

Maine EMS Exam Committee Meeting

Tuesday, July 18, 2006

De Champlain Conference Room, Augusta

Minutes

Present: Jacky Vaniotis – Chair, Gary Utgard, Bill Zito, Kelly Roderick,
Glenn Targonski

Absent: Rick Doughty, Joanne LeBrun, Bob Hawkes,

Guest:

Staff: Drexell White

1. Call To Order - The meeting was called to order at 9:40 a.m.

A. Assign Timekeeper – Kelly Roderick

B. Additions/Deletions to the Agenda – Thank You Letters and Annual Board Letter (Vaniotis) – new business

2. Minutes – April 18, 2006, meeting minutes - review for acceptance

The minutes of the April 18, 2006 meeting were reviewed.

Motion: To accept the minutes of the April 18, 2006 meeting (Utgard; Zito - motion carries)

White apologized that the May minutes were not available. He will e-mail the May and July minutes prior to the next meeting.

D. White also reported that Joanne LeBrun would be unable to attend today's meeting due to another meeting commitment.

3. Old Business

A. Computer Adaptive Testing

Staff reported that work has begun on identifying additional test sites for the Computer Adaptive Testing (CAT) set to begin January 1, 2007 for the First Responder and EMT-Basic levels. Pearson Vue, the vendor with whom the National Registry of EMT (NREMT) has contracted to deliver the CAT, nationwide, has test centers in Westbrook and Bangor, with an affiliated test center at the Northern Maine Community College in Presque Isle. The original plan developed by staff with NREMT includes additional affiliated test centers in the Augusta/Waterville area and in Machias. K. Roderick suggested the Buker School in Augusta as a possible site. It has recently been refurbished by the Kennebec Valley Community College.

The committee discussed the need to ensure that exam sites are reasonably available to EMT candidates throughout the state. Staff will keep the committee apprised of continuing progress.

B. Paramedic Exam

In light of the Board's decision to use the NREMT Computer Adaptive Test at the First Responder and EMT-B levels, the committee discussed the possibility of recommending that the NREMT's Computer Adaptive Test for Paramedic be used in Maine to replace the current Paramedic written exam. The exam committee had explored the options for the current Paramedic exam's replacement prior to beginning work on the Integrated Practical Exam.

Although the Exam Committee and Maine EMS recognize the NREMT practical exam as being equivalent to the current Maine practical exam, there were questions about NREMT paramedic practical would be delivered (NREMT requires use of the NREMT practical at the Paramedic level).

Staff will continue to research the NREMT Paramedic practical exam.

C. IPE Changes for Fall 2006

The Committee discussed the changes to the IPE grading recommended by the joint June 14, 2006, Education /Exam Committee meeting and approved by the Board at its July 2006 meeting. The primary change is that the critical skills on the NREMT skill sheets will be evaluated and will be worth a 3 point deduction (each) off the total points awarded in the “top” section of the evaluation form. The overall passing grade will remain at 80%.

The change in the evaluation process will be in effect for all fall First Responder and EMT-B classes.

D. “3 Strikes” Policy – No Report. D. White will check with the Education Committee concerning any input they may have.

E. ALS IPE – No Report.

4. To Do List

The agenda to do list was reviewed. Items for addition are:

- Upload IPE information to the Maine EMS website as a resource to Instructor Coordinators and Course Sponsors (staff)
- Find out availability date and distribution of CAT info from NREMT (staff)
- Revise Instructor Packet for IPE to reflect critical skills evaluation (staff)
- Follow up with Education Committee on 3 strikes policy (staff)

5. New Business

A. Other – Thank You Letters and Annual Letter to the Board

J Vaniotis distributed draft letters of thanks for committee members Travis Norsworthy and Trisha Coleman, who have resigned their positions as Region 5 and 4 representative, respectively. She also distributed a copy of the annual Board letter for the committee’s review.

Motion: To disseminate the letters of thanks to Travis Norsworthy and Trisha Coleman and to forward the Exam chair’s annual letter to the Board of EMS (Utgard;Roderick)

D. White notified the Committee of Gary Utgard’s attendance and reporting of Exam Committee activities and recommendations at the last several Board meetings, including delivery of the committee’s recommendations on Computer Adaptive Testing. The committee thanked Mr. Utgard for his efforts on their behalf.

6. Next Meeting

Committee consensus was to not schedule an August 2006 meeting. The next meeting will be on September 26, 2006, at 9:30 a.m. **Committee members should note that the date is the 4th Tuesday in September.**

7. Adjournment – The meeting was adjourned at 12:02 p.m.

Respectfully submitted

Drexell White