gave his report discussing the SOAR Movement at the end of the year in regard to the supply of oxygen. Jones discussed Phillips – Lincare Class action pending litigation, as well as the Res Med devices that are allocated to providers and directed to consumers.

Claire Austin gave the executive director's report to the Board stating that the HME-SP Board has 458 Licenses, and that the board is in good shape. Austin stated that there has been a significant number of inquiries from lawyers and mail order companies over the past three months. Austin presented the 2025 calendar for the coming year for the Boards quarterly meeting schedule. The board approved the schedule for meetings present for the year 2025. Austin stated that she had been working on educational outreach RFP for the Board. Austin provided a copy of the DRAFT RFP to all board members to review. The Board will have to plan for the year 2025 given the long process for an RFP and bids.

Will Parker presented the Financial Report and the Quarterly update with a detailed status on the finances of the board. The board is in good standing financially. Parker stated that he had spoken to many licenses, and that many licenses that business had been very tough over this last year.

The board legal counsel, Hunter Sims from the Attorney General's office stated that the Board will be working on the Administrative RFP and the Educational Outreach RFP over the next couple of months to meet certain deadlines.

Under old business, Austin spoke about the meeting that she arranged with Chairman Jones, and Jennifer Weathers with Commissioner Azar and staff at the Medicaid agency. Weathers lead the meeting with the Commissioner Azar regarding the coverage for CGM's and back up the Board request with facts. Weathers and Jones both discussed the CPAP machines, and as well as the Sleep Apnea studies that are paid for by the Medicaid agency, but that the state provides no funding for the patients or machines after the studies. Commissioner Azar stated that the agencies' numbers don't justify the cost and payments for the machines. Austin stated that Jennifer Weathers did a great job on presenting these issues to Commissioner Azar.

Under new Business, the RFP on the outreach and education for the Board. Austin discussed the DRAFT RFP she has prepared for the Board per request of Jennifer Weathers for the December meeting. The board discussed a potential timeline for the work to be done by a vendor.

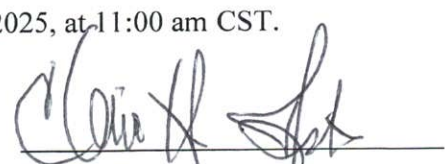
Mr. Don Jones discussed that the staff should speak with Trella Healthcare and Data about the products and services, and research they offer to the industry. Jones stated that the company works with HME companies on a national basis. There was much discussion about what the board would expect from a vendor to accomplish these goals. Weathers asked Austin and Sims to work with Purchasing on an RFP for bids that the Board can begin outreach and education beginning in August through December of 2025.

Jason Jones said with no further business before the board, "I would like a motion to adjourn, Jennifer Williams made the motion to adjourn, and Robert Beard seconded the motion to adjourn the board unanimously voted in favor to adjourn at 12:21pm.

The next meeting was scheduled for Tuesday, March 4, 2025, at 11:00 am CST.



Jason Jones, Chairman of Board



Claire H. Austin, Executive Director