

EMT Exam Work Group Minutes

2 p.m., Thursday, March 10, 2005
Best Western Inn
North Mankato, Minnesota

Present

Alice Almendinger
Leigh Anderson
Dawn Bidwell
Marti Breiter
Mark Griffith
Don Hauge
Kory Kaye, M.D.
Scott Melander
Laurie Oelslager, Ph.D.
Kristi Rasmussen
Craig Rees
Lance Ross
Sherm Syverson
Kim Thon

Absent

Thomas Dobrzynski
Joe Grafft
Curt Ireland
Sue Kester
Kerry McCarthy
Brett Rima
Gary Wingrove

Staff

Mary Hedges
Jo-Ann Champagne
Debby Teske

1. Introductions

Ms. Hedges asked each person to introduce themselves.

2. EMSRB response to NREMT – Mary Hedges

Ms. Hedges shared the EMSRB response to Mr. Bill Brown's (National Registry of EMTs Executive Director) request that the decision to issue Minnesota state EMT-B cards to persons failing the NREMT written exam with a 68-69% be rescinded. The EMSRB will not rescind their decision, but will re-evaluate after one year.

The Executive Committee of the NREMT have requested a meeting with members of the EMSRB to discuss the written examination issue. Members of that committee, with Phil Dickison of the NREMT, will be meeting with EMSRB members on 3/28/05.

Seven items were discussed today that the exam work group requests be discussed at the NREMT/EMSRB meeting:

- Better test item analysis – providing training programs with a break-down of what areas in each module where the student performs poorly

"To provide leadership which optimizes the quality of emergency medical care for the people of Minnesota -- in collaboration with our communities -- through policy development, regulation, system design, education, and medical direction"

- The 10% unanswerable questions on the NREMT exam when the average for a criterion referenced exam is 5%
- Specific documentation of the reliability and validity of the exam
- Disconnect between the practice analysis exam and the U.S. D.O.T. National Standard Curriculum
- Written documentation of the reading level of the exam
- Discussion of the emphasis of critical thinking skills on the exam – is that realistic at the entry level?
- Programs rely on the written exam as part of their quality assurance, but do not receive the information they need to adopt positive changes

3. NREMT computer adaptive testing meeting – Mary Hedges

Ms. Hedges will be attending a meeting held by the NREMT in St. Louis, Missouri, regarding CAT testing. Items to be discussed at the meeting will include:

- Availability of sites, hours, cost, etc.
- Presentation by PearsonVue, the testing firm working with the NREMT
- Scoring of the CAT exam – it will be pass/fail only
- Discussion of creating exams that incorporate critical thinking skills

Ms. Hedges will also be meeting with other state directors to discuss collaboration on a regional EMT-B written exam.

4. Comparison of norm referenced and criterion referenced exams – Dr. Laurie Oelslager

Dr. Oelslager provided a presentation comparing norm referenced and criterion referenced exams. She included how the NREMT exam is developed and validated, characteristics of good evaluation tools, and the differences between norm and criterion referenced exams. A glossary of measurement terms was also provided.

5. Minnesota State college and University system course completion exam – Joe Grafft

Mr. Grafft was unable to attend this meeting and will present at another date.

6. Training program instructor qualifications and requirements – group discussion

As time was running short, this discussion will take place at the next meeting.

7. Next meeting

Because of schedule conflicts with the NAEMSE Instructor Course, the next meeting will take place on Tuesday, May 17, 2005, at 2 p.m. The meeting will be held in Conference Room A, 4th Floor, University Park Plaza office building in Minneapolis.

Sherm Syverson and Dawn Bidwell will present their findings regarding instructor qualifications in surrounding states.

8. Adjourn

