

Telecommunications Policy Committee Minutes

February 3, 2021

The Telecommunications Policy Committee of the Board on Public Safety Standards and Training held a regular meeting on February 3, 2021, at the Oregon Public Safety Academy in Salem, Oregon. Marsha Morin called the meeting to order at 9:00 am

Committee Members: (All members participated via WebEx)

April Benedetti, Line-Level Communicator
Matt Dale, OFCA EMS Section
Rebecca Interiano, Oregon State Police
Brandon Klocko, Emergency Medical Services & Trauma Rep.
Andre Lindauer, Public Member
Robin Sells, Oregon Association of Chiefs of Police
Erica Stolhand, APCO
Tim Svenson, Oregon State Sheriff's Association
Raeann Thurber, Telecommunicators

Committee Members Absent:

Bob Horton, Oregon Fire Chiefs Association
Chelsea LaBar, APCO

DPSST Staff:

Marsha Morin, Criminal Justice Certification Program Manager
Wendy Nunez, Criminal Justice Office Specialist
Jennifer Howald, Administrative Rules Coordinator
Melissa Lang, Professional Standards Case Manager



1. Introductions

Introductions of members, guest and staff were presented.

2. Approve November 4, 2020 Meeting Minutes

Matt Dale moved to approve the minutes from the 11/4/2020 Telecommunications Policy Committee meeting. Erica Stolhand seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

3. **Administrative Closures – Telecommunications/Emergency Medical Dispatchers**

Presented by Marsha Morin

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

	Name	DPSST#	Certification(s)	Reason for Closure
a)	Megan Opel	59465	Basic Telecommunicator and EMD	Opel was discharged from probationary employment due to violation of agency policies by being in a relationship with a convicted felon who was also a member of an outlaw motorcycle club. A review of the investigatory documents revealed there was no indication Opel used her position to provide information to the individual or the motor cycle club and she did not engage in any behavior that appears to violate a moral fitness standard.

Tim Svenson moved to approve the recommendations made by staff to administratively close the above listed case. Brandon Klocko seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

4. **Proposed Rule Changes for OAR 259-008-0015, 259-008-0290, 259-008-0300 and 259-008-0310: Moral Fitness Standards Relating to Discrimination – Review of Comments**

Presented by Jennifer Howald

During the November 2020 policy committee meetings, the Telecommunications, Corrections and Police Policy Committees reviewed draft rule changes adding discrimination as a violation of the moral fitness standards adopted by the Board on Public Safety Standards and Training.

The draft rule changes received comments through the Policy Committee reviews and the proposed rule public comment period. Staff presented the comments and recommend next steps. The recommendations included:

- Tabling the rule change for OAR 259-008-0015 for further review and changes;
- Maintaining the original intent of the rule changes by continuing to recognize discriminatory conduct as a separate moral fitness violation; and

- Maintaining the original intent of the rule changes by continuing to specify recognized biases within the definitions for Discharge for Cause and Discriminatory Conduct.

Staff provided an overview of the revised proposed rule changes to review and reaffirm the intent of the rule changes.

The revised proposed rule changes included:

- Adding mandatory denial or revocation for a conviction that is a bias or hate crime (a permanent and lifetime disqualifier);
- Adding discrimination to the definition of discharge for cause, which applies to intentional conduct performed under the color of office (a permanent and lifetime disqualifier);
- Adding Discriminatory Conduct to the discretionary denial or revocation categories that apply to criminal dispositions that occur while employed as a public safety professional and review of separations of employment, with an ineligibility period (the time that must pass after a denial/revocation before applying for certification again) that ranges from 3 years to lifetime; and
- Adding Discriminatory Conduct to the discretionary denial categories that apply to review of criminal dispositions that occurred prior to employment in public safety, with an ineligibility period (the time that must pass after a denial/revocation before applying for certification again) that ranges from zero days to ten years.

Consensus reached to approve the staff recommendations and revisions to the proposed rule changes as outlined in Attachment C.

Matt Dale moved to recommend the Board approve filing the revised proposed rule changes for OAR 259-008-0290, 259-008-0300 and 259-008-0310 as permanent rule changes. Tim Svenson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

5. Department Update

Marsha Morin Reported:

- Brandon Klocko is resigning his position due to change in employment, we wish him all the best and thank him for his service to the Telecommunications Policy Committee and to Oregon.
- Welcome April Benedetti and Raeann Thurber as new members representing line-level telecommunicators.
- Chair (Board) position still vacant – working with APCO on a replacement.
- Arbitration workgroup membership has been set – this group will be looking at the effects of arbitration on retention of certification.
- Looking to create a workgroup on medical standards, field training officer training and certification and waivers of the minimum training standards
- Busy legislative session, a lot of focus on law enforcement accountability, some will inevitably also affect dispatchers.
- Expanding the Professional Standards Cases Database, to include all open cases and recently closed with more searchable fields.

- Ethics Bulletin has retired, in its place will be a monthly Professional Standards Update that will provide additional statistical data on the most requested items.
- Applicant Review Committee will have its first meeting later this month.
- COVID mitigation during training, continue to reevaluate requirements and scheduling on an on-going basis to mitigate the best we can. DPSST employees were designated by the Marion County Health Authority as a tier 1a agency for vaccination because of our role in training first responders.
- New denial/revocation rules are in place for the Fire Certification Program, and will be used for the first time at their February meeting.
- Director recruitment in process, we are expecting a final decision this month.

6. Next Telecommunications Policy Committee Meeting: May 5, 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.