

Telecommunications Policy Committee Minutes

November 4, 2020

The Telecommunications Policy Committee of the Board on Public Safety Standards and Training held a regular meeting on November 4, 2020, at the Oregon Public Safety Academy in Salem, Oregon. Linsay Hale called the meeting to order at 9:00 am

Committee Members: (All members participated via WebEx)

Rebecca Interiano, Oregon State Police
Bob Horton, Oregon Fire Chiefs Association
Brandon Klocko, Emergency Medical Services & Trauma Rep.
Andre Lindauer, Public Member
Chelsea LaBar, APCO
Candace Pozdolski, Line-Level Telecommunicator
Robin Sells, Oregon Association of Chiefs of Police
Erica Stolhand, APCO
Tim Svenson, Oregon State Sheriff's Association
Matt Dale, OFCA EMS Section

DPSST Staff:

Linsay Hale, Professional Standards/Interim Training Division Director
Les Hallman, Interim DPSST Director
Wendy Nunez, Criminal Justice Office Specialist
Jennifer Howald, Administrative Rules Coordinator
Marsha Morin, Criminal Justice Certification Program Manager
Sara Stewart, Learning & Performance Coordinator



1. Introductions

Introductions of members, guest and staff were presented.

2. Approve June 10, 2020 Meeting Minutes

Matt Dale moved to approve the minutes from the 6/10/2020 Telecommunications Policy Committee meeting. Erica Stolhand seconded the motion. The motion passes unanimously.

3. Approval for Change to the Basic Telecommunications Curriculum

Presented by Sara Stewart

The Training Division requests the approval of the Telecommunications Policy Committee to make modifications to the Basic Telecommunications (BT) curriculum

based on a review completed by the Telecommunications Curriculum Committee in March 2020.

Background: The Telecommunications Curriculum Committee conducted a review of the Basic Telecommunications curriculum following the completion of four successful student cohorts since implementation of the new program in 2019.

As part of this review, the committee identified procedures associated with the Scenario and Safety Briefing that could be streamlined for efficiency, leading to an extra hour of training for repurposing within the overall program.

To best utilize this hour, the committee recommended the addition of introductory training on the research behind telephonic CPR. Since not all telecommunications agencies employ emergency medical dispatchers, the committee felt it prudent that all new telecommunicators have a basic understanding of the science and significance of beginning chest compressions as early as possible in an emergency situation.

Chelsea Lebar moved to recommend that the Board approve the updated 2021 Basic Telecommunications curriculum. Brandon Klocko seconded the motion. The motion passes unanimously.

4. Administrative Closures – Telecommunications/Emergency Medical Dispatchers

Presented by Linsay Hale

Staff presented the following professional standards cases to the Telecommunications Policy Committee for administrative closure.

	Name	DPSST#	Certification(s)	Reason for Closure
a)	Jeffery Bucher	52069	Basic Telecommunicator and EMD	Separation related to performance issues and incompetence only.
b)	Jeffrey Cody	50809	Basic and Intermediate Telecommunicator and Basic EMD	Separation related to work performance and incompetence only.
c)	Laura Hartman	39142	Basic, Intermediate, and Advanced Telecommunicator and Basic EMD	Separation due to attendance issues only.
d)	Elizabeth Smith	35497	Basic, Intermediate, and Advanced Telecommunicator and Basic EMD	Separation related to performance issues and insubordination only.

Matt Dale moved to approve the recommendations made by staff to administratively close the above listed cases. Bob Horton seconded the motion. The motion passes unanimously.

5. Rupel, Lindsay (56987) Certification Review: Telecommunications/Emergency Medical Dispatch

Presented by Linsay Hale

Reason for Discretionary Review

On November 26, 2019, Lindsay Rupel resigned her position with the Baker County Sheriff's Office (BCSO) while under investigation for knowingly providing false and misleading information to a Baker City police officer regarding a reported stolen/repossessed vehicle. Staff have determined that Rupel's intentional untruthfulness violates the Board's moral fitness standards.

<i>Policy Committee Discussion/Vote</i>	<i>Second</i>	<i>Vote</i>	<i>Outcome</i>
Matt Dale moved that the Telecommunications Policy Committee adopt the staff report.	Chelsea Labar	10 ayes; 0 nays	Motion Passed Unanimously
<p>The committee discussed the moral violation and identified the following aggravating and mitigating factors specific to this case.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mitigating <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Rupel was a relatively inexperienced dispatcher at the time of her misconduct (less than three years). ○ Rupel had worked a long shift, and had recently changed shifts. • Aggravating <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Rupel was knowingly dishonest to a law enforcement officer in an attempt to cover up her error. 			
Matt Dale moved, after considering the identified violations of the Board's moral fitness standard and weighing the aggravating and mitigating circumstances unique to this case, to recommend the Board take action against Rupel's certifications	Chelsea Labar	10 ayes; 0 nays	Motion Passed Unanimously
Matt Dale moved, after considering the totality of the case, to recommend that Rupel be ineligible to hold public safety certification for a lifetime.	Brandon Klocko	10 ayes; 0 nays	Motion Passed Unanimously

6. Smith, Jason (42666) Certification Review: Telecommunications/Emergency Medical Dispatch

Presented by Linsay Hale

Reason for Discretionary Review

On November 9, 2018, Jason Smith resigned his position as a dispatcher with the Junction City Police Department (JCPD) as part of a settlement agreement. At the time of his resignation, Smith was the subject of three separate JCPD investigations. These investigations generally involved:

- Smith’s unprofessional interaction with a member of the community;
- Smith’s deletion of city email and his criticism of the JCPD Chief; and
- Smith’s inappropriate interception and distribution of a piece of mail not addressed to him.

After reviewing the information provided, staff is limiting the reason for this review to Smith’s decision to open, read and distribute an official letter addressed to the JCPD Chief, and his untruthfulness during the subsequent investigation as violations of the Board’s moral fitness standards.

<i>Policy Committee Discussion/Vote</i>	<i>Second</i>	<i>Vote</i>	<i>Outcome</i>
Chelsea Labar moved that the Telecommunications Policy Committee adopt the staff report.	Brandon Klocko	10 ayes; 0 nays	Motion Passed Unanimously
<p>The committee discussed the moral violation and identified the following aggravating and mitigating factors specific to this case.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mitigating <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Smith provided written mitigation and letters of reference attesting to his expertise as a dispatcher. • Aggravating <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Smith had been employed as a dispatcher for over 15 years at the time of his separation and held Intermediate and Advanced levels of Telecommunicator certification. ○ Smith attempted to cover up his behavior, only confessing when confronted with evidence that proved his guilt. ○ Smith appears to have engaged in a pattern of similar behavior and poor-decision-making during his employment as a dispatcher. 			

Matt Dale moved, after considering the identified violations of the Board's moral fitness standard and weighing the aggravating and mitigating circumstances unique to this case, to recommend the Board take action against Smith's certifications.	Rebecca Interiano	10 ayes; 0 nays	Motion Passed Unanimously
Matt Dale moved, after considering the totality of the case, to recommend that Smith be ineligible to hold public safety certification for a lifetime.	Andre Lindauer	10 ayes; 0 nays	Motion Passed Unanimously

7. Nominations and Appointment to the Applicant Review Committee

Presented by Marsha Morin

On July 23, 2020, the Board approved the formation of the Applicant Review Committee. The Applicant Review Committee (ARC) is charged with the review of discretionary professional standards cases where the public safety professional is a new applicant for DPSST training and certification and the professional standards case is based on a criminal disposition that occurred prior to employment in public safety.

The seven-person membership of the ARC is comprised of two members from each of the Criminal Justice Policy Committees and the public member from the Board. ARC member representing the Policy Committees will serve a one-year term and may be reappointed for a second term. The public member of the Board will serve by virtue of the position. The ARC will meet monthly, or as needed.

To be eligible to serve on the ARC, a Policy Committee member must have served at least one term on a Policy Committee.

Matt Dale nominated Erica Stolhand and Andre Lindauer represent the Telecommunications Policy Committee on the Applicant Review Committee. Brandon Klocko seconded the nomination. The nominations pass with Erica Stolhand and Andre Lindauer abstaining.

8. Proposed Rule Changes for OAR 259-008-0015, 259-008-0290, 259-008-0300 and 259-008-0310: Moral Fitness Standards Relating to Discrimination

Presented by Jennifer Howald

DPSST received correspondence from a number of concerned citizens requesting the Board consider amending its administrative rule (OAR) to include membership in a hate group as mandatory grounds for denial or revocation of criminal justice public safety certification.

Proposed rule changes were prepared with the goal of addressing the citizen request as well as identifying additional opportunities to address public safety officers or applicants who have engaged in criminal discriminatory conduct, or knowingly engaged in discriminatory conduct on or off duty as a part of the Board's moral fitness standards for public safety professionals.

Consensus reached approving the fiscal impact statements provided by staff.

Chelsea LeBar moved to recommend approving the filing the proposed rule changes for OAR 259-008-0015, 259-008-0290, 259-008-0300 and 259-008-0310: Moral Fitness Standards Relating to Discrimination as a proposed rule, and a permanent rule if no comments are received. Bob Horton seconded the motion. The motion passes unanimously.

9. Department Update

Linsay Hale Reported:

- DPSST is continuing to work with APCO on finding a replacement for Kelly Dutra who termed out at the end of June. Kelly represented telecommunications on the Board, and served as the Chair of the Telecommunications Policy Committee.
- DPSST is moving forward with four Board-approved legislative concepts during the 2021 session (two relating to private security accountability, one performing housekeeping on the private investigator application process, and other adjusting DPSST's procurement authority). While DPSST hasn't introduced any bills directly affecting our criminal justice disciplines, we fully expect there to be numerous bills introduced that will impact all of public safety in Oregon. Staff will be monitoring all bills, testifying when appropriate and keeping our Policy Committees, Board and public safety partners informed.
- The recruitment for the vacant Compliance Specialist 3 position is underway. We hope to have that position filled in the coming weeks.
- DPSST is continuing to manage the COVID environment while delivering effective public safety/first responder training. While we cannot completely eliminate the transmission of COVID anymore than we can eliminate the transmission of any other illness, we continue to mitigate risk wherever possible. The health and safety of our staff and students and the integrity of our training remains our number one priorities.
- DPSST is pleased to introduce Les Hallman as the Acting Director of DPSST. Les is on an executive rotation from Tualatin Valley Fire & Rescue where he serves as Assistant Chief. We all look forward to taking advantage of Les's leadership while the recruitment for Director Gabliks' replacement is underway.

10. Next Telecommunications Policy Committee Meeting: February 3, 2021 at 9:00 am

Administrative Note:

These minutes reflect the order of the discussion/voting items as they appear on the official meeting agenda. The actual order in which they were discussed may vary.

All documents reviewed and discussed in this meeting are subject to Oregon Public Records Law (ORS 192.410 to ORS 192.505). These documents can be requested by contacting DPSST at dpsst.records@state.or.us.