

BETST MINUTES

July 16, 2020



**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. Ken Gunter, MJIC

Mr. Jim Hennessey, MS Chapter of NENA

Mrs. Sheri Hokamp, MS Chapter of APCO

Chief Will Jones, Mississippi Police Chief's Association

Sheriff Mike Lee, Mississippi Sheriff's Association

Mrs. Marti Morgan, Mississippi Law Enforcement Officers Association

Chief Terry Tucker, Mississippi Fire Chief's Association

Hon. Pete Cajoleas, Board Counsel – Mr. Cajoleas introduced himself and he was welcomed as the new Board Counsel from the Attorney General's Office.

Members Not Present:

Mr. Robert Cullom, MLEOTA

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

Mr. Marvin Ratliff, Claiborne Co.

Mr. Terry Wages, State Fire Academy

Standards and Training Staff:

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

Mrs. Lydia Edwards, Operations Management Analyst, Senior

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

Mr. Bob Morgan, Division Director

Guests:

Hon. Avery Lee – Attorney General’s Office

Director Paul Harkins – Lee Co. 911 & MS 911 Coordinator’s Assn.

Mrs. Alta Richardson – Flowood P.D.

Ms. Kristen Capanella – Oktibbeha Co. 911

The Chair welcomed the guests.

Presentation and Approval of Minutes:

The Chair reviewed the minutes from the February 11, 2020 meeting and suggested that the word “emotional” be added to describe the trauma course and to replace the word “agency” with the word “BETST” in describing the NECI Instructor training. The chair entertained a motion. Chief Tucker made a motion to approve the minutes with the suggested changes and a second was received from Mr. Gunter, the minutes were approved without opposition.

OLD BUSINESS

Discuss the Start Date for Required “Orientation Course”:

Because of the Pandemic, the Orientation Course cannot be scheduled. The staff recommended that since there are around 300 new dispatchers that need this course and many of them have met or will soon meet all the other requirements for certification, that their certification not be delayed until they can take this course. The staff recommended that the Orientation Course not be a requirement for certification until January 2021.

After a discussion, the Chair entertained a motion to exempt the Orientation Course as a requirement for certification until January 2021. Mr. Gunter made the motion to approve. Mr. Alford seconded the motion and it passed without opposition.

Review Changes to “Evaluation Form”:

A copy of the completed "Evaluation Form" was presented to the Board for their review. The Board approved the form at the last meeting and voted to add that comments are required, and unacceptable comments must be explained by the student completing the form. Agencies may adjust the form so it can be fillable. No other changes are required at this time.

Discuss Online Courses and Fees from the APCO Institute:

APCO made it possible for the Board and staff to review their online training. The Chair stated that she will research the log-in requirements and notify members how to go in and review the training.

Marie Fivecoat advised the Board that APCO charges non-APCO members, \$289.00 for an online 8-hour elective, and charges their members, \$249.00 for the same. She stated that there also may be a web access charge. The staff determined that the 8-hour elective would cost around the same as an in-person class since meals and travel would not be required.

The 40-hour basic online course will also be available for the Board to review.

NEW BUSINESS

Evaluation of "NECI Train the Trainer" Class, Mari Fivecoat:

Marie reported to the Board that she and Lydia Edwards monitored this course on 2/24/20. There were 16 registered attendees and 1 observer. All promised manuals and materials were provided by the 25-year veteran instructor. The instruction was broad based, the instructor was thorough and kept on topic. There was plenty of interaction. The feedback from the students was good. The class was enjoyable, and Marie highly recommended this instructor techniques course.

This class will really be a big help in providing new instructors to the State.

Discuss IAED Certification Costs:

When IAED certifies a telecommunicator that telecommunicator becomes a member of IAED for two years. IAED encourages telecommunicators to continue their membership to receive all of the advantages of membership, such as updates in the industry and continuing education updates. IAED offers a 50 question online re-certification test for a fee of \$20.00 which will extend the membership for another two years. The staff has been asked to request that the Board approve the reimbursement of this fee paid to the agency of the telecommunicator.

The Chair advised that other vendors also charge a fee for continuing the membership after they certify a telecommunicator and stated that she would like to ask that fees be reimbursed for other vendor's membership recertification also.

Chief Tucker made a motion that the Board reimburse the agency that pays the membership fees for recertification to all BETST approved vendors. Mr. Gunter seconded the motion and it passed without opposition.

Director's Report:

The Mississippi 911 Coordinator's Conference set for October has been cancelled due to the Pandemic.

Dianne Berry retired on April 30th, she served 12 years with Standards and Training.

At the present time, our count of telecommunicators in the state is 2641.

There have been many classes cancelled because of the virus and the staff is working to give telecommunicators extra time to complete their certification and recertification.

Schedule of Next Meeting Date, Time and Location:

The next meeting will be scheduled as needed.

Adjournment:

The Chair entertained a motion to adjourn. Mr. Gunter made the motion to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Hennessey. There was no opposition. The meeting was adjourned at 10:57 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Director, Office of Standards and Training