

BETST MINUTES

September 1, 2023



Board of Emergency Telecommunications
Standards & Training
Canton, MS

Call to Order, Roll Call, Establish Quorum:

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. Mr. Robert Cullom, the MLEOTA representative, and Mr. Terry Wages, the Fire Academy representative, have retired. Mr. Robert (Gill) Bailey is the new representative for MS NENA, replacing Mr. Jim Hennessey. Mr. Bailey is a former member of the Board, and he was welcomed. Mr. Pete Cajoleaus, Board Counsel, has retired.

Members Present:

Mr. Stan Alford, MEMS

Mr. Robert G. Bailey, 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

Sheriff Mike Lee, Mississippi Sheriff's Association

Sheriff Charlie Sims, MS Law Enforcement Officers Association

Chief Terry Tucker, Mississippi Fire Chief's Association

Hon. Pete Cajoleas, Board Counsel

Members Not Present:

Mr. Ken Gunter, MJIC

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

Guests:

Ms. Stacy Reed – Marshall Co.

Ms. Jeny Price – Horn Lake P.D.

Ms. Treva Rogers – Grenada Co.

Ms. Brenda Catchens – Issaquena Co.

Mr. James Keen – Ridgeland P.D.

Ms. Jones – Jasper Co.

Ms. Alta Richardson – Madison P.D.

Mr. Rob Jones – Lamar Co.

Ms. Kristen Campanella – Oktibbeha Co.

Ms. Sequita Townsend – Jackson P.D.

Ms. Dottie Daniels – Stone Co.

Ms. Anita Rayborn – Stone Co.

Standards and Training Staff:

Mr. Robert D. Davis, Program Specialist Supervisor

Ms. Lydia Edwards, Program Specialist III

Mrs. Marie Fivecoat, Program Specialist III

Mrs. Jennie Sturgis, Program Specialist III

Presentation and Approval of June 2, 2022, Minutes:

The minutes for the December 20, 2022, meeting were emailed to all members. The minutes were reviewed. The Chair entertained a motion. Chief Tucker made a motion to approve the minutes and a second was received from Mrs. Hokamp. The minutes were approved without opposition.

OLD BUSINESS:

Presentation for Approval of the “MS 911 Coordinators Conference” Agenda, 20 hours, 2 Credits; Director Campanella:

The conference agenda was emailed to all members. Director Campanella made a presentation to the Board. A request was made that the Board cover the Tuesday and Thursday night meals in addition to the tuition. These meals have been covered in the past at a rate of \$25.00 per meal. The Chair entertained a motion. Chief Tucker made a motion to approve the agenda and meal request. A second was made by Sheriff Sims and the motion was approved without opposition.

Presentation for Approval of New Course – “Leadership Training-Emergency Communications Center”, 16 Hours, 2 Credits by Alta Richardson/Jeny Price – Marie Fivecoat:

Course was presented to the Board for approval as an elective for re-certification. Mr. Jones made a motion for approval as pilot course; second was made by Mr. Bailey. Motion was passed without opposition.

Presentation for Approval of New Course - “Hazmat Incidents”, 8 Hours, 1 Credit by Alta Richardson/Jeny Price – Marie Fivecoat:

Course was presented to the Board for approval as an elective for re-certification. Chief Tucker made a motion for approval as pilot course; second was made by Mr. Alford. Motion was passed without opposition.

Presentation for Approval of New Course – “Understanding and Communicating with the Mentally Ill”, 16 Hours, 2 Credits by Alta Richardson – Marie Fivecoat:

Course was presented to the Board for approval as an elective for re-certification. A question was raised concerning the vetting by a mental health facility. Mrs. Hokamp made a motion to deny as pilot course until the course has been vetted by a mental health facility; second was made by Sheriff Sims. Motion was passed without opposition.

Presentation for Approval of New Course – “Suicide”, 16 Hours, 2 Credits by Alta Richardson/Jeny Price – Lydia Edwards:

Course was presented to the Board for approval as an elective for re-certification. Mrs. Hokamp made a motion for approval as pilot course; second was made by Chief Tucker. Motion was passed without opposition.

Presentation for Approval of New Course - “Never Secure and Always Ready”, 8 Hours, 1 Credit by Jeny Price – Lydia Edwards:

Course was presented to the Board for approval as an elective for re-certification. Mrs. Hokamp made a motion for approval as pilot course; second was made by Mr. Alford. Motion was passed without opposition.

Presentation for Approval of New Course - “Building Relationships, Enforcement and Communications”, 8 Hours, 1 Credit by Jeny Price – Lydia Edwards:

Course was presented to the Board for approval as an elective for re-certification. Mr. Jones made a motion for approval as pilot course; second was made by Mr. Alford. Motion was passed without opposition.

Presentation for Approval of New Course – “Crisis Intervention (CIT) Dispatch Training”, 16 Hours, 2 Credits by Pine Belt Mental Health – Marie Fivecoat:

Course was presented to the Board for approval as an elective for re-certification. Mrs. Hokamp made a motion for final approval; second was made by Sheriff Sims. Motion was passed without opposition.

Review Course Tuition:

The director stated that at the next meeting the staff will present information concerning the rise in training costs and ask the Board to consider whether rate increases in tuition for our in-state instructors or vendors are justified. It was noted that any increase in tuition will need to be presented to the DPS Budget Office for approval before any increases could go in place. Some examples of tuition was included in the discussion for the Board to consider at the next meeting.

Director’s Report

The Director stated that the policies and procedures of the Board have been updated many times over the last few years. It seems now that the current policies are meeting the needs of the Board and agencies. Mr. Jones talked about changes in ambulance services with his department since Covid and it was noted that EMD courses are being advertised on the BETST calendar. The staff gets bogged down with paperwork due to agencies holding reimbursement requests and sending many in at one time. The staff recommends that agencies send in training within 30 days of the completion of training classes and not hold them. It was recommended that agencies have a primary TAC officer and a secondary TAC officer, regardless of the size of the agency. Some agencies want to send more people to this training, the tuition is free, but travel costs and salary for the 40-hour class is very expensive.

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. Alford made the motion to adjourn, seconded by Mrs. Hokamp. There was no opposition. The meeting was adjourned at 11:20 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robert D. Davis".

Director, Office of Standards and Training