



Kent Appelhans, Chair
Mark Marchetta, Sr., Vice Chair

Dr. Carol Cunningham, State Medical Director

FIREFIGHTER & FIRE SAFETY INSPECTOR TRAINING SUBCOMMITTEE

STATE BOARD OF EMERGENCY MEDICAL, FIRE AND TRANSPORTATION SERVICES
OHIO DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY

MINUTES

Tuesday, March 8, 2022

Committee Meeting Date and Location: Tuesday, March 8, 2022, the Shipley Building, Conference Room 1106, 1970 W. Broad Street, Columbus, OH 43223

I. Welcome

a. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m.

b. Membership Updates

Executive Director Wagoner updated the FFFSI Training Subcommittee on the current status of the State Board of Emergency Medical, Fire and Transportation Services (EMFTS) positions. One-third of the positions on the Board are vacant. ODEMS has been working with the Boards and Commissions and Director Stickrath's office on how to move forward. Assistant Director Huey will meet with the EMFTS Board during April's Board Retreat to discuss ways to mitigate this shortage in the future. This affects the Firefighter & Fire Safety Inspector Training Committee and therefore this Subcommittee. The current members of this subcommittee are: Dudley Wright, TJ Cullison, Jeremy Guenther and Bill Mastroianni.

II. Roll Call

- a. Committee Members Present: TJ Cullison, Jeremy Guenther, and Dudley Wright
- b. Committee Members Absent: Bill Mastroianni
- c. DPS and EMS Staff Members Present: Rob Wagoner, Ted Kienzle, Doug Orahod and Jayn Mayton
- d. Public Present: Larry Ables, Jay Clevenger, Tom Feldman, Dick Glessner, Tony Jolly, Jeremy S. Linn, Johnny Mason, Kris Miller, Rob Morton, David Reichert, Jack Smith, Dan Swords, Chief Tim Thomas, Zachary Wolfe

III. Open Forum

No discussions were brought forward.

IV. Review and Approval of the Firefighter & Fire Safety Inspector Training Subcommittee Meeting Minutes of January 11, 2022

The meeting minutes from the Firefighter & Fire Safety Inspector Training Subcommittee Meeting Minutes of January 11, 2022 were approved with no changes.

MOTION: Motion to approve the Firefighter Fire Safety Inspector Training Subcommittee meeting minutes from January 11, 2022 with no changes. Mr. Cullison – First. Mr. Guenther – Second. All in favor. None opposed. Motion carried.

V. Executive Director Wagoner Report

Executive Director Wagoner reported on the introduction of the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding to the public. There will be guidance released on the publicsafety.ohio.gov website regarding the short window of opportunity to respond to this competitive grant process. Executive Director Wagoner has presented information regarding recruitment and retention of firefighters, and especially of volunteer firefighters, to the Fire Chiefs Symposium and to the State Fire Marshal's Office Symposium, resulting in increased attention by the Governor's office and others. In the last eight years there has been a decrease of 28.5% in the number of VFF, while FFI and FFII have increased a little over 3%. In addition, in that same eight-year period there has been a loss of over 5% of total certified personnel that the Division certifies in both EMS and fire.

As you may recall, there was a recommendation from the House State and Local Government Committee that firefighter continuing education be left up to the local level. Later this morning Deputy Director Jennings will be meeting with our ODPS legislative liaison and the vice chair from the House committee. Our division has received support and offers of assistance from fire chiefs and the Marshal's office. In particular, Marshal Reardon deserves a thank you for his support, who speaks on behalf of the fire service and agrees that it would be a move in the wrong direction.

As there were no questions, Executive Director Wagoner concluded his report.

VI. State Fire Marshal Report – Jack Smith

Mr. Smith presented his report from the State Fire Marshal's Office. The legal team at the Fire Marshal's office is working hard on drafting new fireworks rules to align with the new fireworks legislation which will become legal July 1st. The Capital Budget is almost three months behind schedule, but the Fire Marshal Office's requests are continuing to make it through the approval process at this time. Echoing Executive Director Wagoner's statements, the Governor's Office will be announcing the formation of the Ohio Volunteer Fire Service Task Force, to begin the process of looking at ways to remedy the long-term problems with recruitment and retention and other volunteer issues. The Marshal's Office has continued to support this initiative, along with the Division of EMS.

VII. Ohio Fire Organizations Reports

Ohio Society of Fire Service Instructors (OSFSI) – Jeremy Linn

Mr. Linn provided updates on OSFSI's participation in the upcoming National Fire Academy Ohio Weekend. It is now open for registration online. The price is \$175.00, and the date is over the weekend of June 24, 25 and 26, 2022. Now available online is a full list of all of the National Fire Academy's requirements to be on campus. Most importantly is that all participants are required to

be vaccinated. We are excited, and hoping to take 150 firefighters. We are excited about having so many great classes, and meeting again after a two-year absence.

VIII. DEMS Fire Education Report

Mr. Kienzle gave the DEMS Fire Education report, stating that there are a lot of things going on for Fire Safety Inspector I and Fire Safety Inspector II, the OAC rules for fire instructor are still progressing, we are doing some reporting for the unaffiliated today, and I will have some good news for the charter that is affiliating for the CSU test, with the ability to sign off on those CEs on the state also. More details on these matters will be discussed under following agenda items.

Ohio Hall of Fame Fire Service & Ohio Fire Awards

Ms. Mayton reported that the awards for the upcoming Ohio Hall of Fame event have been received. They were newly created this year, in a classic crystal flame design. Executive Director Wagoner expressed how much he has appreciated working with the State Fire Marshal's Office this year in totally transforming the event. It will be held at COSI on March 23rd at 2:00 p.m. If you are interested in going, please make reservations. It will be live streamed for all who are interested in seeing it. Mr. Smith mentioned that the Fire Marshal's office has heard from the governor's office that the Governor and Lt. Governor may not be able to attend the event itself, due to the State of the State Address being rescheduled for the same afternoon, but they are hoping on attending the reception afterwards.

IX. Old Business

HRO and FSI examination update

Mr. Kienzle reviewed the FSI Excel Response and Weighted Importance Score (W.I.S.) spreadsheet with the members. These tables show SME ratings of JPRs for Hazard Recognition Officer and Fire Safety Inspector. The SMEs rated each JPR for frequency of use and safety, or potential for threat to life-safety to the provider. Each certification has a Weighted Importance Score table, and the third tab is the total of the two certifications' W.I.S. scores.

Executive Director Wagoner explained the ratings procedure and the meaning of the metrics. When building a test plan to reflect occupational practice, if it is balanced based merely by looking at frequency, things that are potentially harmful or could even lead to death might be missed. The ratings by the SMEs help to balance the focus of the testing itself. By identifying where a test may be out of balance, items might be moved, for example, into a random category.

In figuring the W.I.S. scores, the weight of the Safety Average score is three times (3x) more important than the weight of the Frequency Average. Mr. Kienzle summarized the analysis by stating that when comparing these W.I.S. scores with the existing JPRs or Skills test balance, the importance of the skills in the existing tests don't match up with what the SMEs have defined as being important.

Applying this information, Executive Director Wagoner and Mr. Orahod are able to assess cognitive examinations. The current HRO test, which is an 80-item test (60 closed book and 20 open book items), could be changed to a 70-item exam would reduce the time to 1 hour and 45 minutes - consistent with other exams and easier to proctor. A similar rebalancing can be done with the FSI exam, and for skills testing for Inspector I and Inspector II. Mr. Kienzle stated that the entire effort is pretty daunting, with a great group of SMEs and others who are working hard for the State. Mr. Orahod reminded the members that SMEs' feedback is one of the most accurate evaluation tools used for cognitive and psychomotor test development, and asked that the

members direct interested parties to the ems.ohio.gov website to fill out the application to be a SME.

Action Item: *Send FSI Excel Response and WIS Scores document to all Subcommittee members and Program Directors to review once it is completed. - Assigned to Mr. Kienzle*

Volunteer Firefighter

Mr. Kienzle had nothing to discuss at this time.

Unaffiliated Firefighter

Mr. Kienzle presented a PowerPoint with updated data on the unaffiliated firefighter topic. There are 3,132 unaffiliated firefighters at this point, meaning that 7.28% of the certified FF in the State are unaffiliated at this time. By requesting all program directors in Ohio to list any manufacturing plants where they conduct courses for volunteer firefighting or any other courses, Mr. Kienzle has been able to calculate that the number is actually dwindling. One reason for this is partly because of the ODEMS IT system. Some large companies are in the database, as well as the military. However, there is no way to add an unlisted affiliation when it is learned of through reporting.

Slide 8 is a job description for the Lubrizol Corp. Fire Chief. As was discussed in the last meeting, the importance of the fire chief in connection with unaffiliated firefighters arises if that firefighter is audited. The audit forms require their CEs to be signed off with the signature of a fire chief or a program director, and must include an FDID number. The many large corporations, and some smaller fire departments, being reported do not have an FDID number, so those fire chiefs or program directors are not allowed to sign off on audit forms. If you look at OAC 4765-20-11 (J), it states:

For the purpose of continuing education approval, fire chief means a certified firefighter who has been designated as the head of a fire department or private firefighting brigade.

The OAC addresses the definition of a fire chief but does not mention an FDID number. The question becomes, can the requirement for an FDID be removed?

Action Item: *Consider qualifications for a fire chief and whether the requirement for the FDID# can be waived so that a fire chief, even one without an FDID number, can sign off on CE (example in slide #8) - Assigned to all Subcommittee members to be discussed when the entire subcommittee is back.*

Questions for Mr. Kienzle after his presentation:

Q: They are fire brigades, right? Why are they only certifying as Volunteer Firefighters? Wouldn't FF I be better? Mr. Kienzle: They would like to be FF I. The majority of them are VFF that I've come across so far.

Q: If they don't have an FDID, are they required to do any state reporting?

Mr. Kienzle: No. The only state reporting that they are on is when they run with a nearby fire department, which puts them on their report.

Q: Are they allowed to have an FDID # as a private organization?

Mr. Jack Smith answered: ORC 3747 stipulates the difference between public and private companies.

It's likely that private entities are still covered.

OFA FSI Practical Skill Changes

Mr. Kienzle had nothing further to discuss on this topic.

X. New Business

New practical skill evaluator training PowerPoint completed

Mr. Kienzle updated the Firefighter Practical Skills Evaluation Training PowerPoint under the Program Director Portal on the www.ems.ohio.gov website. He has brought this up to date and added instructor notes, so that this now also serves the purpose of being an instructor trainer aide. Please review it and contact Mr. Kienzle with any questions.

Fire Instructor I & II OAC update

Mr. Kienzle reported that the curriculum is still being developed. To date, 4765.25 is done as far as the definitions, 24 is almost complete, 22 and 23 are done, and 21, the instructor side of that, is holding us up at the moment; nothing is available for your review because it is not yet to a point to be able to share.

Pro Board® Accreditation renewal

Mr. Orahoad advised the members that the Division of EMS Education section will have a site visit from the Pro Board® accreditation team at the end of March. This renewal of the State's certification was originally due in 2020 but was rescheduled due to COVID-related delays. ODEMS is just getting reaccredited for Firefighter I and II at this time, and have decided to put off the application for Inspector I and II until Inspector I and II are drafted, at which time those levels will be considered.

XI. Other

Mr. Kienzle received a letter from Columbiana County Career & Technical Center requesting to inactivate their charter.

XII. Recap of Action Items

Action Item: *Send FSI Excel Response and WIS Scores document to all Subcommittee members and Program Directors to review once it is completed. - Assigned to Mr. Kienzle*

Action Item: *Consider qualifications for a fire chief and whether the requirement for the FDID number can be waived so that a fire chief, even one without an FDID number, can sign off on CE credits for audit purposes - Assigned to all Subcommittee members to be discussed when the entire subcommittee is back.*

XIII. Adjournment

The subcommittee meeting was adjourned at 11:01 a.m.

Motion: Mr. Guenther

Second: Mr. Cullison

Next meeting:

Tuesday, May 10, 2022

Microsoft Teams Virtual Meeting
10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.