

# Telecommunications Policy Committee Minutes

## November 6, 2024

The Telecommunications Policy Committee of the Board on Public Safety Standards and Training held a regular meeting on November 6, 2024, at the Oregon Public Safety Academy in Salem, Oregon. Chair, Michael Fletcher called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

### **Committee Members:**

Michael Fletcher, Chair, APCO-NENA  
Travis Ash, Oregon State Sheriff's Association (Teams)  
Gary Bell, Oregon Association of Chiefs of Police (Teams)  
Brandon Hamilton, Oregon Fire Chief's Association  
Ronda Griffin, APCO-NENA, EMS Section (Teams)  
Sean Joyce, Oregon State Police (Teams)  
Noah Juarez, Line-Level Communicator (Teams)

### **Committee Members Absent:**

Rosa Antoine, Association of Public Safety Communications Officials  
Rebecca Long, Emergency Medical Services & Trauma Rep  
Raeann Thurber, Telecommunicator  
Vacant, Public Member

### **Guests:**

None

### **DPSST Staff:**

Kathy McAlpine, Professional Standards Division Director  
Melissa Lang-Bacho, Professional Standards Compliance Coordinator  
Jennifer Levario, Professional Standards Compliance Coordinator  
Cindy Park, Professional Standards Compliance Coordinator  
Jennifer Howald, Administrative Rules Coordinator  
Sam Tenney, Public Information Officer  
Bill Steele, Deputy Director  
Brandy Pitt, Scheduling Specialist  
Erica Riddell, Criminal Justice Support Specialist  
Shelby Wright, Executive Assistant



### **1. Introductions**

Introductions of members, guests and staff.

### **2. Approve August 7, 2024 Meeting Minutes**

A consensus was reached to approve the *August 7, 2024*, Meeting Minutes.

### **3. Administrative Closure Consent Agenda**

Presented by Melissa Lang-Bacho, Professional Standards Compliance Coordinator

The Department presented recommendations to administratively close the following professional standards cases to the Telecommunications Policy Committee.

**a) Lynch, Pauline (25464) Telecommunications and Emergency Medical Dispatch**

On February 20, 2024, Pauline Lynch resigned during an internal investigation into her handling of a 911 call on January 14, 2024. During the call on January 14, 2024, a man reported that he had driven their truck into the river and was seeking assistance. At the time of the call, no CCSO deputies were on duty.

When Lynch was relieved at the end of her shift, she did not pass off the call details to the next shift but did request a tow truck. When deputies arrived on shift, they were unable to locate the vehicle. When a deputy located the vehicle, it was completely submerged underwater. The caller did not survive.

Both Lynch and another dispatcher on shift did not believe the call was an emergency. The CCSO did not have a protocol for how to handle calls when there are no deputies on duty during an emergency, however, dispatchers can call other agencies for assistance or an on-call officer.

The Department found Lynch’s conduct to be performance based. Although a member of the public was harmed, there is insufficient information to find whether Lynch’s conduct specifically was the cause of the harm or if the outcome would have been the same if action had been immediately taken.

*Gary Bell moved to approve the Administrative Closure Consent Agenda recommendations made by the Department. Sean Joyce seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.*

**4. Karr, Scott (38369) Certification Review: {Emergency Medical Dispatch}**

Presented by Melissa Lang-Bacho, Professional Standards Compliance Coordinator

*Reason for Discretionary Review*

On November 25, 2023, Karr resigned from his position with Bay Cities Ambulance (BCA) as an EMD Dispatcher. Upon notification of his separation, the Department reviewed Oregon Circuit Court records and the Law Enforcement Data System (LEDS) for criminal dispositions. The Department identified a criminal conviction for *Theft in the Third Degree* from July 8, 2013, that had not been previously reported or reviewed.

<i>Policy Committee Discussion/Vote</i>	<i>Second</i>	<i>Vote</i>	<i>Outcome</i>
A consensus was reached to adopt the record.			
The Telecommunications Policy Committee found the following moral fitness violations and factors:  <i>Moral Fitness Violations:</i>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dishonesty: Karr was intentionally deceptive when he attempted to conceal items and leave a store without purchasing them.</li> <li>• Misuse of Authority: The committee did not identify elements of misuse of authority.</li> <li>• Misconduct: Karr violated criminal law and was convicted of <i>Theft in the Third Degree</i>.</li> </ul>			

<i>Aggravating Factors:</i>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Karr did not report or disclose his conviction in the ten years after it occurred.</li> <li>• Karr was required to report his conviction.</li> </ul>			
<i>Mitigating Factors:</i>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Once confronted by loss prevention and law enforcement, Karr was cooperative.</li> </ul>			
Noah Juarez moved that the Telecommunications Policy Committee affirm the moral fitness violations as presented.	Gary Bell	7 ayes; 0 nays	Motion Passed Unanimously
Brandon Hamilton moved, after considering the identified violations of the Board’s moral fitness standards and weighing the aggravating and mitigating circumstances unique to this case, that Board action should be taken against Karr’s certification.	Gary Bell	7 ayes; 0 nays	Motion Passed Unanimously
Brandon Hamilton moved, after considering the totality of the case, that Karr be ineligible to hold public safety certification for 7 years.	Gary Bell	7 ayes; 0 nays	Motion Passed Unanimously

**5. Agency Updates**

Presented by Bill Steele, Deputy Director

- DPSST is working hard to ensure that the schedule for Basic courses next year is more efficient but also meeting the demands of all the agencies throughout Oregon and the different disciplines that they support.
- DPSST is currently working through our budget cycle for the next biennium. We have submitted our requested budget to the Governor’s Office and the Governor’s recommended budget will be released on December 2<sup>nd</sup> where we will get a better sense of what the next biennium will look like. We have some big asks in our budget this year, including a learning management system, additional staffing on campus and regionally, and some building improvements and additions on the grounds.

**6. Division Updates**

Presented by Kathy McAlpine, Professional Standards Division Director

- The Telecommunications Policy Committee members and DPSST staff recognized and thanked Raeann Thurber for her service on the Telecommunications Policy Committee and the Applicant Review Committee as her last term has now expired. We appreciate all the time and dedication that she has given to the policy committees, she will be missed!

- With member Thurber’s final term expiring, we need to fill a few vacancies on the Telecommunications Policy Committee now as well as filling a spot in the Applicant Review Committee.

## 7. **Section Updates**

Presented by Kathy Fink, Standards and Certification Program Manager

- The Standards and Certification section continues to work on outreach to different agencies throughout Oregon. Most recently, in September, a few members of the team attended the APCO conference and held a workshop to discuss all facets of standards and certification, especially information regarding professional standards. We are hopeful to continue this type of outreach in the future.
- DPSST has had a difficult time filing Basic Telecommunications courses recently, the last four Basic Telecommunications courses were not registered to full capacity. DPSST is asking agencies to try and be cognizant of when they remove an individual from a Basic Telecommunications course. When an individual is pulled from the course too late, DPSST is unable to contact other agencies to fill these vacancies.

## 8. **Applicant Review Committee Member Nominations**

Presented by Kathy McAlpine, Professional Standards Division Director

*Brandon Hamilton moved to nominate Chair Michael Fletcher to the Applicant Review Committee. Gary Bell seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.*

## 9. **Next Telecommunications Policy Committee Meeting: February 5, 2025 at 9:00 a.m.**

*Administrative Notes:*

*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@dpsst.oregon.gov](mailto:dpsst.records@dpsst.oregon.gov).*