

Maine EMS Exam Committee Meeting

Tuesday, January 22, 2008

Fallen Heroes Conference Room, Augusta

Minutes

Present: Joanne LeBrun, Kelly Roderick, Gary Utgard, Yvonne Drown, Sally Taylor

Absent: Rick Doughty Jacky Vaniotis, Bob Hawkes, Jeff Regis, Glen Targonski

Staff: Drexell White

1. Call To Order - The meeting was called to order at 9:45 a.m.

Drexell reported that Jacky Vaniotis had notified him that she would not be attending the meeting.

A. Assign Timekeeper – All members were asked to keep an eye on the time.

2. Minutes – October 16, 2007 meeting minutes - review for acceptance

The minutes of the October 16, 2007 meeting were reviewed.

Motion: To accept the minutes of the October 16, 2007, meeting (LeBrun; second by Taylor - motion carries)

3. Old Business

A. EMT-Intermediate Exam Update

The new EMT-Intermediate exam revisions have been distributed to the regional offices along with revised answer keys.

Joanne suggested that answer sheets from completed EMT-I exams be forwarded to Maine EMS in order to allow the Committee to do an item analysis of the exam.

Consensus was to have the regional offices forward completed exam answer sheets to Maine EMS in order to facilitate an item analysis by the Committee.

4. To Do List

Drexell reported that he will be assuming some duties related to the Maine EMS webpage and will work on uploading IPE information to the site

5. New Business

A. IPE Evaluation – Game plan

At its last meeting, the Committee identified “Evaluation of the Integrated Practical Exam (IPE) to include an Instructor Coordinator survey concerning the IPE and alternative forms of practical evaluation at the First Responder and EMT-Basic levels” as its top priority.

Drexell presented a summary of the Integrated Practical Exam (IPE) history. Due to language (about testing) in the Maine EMS statute, the IPE currently in use closely models the “old” Maine EMS practical exam. A 2007 statutory change that allows “...a board-approved practical evaluation of emergency medical treatment skills” (32 M.R.S.A. §85.4), opens the door for alternatives to the current IPE model for practical skills evaluation.

Discussion ensued about the need to gather information and opinions about the current IPE process from program sponsors and Instructor Coordinators who have been involved in the current IPE process.

The Committee requested that staff gather the following basic data:

- IPEs administered
- Number of students participating in the IPE process
- Pass rate for IPEs

The Committee also decided to send a survey to program sponsors and Instructor Coordinators in order to gather experiential information and recommendations concerning the current IPE process, to include:

1. The IPE is conducted as part of the final course practical.
2. The IPE meets my standard as a final exam? If you disagree or strongly disagree, please comment , why not?
3. The IPE is valuable to me as a final exam testing tool.
4. In the courses I teach/sponsor, the IC conducts the IPE?
5. The skills tested in the IPE are relevant to what is taught in the class?
6. The NREMT practical skill sheets used in the IPE are provided to students throughout the class?
7. The current method of deducting 3 points for each critical skill (missed) is appropriate?
8. I require a re-test (to fulfill final course practical requirements) if a student misses a critical skill during the IPE.
9. The State Evaluator plays an important role at an IPE?
10. I provide examiner training to practical test assistants prior to IPEs
11. I favor maintaining the current IPE model as the mechanism for testing minimum skill competency for First Responders and EMT-Basics?
12. I suggest that Maine EMS adopt the following model for evaluating minimum competency of practical skills? (essay answer)

The aforementioned survey information will be sent to committee members in draft form prior to being distributed to ICs and program sponsors. State IPE evaluators will be cc'd on the survey.

6. Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Exam committee is scheduled for Tuesday February 26, 2008 at 9:30 a.m. at Maine EMS

7. Adjournment – The meeting was adjourned at 12:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Drexell White