



METROPOLITAN EMERGENCY SERVICES BOARD EMS TECHNICAL OPERATIONS COMMITTEE

June 16, 2026, 12:00 P.M.

- 1) **Call to Order** –Chair, Brian Fisher

- 2) **Approval of Agenda** – Fisher

- 3) **Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting (Page 3)** – Fisher

- 4) **Presentation- NONE**

- 5) **Action Items**
 - a) Request for financial support for Fairview EMS regional whole blood program- Fairview EMS
 - b) Out of Hospital Blood Product Administration Regional Task Force
 - c) Moratorium on requests until new grant cycle.

- 6) **Discussion Items**
 - a) Office of EMS Update
 - b) OEMS Emergency Medical Services Physician Advisory Council- Dr. Burnett
 - c) OEMS Labor and Emergency Medical Service Advisory Council- Vars
 - d) Workgroup updates
 - i) School Mapping- Rohert
 - e) EMS Regional Training
 - (1) EMS Leadership (Prouty Training) Part 1 and 2
 - f) EMS Grant Update
 - g) MRCC East & West Update
 - i) MNTRAC Update
 - h) EMS Emergency Preparedness Subcommittee – Lupkes
 - i) EMS Taskforce/ AST
 - ii) Incident Response Plan Training
 - i) Upcoming exercises and events
 - j) Local EMS Updates
 - k) Other Updates

- 7) **Other Business**

- 8) **Adjourn**

2026 Next Meeting-, September 15, 2026



**METROPOLITAN EMERGENCY SERVICES BOARD
EMS TECHNICAL OPERATIONS COMMITTEE**

June 16, 2026, 12:00 P.M.

EMS TOC Executive Committee-

TBD

EMS TOC (Full Committee)-

December 15, 2026

METROPOLITAN EMERGENCY SERVICES BOARD

EMS TECHNICAL OPERATIONS COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

March 17, 2026

Committee Members Present:

Allina Health EMS – absent	Ridgeview EMS – Joe DiBenedetto
Burnsville Fire/EMS – absent	South Metro Fire/EMS – Terry Johnson
Centra Care – absent	St Paul Fire – absent
Cottage Grove Fire/EMS – Jon Pritchard	University of Minnesota – Robert Ball
Edina Fire/EMS – absent	White Bear Lake – absent
Hastings Fire/EMS – absent	Medical Director East – Dr. Aaron Burnett
Health Partners – Brian Fisher	Medical Director West – absent
Hennepin EMS – Tyler Lupkes	West MRCC – absent
Lakes Region EMS – absent	East MRCC – Alisha Vars
Lakeview EMS – Jon Muller	Metro Fire Chiefs – Aaron Johnston
Lower St Croix Valley – Kevin Malecek	Metro Local Public Health Association – absent
M Health Fairview – Nick Lesch	Region Health Care Preparedness Coordinator – absent
Mahtomedi Ambulance – absent	Anoka County – absent
Maplewood EMS – Brad McGee	Dakota County – absent
Mdewakanton Public Safety – Mark Weiberg	Hennepin County – Kristin Mellstrom
Minneapolis Fire – absent	Sherburne County – Adam Boler
North Memorial Ambulance – Eric Heuer	Washington County – Doug Berglund
Northfield EMS – Brian Edwards	
Oakdale Fire/EMS – Joe Carpentier	

Reason(s) for Remote Attendance: Not in a position to travel at this time.

Staff Present: Greg Hayes; Jacob Kallenbach; and Jill Rohret.

Others Present: Scott Oberlander, *North Memorial*; and Charles Soucheray, *Office of EMS*.

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 12:00 p.m. by the 2026 EMS TOC Chair, Brian Fisher.

2. Approval of Agenda

Motion made by Robert Ball, seconded by Jon Muller to approve the March 2026 EMS TOC meeting agenda. Motion carried.

3. Approval of Minutes

Motion made by Tyler Lupkes, seconded by Ball to approve the December 2025 EMS TOC meeting minutes. Motion carried.

4. Presentation – None

5. Action Items

a. Request for Financial Support for Regional Blood Response Program – Maplewood FD

Brad McGee of Maplewood EMS states they are requesting financial support for the start of their regional blood response program. The financial support would help cover the start-up fees

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for the ambulance technology needed. Maplewood EMS would be supporting the East Metro region and have an ideal start date aimed for April 1, 2026.

b. Request for Financial Support for Regional Blood Response Program – Lakeview EMS

Muller of Lakeview EMS states they are requesting financial support to add an additional ambulance to their regional blood response program. The financial support would help cover the start-up fees for the ambulance technology needed. The program started around May 1, 2025, and helps support the East Metro.

Greg Hayes of the MESB said the EMS TOC has \$236,982 left in grant funds that will need to be spent prior to July 2026. Hayes reiterated that just because the EMS TOC has money left in the current grant, future grant amounts have not been confirmed and could change for the upcoming year.

McGee and Muller both confirmed this is a one-time ask for funding and not a continued request for financial support.

Ball said approval could lead to setting a precedence. All requests should be approved on the merits of the submission, and the current financial status of the EMS TOC, and not just because of prior acceptance. Both requests have an important regional impact and create improved outcomes for patients.

Motion made by Ball, seconded by Adam Boler to approve the financial support for regional blood response program requests.

Tyler Lupkes asks for a roll call vote.

Roll call vote for action item 5A and 5B.

Name	Agency	Yes	No
Kevin Miller	Allina Health EMS		
BJ Jungmann	Burnsville Fire/EMS		
Frank Zinken	Centra Care		
Jon Pritchard	Cottage Grove Fire/EMS	X	
Shawn White	Edina Fire/EMS		
Chris Paulson	Hastings Fire/EMS		
Brian Fisher	Health Partners	X	
Tyler Lupkes	Hennepin EMS		X
Ben Wasmund	Lakes Region EMS		
Jon Muller	Lakeview EMS	ABSTAIN	
Kevin Malecek	Lower St Croix Valley	X	
Nick Lesch	M Health Fairview	X	
Joel Schmidt	Mahtomedi		
Brad McGee	Maplewood EMS	ABSTAIN	
Mark Weiberg	Mdewakanton Public Safety	X	
Amber Lage	Minneapolis Fire		
Eric Heuer	North Memorial Ambulance	X	
Brian Edwards	Northfield EMS	X	
Joe Carpentier	Oakdale Fire/EMS	X	

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Joe DiBenedetto	Ridgeview EMS	X	
Terry Johnson	South Metro Fire/EMS	X	
Steven Sampson	St Paul Fire		
Robert Ball	University of Minnesota	X	
Greg Peterson	White Bear Lake		
Aaron Burnett, MD	Medical Director East	ABSTAIN	
John Hick, MD	Medical Director West		
Dan Klawitter	West MRCC		
Alisha Vars	East MRCC	X	
Aaron Johnston	Metro Fire Chiefs	X	
Jeff Brown	Metro Local Public Health Association		
Chris Chell	Region Health Care Preparedness Coordinator		
Terry Stoltzman	Anoka County		
Denise Yi	Dakota County		
Kristin Mellstrom	Hennepin County	X	
Adam Boler	Sherburne County	X	
Doug Berglund	Washington County	X	

Yes: 16 No: 1 Abstain: 3 *Motion carries.*

Motion made by Edwards, seconded by Lupkes to create a regional blood program taskforce which will be appointed at a future date by the EMS TOC Executive Committee. Motion carried.

6. Discussion Items

a. Office of EMS Update

Charles Soucheray gave a brief update on the Office of EMS. Visit the website for a tracker on all current EMS bills for the current legislative session.

b. OEMS Labor and Emergency Medical Service Advisory Council

Alisha Vars said the Arrowhead region is looking to host a leadership program in the upcoming months with a focus on partnerships and standards. The program will likely be available in-person and remotely.

c. OEMS Emergency Medical Services Physician Advisory Council

There are no new updates.

d. Workgroup Updates

i. School Mapping

Jill Rohret of the MESB gave a brief update on school mapping. The project is in progress and making good headway. School on-site visits continue to be scheduled, and some school maps have already been approved for use. Tabletop exercises will occur in the coming months.

e. EMS Regional Training

1. FTEP Course Review

The course was well received.

2. AHLS Course Review

The course was well received.

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3. EMS Leadership

EMS leadership training will be hosted by Prouty in the coming months. This training session was successful and well received in the past. The training is currently scheduled for April 29, 2026.

f. EMS Grant Update

There is currently money left in the EMS grants for the remainder of the year. Please reach out to Hayes with ideas for training.

g. MRCC East and West Update

Vars said the talkgroups will be created in late March of 2026. There is no timeline for encrypted activation. Lockdown process conversations ongoing. East MRCC will be looking to use Beacon Mutual in the future.

Motion made by Lupkes, seconded by Jon Pritchard to create a data report on the effectiveness of Beacon Mutual. Motion carried.

h. EMS Emergency Preparedness Subcommittee

1. EMS Taskforce/AST

Lupkes said the committee met on March 4, 2026. A draft MOU for the regional directors is in development. The group is currently working towards the formalization stage for the creation of the statewide taskforce.

i. Local EMS Updates

The EMS TOC members provided updates for their local agencies.

j. Other Updates – None

7. Other Business – None

8. Adjourn

Motion made by Brian Edwards, seconded by Ball to adjourn the March 2026 EMS TOC meeting. Motion carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:38 p.m.



A collaboration among the University of Minnesota,
University of Minnesota Physicians and Fairview Health Services

Date: May 14, 2026

To: Members of the Metro Emergency Services Board

From: Eli Charif – Chief of M Health Fairview EMS, Nik Vuljaj, MD – Medical Director

Request for MESB Regional Grant Funding – Prehospital Blood Program

Dear Metro Emergency Services Board Members,

On behalf of M Health Fairview EMS, we submit this grant request to fund the initial costs of our agency's regional prehospital blood program. We anticipate launching this program in late 2026. The program will benefit communities served by M Health Fairview EMS as well as those in the surrounding areas. We request a **grant of \$40,000**, that will provide support for the initial start-up of the program. The grant will be utilized for the initial purchase of storage coolers, temperature monitoring devices, infusers, tubing, warmers, etc. The ongoing costs of the program will be handled by our agency.

Primary Service Areas served by M Health Fairview EMS are geographically separated into two regions. The Central Region serves the communities in Dakota County, and the Northern Region serves the communities in Washington, Chisago, and Anoka counties. Therefore, our plan is to operate two prehospital blood programs, one in each above-mentioned region.

As you are aware, research and recent experiences from agencies locally and across the country have shown that prehospital blood transfusion is proving to be lifesaving for many patients, especially those suffering from traumatic injuries and hemorrhagic shock. Prehospital blood administration is safe and well within the scope of EMS clinicians. Our program will be utilized as a regional resource, provided to the patients in our PSA, during mutual aid calls, and/or during regional large-scale incidents, or high-acuity trauma calls. It will be overseen by the Office of the Medical Director and Quality and Safety Department to ensure the clinical guidelines are set up according to the most up-to-date evidence-based medicine, education and training are provided to the EMS clinicians, and performance is evaluated, measured, and feedback provided to the clinicians.

We are grateful for your consideration of our request, and we thank you for your willingness to help us improve the lives and outcomes of our patients and communities.

Respectfully,

Handwritten signature of Eli Charif in black ink.

Eli Charif

Handwritten signature of Nik Vuljaj, MD in black ink.

Nik Vuljaj, MD

