

BETST MINUTES

August 20, 2019



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

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

Chairman Hokamp called the meeting to order at 10:02 a.m. She recognized two new Board Members. Mr. Terry Wages introduced himself as the new director of the State Fire Academy. Mr. Robert Cullom introduced himself as the representative of MELOTA. He is the new director of their CIP Program.

Chairman Hokamp called the roll and declared a quorum present to hold the meeting.

Members Present:

Mr. Robert Cullom, MLEOTA

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

Mrs. Marti Morgan, Mississippi Law Enforcement Officers Association

Chief Terry Tucker, Mississippi Fire Chief's Association

Mr. Terry Wages, State Fire Academy

Members Not Present:

Mr. Stan Alford, MEMS

Mr. Ken Gunter, MJIC

Sheriff Mike Lee, Mississippi Sheriff's Association

Mr. Marvin Ratliff, Claiborne Co.

Hon. Emiko Hemleben, Board Counsel

Standards and Training Staff:

Mrs. Mary L. Bailey, Projects Officer II Special

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

Mrs. Lydia Edwards, Projects Officer II Special

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

Ms. Geneva Hill, Administrative Assistant

Mr. Bob Morgan, Division Director

Guests:

No guests present

Presentation and Approval of Minutes:

The Chair asked about the review of the minutes from the May 7, 2019 meeting and entertained a motion. Chief Tucker made a motion to approve the minutes and a second was received from Mr. Hennessey, the minutes were approved without opposition.

OLD BUSINESS

Review for Approval of MS 911 Coordinator’s Association Conference Agenda:

The Board reviewed the agenda for the 911 Coordinator’s Conference. Mrs. Fivecoat discussed some of the training on the agenda. The conference was previously approved and the Board accepted this agenda without opposition.

New BUSINESS

Presentation for Approval; APCO 40-Hour Instructor Techniques Course – Sheri Hokamp:

Mrs. Hokamp presented the APCO 40-hour Instructor Techniques Course as a pilot program. This course is open to any instructor candidate and does not require APCO membership. Chief Tucker made a motion to approve this course for the pilot program. Chief Jones seconded the motion and it passed without opposition.

Presentation on Proposed “Orientation Course”; Discuss Re-certification Course-Mari Fivecoat:

Mrs. Fivecoat presented a proposal from the staff to create an Orientation Course for newly hired telecommunicators. The proposal is for the staff to teach a 16-hour course

within 90 days of the date of hire of a telecommunicator. Many telecommunicator's work for nearly one year before having any formal training. This course will give the telecommunicator tools to begin their career, industry standard best practices, state required Human Trafficking Training, and domestic violence registry training. There will be no tuition and the Board would reimburse travel expenses. The staff recommended that the 16-hour re-certification course be abolished due to complaints of contents of this course and the fact that there are many choices for elective training.

Mrs. Morgan made a motion to require the Orientation Course within the first 90 days of a telecommunicator's career and to abolish the 16-hour re-certification course. Mr. Wages seconded the motion. Mrs. Fivecoat will plan to present the completed Orientation Course curriculum at the next meeting. The training will be advertised as soon as the curriculum is approved.

Discuss "Fresh Start Act of 2019":

The Fresh Start Act of 2019 was passed by the Legislature and signed by the Governor and took effect on July 1, 2019. This new law states that no person shall be disqualified from pursuing, practicing, or engaging in any occupation for which a license is required solely or in part because of a prior conviction of a crime, unless the crime for which the person was convicted directly relates to the duties and responsibilities of the licensed occupation. The law prohibits terms in policy such as "moral turpitude", "good character", and "any felony". It states that licensing means any required training, education, or fee to work in a specific profession. The staff has made changes to the current policy to be in compliance with this new law, which will be reviewed in the next agenda item.

Review, Discuss Proposed Changes to Chapters 1, 2, 3, 4, and 11; Request Vote with Intent to Adopt:

The staff presented changes to Chapters 1, 2, 3, 4, and 11 in order to be in compliance with the Fresh Start Act of 2019. In Chapter 1, the term "moral turpitude" was removed from policy, "Employment Standards" and "Criminal Record" were added to include terms from the Fresh Start Act. In Chapter 2, the term "good moral character" was removed from policy, and terms from the Fresh Start Act were included. In Chapter 3 and 4, terms from the Fresh Start Act were included. In Chapter 11, terms from the Fresh Start Act were included along with other changes that would regulate instructors. There were other minor changes made to these policies for clarification purposes.

Chief Tucker made a motion with the intent to adopt these policy changes. Chief Jones seconded the motion and the motion passed without opposition.

Discuss Instructor Evaluations :

The staff advised the Board about the guidelines dealing with instructor evaluations. Some negative comments received on evaluations were shared with the Board with the question of how many negative comments are enough for Board review. It was the consensus of the Board that the staff take action when they believe that a pattern has developed and the instructor should be sanctioned and if sanctions are taken the instructor could appeal to the Board. The Board was advised that the Board attorney would be contacted in the matter of these negative comments.

Review Student to Instructor Ratio:

The Board discussed the student to instructor ratio and advised that lecture classes could handle more students than classes that had a lot of hands on time. The Board felt that the evaluations should be examined to see if the students are complaining about this issue. The Board decided to not take action until there is an issue that needs to be addressed.

Director's Report:

Director Davis stated former employee, Alan Gray passed away on July 3 as a result of a stroke that he suffered several years ago. He thanked the new members for their time and willingness to serve on the Board.

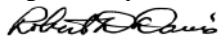
Schedule of Next Meeting Date, Time and Location:

The Board has accepted an invitation from the MS 911 Coordinator's Association to hold the next meeting during their conference on October 8 at 10:00 a.m. in Tunica.

Adjournment:

Chief Jones made a motion to adjourn. Mr. Wages seconded the motion and it passed without opposition. The meeting was completed at 11:55 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Director, Office of Standards and Training