

**BOARD ON JAIL OFFICER
STANDARDS AND TRAINING**

**MINUTES
FOR THE MEETING OF
25 JUNE 2013**

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Exhibits

(Exhibits are kept on file and copies are available upon request.)

Exhibit One -	Policy & Procedures Manual Chapter 09	Appendix A
Exhibit Two -	Recommended Officers for Certification	Appendix B
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Minutes
Board on Jail Officer Standards and Training
Ridgeland, Mississippi
25 JUNE 2013

Call to Order

Chairman Sollie called the meeting to order at 10:03 a.m.

Roll Call, Introduction of New Board Members and Guests

Chairman Sollie conducted roll call and declared for the record that a quorum was present. Sheriff Martin Pace was welcomed to the Board.

The following Board members, staff, advisors and guests were participants:

BJOST Members present:

Mr. Ronnie L. Bowen, Chief, Amory Police Department
Mr. Perry Hood, Mississippi Association of Supervisors
Dr. Linda Keena, PhD, Mississippi Association of Chiefs of Police
Mr. Martin Pace, Sheriff, Warren County
Mr. Billy Sollie, Sheriff, Lauderdale County

BJOST Members not present:

Mr. Ricky L. Banks, Sheriff, Leflore County
Mr. Bill Newsom, Mississippi Association of Supervisors
Mr. Danny Rigel, Sheriff, Lamar County
Ms. Missy Saxton, Exec Assistant, MS State Board for Community and Junior Colleges

BJOST Counsel present:

Mr. Jimmy Dale, Special Assistant Attorney General

BJOST Staff Members present:

Robert Davis, Director, Standards & Training
Donald Beard, Director, Juvenile Monitoring Unit
Bebea Boney, Administrative Assistant
Tim Brown, Projects Officer IV, Special
Alan Gray, Operations Management Analyst, Principal
Irene Turner, Certification Specialist

Advisors and Visitors present:

There were no advisors or visitors present for the meeting.

Approval of Minutes

Chairman Sollie asked if there were any changes or additions to the minutes from the previous meeting.

Dr. Keena moved to adopt the minutes as submitted and Mr. Hood seconded the motion. The motion passed without opposition on a voice vote.

Old Business

Review Enabling Legislation of the Jail Officers Training Program.

Director Davis presented a copy of the Policy & Procedures Chapter 09 (**Exhibit One**) and provided a quick overview of the Jail Officer Training Program as enacted from 1999. He explained in Mississippi Code § 45-4-11: "the board shall authorize reimbursement to each governmental entity of at least fifty percent (50%) of allowable salary and allowable tuition, living and travel expense incurred by jail officers in attendance at approved training programs". He further explained that the board at the time of inception chose to reimburse at the rate of one hundred percent (100%) and that these funds were to be obtained through the Law Enforcement Officer Training Program but not to exceed twenty-five percent (25%) of the LEOTP budget. Changes were passed in the 2000 legislature that affected the make-up of the board (by adding two (2) more members) and clarified the scope (by dropping the term "county" from the program title) of the board's responsibilities to include all municipal and juvenile detention facilities. This along with other changes in the LEOTP funding that has occurred over the years has stretched these available funds to their limit. He speculated that the board may be faced with having to look at reduced future reimbursements from the present 100% to stay in line with monies available.

Other changes that have occurred since 2000 provided for certification to individuals "who successfully completes the Mississippi Department of Corrections' training program for correctional officers of regional jails"; and "develop and train...in the prevention of racial profiling".

Dr. Keena inquired as to the existence of any legislation pending that could impact the board. Director Davis stated that presently, there are no known pieces of legislation pending that should affect the board.

New Business

Discuss the Endorsement of Change in MS Code § 45-5-9.

Mr. Davis again referenced the aforementioned copy of the Policy & Procedures Chapter 09 (**Exhibit One**) bringing forward a proposal to consider for a future legislative amendment to Mississippi Code § 45-4-9. The original wording provided for “no person who is required to be certified shall be appointed or employed as a jail officer of any sheriff or police department for a period to exceed two (2) years without being certified”. Given the intent of the law to include youth detention facilities, it has been found that a two year length of time before mandatory certification (in the youth detention setting) could be creating an unnecessary risk.

Mr. Donald Beard came before the board addressing this issue. Mr. Beard is presently part of a task force (created by legislation) that is in the process of creating new standards for juvenile detention facilities. The task force has recently proposed that before an individual can start working, in the juvenile detention setting, he/she must receive 40 hours of training on policies and procedures of the facility with which they will be working. Mr. Beard challenged the board to be proactive in creating more intensive requirements/training for those working in a juvenile detention setting.

Sheriff Pace pointed out that his department as well as others send their detention officer trainees to training prior to working alone. In addition, they always have mentors physically present with them until that time.

Mr. Beard stated if the Board moved to shorten the length of time allowed to receive training, the Board would have full support of the Juvenile Facility Directors Association. Beard added that if this did occur, he would present a recommendation to the task force to fully support this action. Mr. Hood queried as to the investigation of those agencies in violation of Mississippi Code § 45-4-13 that prohibits salaries from being paid to uncertified jail officers. Director Davis pointed out that the statute provides for the Department of Audit to have investigative authority in determining if salaries were paid in violation of that section.

Chairman Sollie stated that the law enforcement board had endorsed a bill that lowered their allowed time for certification to one year. He also added, that since the juvenile detention officer training consists of the same first portion of the training course that the adult detention officer has to take; then why can't the board go ahead and seek a reduction to one year for all detention officers? Davis stated that legislation needed to be passed in order to reduce the certification requirement time period and that there probably would be some opposition.

The Board discussed supporting an amendment that would require detention officers to be under the direct control and supervision of a certified jail officer until they become certified.

Director Davis confirmed through Mr. Beard that the task force was going to be proposing training requirements to the legislature that would become part of the basic training requirements for all juvenile detention officer trainees. Beard stated that the task force was already prepared to recommend shortening the time frame to train juvenile detention officers and would welcome the Board's action at this time.

Chairman Sollie asked as to the wishes of the Board on this issue to which Mr. Hood made a motion to support efforts to have the Legislature change the time frame for certification of both adult and juvenile detention officers to one year. Also, stipulating that all detention officers be under direct control and supervision until said certification is complete. A second for the motion was made by Chief Bowen. The motion passed without opposition.

Director Davis added that the Attorney Generals office has clarified that direct control and supervision means physical presence and not merely contact by radio. Director Davis stated that the endorsement of this proposal from the Sheriff's Association and Supervisor's Association would be very helpful.

Certification of Officers

Tim Brown presented a list (**Exhibit Two**) of 381 detention officers (316 adult, 65 juvenile) for certification. Chief Bowen offered a motion to approve the list for certification and Dr. Keena seconded the motion. The motion passed without dissent.

Certification of Training Facility

Tim Brown presented three (3) (**Exhibit Three**) training facilities for certification, one from Webster county, one from Leake county and one from Leflore county. Chief Bowen offered a motion to approve the training facilities certification and Mr. Hood seconded the motion. The motion passed without dissent.

Certification of Instructors

Tim Brown presented a list (**Exhibit Four**) of eight instructors who have completed the application process and met the standards for instructor certification. Dr. Keena offered a motion to approve the instructors. The motion was seconded by Sheriff Pace and passed without opposition.

With today's certifications, the State now has 13 active training facilities, 29 active instructors and has issued 4804 Detention Officer Certifications.

Director's Report

Director Davis stated that the fiscal year ends on June 30th and that reimbursements from July 2012 to present have totaled \$443,159.14.

Next Scheduled BJOST meeting

The next BJOST Board meeting is scheduled for October 29th, 2013.

Concluding Remarks & Adjournment

Chairman Sollie observed the business of the Board was complete and entertained a motion for adjournment. Motion was provided by Sheriff Pace and seconded by Mr. Hood and passed without opposition. The meeting was adjourned at 11:16 p.m.