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Press Release

City EMS director appointed to State EMS Board by governor

Brownback appoints Jeri Smith, to be sworn in to her term at a later date

ARKANSAS CITY, Kan. (August 3, 2015) — Jeri Smith, director of Emergency Medical Services (EMS) for the Arkansas City Fire-EMS Department, is the newest member of the Kansas Board of Emergency Medical Services.

Smith was appointed last week by Gov. Sam Brownback to serve the remainder of a four-year term vacated by Wendy Gronau, according to EMS Board executive director Joseph House. Smith's term will begin immediately and continue through May 31, 2018. Her official swearing-in will be at a later date.

"She will be a wonderful addition to our Board, and we look forward to the knowledge, experience, and input that she will be able to provide in our discussions and decisions," House said.

"Your reputation precedes you as an excellent leader and educator," Board chair Dr. Joel Hornung said in a letter to Smith last week.

"Your willingness to serve the people of Kansas is commendable, and I hope you find your service rewarding," Kim Borchers, director of appointments for the governor, said in a letter Friday.

Smith will attend the Board's bimonthly committee and board meetings later this week. She has been appointed to the Education and Planning & Operations committees, House said.

Smith, who prefers to be "under the radar," said she felt "very humbled and honored" to receive the appointment. "The competition was really stiff, so didn't think I had a chance," she said. "I was really surprised."

More about the EMS Board

For immediate release

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The Kansas Board of Emergency Medical Services exists primarily to ensure that quality out-of-hospital care is available throughout Kansas. This care is based on the optimal utilization of community resources that are consistent with the patient's needs.

The delivery of optimal care is supported through the adoption of standards; definition of scopes of practice; and provision of health, safety, and prevention education and information to the public, Emergency Medical Services and agencies, Emergency Medical Services providers and instructors, related health care professionals, and other public service and political entities.

The Board consists of 15 members, and the governor appoints 11 of them. Only four are EMS professionals like Smith — one from a fire department that provides EMS service, two paramedics or EMTs and a volunteer. The other members are medical professionals, including a hospital administrator and a Kansas Medical Society representative, and elected officials, including two county commissioners.

Two members are State representatives and two are senators, all appointed by legislative leaders.

Currently, the Board's other members are Sen. Oletha Faust-Goudeau, Dennis Franks, Rep. Broderick Henderson, Sen. Mitch Holmes, Dr. Joel Hornung, Commissioner Ricky James, Deb Kaufman, Dr. David Kingfisher, Commissioner Keith Olsen, Shane Pearson, Chad Pore, John Ralston and Dr. Martin Sellberg.

The Board meets six times a year. Its members are appointed to four-year terms.

The EMS Board is comprised of six EMS Regional Councils, which are nonprofit, 501(c)3 corporations that create bylaws to govern their operations. Each Region elects a board to administer regional activities.

The Regional Councils are responsible for supporting, promoting and assisting local EMS agencies and personnel; administering the Kansas Board of Emergency Medical Services Certification Examination; and conducting annual workshops for instructor-coordinators and training officers.

Cowley County is part of EMS Region III, which also includes Barber, Barton, Butler, Comanche, Edwards, Harper, Harvey, Kingman, Kiowa, Marion, McPherson, Pawnee, Pratt, Reno, Rice, Sedgwick, Stafford and Sumner counties. Smith also is a member of the Region III board.

Funding for regional activities is provided by the Kansas Board of Emergency Medical Services.

The Regions and the Board engage in an active partnership through communication and leadership in providing training, technical assistance, and information to services, service directors, and attendants throughout the state.

The Board believes in the importance and vitality of the Regions to receive and participate in and with all Emergency Medical Service personnel in the state.

This relationship gives EMS attendants at all certification and employment levels — volunteer, part time and full time — the opportunity to participate in the development of policies and procedures affecting state EMS professionals through Regional meetings, and the exchange of ideas with Board and Board staff.