

**BETST MINUTES**

**February 1, 2022**



**Board of Emergency Telecommunications  
Standards & Training  
Teleconference  
Ridgeland, MS**

**Call to Order, Roll Call, Establish Quorum, Introduction of Guests:**

Chairman Stan Alford called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

The Director called the roll, and a quorum was present to hold the meeting.

**Members Present:**

Mr. Stan Alford, MEMS

Mr. Ken Gunter, MJIC

Mr. Jim Hennessey, MS Chapter of NENA

Mrs. Sheri Hokamp, MS Chapter of APCO

Mr. Steven Jones, MS Department of Health, EMS Division

Sheriff Charlie Sims, MS Law Enforcement Officers Association

Chief Terry Tucker, Mississippi Fire Chief's Association

Mr. Terry Wages, State Fire Academy

Hon. Pete Cajoleas, Board Counsel

**Members Not Present:**

Mr. Robert Cullom, MLEOTA

Chief Will Jones, Mississippi Police Chief's Association

Sheriff Mike Lee, Mississippi Sheriff's Association

Mr. Marvin Ratliff, Claiborne Co. (Nuclear Facility)

**Standards and Training Staff:**

Mr. Robert D. Davis, Program Specialist Supervisor

Ms. Lydia Edwards, Program Specialist III

Ms. Jennie Sturgis, Program Specialist III

Mr. Bob Morgan, Program Specialist Team Leader

**Guests:**

Ms. Stacey Reed – Marshall Co.

Director Kristen Campanella – Oktibbeha Co. 911 & MS 911 Coordinator’s Assn.

Ms. Dottie Daniels – Stone Co.

Ms. Anita Rayborn – Stone Co.

Ms. Tanya Mayo – Lee Co. 911

Ms. Alta Richardson – Madison P.D.

Ms. Angie Walker – Simpson Co. 911

Capt. Louis Morane – Biloxi P.D.

Ms. Jenny Price – Horn Lake P.D.

The Chair welcomed the guests.

**Presentation and Approval of September 29, 2021, Minutes:**

The minutes for the September 2021 meeting were emailed to all members. The minutes were reviewed, and Mrs. Hokamp pointed out that on page 9, line 5, the word “students” should be removed, and the word “employees” should be added. The Chair entertained a motion. Chief Tucker made a motion to approve the minutes with the correction pointed out by Mrs. Hokamp and a second was received from Sheriff Sims. The minutes were approved without opposition.

**OLD BUSINESS**

**Discuss Limits on Online and Virtual Training Courses. Discuss Reimbursements of Training Costs:**

The Board discussed virtual courses with live instructors. The question before the Board was; should these courses be allowed as separate credits or be included in the limits for credits with online courses. At the present time, two credits are granted for online courses up to a total of 16 elective hours. The Board and guests commented on this issue. Chief Tucker made a

motion to include virtual training in the same category as online training, therefore approved online and virtual courses would grant 2 credits up to a total of 16 elective hours. Mrs. Hokamp seconded the motion and it passed without opposition.

Discussion was held concerning approved Mississippi instructors presenting courses virtually. The Board approved at previous meetings, that Mississippi instructors could present courses virtually for the same tuition charged in a classroom setting. For other vendors, there is a cap of \$200.00 for 8-hour online/virtual classes and \$400.00 for 16-hour classes. Mrs. Hokamp made a motion for Mississippi instructors presenting courses virtually to be paid \$50.00 dollars per course to help them offset costs. The instructor must be set up in the state vendor system in order to be paid. Chief Tucker seconded the motion, and it was approved without opposition.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

#### **Presentation of New Course – “Legal Concepts in 911 Communications” by Instructor Alta Richardson. Discuss with Intent to Approve as 8-Hour Pilot Program:**

Ms. Richardson described the course to the Board. She went over the purpose of the course and reason it would be helpful to the telecommunicator. Staff member Marie Fivecoat reviewed the material and recommends the course as an 8-hour elective. Mrs. Hokamp made a motion to approve as a pilot program, it was seconded by Mr. Jones. The motion passed without opposition.

#### **Presentation of New Course – “Human Trafficking Training” Requested by Ashlee Lucas, MS Statewide Human Trafficking Coordinator. Discuss with Intent to Approve as 8-Hour Pilot Program:**

The staff reviewed this program that is put on by the State to law enforcement. They have been getting requests for telecommunicators to attend and asked if they could get credit. It would be a free 8-hour elective. The staff recommends the approval of this course. Mrs. Hokamp made a motion to approve as a pilot program, it was seconded by Mr. Hennessey. The motion passed without opposition. Students attending pilot programs will receive elective credits.

#### **Discuss Request to Approve the 2022 IAED Navigator Conference; Discuss Approval of Out of State Reimbursements and Credits; Discuss the Out of State NENA Conference:**

The Board discussed out of state conferences sponsored by national and international organizations providing telecommunicator training. Requests to attend some of these conferences have been received by the staff. The staff requested the Board to set guidelines for attendance at these conferences.

After much discussion, Mr. Hennessey made a motion to allow (reimburse expenses) up to 3 telecommunicators per agency to attend an out of state conference. The telecommunicator must attend 20 hours of telecommunications training and will receive 2 elective credits. Proof of attendance must be included with the reimbursement request. The Board will reimburse expenses up to \$2000.00 per telecommunicator. The telecommunicator attending must be in compliance with Board policy. Mrs. Hokamp seconded the motion and it passed without opposition.

Mrs. Hokamp made a motion that agencies requesting approval for out of state conferences must make their requests to the staff at least 30 days prior to the conference. Chief Tucker seconded the motion and it passed without opposition.

**Director's Report:**

The Director stated that all policy updates have been completed. Staff guidelines with recommendations from the Board are in place. Marie and Lydia have been working very hard to issue reimbursements and certification; as well as dealing with all issues that arise from day to day.

The Orientation Class is going very well. There have been five classes with 75 students so far.

Mr. Wages stated that he would send out information about TCPR to be addressed at the next meeting.

**Schedule of Next Meeting Date, Time, and Location:**

The next meeting will be announced once scheduled.

**Adjournment:**

The Chair entertained a motion to adjourn. Mrs. Hokamp made the motion to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Alford. There was no opposition. The meeting was adjourned at 11:07 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Director, Office of Standards and Training