

BETST MINUTES

February 10, 2021



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

Call to Order, Roll Call, Establish Quorum, Introduction of Guests, and Introductory Remarks:

The Chair, Sherri Hokamp called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

The Chair called the roll and declared a quorum present to hold the meeting.

Members Present:

Mr. Stan Alford, MEMS

Mr. Jim Hennessey, MS Chapter of NENA

Mrs. Sheri Hokamp, MS Chapter of APCO

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

Chief Will Jones, Mississippi Police Chief's Association

Mr. Terry Wages, State Fire Academy

Hon. Pete Cajoleas, Board Counsel

Members Not Present:

Mr. Robert Cullom, MLEOTA

Mr. Ken Gunter, MJIC

Sheriff Mike Lee, Mississippi Sheriff's Association

Mrs. Marti Morgan, Mississippi Law Enforcement Officers Association

Mr. Marvin Ratliff, Claiborne Co.

Chief Terry Tucker, Mississippi Fire Chief's Association

Standards and Training Staff:

Mr. Robert D. Davis, Director-Standards and Training

Mrs. Lydia Edwards, Operations Management Analyst, Principal

Mrs. Mari M. Fivecoat, Operations Management Analyst, Principal

Mr. Bob Morgan, Division Director

Guests:

Director Paul Harkins – Lee Co. 911

Ms. Alta Richardson – Flowood P.D.

Director Kristen Capanella – Oktibbeha Co. 911 & MS 911 Coordinator's Assn.

Ms. Tanya Felder – Tate Co.

Ms. Stacey Reed – Marshall Co.

Ms. Kim McCreless – Alcorn Co.

Ms. Anita Rayborn – Stone Co.

Ms. Trebia Rogers – Grenada

Ms. Dottie Daniels – Stone Co.

The Chair welcomed the guests.

Presentation and Approval of Minutes – July 16, 2020 Meeting:

The minutes for the July 16, 2020 meeting were emailed to all members. The Chair entertained a motion. Mr. Wages made a motion to approve the minutes as presented and a second was received from Chief Jones, the minutes were approved without opposition.

OLD BUSINESS

Discuss Online and Virtual Courses – Stacey Reed, Marshall Co. E911; Discuss Online Courses and Fees from the APCO Institute; Discuss Online IAED EMD Course:

Statistics were presented to the Board concerning training classes held over the past few years and the instructors teaching those classes. There are 18 active instructors, with 10 teaching the bulk of the courses. Agencies have complained that it is hard for them to get all the

training needed with the travel restrictions. Ms. Stacey Reed requested that the Board look at the possibility of extending the 100-mile rule and consider approving online courses for electives. Ms. Richardson agreed that the Board should look at the 100-mile rule. The Board discussed the 100-mile rule and approving vendors for online training. Virtual Academy, an online training company has offered a special price to Mississippi for providing online training. They will train dispatchers for \$35.00 per year and would like to discuss their proposal with the Board. APCO has elective online training at a much higher rate. In the past, other vendors have requested approval of their elective online courses at a higher rate than Virtual Academy. During the discussion, it was requested that the staff publish a list of all active instructors. Board members had favorable comments about zoom or virtual type training.

After a lengthy discussion about certification and re-certification requirements, the following motions were offered:

Mr. Alford made a motion to allow the staff to present the Orientation Course by Zoom type training. Chief Jones seconded the motion and it passed without opposition.

Mr. Alford made a motion to approve virtual/online continuing education training, and to allow BETST approved instructors to use Zoom type training for basic and elective training (the instructor must have visual and audio contact with the student). Chief Jones seconded the motion and it passed without opposition.

Mr. Alford made a motion to remove elective ride-alongs, and in-house training, and to allow 3 online courses and 3 in-person courses for re-certification. This motion did not receive a second at that time. Discussion on this subject continued.

Mr. Hennessey made a motion to remove the requirement of ride-alongs for initial certification and re-certification. Mr. Alford seconded the motion and it passed without opposition. The Board would encourage an agency to continue ride-alongs when possible.

Mr. Wages made a motion to approve online EMD basic training from the approved vendors. Mr. Alford seconded the motion and it passed without opposition. IAED charges from \$350.00 to \$365.00 for this course.

Mr. Wages made a motion to increase the mileage allowed to travel to attend a course from 100 to 150 miles. Mr. Alford seconded the motion and it passed without opposition. It was agreed that if an agency elects to travel this distance, that it must be done the morning of the class and no hotel expenses would be reimbursed the night before the class.

These motions will be placed in the policy and presented for approval at the next meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

Review and Discuss Reimbursement Rates:

The below list of course types were present to the Board for the review of current reimbursement rates.

1. 40-HOUR BASIC COURSE (3 VENDORS)	\$395.00
2. 24-32-HOUR BASIC EMD COURSE (3 VENDORS)	\$350.00
3. 8-HOUR ELECTIVE	\$150.00
4. 16-HOUR ELECTIVE	\$300.00
5. 16-HOUR EFD (CHANGED FROM 24 HOURS)	\$350.00 -\$300.00
6. 16-HOUR EPD (CHANGED FROM 24 HOURS)	\$350.00 -\$300.00
7. APCO/MS 911 COORDINATOR'S CONFERENCE (20+HOURS) MEALS)	\$495.00 (INCLUDES
8. EMD, EPD, EFD RE-CETIFICATION	\$110.00-\$135.00
9. QUALITY ASSURANCE RE-CERTIFICATION	\$200.00-\$260.00
10. IN-HOUSE, RIDES/FIELD OBSERVATION, NCIC, ICS	SALARY ONLY
11. CPR	\$35.00-\$50.00
12. FEES FOR TESTING TO MAINTAIN VENDOR MEMBERSHIPS	\$20.00+

MAXIMUM RATE FOR ELECTIVES – 24 HOURS	\$350.00
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MAXIMUM RATE FOR ELECTIVES – 32 HOURS TO 40 HOURS	\$395.00
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NEW REIMBURSEMENTS FOR APPROVAL

ONLINE UNIVERSAL TELECOMMUNICATION ESSENTIALS COURSE (OUTEC)	\$149.00
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BASIC QUALITY ASSURANCE – EMD, EFD, EPD	\$500.00 EACH
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ONLINE IAED EMD BASIC	\$350.00 - \$365.00
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The Board discussed these rates, and the Chair entertained a motion concerning the EPD and EFD courses that went from 24 hours of training to 16 hours of training. Mr. Hennessey made a motion to lower the reimbursement rate from \$350.00 to \$300.00. This motion would keep the reimbursement rates for all 16-hour courses at \$300.00. Mr. Wages seconded the motion and it passed without opposition.

No further action was taken on the other existing rates.

The new reimbursement recommendations were also discussed. The OUTEC Course is required in order to certify telecommunicators that are not certified in EMD to be certified in EPD and EFD. The Basic Quality Assurance Program certifies telecommunicators that have been appointed as managers of the Q Program to be Q certified in EMD, EFD, and EPD. Mr. Paul Harkins of Lee County 911, one of the larger centers in the state, stated that his center

has slots for 2 Q managers. Online EMD Basic Courses have been approved and the rate of reimbursement needs to be set.

The Chair entertained a motion. Mr. Alford made a motion to approve the reimbursement rates listed for the new requests. Chief Jones seconded the motion and it passed without opposition.

Election of Board Officers:

The Chair, Mrs. Hokamp has served two consecutive terms and a new chair needs to be elected. Mrs. Hokamp thanked the Board for allowing her to serve as Chair.

Mr. Hennessey nominated Mr. Alford for Chair; Mr. Wages seconded the nomination. Mr. Alford was elected without opposition.

Mr. Alford nominated Mr. Wages for Vice-Chair; Mr. Hennessey seconded the nomination. Mr. Wages was elected without opposition.

Director's Report:

The Director thanked those in attendance.

Schedule of Next Meeting Date, Time, and Location:

The next meeting will be announced once scheduled.

Adjournment:

The Chair entertained a motion to adjourn. Mr. Hennessey made the motion to adjourn, seconded by Chief Jones. There was no opposition. The meeting was adjourned at 11:48 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Director, Office of Standards and Training