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Sequence Number: 02-08-16
 Notice ID(s): 2477
 File Date: 2/5/16

Notice of Rulemaking Hearing

Hearings will be conducted in the manner prescribed by the Uniform Administrative Procedures Act, T.C.A. § 4-5-204. For questions and copies of the notice, contact the person listed below.

Agency/Board/Commission:	Department of Health
Division:	Emergency Medical Services
Contact Person:	Keith Hodges
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Any Individuals with disabilities who wish to participate in these proceedings (to review these filings) and may require aid to facilitate such participation should contact the following at least 10 days prior to the hearing:

ADA Contact:	ADA Coordinator
Address:	710 James Robertson Parkway, Andrew Johnson Building, 5th Floor, Nashville, Tennessee 37243
Phone:	(615) 741-6350
Email:	Tina.M.Harris2@tn.gov

Hearing Location(s) (for additional locations, copy and paste table)

Address 1:	Metro Center
Address 2:	665 Mainstream Drive, Iris Conference Room
City:	Nashville, Tennessee
Zip:	37228
Hearing Date :	03/30/16
Hearing Time:	9:30 A.M. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CST/CDT <input type="checkbox"/> EST/EDT

Additional Hearing Information:

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Revision Type (check all that apply):

- Amendment
 New
 Repeal

Rule(s) (ALL chapters and rules contained in filing must be listed. If needed, copy and paste additional tables to accommodate more than one chapter. Please enter only **ONE** Rule Number/Rule Title per row.)

Chapter Number	Chapter Title
1200-12-07	Community Paramedicine
Rule Number	Rule Title
1200-12-07-.01	Purpose

1200-12-07-.02	Definitions
1200-12-07-.03	Community Paramedic Applicant Requirements
1200-12-07-.04	Continued Endorsement
1200-12-07-.05	Community Paramedic Training Programs – Requirements for Approval
1200-12-07-.06	Student Admission Requirements
1200-12-07-.07	Community Paramedic Training Programs – Types of Approval; Renewal

(Place substance of rules and other info here. Statutory authority must be given for each rule change. For information on formatting rules go to <http://state.tn.us/sos/rules/1360/1360.htm>)

Chapter 1200-12-07
Community Paramedicine

New Chapter

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- 1200-12-07-.07 Community Paramedic Training Programs – Types of Approval; Renewal

1200-12-7-.01 Purpose

The purpose of mobile integrated healthcare is to focus on patient-centered navigation by integrating existing infrastructure and using emergency care resources more efficiently, and to improve access to primary care for medically underserved populations. As a vital component of mobile integrated healthcare, community paramedics will work with emergency medical services and other healthcare and social service providers to address specific local problems in the out-of-hospital environment.

Authority: T.C.A. §§ 4-5-202, 4-5-204, 68-140-304, and 68-140-309.

1200-12-07-.02 Definitions

- (1) Definitions. Within these rules, the following terms shall apply:
- (a) “Approved Program” means a Community Paramedic training program approved by the Tennessee Emergency Medical Services Board;
 - (b) “Board” means the Tennessee Emergency Medical Services Board.
 - (c) “Community Paramedic” means a person who has been endorsed as such pursuant to these rules;
 - (d) “Community Paramedicine” means patient-centered, mobile services that are offered outside of medical facilities. Community Paramedicine is an extension of EMS paramedicine practice and is designed to fill gaps in the healthcare system.
 - (e) “Mobile Integrated Healthcare” means the provision of healthcare using patient-centered, mobile resources in the out-of-hospital environment. It may include, but is not limited to, services such as providing telephone advice to 9-1-1 callers instead of resource dispatch; providing community paramedicine care, chronic disease management, preventive care or post-discharge follow-up visits; or transporting or referring patients to a broad spectrum of appropriate care, including but not limited to hospital emergency departments.

Authority: T.C.A. §§ 4-5-202, 4-5-204, 68-140-304, and 68-140-309.

1200-12-07-.03 Community Paramedic Applicant Requirements

- (1) Persons seeking endorsement as Community Paramedics in Tennessee shall:

- (a) Comply with all rules governing paramedics under Chapter 1200-12-01;
 - (b) Hold a current, unencumbered Tennessee paramedic license;
 - (c) Using the prescribed form, complete and submit a Community Paramedic endorsement application and the required fee to the Division;
 - (d) Complete a Board-approved Community Paramedic program;
 - (e) Pass a Board-approved Community Paramedic endorsement examination with a passing score as established by the Board, subject to the following:
 - 1. Anyone who fails the examination three (3) times within two (2) years of completing a Board-approved Community Paramedic program must show remediation from such program before they may take the examination again. After showing remediation, each person may take the examination up to three (3) more times within two (2) years of completing a Board-approved Community Paramedic program.
 - 2. Anyone who fails the examination six (6) times within two (2) years of completing a Board-approved Community Paramedic program, or for any reason fails to be endorsed as a Community Paramedic within two (2) years of completing a Board-approved Community Paramedic program, must repeat all of their Community Paramedic training before they may take the examination again;
 - (f) Cause the result of a criminal background check to be submitted directly from the vendor identified in the Division's licensure application materials to the administrative office of the Division. Such criminal background check shall include the sex offender and abuse registries for states in which the prospective student has lived during the previous seven (7) years. Persons whose names appear on either registry are not eligible for Community Paramedic endorsement. Such result shall be valid for one (1) year from the date it is received by the Division;
- (2) Persons completing a Community Paramedic program prior to the effective date of these rules may apply for endorsement, pending the rules becoming effective. Applicants must show documentation of completing a Community Paramedic program that meets the Board-approved Community Paramedic curriculum, and must complete the qualifying examination referred to above;
 - (3) Only graduates of Tennessee Board-approved programs or those who have completed an equivalent curriculum in other states, as determined by the Board or the Division, are eligible for State endorsement.

Authority: T.C.A. §§ 4-5-202, 4-5-204, 68-140-304, and 68-140-309.

1200-12-07-.04 Renewal requirements

- (1) Continued endorsement is contingent on meeting the following requirements:
 - (a) Complying with all rules governing paramedics under Chapter 1200-12-01, including, but not limited to, Rule 1200-12-01-.04(e), which establishes the scope of practice for paramedics and requires that all patient care provided by paramedics be under medical direction;
 - (b) Having a current, unencumbered paramedic license; and
 - (c) Obtaining ten (10) continuing education contact hours in mobile integrated healthcare topics within a two-year period. Such hours are required in addition to the continuing education hours required for any other license.

Authority: T.C.A. §§ 4-5-202, 4-5-204, 68-140-304, and 68-140-309.

1200-12-07-.05 Community Paramedic Training Programs – Requirements for Approval.

- (1) Programs wishing to qualify applicants for Community Paramedic endorsement in Tennessee shall:
- (a) Have a written statement of the educational philosophy and purpose of the program;
 - (b) Maintain a written agreement with hospitals and/or agencies that are capable of supporting Community Paramedic clinical training;
 - (c) Have a physician with an unencumbered Tennessee license to practice medicine who serves as medical advisor;
 - (d) Ensure that the program's funding, equipment, facilities and leadership are adequate for a sound educational program;
 - (e) Ensure that students who complete the program are competent, and support students taking endorsement examinations;
 - (f) Be effectively organized and well-administered;
 - (g) Utilize faculty that are experienced in the subject matter of the courses they teach, including but not limited to community health, home health, mental health, hospice, and other specialty areas;
 - (h) Evaluate teacher effectiveness according to criteria established by the program;
 - (i) Maintain the following records:
 - 1. A copy of the program's complete curriculum;
 - 2. Statements of course objectives for each course;
 - 3. Copies of course outlines, class schedules, schedules of supervised clinical experience, and teaching plans;
 - 4. Evidence of student competency in achieving the educational objectives of the program.

Authority: T.C.A. §§ 4-5-202, 4-5-204, 68-140-304, and 68-140-309.

1200-12-07-.06 Student Admission Requirements

- (1) Persons wishing to attend a Board-approved Community Paramedic program shall:
- (a) Have five years' experience as a paramedic with an advanced life support EMS service;
 - (b) Hold an unencumbered paramedic license;
 - (c) Cause a letter of recommendation to be submitted directly from the applicant's employer to the program. If the applicant is unemployed, the applicant must cause two letters of recommendation to be submitted directly from a former employer and/or supervisor to the program. Such letter(s) shall specify the applicant's title, duties and dates of employment, and shall attest to applicant's character;
 - (d) Undergo a criminal background check, to be requested by the program, to include the sex offender and abuse registries for states in which the prospective student has lived during the previous seven (7) years. Persons who have been convicted of a felony or whose names appear on either registry are not eligible for admission to a Board-approved Community Paramedic program.

Authority: T.C.A. §§ 4-5-202, 4-5-204, 68-140-304, and 68-140-309.

1200-12-07-.07 Community Paramedic Training Programs – Approval, Types of Approval, Renewal

- (1) All Community Paramedic training programs shall comply with the Board-approved standards posted on the educational program section of the Board's website, as well as any applicable Board rules.
- (2) The Board may approve or renew approval of Community Paramedic training programs as follows:
 - (a) Initial approval may be granted for a period of one (1) year to a new program that has not been in operation long enough to complete its first class, but has otherwise demonstrated its eligibility for full approval. The program shall be reviewed after one year or when its first students complete the program, whichever comes first. A program's failure to meet the requirements for full approval after such time is grounds for denying full approval;
 - (b) Full approval may be granted for a period of five (5) years to a program that has met the applicable requirements;
 - (c) Conditional approval may be granted to a program that has failed to meet the applicable requirements and has been notified that it must meet the requirements within a specified time period;
- (3) Renewal of approval shall be made by the Board on the recommendation of the Division, based on surveys, site visits, conferences, a review of documentation, and the program's instructor/student ratio and instructor qualifications.

Authority: T.C.A. §§ 4-5-202, 4-5-204, 68-140-304, and 68-140-309.

I certify that the information included in this filing is an accurate and complete representation of the intent and scope of rulemaking proposed by the agency.

Date: 2-5-16

Signature: [Handwritten Signature]

Name of Officer: Keith Hodges

Title of Officer: Assistant General Counsel
Department of Health

Subscribed and sworn to before me on: 2-5-16

Notary Public Signature: [Handwritten Signature]

My commission expires on: 2-15-2017



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Filed with the Department of State on: 2/5/16

[Handwritten Signature]

Tre Hargett
Secretary of State

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