

## HME Board Minutes

10:00 am – CST

March 12, 2026

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 12, 2026, at the board office, 60 Commerce Street – Suite 1440 in Montgomery Alabama. The meeting has been called to order at 10:02 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,

Ashley Lauderdale, Russell Terry, Phil Kilbene – Via Zoom

Also, present was Claire Austin, Executive Director, Will Parker, Jacki Tucker, and Ben Seiss, Board Legal Counsel from the Office of Attorney General.

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

At this time, the Board swore into office the newest member of the Board, representing the hospital's acute care industry, Mr. Russell Terry. Terry is a respiratory therapist at UAB in Birmingham, AL. Mr. Terry was given the Oath of Office by Executive Director, Claire Austin.

The Chair of the Board, Jones, asked the members to take a minute to go around the Board so everyone can be introduced to one another. Jones stated we need to handle matters with the contract for The Austin Group, LLC, for it expires April 30, 2026. The Board voted unanimously to continue the contract and there was no increase in keeping it at the same rate due to the contract. Jones discussed the two bills pending in the Legislature SB 277 and HB 228 both that the Board is opposed to for the industry. Chairman Jones then, discussed the matter regarding the upcoming moratorium by CMS, and other general issues facing the industry.

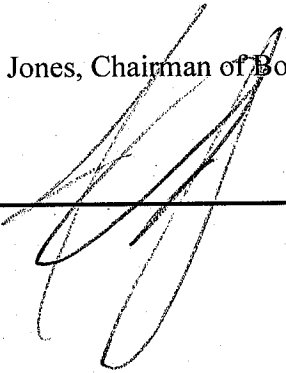
The executive director, Austin, gave the Board her report to the office. Board matters are running smoothly. Austin continued some dialogue on the pending SB 227, and the fact it would be coming to the House. She reminded the Board that we will have another Audit by the Examiners of Public Accountants beginning the end of April given there was a one-year extension for the HME Board. We will work to prepare for another audit beginning in late April 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 \$415,991.70, and said that we are in good financial shape, healthy and streamlined. Parker stated the decreased funds were due to the payments to the vendor for the Educational Awareness Campaign that were paid during this quarter.

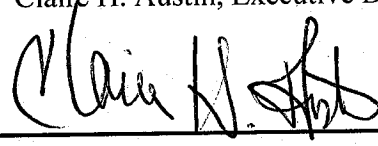
The next meeting was scheduled for April 15th in Hoover @ the Embassy Suites following the ADME meeting at approximately 2:30pm.

Jason Jones asked for a motion to adjourn with no further business before the board. Michael Hadden made the motion to adjourn and was seconded by Ashley Lauderdale. The Board unanimously voted in favor of adjourning at 12:15pm.

Jason Jones, Chairman of Board

A 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.