

**BETST MINUTES**

**May 15, 2018**



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

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

Vice-Chairman Hokamp called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

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

**Members Present:**

Mrs. Sheri Hokamp, MS Chapter of APCO

Sheriff Billy McGee, Mississippi Sheriff's Association

Mrs. Marti Morgan, Mississippi Law Enforcement Officers Association

Chief Terry Tucker, Mississippi Fire Chief's Association

**Members Not Present:**

Mr. Mike Adcox, MLEOTA

Mr. Reggie Bell, State Fire Academy

Mr. Jim Hennessey, MS Chapter NENA

Mr. Stan Alford, MEMS

Mr. Daniel Farrish, MS State Board of Health

Mr. Ken Gunter, MJIC

Mr. Marvin Ratliff, Claiborne Co.

MACP - Vacant

Hon. Jimmy Dale, Attorney General's Legal Counsel

**Standards and Training Staff:**

Mrs. Dianne Berry, Operations Management Analyst, Principal

Mr. Bob Morgan, Division Director II

**Guests:**

Ms. Jonnine Fisher, Harrison County S.O.

Deputy Director Jarvis Boyd, Oktibbeha County EMA/E911

Ms. Melissa Trcka, Vicksburg - Warren 911

Mr. Paul Harkins, Lee County 911

Ms. Marie Fivecoat, Jackson Police Department Communications

Ms. Alta Richardson, Dispatching & Training Solutions, LLC; Rankin Co. S.O.

Mr. Rick Seavey, PSAC

The Chair recognized and welcomed the guests. The meeting was held in Hattiesburg during the APCO Conference.

**Presentation and Approval of Minutes:**

The Chair asked for the review of the minutes from the March 20, 2018 meeting and entertained a motion. Sheriff McGee made a motion to approve the minutes and a second was received from Chief Tucker, the minutes were approved without opposition.

**OLD BUSINESS**

**Discuss Results of Reviewing PowerPhone's Six Elective Eight Hour Classroom Courses:**

The Board continued the discussion of PowerPhone's six classroom courses. In addition to Board members receiving email copies of the courses, Mrs. Berry reviewed each course, discussed her findings with BETST staff, and adoption of these six courses were recommended for board approval.

The Chair entertained a motion. Chief Tucker made a motion to approve PowerPhone's six classroom courses as electives. Mrs. Morgan seconded the motion and it passed without opposition.

**Discussion for Final Approval of the Eight Hour Human Trafficking Training Course:**

Mrs. Berry advised the Board that she attended the Pilot program class and found that interaction of the students was very positive. Mrs. Berry was very happy with the class presentation by the instructors and recommended final approval of the course.

The Chair entertained a motion. Mrs. Morgan made a motion for final approval of the eight-hour Human Trafficking Training Course. Sheriff McGee seconded the motion and it passed without opposition.

**Discussion of Certification Application Question Eight Concerning Requesting Information on Addiction or Hospitalization for the Use of Alcohol or Drugs:**

Director Morgan advised the Board of findings from Board Counsel Hon. Jimmy Dale where his research did not find that it would be a violation of the HIPPA Act. He did state that the Disabilities Act might prefer that it be worded differently. Director Morgan also advised the Board that Director Davis's research showed that no one's certification has ever been revoked or denied due to this question.

After discussion, Mrs. Morgan made a motion to remove this question from the application. Sheriff McGee seconded the motion and it passed without opposition.

**Discuss NECI Course Updates:**

Mr. Jim Hennessey met with Mrs. Berry Sunday, May 13, 2018 and advised that his review of the NECI Course Updates showed that they had not provided the requested information to the BETST staff and recommended that the NECI Course not be approved until such information is provided.

After, discussion, Mrs. Morgan made a motion to not approve the NECI Course until the information requested by the Board is received and reviewed and brought back to the Board for discussion. Chief Tucker seconded the motion and it passed without opposition.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**Presentation of New Courses - Request for Approval of Pilot Program - Alta Richardson - Domestic Violence, 8 hour course; National NENA Conference - Nashville, Tennessee; MS 911 Coordinators Conference - Tunica -Paul Harkins:**

**Discuss the pilot program request for Domestic Violence:**

Mrs. Alta Richardson made a presentation to the Board on an 8-hour Domestic Violence Training Course for 911 Personnel that she developed to be taught as an approved elective.

After the presentation, the Chair entertained a motion. Mrs. Morgan made a motion to approve this course as a Pilot program, it received a second from Sheriff McGee. The motion carried without opposition.

#### **Discuss the request from Two Agencies to Attend the NENA Conference:**

Director Morgan and Mrs. Berry advised the Board of the cost associated with the three individuals request for attendance at the NENA Conference in Nashville, Tennessee. Vice Chair Hokamp reminded the Board that previous out of state conferences had been denied due to the cost.

After discussion, Mrs. Morgan made a motion to not approve the request to attend the NENA Conference in Nashville, Tennessee. Sheriff McGee seconded the motion and it passed without opposition.

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

Director Morgan advised the Board that the process for hiring an employee to help Mrs. Berry with the BETST requirements was finally nearing completion and that hopefully the new employee will be hired by June 1, 2018. He advised board members that Marie Fivecoat had applied for the position.

Director Morgan advised board members that Mr. Paul Harkins was requesting approval of the 911 Coordinators conference in Tunica, Mississippi in October. Mr. Harkins also invited the BETST Board to have a board meeting at the conference. Mrs. Berry advised Board members that the curriculum Mr. Harkins submitted contained the necessary hours of training to qualify for the \$495.00 registration fee.

Chief Tucker made a motion to approve the 911 Coordinators conference request. Sheriff McGee seconded the motion and it passed without opposition.

Director Morgan opened the discussion of Instructor evaluations based on BETST staff discussions of whether to send only the negative evaluations to instructors or to send all the evaluations to instructors. After a lengthy discussion of pros and cons, Mrs. Morgan made a motion to have BETST staff develop a list of instructor guidelines with requirements for evaluations, class presentations, and a follow-up action plan for

instructors for course improvements regarding negative evaluations. Sheriff McGee seconded the motion and it passed without opposition.

**Schedule of Next Meeting Date, Time and Location:**

Notifications of the specific date of the next BETST Board Meeting will be sent via email to board members.

**Adjournment:**

Chief Tucker made a motion to adjourn. Sheriff McGee seconded the motion and it passed without opposition. The meeting was completed at 11:30 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Robert E. Morgan".

Division Director II, Office of Standards and Training