

SUMMARY SHEET
SOUTH CAROLINA BOARD OF HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONTROL

May 11, 2023

- () ACTION/DECISION
(X) INFORMATION

- I. TITLE:** Healthcare Quality Administrative and Consent Orders.
- II. SUBJECT:** Healthcare Quality Administrative Orders and Consent Orders for the period of March 1, 2023, through March 31, 2023.
- III. FACTS:** For the period of March 1, 2023, through March 31, 2023, Healthcare Quality reports 10 Consent Orders and 1 Emergency Suspension Order totaling \$7,500 in assessed monetary penalties.

Bureau	Facility, Service, Provider, or Equipment Type	Emergency Suspension Orders	Consent Orders	Assessed Penalties	Required Payment
Healthcare Systems and Services	Agency		3	\$5,100	\$5,100
	Paramedic	1	3	\$1,500	\$1,350
	EMT		3	\$900	\$900
TOTAL				\$7,500	\$7,350

Submitted By:

Gwendolyn C. Thompson

Gwen C. Thompson
Deputy Director
Healthcare Quality

HEALTHCARE QUALITY ENFORCEMENT REPORT
SOUTH CAROLINA BOARD OF HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONTROL

May 11, 2023

Bureau of Healthcare Systems and Services

Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) Certification Level	Total Number of Certified Paramedics
Licensed EMS Agencies	266
Paramedics	4,300
Emergency Medical Technicians (EMTs)	8,241

1. Katherine Balint-EMT

Investigation and Violations: The Department received a report that Katherine Balint attended fifty-four (54) calls as a primary attendant with an expired certification.

Enforcement Action: The parties agreed to resolve this matter through a Consent Order. Ms. Balint agreed to the assessment of a \$300 monetary penalty. This will not impact the good standing of her EMT certification. Ms. Balint has made the required payment.

Remedial Action: None

Prior Orders: None in the past 5 years.

2. Akingbiwaju Opadele - Paramedic

Investigation and Violations: On January 17, 2023, the Department was notified by the EMS director of the Fort Mill Rescue Squad that Akingbiwaju Opadele was accused of committing a criminal sexual assault on a patient during transport to a hospital in Charlotte, N.C. The Department opened an investigation. The Fort Mill Rescue squad placed him on administrative leave and he was arrested in Mecklenburg County on March 7, 2023.

Enforcement Action: An Emergency Suspension Order was issued on March 14, 2023

Remedial Action: None

Prior Orders: None in the past five years.

3. Alexander Rokala - EMT

Investigation and Violations: The Department received a report that Alexander Rokala attended forty-two (42) calls as a primary attendant with an expired certification.

Enforcement Action: The parties agreed to resolve this matter through a Consent Order. Mr. Rokala agreed to the assessment of a \$300 monetary penalty. This will not impact the good standing of his EMT certification. Mr. Rokala has made the required payment.

Remedial Action: None

Prior Orders: None in the past five years.

4. AMS of West Columbia – Agency

Investigation and Violations: The Department received a report that Reliance Medical Transport allowed an EMT to attend fifty-six (56) calls as a primary attendant with an expired certification.

Enforcement Action: The parties agreed to resolve this matter through a Consent Order. AMS of West Columbia d/b/a Reliance Medical Transport agreed to the assessment of a \$3,350 monetary penalty. AMS of West Columbia has made the required payment.

Remedial Action: None

Prior Orders: None in the past five years.

5. Travis Ingram – EMT

Investigation and Violations: The Department received a report that Travis Ingram attended seventeen (17) calls as a primary attendant with an expired certification at Sumter County EMS.

Enforcement Action: The parties agreed to resolve this matter through a Consent Order. Mr. Ingram agreed to the assessment of a \$300 monetary penalty. This will not impact the good standing of his EMT certification. Mr. Ingram has made the required payment.

Remedial Action: None

Prior Orders: None in the past 5 years.

6. Sumter County EMS – Agency

Investigation and Violations: The Department received a report that Sumter County EMS allowed uncertified personnel to attend seventeen (17) calls as a primary attendant with an expired certification.

Enforcement Action: Sumter County EMS agreed to resolve this matter through a Consent Order and the assessment of a \$1,000 monetary penalty. Sumter County EMS has made the required payment.

Remedial Action: None

Prior Orders: None in the past 5 years.

7. Laurens County EMS – Agency

Investigation and Violations: Laurens County EMS Director Kevin Uldrick contacted the Department to self-report after his agency discovered an emergency medical technician (EMT) provided patient care on eleven (11) patient transports with an expired license.

Enforcement Action: Laurens County EMS agreed to resolve this matter through a Consent Order and the assessment of \$750 monetary penalty. Laurens County EMS has made the required payment.

Remedial Action: None

Prior Orders: None in the past 5 years.

8. Joshua Kranz – Paramedic

Investigation and Violations: The Department received a complaint alleging that Mr. Kranz failed to provide a patient with emergency medical treatment of a quality deemed acceptable by the Department and creating a substantial possibility that death or serious physical harm could result. Mr. Kranz failed to use good clinical judgement by failing to deescalate a verbal altercation with a family member on scene. His action resulted in the patient being transported by private vehicle rather than emergency transport.

Enforcement Action: Mr. Kranz agreed to resolve this matter through a Consent Order and the assessment of a \$300 monetary penalty. Kranz has not made the required payment.

Remedial Action: Mr. Kranz is no longer employed as a paramedic or residing in the state. Prior to resuming employment in South Carolina, he must pay the monetary penalty and complete a Professional Ethics and Personal Leadership (PEPL) class.

Prior Orders: None in the past 5 years.

9. Cory Hill – Paramedic

Investigation and Violations: The Department received two separate complaints alleging that Mr. Hill failed to meet patient care standards. The Department determined that Mr. Hill disregarded an order by a physician concerning emergency treatment and transportation. Mr. Hill failed to properly identify a life threatening cardiac arrhythmia and incorrectly identified V-fib as Asystole. Mr. Hill failed to provide oxygen and cardiac monitoring. Mr. Hill also failed to complete fifteen (15) ePCRs. Mr. Hill gave false identification to a patient upon the patient's request.

Enforcement Action: Mr. Hill agreed to resolve this matter through a Consent Order and the assessment of a \$900 monetary penalty. The Department has received the first \$300 payment.

Remedial Action: Mr. Hill will complete a Professional Ethics and Personal Leadership (PEPL) class and a refresher class in Advanced Medical Life Support (AMLS) by September of this year.

Prior Orders: None in the past five years.

10. Clarissa Nail-Key – Paramedic

Investigation and Violations: Ms. Nail-Key failed to provide quality emergency medical treatment to a patient deemed acceptable by the Department by turning a patient over to a basic EMT for care and delayed transport. During transport, the patient's condition deteriorated. Ms. Nail-Key's delay with leaving the scene delayed care at a hospital by thirty (30) minutes.

Enforcement Action: Ms. Nail-Key agreed to resolve this matter through a Consent Order. No monetary penalty was assessed.

Remedial Action: Ms. Nail-Key will complete a Professional Ethics and Personal Leadership (PEPL) class and a refresher class in Advanced Medical Life Support (AMLS) by September of this year.

Prior Orders: None in the past five years.

11. Melvin Simpson – Paramedic

Investigation and Violations: Mr. Simpson disregarded an appropriate order by a physician concerning emergency treatment. Mr. Simpson did not follow the Calhoun County Abdominal protocol, which states that a paramedic should administer Zofran and it should be administered intravenously, not intramuscular. It also states that vital signs should be obtained, which were not.

Enforcement Action: Mr. Simpson agreed to resolve this matter through a Consent Order and agreed to the assessment of a \$300 monetary penalty, half of which will be stayed upon a six-month period of compliance. The Department received payment.

Remedial Action: Mr. Simpson will complete a Professional Ethics and Personal Leadership (PEPL) class in September of this year.

Prior Orders: None in the past five years.