

HME Board Minutes

May 14, 2024

11:00am CST

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, March 5th, 2024, at 60 Commerce Street – Suite 1440, Montgomery Alabama. The meeting was called to order at 11:04 a.m. by Chairman Jason Jones.

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

Jason Jones

Robert Beard – Via Zoom

Michael Hadden

Sunny Smith

Don Jones

Jennifer Weathers

Vernon Johnson

Lisa Wells - Via Zoom

Also present were Claire Austin, Executive Director, Will Parker, Administrative Support, and Cameron Elkins, Board Legal Counsel.

After reading the agenda that was emailed prior to the meeting, the motion to approve the agenda was made by Michael Hadden and seconded by Jennifer Weathers. All voted in favor, and the agenda was approved. The reading of the minutes from the March 5, 2023 meeting were motioned to approve by Michael Hadden, and seconded by Robert Beard.

The Chairman's report by Jason Jones discussed the possibility of the Board advertising for the industry with the Board on the yearly open enrollment season for all insured citizens in Alabama from Oct. 1 – Dec. 31, 2024. The Chairman stated that the Public Outreach Committee has been working on this and will continue. We hope to have an advertising campaign this fall. This will help consumers to be better educated while making choices for their insurance the following year.

Jennifer Weathers mentioned trying to arrange a meeting with the Medicaid Commissioner on the coverage of certain HME products, and the Alabama Department of Senior Services to work on educating seniors on the enrollment process.

Austin gave the executive director's report to the board on the status of the board. The executive director discussed the legislation to consolidate state boards by Senator Elliott that didn't receive passage this Session, however; she informed the board that he would be back with another bill in the 2025 Session. Austin mentioned that we are on the mark for random inspections this year. Austin informed the board that the License Renewal letters for the 2024-2025 year that are due August 31, 2024, would drop before the 4th of July holiday. This way all licensees have almost 2 months for renewals.

Will Parker presented the Financial Report with a detailed status on the finances of the board. The board is in good standing financially. Parker stated that the Board cash balance was \$407,897.00.

Parker outlined to the board the Renewal process and hopes to obtain 95% renewal rate. Also, Parker detailed to the Board about the initial mailer then, a second mailer to all licensees that had not been renewed by August 5th. After the 15th of August the Board staff would start making phone calls as a reminder to licensees to renew by August 31st.

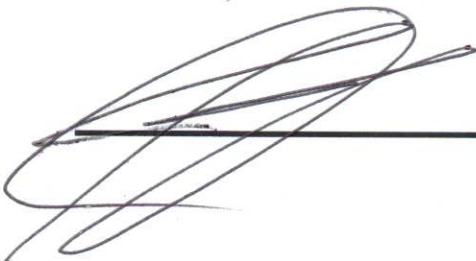
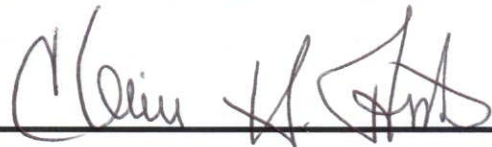
Cameron Elkins, the general counsel, had no report for the board.

Chairman Jason Jones said with no further business before the board, "I would like a motion to adjourn," Michael Hadden made the motion to adjourn, and Jennifer Weathers seconded the motion to adjourn. The board meeting unanimously voted in favor to adjourn at 11:50 am.

The next meeting was scheduled for Tuesday, September 17, 2024.

Jason Jones, Chair of Board

Claire H. Austin, Executive Director

A large, stylized handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Jason Jones', written over a horizontal line.A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Claire H. Austin', written over a horizontal line.