

Maine EMS Exam Committee Meeting

Tuesday, June 24, 2008

Teleconference – Fallen Heroes Conference Room, Augusta

Minutes

Present Via Teleconference: Jacky Vaniotis – Chair, Sally Taylor, Bob Hawkes, Leah Mitchell

Absent: Rick Doughty, Gary Utgard, Jeff Regis, Glen Targonski, Joanne LeBrun, Kelly Roderick,

Staff: Drexell White

Guests: None

Call To Order - The meeting was called to order at 9:38 a.m.

Drexell noted that Gary Utgard, Jeff Regis, Joanne LeBrun and Kelly Roderick indicated that they would not be attending the meeting.

Drexell reported that some of the Maine EMS staff have taken advantage of the opportunity to work four ten-hour days. He will be in the office Tuesday through Friday each week and will provide committee members with his cell phone and home email in case they need to contact him.

A. Assign Timekeeper – Jacky will keep time for the meeting.

B. Additions/Deletions to the Agenda

a. Region 6 Representative

Leah Mitchell was introduced as the new Mid Coast EMS Council (MCEMSC) representative to the committee. Leah is a Paramedic/Firefighter for the City of Rockland, Maine Fire Department, an at-large member of the MCEMSC, a member of the MCEMSC's education committee and a Maine EMS certified Instructor Coordinator.

b. Annual Exam Committee Letter to the Maine EMS Board

1. Minutes – April 22, 2008 meeting minutes - review for acceptance

The minutes of the April 22, 2008 meeting were reviewed.

Motion: To accept the minutes of the April 22, 2008, meeting (Hawkes; second by Taylor - motion carries)

2. Old Business

A. Intermediate Practical Exam – Revision of BLS Skill Sheets – Update

Drexell reported that Kelly Roderick completed the Intermediate (BLS) skill sheet revisions and that the sheets have been posted on the Maine EMS website. He reported that Dan Batsie from Northeastern Maine EMS contacted him about the need to update the Intermediate examiner instructions.

Drexell will update the examiner instruction sheets for the revised Intermediate (BLS) skill sheets.

B. Exam Administration Manual Update

The Exam Administration manual needs to be updated to reflect changes in written and practical testing.

Drexell will draft revisions for consideration by the committee at the September 2008 meeting.

C. Intermediate Written Exam – Protocol Changes

After reviewing the November 2008 revision of the Maine EMS Intermediate State written exam, Drexell reported that he found no inconsistencies with the new protocols.

He also reported that the regional offices have provided forty-three Intermediate answer sheets for use by the committee in its item analysis of the revised Intermediate written exam. He will send a reminder/thank you to the regions regarding submission of the sheets.

Jacky suggested that the Intermediate written exam item analysis be included on the September 2008 agenda.

Discussion continued about whether the Intermediate Exam will be revised to include questions about new protocols (e.g., CPAP). Consensus was to revisit the question in the fall of 2008, with the expectation that Maine EMS will have a better handle on the direction EMT-Intermediate curriculum and training will take.

4. To Do List – To be updated based upon the meeting

5. New Business

A. Addition - Annual Exam Committee Letter to the Maine EMS Board

Jacky provided the committee with a copy of the draft her annual letter to the Board that outlines the work of the committee during the past year. Consensus was to endorse the letter as amended during the meeting and to include Computer Based Testing (CBT) and Integrated Practical Exam (IPE) statistics.

Jacky will include a caveat concerning the initial CBT test results. When the National Registry of EMTs (NREMT) implemented CBT, it gave persons who had taken the “old” NREMT written exam a clean slate (i.e., even if the candidate had failed the written exam three times, he or she would still be allowed three attempts at the CBT, as if the candidate had never tested before). The action by NREMT will skew the data concerning success rates for “first attempts”.

In order to expedite the letter, Jacky asked that any further comments be provided to her by end of business, today.

It was also reported that the Board approved the committee’s recommendations concerning continued use of the Integrated Practical Exam (IPE) and the recommended change in IPE scoring (i.e., to assess negative scores on skill sheets when critical skills are missed)

6. Next Meeting

Given the challenges of meeting during July and August and in that draft materials to the committee are scheduled for September, there will be no July or August exam committee meeting. The next meeting of the Exam committee is scheduled for Tuesday September 23, 2008 at 9:30 a.m. at Maine EMS

7. Adjournment – The meeting was adjourned at 10:36 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Drexell White