

**MINUTES**

**BLEOST MEETING**

**March 9, 2023**

**Call to Order:**

The meeting was called to order at 9:05 a.m. by Chairman Greg Pollan.

**Roll Call:**

The Chair called the roll, and a quorum was established. Board members present were:

Hon. Kassie Coleman  
Hon. Lindsay Watts Cranford  
Col. Randy Ginn  
Chief Michael Hall  
Sheriff Jim Johnson  
Dr. Steve Mallory  
Constable Glenn McKay  
Sheriff Greg Pollan  
Chief John Mark Quaka  
Chief Daniel Sanford

Board Counsel Samuel Goff

**Board members not present were:**

Chief Anjuan Brown  
Deputy Charles Harris  
Mayor Gary Rhoads

**Introduction of Guests, Introductory Remarks:**

New Board Member Daniel Sanford was introduced. Chief Sanford has been appointed to the Board by the MS Campus Law Enforcement Association. Chief Sanford is the Chief of Campus Police at the University of Mississippi. He advised the Board that he came from the University of Alabama and has been at Ole Miss since August 2021. Chief Rice resigned his position and moved to Oklahoma State University.

The guests were introduced and were welcomed.

**Speakers/Guests present were:**

Lt. Mike Cowan - DeSoto Co. S.O.  
Director Alfred Cooper – Jackson P.D.  
Director Amy Vanderford – MDCCLETA  
Lt. Brandon Hendry – HCLETA  
Director John Bishop – Monroe Co. LETA  
Director Tony Carleton – MLEOTA

Deputy Brian Jernigan – Monroe Co. S.O.  
Officer Larry Calvert – Tishomingo Co. S.O.

**Staff Members Present were:**

Program Supervisor Robert Davis  
Program Team Leader Bob Morgan  
Program Specialist Risa Turpin  
Program Specialist Michael Nash  
Program Specialist Donna Rogers

**Approval of Minutes:**

A copy of the minutes from the meeting on November 10, 2022, was emailed to each member. Sheriff Johnson made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Constable McKay seconded the motion. The motion passed without opposition.

**OLD BUSINESS**

**In-Service Training – Request for Approval:**

1. **De-Escalation Techniques for Law Enforcement Officers; 8 hrs.; Jerome Lorrain, Retired FBI**
2. **Courtroom Security; 8 hrs.; Harrison County Law Enforcement Training Academy**
3. **Enhanced Scenario Simulations; 3 hrs.; Retired Chief Buster Bingham**
4. **Crisis Intervention and De-Escalation Techniques; 8 hrs.; Asst. Chief Kennedy Meaders, West Point Police Department**
5. **MS National Association of Drug Diversion Investigators (NADDI) Conference; 6 hrs.**
6. **Prescription Drug Overdose – Active Response Implementation and Evaluation System (PDO-ARIES); 1 hr.; UMMC MS Center for Emergency Services**
7. **Public Safety UAS (unmanned aircraft system) Training Class; 35 hrs.; Coast Aerial Imaging**
8. **Public Safety Summit; 18 hrs.; DPS**

These topics were presented to the Board for approval. Constable McKay made a motion to approve, and DA Coleman seconded the motion. The motion passed without opposition.

**Discuss Proposed Changes to Training Requirements for Break in Service, Chapter 9; Final Vote to Adopt:**

The Board reviewed the recommended amended policy and discussed these changes. The underlined is proposed to be added to the policy and the strikeouts are proposed to be removed from the policy.

*Rule 9.2 Policy*

1. The Board shall evaluate each applicant's documented record of experience, education, and training. The accomplishments in each area shall be weighed to compare the applicant's credentials with the current standards for professional certification.
  - A. The certification status of any law enforcement officer shall lapse after a break in service of more than two years. Time of Service will be determined by official Board records (applications, rosters).
    1. Officers, certified in this state, who have had basic as in Chapter 9, Rule 9.2, Subsection-C and meet the employment guidelines, with a break in service of more than two (2) years, are required to complete the hands-on skill tests ~~and law courses~~ of the refresher course and provide verification of First Aid/CPR certification to restore their certification. The skill tests ~~and law courses~~ must be completed within one year for full-time status and two years for part-time status of their date of hire. The skill tests must be conducted by a certified instructor or at a Board accredited academy. ~~The law courses must be conducted at a Board accredited academy.~~ Academies and instructors must review the Board's notice that the student is eligible for the skill tests.
    2. Officers, certified in this state, who have had basic as in Chapter 9, Rule 9.2, Subsection-C and meet the employment guidelines with a break in service of five (5) years or more are required to complete the refresher course and provide verification of First Aid/CPR certification to restore their certification. The refresher course must be conducted at a Board accredited academy within one year for full-time status and two years for part-time status of their date of hire. Academies must review the Board's notice that the student is eligible for the refresher course.
  - D. Any officer, certified in this state, whose break in service was due to service in a closely related criminal justice position may restore their certification without further training by returning to law enforcement service before a five (5) year break. With a break of five (5) years or more, the officer may restore their certification by completing the hands-on skill tests and law courses of the refresher course. Once an officer has been deemed eligible for the skill tests and law courses, the department head will be notified by the Board.
    1. Applicants must have completed the basic course as in Chapter-9, Rule 9.2, Subsection-C above, met the current employment guidelines and completed each of the hands-on skill tests and law courses and provide verification of First Aid/CPR certification within one year for full-time status and two years for part-time status of their date of hire. The skill tests must be conducted by a certified instructor or at a Board accredited academy. The law courses must be conducted at a Board accredited academy. Academies and instructors must review the Board's notice that the student is eligible for the skill tests and law courses. The skill tests are:
      - a. Firearms,

- b. Defensive Driving and
  - c. Mechanics of Arrest
2. Applicants must have served in a full-time capacity in one of the following positions (or other position as approved by the Board):
    - a. As an instructor in a Board-approved academy, instructor, or student in criminal justice (or related subject area) at an institution of higher learning, or
    - b. ~~Or a~~ As an investigator for a district attorney, or investigator for a state level agency responsible for enforcing criminal statutes, or
  3. Applicants must have served in a part-time law enforcement position in this state.
- E. Any officer, certified in this state, whose break in service was due to serving as a law enforcement officer in another state or federal jurisdiction may restore their certification without further training by returning to law enforcement service before a five (5) year break. With a break of five (5) years or more, the officer may restore their certification. ~~Eligible officers need only by~~ completing the hands-on skill tests and law courses of the refresher course and provide verification of First Aid/CPR certification within one year for full-time status and two years for part-time status of their date of hire. The skill tests must be conducted by a certified instructor or at a Board accredited academy. The law courses must be conducted at a Board accredited academy. Academies and instructors must review the Board's notice that the student is eligible for the skill tests and law courses.

Chief Hall made a motion for final adoption of the amended policy in Chapter 9. Sheriff Johnson seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

#### **Discuss Jackson Police Department's Request to Change Academy Status to Non-Residential; Review Reimbursement Rates for Non-Residential:**

The Jackson Police Department made a request to change their academy status from Residential to Non-Residential. Captain Cooper with the JPD Academy stated they were having difficulty finding any company to provide meals at their academy. They are on hold with their basic training classes at this time due to the lack of meal services.

Non-Residential status would only allow the Jackson PD Academy to train their own recruits. The recruits would be required to arrive at the beginning of class each day, be dismissed for lunch, and return for afternoon classes and leave the academy at the end of the training day.

After answering questions, Captain Cooper stated that he hoped that they could return to

Residential status at some point, but at this time they are unable to provide the services necessary.

Chief Sanford made a motion to change the status of the Jackson Police Academy to Non-Residential. DA Coleman seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

The Board discussed tuition for Residential and Non-Residential. At the present time all academies are allowed to charge agencies \$4000.00. The law mandates that the Board reimburse the agencies half the allowable cost of tuition, therefore the Board reimburses agencies \$2000.00 for tuition. The Board also reimburses agencies in compliance with Board policy \$2000.00 for salary during training. The costs of operating academies were discussed, and academy directors provided some cost factors. The question was asked whether the Non-Residential academies should receive the same as Residential, since they don't provide meals or housing. Sheriff Johnson made a motion that tuition should be different for Non-residential. Col. Ginn seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. The Chair asked what the difference should be. Chief Sanford made a motion to table and request that the academies provide operating expenses to the Board. Chief Quaka seconded the motion, and it passed without opposition. The Board talked about how the amount should be determined. Captain Cooper stated that it would be hard to determine what the cost per cadet would be. Director Vanderford stated that an academy starts with a certain number of cadets, but some will drop out. This makes it difficult to come up with an amount. Captain Cooper stated that he felt that cutting the tuition paid to the agency that operates Non-Residential in half (\$1000.00) would be fair. After hearing this discussion, Sheriff Johnson made a motion to lower the reimbursement rate to \$1000.00 for the agencies operating Non-Residential academies. Dr. Mallory seconded the motion, and it passed without opposition.

### **Discuss Military Training for Equivalency; Review HB 1039:**

The Board reviewed the training record of retired Lt. Col. Brian Locke. He has over 20 years' experience on active duty as a Military Police Officer, completed military police training, and has completed the MS Part-time curriculum. He is a graduate of the FBI National Academy. He holds a Criminal Justice degree and a master's in counseling and development. Chief Sanford made a motion to approve him for full-time certification after completing the Refresher Course. Dr. Mallory seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

The Board reviewed the training record of Eric Shane Howell. He served as a Military Police Officer for more that 4 years, completed the Security Forces Apprentice Course as well as the MS Part-time curriculum. Sheriff Johnson made a motion to approve him for full-time certification after completing the Refresher Course. Chief Quaka seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

The Board reviewed the training record of Daniel Hendricks. He completed the Coast Guard Maritime Law Enforcement Academy and the US Army Military Police Academy. He served as a Military Police Officer for more that 4 years. DA Coleman made a motion to approve him for full-time certification after completing the Refresher Course. Chief Quaka seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

The Board reviewed the record of Ty'jour Jones. He did not include all the required documents. AAG Cranford made a motion to hold up on this requested until all the requested documents are

received. Col. Ginn seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

House Bill 1039 applies to the Military Family Freedom Act. At the present time, active military police officers are able to take our equivalency exam for Mississippi certification. This bill would allow any veteran to take the test regardless of the amount of time since they served. Sheriff Pollan stated that as the President of the Sheriff's Association, he has spoken with members of the Legislature about sending this bill back to conference to reconsider the new language.

### **Certification of Officers:**

Director Davis presented 6 full-time academy classes and 6 part-time academy classes for certification pending completion of all requirements.

Thirty-three full-time and six part-time equivalency of training candidates were presented for certification pending completion of all requirements. The Chair entertained a motion. Constable McKay made a motion to approve the full-time classes, the part-time classes, and the equivalency candidates for certification subject to meeting all requirements. Dr. Mallory seconded the motion. The motion was adopted without opposition.

### **Director's Report:**

Many agencies are reporting that it has become very difficult to be fully staffed. It also is apparent that agencies are hiring officers that they ordinarily would not have considered in order to fill vacancies.

### **Certification Review Hearing for Officer Larry Keith Calvert:**

The Board on Law Enforcement Officer Standards and Training (BLEOST) received a "Full-Time Law Enforcement Application for Certification" from the Tishomingo County Sheriff's Department. This agency hired Officer Calvert as a law enforcement officer on 10-24-22. Based on information in his certification file, the Board's staff has determined that he is not eligible for certification. Officer Calvert requested this certification review hearing.

The Board on Law Enforcement Officer Standards & Training (BLEOST) has been provided information that he has been convicted, pled guilty, been ordered into probation, and fined in relation to a crime involving moral turpitude or that is directly related to the duties and responsibilities of a law enforcement officer. His conduct greatly diminishes the public trust in the competence and reliability of a law enforcement officer. According to the record, he was certified by the BLEOST as a law enforcement officer on June 16, 2005, and reactivated on March 29, 2019, certificate number 17953. He was charged with Embezzlement by misusing the Fuelman card belonging to the City of Horn Lake while he was serving as their Parks Director.

Mr. Davis presented an 18-page document, 17-page document, 7-page document, and a 64-page document, and a flash drive taken from Officer Calvert's file to back up the allegations.

Officer Calvert presented documents for the Board to consider. He explained to the Board the

events leading to his guilty plea.

The Chair entertained a motion. Constable McKay made a motion to go into closed session to consider whether to declare an executive session, DA Coleman seconded the motion. The motion passed without opposition. Ten members were present. Constable McKay made a motion to enter into executive session to consider the allegations of misconduct and evidence produced during open proceedings, and the possible issuance of an appealable order. DA Coleman seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

After executive session was completed, the Chair invited everyone back to the meeting room. DA Coleman made a motion to come out of executive session, seconded by Constable McKay. The motion passed unanimously.

The Chair announced that after deliberations in executive session he was going to read the Findings of Fact. He stated that clear and convincing evidence was placed before the Board that you, Larry Keith Calvert committed actions that would greatly diminish the public trust in your competence and reliability as a law enforcement officer, that you pled guilty to a crime directly related to the duties and responsibilities of a law enforcement officer and were fined. The Board issued the professional certificate number 17953 in the name of Larry Keith Calvert. In Executive Session, after considering the facts presented, the Board voted unanimously (10-0) to cancel certificate number 17953 in the name of Larry Keith Calvert. This action is effective on March 9, 2023.

**Next Scheduled Meeting:**

The next regular meeting is scheduled for May 11, 2023.

The Director announced that Bob Morgan was retiring on May 31<sup>st</sup> and Michael Nash was retiring on June 30<sup>th</sup>.

**Concluding Remarks; Adjournment:**

The Chair entertained a motion to adjourn. Sheriff Johnson made a motion with a second from DA Coleman, no opposition, the meeting adjourned at 12:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Director, Board on Law Enforcement Officer Standards and Training