

HME Board Minutes

10:00 am – CST

December 9th, 2025

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 9, 2025, at the board office, 60 Commerce Street – Suite 1440 in Montgomery Alabama. The meeting has been called to order at 10:07 am. by Chairman Jason Jones.

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

Jason Jones, Jennifer Weathers, Robert Beard, Michael Hadden, Dr. Danielle Powell

Ashley Lauderdale, Henry Fulgum, Phil Kilbene – Via Zoom

Also, present was Claire Austin, Executive Director, Will Parker, Jacki Tucker, and Hunter Sims, Board Legal Counsel from the Office of Attorney General, and Jason Burkhardt with AMP – via Zoom.

After reading the agenda that was emailed prior to the meeting, the motion to approve the agenda was made by Jennifer Weathers and seconded by Ashley Lauderdale, The Board unanimously approved the agenda. After reading the minutes, there was a motion made by Dr. Danielle Powell, and seconded by Robert Beard to approve the minutes. The Board unanimously approved the minutes.

The Chair of the Board, Jones, discussed the major issue facing the industry in general, then mentioned insurance brokers' ties in the industry. Chair Jones mentioned the letters of support for the HME Board continued existence will be submitted to Senator Carnley for the Chairman Keith Kelley of the Sunset Committee members. Jones stated we have a group working to complete this in the next two weeks. Then, the issues of inspections came up to the Board on how these are handled and what the inspectors look for during the inspections. The executive director, Austin, handed to Board members copies of the two different inspections sheets that are used during the inspection of a new facility and random inspections. Austin and staff will work M. Hadden and J. Weathers, on this matter.

Jones discussed the Competitive bidding that will be back in 2027. This will be very important for industry. The annual accreditation changes from three years to one year. The product category is the key. There has been a 40 % reduction in sealed bids. In 2016 there was a 38% reduction nationwide. The DME/HME national budget is only 1.9 percent of the overall federal government budget. However; numbers have been reported that there has been over \$12 billion dollars in fraud.

Austin started the executive director's report to the Board about the education outreach campaign, introduction Jason Burkhardt to give the Board an update via Zoom about the progress of the campaign. Burkhardt discussed the number of Google searches and hits of the information, YouTube hits, page engagements, videos watched FB click ADS, and the six news outlets from Fox, Sling, CBS, Fubu, Roku, ENE, DT. The campaign is working on our numbers and clicks, and hits have been very high for a project like this!

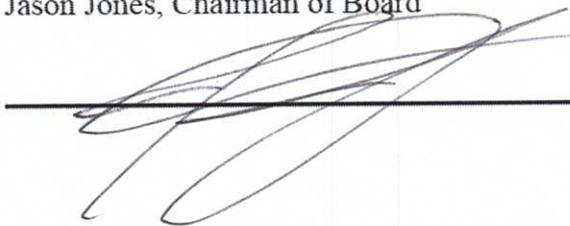
Austin stated that the office and board matters are running smoothly, and we need to continue to work on the Sunset Committee, and that process and final vote will be in February 2026.

Will Parker presented the Financial Report and the performance update with a detailed status on the finances of the board. Parker stated the board had a cash balance of \$469,106.00, and said that we are in good financial shape, healthy and streamlined.

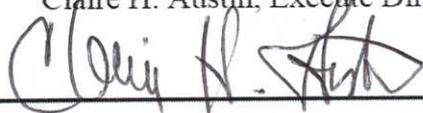
The next meeting was scheduled for March 3rd, 2026 @ 10:00 am.

Jason Jones said with no further business before the board, Robert Beard made the motion to adjourn and seconded by Ashley Lauderdale the motion to adjourn. The board unanimously voted in favor of adjourning at 11:34AM.

Jason Jones, Chairman of Board

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

Claire H. Austin, Executive Director

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