

HME Board Minutes

11:00AM – CST

September 17, 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, September 17, 2024, at 60 Commerce Street, Suite 1440, Montgomery, Alabama. The meeting has been called to order at 11:08 a.m. by Chairman Jason Jones.

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

Jason Jones

Don Jones - Via Zoom

Robert Beard

Michael Hadden – Via Zoom

Jennifer Weathers

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

After reading the agenda that was passed out prior to the meeting, the motion to approve the agenda was made by Jennifer Weathers and seconded by Robert Beard. Roll call vote and all five Board Members voted in favor, and the agenda was approved. The reading from the minutes from May 14, 2024, meeting where motioned to approve by Jennifer Weathers, and seconded by Robert Beard. There was a roll call vote, and all five members of the Board voted in favor.

Chairman, Jason Jones, discussed the SOAR Act and getting through the finish line with Medicare reimbursements. Jones discussed that the Board needs to fill some open Board seats, the Consumer Seat, and Home Healthcare Member seat. Chairman Jones discussed that he, Member Jennifer Weathers, and Executive Director, Claire Austin meet with the ADSS, AL Department of Seniors Services to open lines of communication on the upcoming yearly period of Medicare enrollment for seniors. ADSS explained how their footprint is coordinated with the state Regional Area Agencies on Aging. We had an informative meeting and met staff that the

HME Board can work with in the future. We have invited the key staffers to attend the next Association meeting to connect with the industry in Winter of 2025.

Claire Austin gave the executive director's report to the Board on the 2024 Renewal process for all Licensees. Austin discussed the two mailings and personal phone calls to licensees who had not paid trying to have close to a 100 percent renewal rate. Austin stated that she spoke with Purchasing about a Marketing contract for the Board. The Board will have to plan for the year 2025 given the long process for an RFP and bids. Austin stated that Chairman Jones and Board member Weathers would meet with the Medicaid Commissioner Azar in late October regarding CGM coverage for beneficiaries over age 19.

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 licensees, and that many had stated this had been a tough year for business, and that many complained about Amazon sales.

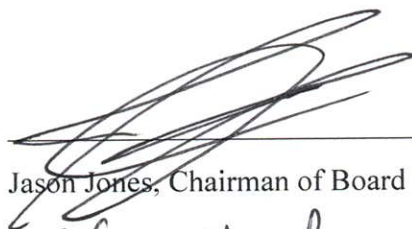
There was no legal business before the Board from the legal counsel for the Attorney General's office that attended the Board meeting.

Under new business, Jennifer Weathers spoke about outreach and education for the Board. Weathers asked staff to work with Purchasing on an RFP for a bid for work that the Board can begin outreach and education beginning in August through December of 2025.

Chairman Jones and Weathers discussed the Sleep Apnea Studies paid for by the State Medicaid agency over \$14 ml for studies in two years. The pay for the studies and that, Medicaid doesn't cover the cost of the machine for patients

Jason Jones said with no further business before the board, "I would like a motion to adjourn, Robert Beard made the motion to adjourn, and Jennifer Williams seconded the motion to adjourn the board unanimously voted in favor to adjourn at 12:00 noon

The next meeting was scheduled for Tuesday, December 10, 2024, at 11:00 am CST.



Jason Jones, Chairman of Board



Claire H Austin

Executive Director