

#### ALABAMA 9-1-1 BOARD MEETING

Minutes of 11/13/2024

Prior notice of this regularly scheduled meeting of the Alabama 9-1-1 Board was given in accordance with the Alabama Open Meetings Act. The minutes were recorded by Ms. Michelle Peel, Program Coordinator for the Board.

Mr. Jeremy Williams, Chair for the Board, called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

The roll was called as follows by Ms. Peel:

⊠Present □Absent □Virtual
⊠Present □Absent □Virtual
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A quorum was established. Guest introductions were made.

Mr. Jeremy Williams turned the meeting over to Ms. Leah Missildine, Executive Director of the Board, to begin the public hearing on the rules amendments. A Public Hearing was held for:

- Proposed Rule Repeal Chapter 225
- Proposed Rule Amendment 585-X-1-.01
- Proposed Rule Amendment 585-X-1-.02
- Proposed Rule Amendment 585-X-2-.03
- Proposed Rule Amendment 585-X-2-.08
- Proposed Rule Amendment 585-X-4-.05
- Proposed Rule Amendment 585-X-4-.09
- Proposed Rule Amendment 585-X-5-.02
- Proposed Rule Amendment 585-X-5-.04

The Public Hearing was concluded at 9:46 a.m. The transcript of the public hearing is attached to these minutes.

Mr. Jeremy Williams, Chair, then resumed the regular Board meeting at 9:47 a.m. Mr. Williams called for unanimous consent for the approval of the agenda. The agenda was unanimously approved with no objections. He called for the approval of the minutes of the September 18, 2024 Board meeting. The minutes were unanimously approved with no changes or objections.



Mr. Williams moved on to the rules amendments. He asked for a motion to repeal Chapter 225 in its totality. Mr. Greg Silas made the motion to repeal Chapter 225. Mr. Robert Smith seconded the motion. There were no objections. Motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Williams asked for a motion to repeal rule 585-X-4.05. Mr. Fred Johnson made the motion. Mr. Robert Smith seconded the motion. There were no objections. Motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Leah Missildine, Executive Director, recommended adopting the changes discussed during the public hearing to Rule 585-X-1 to match the statutory language that passed in 2019 and 2022. Mr. Robert Smith made the motion. Mr. Fred Johnson seconded the motion. There were no objections. Motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Missildine recommended adopting the changes as presented during the public hearing to Rule 585-X-2-.03. Mr. Robert Smith made the motion. Mr. Brandon Wallace seconded the motion. There were no objections. Motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Missildine recommended adopting the changes as presented during the public hearing to Rule 585-X-2-.08. Mr. Robert Smith made the motion. Mr. Fred Johnson seconded the motion. There were no objections. Motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Missildine recommended striking the language in 585-X-4-.09 in the rule as presented in the public hearing. Mr. Robert Smith made the motion. Mr. Brandon Broadhead seconded the motion. There were no objections. Motion passed unanimously.

The request was made by Mr. Brandon Broadhead to take the changes to 585-X-5 individually. Mr. Brandon Broadhead made the motion to strike paragraph c of section 7 of 585-X-5-.02. Mr. Brandon Wallace seconded the motion. There were no objections. Motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Missildine recommended to the Board to approve the changes presented during the public hearing to Rule 585-X-5-.04 Section 2 paragraphs b, c, and d to match the statute. Mr. Brandon Broadhead made the motion. Ms. Evelyn Causey seconded the motion. There were no objections. Motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Missildine recommended to the Board adopt the amendments to 585-X-5-.04 Sections (3) and (4) as presented during the public hearing. Mr. Robert Smith made a motion to accept the recommended 24 CEUs as presented. Mr. Scott Barnett, counsel for the Board, asked for clarification of the motion. He asked if the motion included the changes to both paragraphs 3 and 4. Mr. Smith affirmed that it did include the recommendations for both paragraphs. Mr. Fred Johnson seconded the motion. Mr. Fred Johnson asked for clarification on the minimum core competencies. The rule will reference the document that lists all the competencies. The rule will not list all the competencies. Mr. Broadhead asked for clarification on procedure. Mr. Broadhead made a motion to vote on sections 3 and 4 separately. Mr. Greg Silas seconded the motion. The intervening motion took precedence over the primary motion. The vote on the intervening motion to vote on sections 3 and 4 separately passed unanimously. Ms. Evelyn Causey asked if there was language that could be considered to incrementally increase the CEUs. Ms. Missildine answered that a range is not advisable, but a set number of hours needs to be in place. There was further discussion on CEUs.



Mr. Brandon Broadhead made a motion to adopt the changes to 585-X-5-.04(3) as presented. Mr. Brandon Wallace seconded the motion. There were no objections. Motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Brandon Broadhead made a motion to leave 585-X-5-.04(4) unchanged at 12 CEUs per 12-month period. Mr. Greg Silas seconded the motion. Two opposed, four in favor, motion passed. Mr. Williams called for a five-minute recess at 10:06 a.m. The meeting was reconvened at 10:12 a.m.

Mr. Williams turned the meeting over to Ms. Leah Missildine, Executive Director for the Board, for programmatic reports.

### **Programmatic Reports**

### **Finance Report**

Ms. Missildine started the finance report with a review of the financial statements for the month ending October 31, 2024. She continued with the financial statements for the year ending September 30, 2024. She provided an overview of how the fund is distributed. She informed the Board that the Examiners were in our office to conduct our legal compliance audit for the last five years. They will also conduct the Sunset review for fiscal year 2024. The legal compliance audit is expected in the spring. She advised the Board that tremendous strides have been made to solve perceived issues legislatively. She continued with a review of the fee remittances. She highlighted the progress of the legacy cost reimbursement program. She provided the Board with a reminder that the ECD reporting to the Alabama Department of Examiners of Public Accounts is due November 30, 2024. She recommended to the Board that they approve the financial statements as presented in the Board packet. Mr. Fred Johnson made the motion. Mr. Robert Smith seconded the motion. There were no objections. Motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Adam Brown, Deputy Director for the Board, continued with updates on past grant cycles. He outlined the status of each cycle. He reminded the Board that Grant Cycle 9 was different from other grant cycles as some had additional reporting requirements for sustainability.

Ms. Missildine continued with cost recovery plans. There are two remaining participants. Payments for FY24 have been made. Both claimed less than their plans projected. Thus, there is money potentially available for an excess cost declaration. She advised that that declaration should be considered in January to allow for any amendments to FY24 claims. She then presented the FY25 cost recovery plans from SouthernLinc and Pinebelt. The total of the two plans was \$924,776. She recommended to the Board approve the two plans to not exceed payments of \$924,776. Mr. Robert Smith made the motion. Ms. Evelyn Causey seconded the motion. There were no objections. Motion passed unanimously.

### **Education and Outreach Report**

Ms. Missildine then turned the meeting over to Ms. Laura Ehrhart, Program Manager for the Education and Outreach department. Ms. Ehrhart began her report with an announcement of an education campaign so the public and those in the seats know more about what the Board does. She showed a video prepared by the Education and Outreach department with Joy Collective. She encouraged the Board to share this video with their staff and those in their District. She told



them to encourage those they share it with to ask us questions. She provided an overview of training provided since the last meeting. She moved on to the User Conference. It will be held in Birmingham during the week of February 3. She explained they are working on a hiring and recruitment video that will be available at the User Conference. Directors will be able to add customization to that video at the User Conference. She explained that she utilized GIS information to establish a location where the most telecommunicators could be reached. She also explained that the nominal fee will be charged again in 2025 since it decreased the number of no-shows.

Ms. Ehrhart continued with a report on the training the Board has provided over the previous two months at no expense to the participating agencies. She highlighted the amount of training obtained through Virtual Academy. Twenty-three agencies participated in in-person training provided by the Board. However, 60+% of the seats available were left open. She provided a map that showed training was provided within 45 miles of 89% of PSTs in the state. The goal is to have training in every region of the state. Board staff understands that not everyone can travel.

### **Technology Report**

Ms. Rachel Morrison provided the report for INdigital. She began with a review of geo-routing calls. She explained that currently geo-routing utilizes PSAP boundaries. Testing has begun using Location Validation Function (LVF) and MSAG Conversion Service. This will replace the MSAG and will become the standard.

Mr. Anderson Brooms presented the GIS report. He started his report with a map of all the PSAPs staff has visited. He stated RapidSOS project deployment is down to its final stages and is still moving slowly with those PSAPs. Two ECDs have made progress. The others are still waiting on outside parties to move forward.

Mr. Brooms informed the Board that two top DATAMARK staff came to the office for a day to discuss product development needed in Alabama. He highlighted information that came out of this meeting on base map use and geocoder use. He continued with information on new reporting metrics he can access. This allows him to monitor how often a District's VEP data is refreshed. He next provided an update on the statewide GIS data remediation project. He discussed gaps and overlaps, MSAG to RCL, ALI to RCL, and ALI to AP.

### Governance Report

Ms. Missildine moved on to the Governance Report. She reminded the Board that legislative change is needed. She informed the Board that she had a meeting the week prior with ACCA. They provided some suggestions on the proposed changes to the Board's statute she had circulated to the Board recently. She reminded the Board that Representative Oliver has already pre-filed the bill that did not make it through the legislature last year. She advised the Board that if funds continue to be divided up based on the technology that generated them, as it is in statute today, it will become impossible to predict revenues because we cannot know all of the technology types that will exist in the future. She suggested dividing the fund 80% to Districts,



17% to a 911 programs fund and 3% for administration. She provided detail of how these monies would be used. She informed the Board that ACCA expressed that Districts want a minimum floor of operating money. ACCA suggested the Board have the authority to establish that floor. ACCA also requested consideration of distributing funds equally and not by population. There was a lot of back-and-forth discussion about the needs of the Board and the Districts. Mr. Fred Johnson stated that as a Board member he wanted to see draft proposed legislation and a one-page memo stating why this is needed and stating that we are not tripling the administrative funding at the expense of the districts. Ms. Missildine outlined her planned memo.

Ms. Missildine moved on to other potential legislative changes. The first was on Board composition. She expressed that ACCA has advised this session is not one to address this issue. Mr. Broadhead asked is ACCA knew of the difficulties in finding Board members. Ms. Missildine said she discussed that with them. The second was on travel policies.

### **Old Business**

There was no old business.

### **New Business**

Ms. Missildine informed the Board that there was a 911 center that was unable to staff their 911 center for multiple weeks. Dallas County 911 stepped up overwhelmingly willing and able to help. Dallas County has asked for five additional MEVOs for their back-up center. The Board's informal policy is to provide one MEVO for every position in your primary center plus one. These five are four more than the policy. No action by the Board is needed to approve supplying five additional MEVOs to Dallas County since it is a budgeted expense.

Ms. Missildine moved on to the Board meeting schedule for 2025. She informed the Board that WarrenAverett who is conducting our independent two-year audit needs until the week of January 20 to prepare their audit results. She stated a Finance committee meeting was needed to meet with them prior to the Board meeting. The regular date for the January board meeting would be the week prior. Ms. Missildine requested that the Board move the January meeting to January 22. Mr. Robert Smith made the motion. Ms. Evelyn Causey seconded the motion. There were no objections. Motion passed unanimously.

### **Public Comments**

Ms. Aislinn Campbell stated that AAND is working to grow the membership of AAND to have a larger pool to choose from for Board seats.



### Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 11:51 a.m.

Approved this 19th day of March, 2025.

Signature

Secretary Treasurer
Title

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6	IN RE: Public Hearing for Administrative Rules Amendments
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11	The hearing came to be heard on the 13th
12	day of November 2024, at the Alabama 9-1-1 Board, 1
13	Commerce Street, Suite 620, Montgomery, Alabama 36104
14	at 9:00 a.m.
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24	
25	Lauryn Bellerose, CCR

1	Page 2		Page 4
1	APPEARANCES	1.	starting at the back, introduce yourself, please.
2		2	MS. CAMPBELL: Aislinn Campbell, St. Clair
3	STAFF:	3	County.
4	Leah Missildine, Executive Director	4	MS. MORRISON: Rachel Morrison, INdigital.
5	Adam Brown, Deputy Director	5	MS. MURPHREE: Andrea Murphree, INdigital.
6	Anderson Brooms, GIS Program Manager	6	MR. JACKSON: Heath Jackson, sheriff of
7	Nida Jackson, GIS Specialist	7	Escambia.
8	Laura Ehrhart, Outreach Program Manager and Education	. 8	MR. MORELAND: Jeremy Moreland,
9	Daniel Hipps, Outreach Specialist and Education	9	JacksonThornton.
10	Michelle Peel, Program Coordinator	10	MR. SHAFFER: Frank Shaffer, Covington
11	BOARD MEMBERS:	11	County.
12	Jeremy Williams, Chairman	12	MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank y'all for being here
1.3	Brandon Broadhead	13	with us.
14	Evelyn Causey	14	MR. BARNETT: Mr. Chairman?
15	Fred Johnson, Vice Chair	15	MR. CHAIRMAN: Yes.
16	John Nettles	16	MR. BARNETT: Mr. Nettles is here
17	Greg Silas	17	virtually on everything today.
18	Robert Smith, Secretary/Treasurer	18	MR. CHAIRMAN: Okay. Mr. Nettles is here
19	Brandon Wallace	19	virtually that means we've got to take a roll call
20	Tim Webb	20	vote on everything today because we have one
21	Scott Barnett	21	virtual participant.
22	EXHIBIT INDEX	22	MR. BARNETT: Well, the issue is there's a
23	EX-1 Outline of Public Hearing	23	rule change being in question today, so he cannot
24		24	vote in that situation. He can't be considered
25		25	part of the body, participating virtually. That's
	Page 3	- Transcription of the Control of th	Page 5
1	PROCEEDINGS	1	an exclusion of
2	MR. CHAIRMAN: Order. November the 13th,	2	MR. NETTLES: Hey, Mr. Jeremy. May I ask
1		!	
3	2024, the public hearing on the rule changes.	3	you a question?
4	Ms. Michelle, if you will, call the roll. Make	4	MR. CHAIRMAN: Sure.
4 5	Ms. Michelle, if you will, call the roll. Make sure we've got a quorum.	4 5	MR. CHAIRMAN: Sure. MR. NETTLES: About that? Can y'all hear
4 5 6	Ms. Michelle, if you will, call the roll. Make sure we've got a quorum. MS. PEEL: Okay. Brandon Broadhead?	4 5 6	MR. CHAIRMAN: Sure.  MR. NETTLES: About that? Can y'all hear  me?
4 5 6 7	Ms. Michelle, if you will, call the roll. Make sure we've got a quorum.  MS. PEEL: Okay. Brandon Broadhead?  MR. BROADHEAD: Here.	4 5 6 7	MR. CHAIRMAN: Sure. MR. NETTLES: About that? Can y'all hear me? MS. MISSILDINE: Yes.
4 5 6 7 8	Ms. Michelle, if you will, call the roll. Make sure we've got a quorum. MS. PEEL: Okay. Brandon Broadhead? MR. BROADHEAD: Here. MS. PEEL: Evelyn Causey?	4 5 6 7 8	MR. CHAIRMAN: Sure. MR. NETTLES: About that? Can y'all hear me? MS. MISSILDINE: Yes. MR. NETTLES: Hello? Can y'all hear me?
4 5 6 7 8 9	Ms. Michelle, if you will, call the roll. Make sure we've got a quorum.  MS. PEEL: Okay. Brandon Broadhead?  MR. BROADHEAD: Here.  MS. PEEL: Evelyn Causey?  MS. CAUSEY: Here.	4 5 6 7 8 9	MR. CHAIRMAN: Sure. MR. NETTLES: About that? Can y'all hear me?  MS. MISSILDINE: Yes. MR. NETTLES: Hello? Can y'all hear me? MR. BARNETT: We can hear you, John.
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Page 6 the past year or so does not allow for virtual participation, but we do have a quorum in the room so, John, that means you can certainly come join us, but it is not necessary, but you may listen in. MR. NETTLES: Okay. Yeah. I'll stay on. I'm going to move locations, but I'll be back on in about ten minutes, so my apologies for the confusion.

MS. MISSILDINE: Thank you.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Let's go.

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MS. MISSILDINE: Okay. We're going to take these one by one. We have a considerable number of rules to consider in sort of our cleanup. And just as a reminder, we did move the meeting today so that we would not miss a deadline for certification so, Mr. Smith, we will go through that whole process again. Whenever the board votes later today, we will do the final certification of the rule, and you will need to log on to LSA's website and sign once we file those.

MR. SMITH: Okay.

MS. MISSILDINE: But there's another, you 23 know, click that we'll have to go through. Anyways so that deadline is the 18th, and we can either do these this afternoon or in the morning so that

Page 7 they'll be live in that portal for you to certify based on what the board chooses to do today.

MR. SMITH: All right. MS. MISSILDINE: All right. First things first, so Chapter 225 is the CMRS Board, the predecessor board, so this board. They were found to be still active and quite frankly I didn't know that they were there. I didn't know to look for them. And in the governor's executive order early last year, there was basically an administrative rule cleanup and they reached out to us and said, hey, do these belong to y'all because we can't find where they belong to anybody else, and I said, well, I guess they do, if you'll allow them to, and we'll repeal them, so that's why we're doing this. But these are all from the CMRS Board or what was known as the Wireless Board ahead of us.

We did invite people for public comment or written comment for these rules. And in this one, we did have 12 respondents. There was ten EC (phonetic) directors, one PSAP director and one board member that commented specific on the repeal of this rule. 11 supported the repeal without comment, and one just simply had no comment, so there was no opposition to the repeal of this rule.

Is there anyone that would like to say anything or ask or comment on this rule at this time?

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Next we have the lifeline rule that was basically -- again, this is an old rule where lifeline subscribers were not exempt from submitting the -- or remitting the 911 surcharge. However, there's a federal budget bill some years ago that pretty much made this obsolete, so there's no reason for us to keep it. There was no comment whatsoever. No one weighed in on this written or otherwise. Would you like to comment or ask a question about that now, anyone in the gallery or on the board?

All right. Getting into our more current rules that were developed by this board, some in the early stages of this board's existence. So 585-1-X-1-.01, our Statutory Authority, we just added the words that has also been added to 11984.1 to the statutory authority of the board, so now it mirrors what the statute says and the administrative rule copies the statute.

Any comments or questions regarding that? A second part of that same chapter is we -- simply the sentence did not read correctly or

the point got lost so it's just a little bit of an amendment there to make it make more sense than its original version. We did again seek or open it up for written comment, and we had the same flow of respondents; 11 supported without comment and one just simply had no comment, so there was no opposition to updating this rule to match our

statutory authority as was passed in 2019 and 2022, 9 because this was originally authored in 2013. 10 All right. 585-X-2-.03 is voting.

Because the Open Meetings Act changed in the last few years, we're making our administrative rules match the state code of Alabama of the Open Meetings Act that was passed instead of what we have because procedurally that's laid out in state statute versus our statute.

We sought comment on that. 11 supported without comment, and one simply had no comment. We had 12 respondents. Anybody want to speak on it at this time?

Grant program, so we -- staff considered -- we wanted to make some changes to the grant program rule for giving us a little bit more flexibility in being able to have more grant cycles and do -- be able to do different types of grants

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throughout the year. Our suggestion at the time 1 2 was before we knew that the interpretation of the 3 statute would allow -- did not allow for using CMRS funds for grants, however, we still want to 4 5 maintain a grant program and leave this in place 6 because we believe we have a remedy that we'll talk about at the end of our board meeting to continue 7 8 these programs. But these are just simply -- we

want to be able to be more flexible and be more able to do grants and not be so restricted by the grant calendar.

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And also we are trying to cut down on our paperwork here and change to one electronic version in the application process and also have our -have the ability to offer an alternative to the project that was submitted for. There's a lot of times where there's call savings or autonomies (phonetic) of scale or some other agency that would be affected for the grant application that has been put in, so we'd like to be able to refer those folks to buying off the same procurement schedule or whatever it is, but just to give us an opportunity to say, hey, have you thought about this? This will help you long-term or save you money, those types of things. So I think that's

three things that we wanted to change with the grant program.

Same responses as far as written; 11 supported without comment, and one simply had no comment. So any comments about the grant program rule or questions?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Do you happen to have a question?

MR. JOHNSON: Yes, sir. So this question would be to either, you, Leah, or our counsel of record. Do I understand correctly that the rule as proposed will provide a means of administering a grant program assuming that funds are made available by the legislature?

MS. MISSILDINE: Yes. In an amendment to legislation, we also have the ability to do grants today, but it is out of the one percent that the administrative allowance monthly which is -- I'll just tell you -- there's not enough money there to even run an office and pay the examiners and do a grant program. However, we seek to have a legislative change to fund a grant program like we've been able to do. Because, just as a reminder, our one percent leftovers from the last ten years, that's what we funded that grant program with. Those funds are essentially used up now.

MR. JOHNSON: So just to be clear, this rule as presented will handle the administration -provide for the administration of a grant program once funds are otherwise legally available?

MS. MISSILDINE: Yes.

MR. JOHNSON: Thank you very much.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Yes, sir.

MS. MISSILDINE: All right. So you'll find in your packet the printout of this rule. So, again, we, in July, presented to you all in response to our sunset review that was published a way to use the CMRS funds in a way that showed our commitment to making districts whole first, continuing the grant program, paying our bills and contractors providing the network, the training, certification, all of that.

So these were the edits and amendments that we suggested as a staff in July. In September, just the week prior to our last board meeting, we were informed that this rule is not in adherence to the statute. That's the latest interpretation by the examiners. So what we are now suggesting is instead of the changes we brought forth in July and that were published, we are

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now -- like I mentioned in our September board meeting, strike the highlighted part. Leave the rule in place so that we can then come back and reorder and re-prioritize after legislative change and those funds are legally available to the board, so that's our suggestion now.

I did have general counsel from the examiners ask, well, you put in changes for what you put in in July. And, now, you need to certify a substantially different rule. Is that allowed? And I asked I'm not sure. Do you think it's allowed? And he said you should probably call LSA and ask, so I did. I called Legislative Services Agency and asked, is it okay to substantially change what was proposed with what is now certified. They were like, yes, there's no rules. You either amend, repeal, repass, so there's no level of amendment that's not allowed.

MR. BARNETT: That's the whole idea of this process. It could be -- you could start off with minor and result in major change so --

MS. MISSILDINE: Which is exactly what has happened here. So I didn't strike through all of that. I highlighted it because it's very hard to read, but that's what we will be striking is the

Page 14

highlighted portion. Again, leaving that in place in hopes that a legislative remedy will be able to revive those same items.

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On this rule, we had 12 that had no comment and -- clearly no comment, so I would open that up to any conversation that anybody wants to have or statement that they would like to make.

MS. CAMPBELL: So is that one just -we're taking that one off? Is that what you're essentially saying through the moment?

MS. MISSILDINE: No. We're not taking it off. We have started the amendment process, so we have to continue through the amendment process because we cannot leave it as originally done because it's against the law and the most recent interpretation. So if we leave one and eight intact, there's no argument that that's okay.

All right. Certification program, there are three, I think, for this. All right. So in these -- all right. In the maturity of the certification program, this is why we recommended changes to you all in July. There's been a fair amount of conversation that has led us to this point. And our suggestion was the staff proposed consideration on increasing the percentage from

60 percent of PSTs within there for you all to consider increasing it. And if memory serves correctly, I believe Mr. Silas and Mr. Broadhead made the motion and second just to strike that altogether. That 100 percent of PSTs need to be certified and trained, period. So that is what we submitted so we submitted that we would strike that

C, subsection -- subsection C? Yeah.

Also in here we suggested that we amend the rule to match statutory language now that the certification program is up and running. We have given ourselves an implementation time frame, some lead time to get that underway, and it was kicked off in January of '23, and now we're obviously in November of '24 so this matches exactly what the statute says now. So that recognizes that we've gotten past the implementation phase with setting that up, and here we are, so that is there too.

And our last recommendation from the staff was regarding the minimum number of training hours, and we did, as a staff, recommend 24 -- to increase from 12 to 24 and to match the minimum core competency and the minimum training guideline. I thought we would have a finalized copy of that document, which is not a standard, but it is the

national guideline. I actually sit as a member of the working group, and final, final, final, comments on that are due this Friday, and then we have a meeting Monday. So we believe with all of those associations working on it, we believe that that document is pretty close to being final, but that's -- that's just the core competency list of what we think our PSTs in our -- obviously in our profession should have is basic minimum training quidelines. 

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I'm going to go ahead with written comment first, and then we'll take verbal comment, if that's okay with everybody. We did have the same number of respondents, a little bit of a different return, but ten supported the proposed amendment without comment. One opposed the proposed amendment without comment, and one simply had no comment. So that, again, is from the group of a board member, a PSAP director and ten ECD directors. And I would open it for public comment for anybody that wants to talk about it.

If you don't mind, come forward and then state your name and whom you're representing for the court reporter. This will be transcribed.

MS. CAMPBELL: I just have questions. I'm

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Aislinn Campbell from St. Clair County. I'm
representing just myself, St. Clair County on this.
So my question was how many ECDs -- I know that
we'll have a list later as far as up to the 12
hours. Like how is that going so far?
MS. EHRHART: You're asking ECDs, not
PSAP?
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MS. CAMPBELL: Well, I'm sorry. Primary PSAPs, yes.

MS. EHRHART: I have a lot of different stats here, so let me get to that page. You're asking how many have over 12 hours?

MS. CAMPBELL: Like what percentage do we have that are compliant -- that would be compliant with these new laws right now.

MS. EHRHART: With 24 hours?

MS. CAMPBELL: Uh-huh.

 ${\tt MS.\ MISSILDINE:}$  Start with how many are compliant with 12, please.

MS. EHRHART: Okay. We have -- I'm sorry. Give me one second. We only have two agencies, two PSAPs that are not compliant with the current rule.

Now, that -- our data -- and I want to be clear on every answer that I give, is only accurate based on what has been reported to us. And as we

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Page 18 move forward, we find that people have not reported stuff but have hours, and I've seen that -- Daniel and I have seen that continuously.

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Out of the 1336 PSTs -- okay -- that are employed and are outside of their compliance date, so they have surpassed the 360 which is the current rule, 1157 of those -- I'm sorry. 123 -- 205 have completed over 24 hours, if that's what you're asking, over 24 hours. Correct?

MS. CAMPBELL: Okay. So I guess my concern is that if we have -- if everyone is mostly compliant with the 12 hours right now and we just started this certification program, and everybody is getting, you know, used to logging on and doing their time and stuff -- I guess I don't understand why there's a push for the 24 right now. I would like -- personally, I would like to see a little bit more time to show that the education program and everything is going and it's easy and people are used to that before we up the time, because my PSTs work under the sheriff, and so I'm going to get pushback on that from the sheriff because he still likes the 12 hour thing so I just -- if our goal was to have everybody certified, and they're mostly doing that now with 12 hours. And I know

Page 19 that we say if you're APCO and all that, you're

2 getting 40 hours anyway, so I guess I have some concern that we're going to get -- we have 3 stakeholders other than just 911 people. We have 4 sheriffs and we have firefighters. We have fire 5 chiefs, sheriffs, police chiefs and stuff that have 6 7 their PSAPs, and I don't think that they have a voice here as much. So me, personally, that's what I'm hearing, is that there's going to be pushback 9 on this 24 hours, and I just really don't want to 10 do anything that's going to damage the 11 certification program. Like I want it to keep 12

MS. EHRHART: Do you find -- may I ask questions?

not the year for an additional 12 hours.

building, and I just think that maybe this year is

MS. CAMPBELL: Yeah, go ahead.

MS. EHRHART: Do you find that there's not enough accessible training whether it's online or in person for the people --

MS. CAMPBELL: I think that they're just not educated enough at the moment to know what all can count as training. And I -- personally I'm just -- from what I'm hearing where I go, I'm telling people you can get the hours. It's easy to get the hours. There's a lot of things, but they just don't know it yet. And so I think pushing -when somebody says we're going from 12 and they thought it was hard to get to that, and we're going to say we're doubling it just one year later, I think it would be --

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MS. MISSILDINE: I don't -- I think -- I'm sorry. I interrupted you. Go ahead.

MS. CAMPBELL: I'm just seeing that maybe this is just not the year for it. You're doing a great job. I see you all over the state hosting everything. There's a lot of opportunities for education. It's just everyone doesn't know that yet. And I know that we say it all the time. We're 911 people, and I have -- there's other associations that have the PSTs.

MS. MISSILDINE: I would like to make a comment that our data reveals -- you said something that triggered this. And you said that it's hard for them to get 12 hours. If a PST in this state is getting one hour of CEUs, they're averaging 19 points more -- 19 plus. So I think there may be a divide in what you're saying, but if you're getting one hour, they're averaging 19-plus hours, so I don't think it's hard. They may be uninformed, but

Page 21 the accessibility is certainly there. I think you all will probably present later in the education and outreach section, but accessibility is not...

MS. CAMPBELL: It should be a nonissue, but I think it -- from what I've seen, it still is, but that was just my opinion on it. I think that continuing the education program that y'all have going and the more it gets out there, the more that I understand it, and I think the more others will understand it too and they won't have such a big problem. I mean, we were here last year about the same time because we had too many hours and we took it down to 12, and then we're turning around like a year later and taking it back up to 24. And the education part is still relatively new, and the portal and people logging in and getting used to all of that. So that's the only thing that I see that's my concern, is that it's going to ripple more people than I want it to. I would like for everything to just go smooth. I don't want to see we're doubling the amount of hours. So anyway, thank you for your time.

MS. MISSILDINE: Anybody else? MR. JACKSON: Good morning. I'm Heath Jackson, the sheriff of Escambia County. Some of

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y'all probably remember me from last year when I came. I just want to touch back on what you said about the training and how easy the training is to

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When this thing started last year, we were kind of looking into it, trying to figure out how. We were basically told that if you just have a meeting, you can count that time as training. I have a problem with that because, you know, we're fussing over 12 and 24 hours, but we can basically count an hour of training that doesn't help do anything instead of getting 12 solid hours that actually means something. I mean, I hold 24 meetings, and everybody gets hours for that. Is my dispatcher or telecommunicator, are they a better person because they sat through a meeting? I don't think so. I don't think I can defend that in a court of law when I get sued over something.

I run my sheriff's office, and I run our PSAP because we do not have a 911 board that provides 911 dispatch. We're working on fixing that. That was brought to my attention at the last meeting. I've since been put on a 911 board, and we're moving to fix that problem. I'm not saying that we don't need training. I think we do 100

Page 23

percent. I think the problem is, though, when you have 36,000 people in your community to choose from to do the hiring, it's a lot harder than 250,000 people to choose from. It's about quality. You know, I understand hiring practices. You know, I hire everyday. My family's, you know, business, we hire everyday. Sometimes you have what you have to work with.

We did a little test pilot at my office to see if we can get to 24, and we did. We got all our people in my dispatch certified because I don't like anybody to point fingers at me. It about killed us because there's one person sitting in that seat. When she has to go to the restroom, she has to pick up a walkie-talkie to walk down the hall to use the bathroom and come right back before 911 rings, and that's wrong. The sheriffs aren't funded by the sheriffs. The county commission funds us. They've been a good partner to us, but every position that I get extra, I have to go beg for because they have to fund roads. They have to fund the courthouse. There's other things they have to fund. And no offense to this board because I appreciate y'all allowing me to speak, but I don't think y'all decide what the county commission 25

Page 24 funds. I don't think y'all know what I have to fund. Y'all don't feel my pain.

But I decided we would sit down with the commission. We cut out some fat throughout our county, and we were able to get four more positions starting October 1 for dispatch while I have two at all times. Our folks are excited. We've had zero applications because nobody wants to do the job. My dispatch supervisor, I allowed her -- paid her to go train another agency nearby to get them up because we want to be part of the team. We don't want to be, you know, the ones that are outspoken. It looks like we don't want education when we do. There just has to be a path to it.

I'm not okay with 24 hours a credit just coming from anywhere. We're part of -- not LeadsOnline, but Virtual Academy already. It's a great program, but it's -- you know, is that what we want all of our hours doing? I know law enforcement. We can't get all of our hours on Leads -- or on Virtual Academy. You know, we have to have other things to go along with that. So, you know, I think it comes down to quality, not quantity. You know, if everybody's so, you know, hell bent on training, you know, let's do 12 hours

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that are solid that count for something instead of let's just -- whoever can come in here with the most certificates, we can hang them on the wall and say we've got them. I can't defend that. I don't think any of y'all is going to defend me in a court of law when we get sued over something that happens on 911. I know you're not. I've got to pay that bill.

I'm also the incumbent vice president of the Alabama Sheriffs Association. And, again, as we voted last year, our association is 100 percent against the 24 hours. We're okay with the 12. I don't think we'll always be okay with that. We want better just like you do, but there's a lot of agencies big and small that are different. You know, the ones that have 911 centers, you know, I don't have a problem doing it because they've got plenty of people sitting there answering the phone.

I can't have my people taking online classes while they're dispatching and doing that and they're the only person in that seat. It's dangerous. My deputy comes first, period. I'm not asking y'all to change the world. I'm asking y'all to look at this from our point of view, because if the people want 24 hours, do it. There's nothing

Page 27

Page 26 stopping anybody from getting 24 hours. Go for it. You know, if we get the opportunity to get more than 12, we're going to do it. We don't just look at the calendar and say we got 12. It's over with, boys. We don't do that. But you can't have a mold that fits everybody. It's just not possible. It doesn't work.

1 2

So I would ask on behalf of the sheriffs association and the six PSAPs in my county, which is Flomaton, East Brewton, Brewton, Atmore, the sheriff's office in the Poarch Band of Creek Indians, you know, we would ask to keep it at 12, and I hope you would agree. Thank you for your time. I appreciate what y'all do. I know it's probably thankless. If anybody knows that, I do, but I appreciate y'all. Thank you.

MS. MISSILDINE: Thank you. Anybody else? I'd like to make a comment. I understand that at the local level we're all concerned with what those requirements will place on our PSTs and the organizations they work for. We know.

Sheriff, your six PSAPs aren't any different than a majority of our PSAPs in the state. We don't have a ton of the large ones. Most of them are just like you described. Any of

the strains; staffing, time, commitment, I understand those concerns, I do. And I'm speaking on behalf as your executive director, not the staff or the board, but I understand those concerns and that's why we have the opportunity for an exception -- an exemption or exception in the rule, so that's -- there's that. I'd also like to say that from my seat for our profession, this is where I'm speaking from, is we're trying to professionalize what they're doing, what dispatchers, call takers, public safety telecommunicators are doing, which is not unlike anything in law enforcement, firefighters, emergency medical services, nurses, estheticians, barbers. It's not unlike anything that hasn't already been done in other professions, and this is a statistic that I've kind of gathered that gripped So far a law enforcement officer -- and 

correct me if I'm wrong -- you have 560 initial hours of training at an academy, right? Okay. For a firefighter, you have 360 for your firefighter -- MR. BROADHEAD: We just upped it. It's 400.

MS. MISSILDINE: 400. Okay. So this

should be more gripping then. So as it sits today with a PST that has an initial 40 hours and 12 hours of CEUs annually, it would take them on the job 43 and a third years working to get the initial training a law enforcement officer in the state of Alabama would get. And it would take 26 and two-thirds years working continuously to get the initial number of hours actually more than that now if it's 400 for a firefighter. APCO says the average PST's tenure is now two years at best. It was previously three. It's two.

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So in that first two years of their tenure before you lose them, they get less than an 11th of what a law enforcement officer gets and less than a seventh of what a firefighter gets or more now. Sorry. I didn't know that. And our path forward is to raise the bar, raise the service level in this profession. And it's a path to an academy. It's a path to make -- even in a community of 3600 to make those PSTs available for hire, attraction for hire, trained and out of the gate ready to go into those centers that have staffing issues, that have major events, minor events. It doesn't really matter. But to go into those centers and be ready for that job, and that's the basis of our

Page 29 recommendation, or I think that's the basis of my recommendation.

MR. JACKSON: May I add something to that?
MS. MISSILDINE: Sure.

MR. JACKSON: So I agree with what you're saying, but, you know, the thing is you're sending an officer to a police academy. It's a high liability area. I don't have a problem. I think the dispatch should be considered the same as police and fire. No questions about it.

When they're gone to an academy, we can't use them at all. They're gone. When they come back, that's when we're implementing using them. A department sheriff comes back from training where we haven't got to use him for the 15 weeks, he comes back and gets to work. We're giving him 12 hours a year. All right? Where most PSAPs or whatever they're trying to do, ten employees and get them done, I got 106 people that I have to get 12 hours for every year on top of that. So then I'm going to add 24 to that when I've only got one person in that seat. When I've got ten deputies on a shift, I can send two of them to training and it doesn't hurt as bad. When I've only got one person in that seat and I've got to send them off, that

Page 30 hurts because I've got to drag somebody in on overtime that's already overworked and underpaid and put them in that chair.

1.3 1.4

If y'all want to put a rule where they got to have 60 or 80 hours right out of the gate in training, that's fine. Because when somebody's in our FTO program, they're having to sit with that supervisor. Getting the training up front, that's no problem for us. I can handle that. I mean, if y'all want to just leave it at 12 and bump the 40 up to 80, I'm on board. We'll do that right now. All right? It's the long-term effect that's causing us the problem. It's the extra hours that I've got to manipulate the schedule around, pay people to come in on overtime and do things like that is killing us. Agreed.

Law enforcement's been around forever. The state of Alabama decided to put APOSTC in place, what, in the '70s maybe, in the '80s, and it started out where you basically had to go to a two week academy and then six, seven, eight, nine, ten and now we're 15 or 16 because they keep adding to it. We can't use that person right when they start or they have to be with somebody, so it's not a loss up front. The back end is what's killing us.

Page 31
So, again, if y'all want to agree to the
12, I'm happy. And if y'all want to bump it to 80,
you can sign my county on, and we'll jump on it
like a fumbled football. We're ready to do it
right now. Thank you.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Anybody else for the public hearing? Let's get this over with and get on to regular business.

MR. SILAS: I do have one question.

Sheriff brought it up, and I think it's valid. So if you do it, we do a one hour training you class and we know that some of the way they do audits and things, if they need a meal, you've got to teach them how to use a fork so that you qualify to be able to have your meal, so it's bogus. Is that where -- are we allowing an hour of training that's not being certified as a quality training? Does that count towards their hours?

MR. EHRHART: I will tell you that there is not enough eyeballs to police 1633 people's uploads like that because we use this as an auditing system when we go back and check. However, we depend on the integrity of the leaders who are uploading those. You know, if you are going to have a meeting that you think is not

important and is not going to enhance the skills of your PSTs, I do not suggest submitting it as a continuing education. I mean, that is up to your discretion how you choose to submit those, but the integrity we rely on is those -- the leaders in the centers and the directors to send that. Does that answer your question?

MR. SILAS: It does. And I would share his concern over that. The -- can you give us an answer to the stats of how many people meet 100 percent of the standard now?

MS. EHRHART: The 12 hours certified compliant and 12 hours at this time, this, year right now?

MR. SILAS: Yes. Because I'm concerned about that, and I appreciate that he's meeting 100 percent because, you know, we're -- I think we've gone back to change that and take that out because, to me, everyone should be certified at whatever level we are. Not necessary -- but before we maybe do something different.

MS. EHRHART: 1353 out of 1632 are compliant. There are 103 that are certified, but they have not done the reciprocity. So that's that forequestion so that's not any hours that have to

be taken.

 $\ensuremath{\mathtt{MR}}.$  SILAS: Right. They're technically certified.

MS. EHRHART: Certified, correct. MR. SILAS: And so that leaves you how

many that are not?

MS. EHRHART: Let me math it.

MR. BROADHEAD: Roughly 300, 353.

MR. CHAIRMAN: 279.

MR. SILAS: That's the number that bothers me because we need to close that gap as well.

MS. EHRHART: Sure. I understand.

MR. JACKSON: And would those numbers be bigger if we took out the little lunch meetings that really don't amount to anything? I would say yeah because, I mean, that seems to be the trend. Everybody is just trying to get what they can get to get by and get it together. And, look, I'm not so much against that, but I just think you have to go with quality over quantity, and I'm not saying that as somebody that doesn't know about training. I ran a police academy in Florida and taught at it on my off time. I understand training. I think training is where it's at, but, you know, I don't think you just check the boxes.

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Page 34
                                                                                                                     Page 36
                                                               1
                                                                                  CERTIFICATE
               MR. SILAS: It has to be court defensible.
 1
 2
               MR. JACKSON: 100 percent. It has to be.
                                                                   STATE OF ALABAMA)
                                                               3
 3
               MS. MISSILDINE: I would say most of those
                                                                   ETOWAH COUNTY)
 4
     uploads, are they not about the agencies' policies
 5
     and procedures and those types of reviews?
                                                               6
                                                                               I hereby certify that the above and
 6
               MS. EHRHART: Absolutely. Yes. And we do
                                                                   foregoing proceedings were taken down by me in
 7
     require that that be uploaded, the content of the
                                                                   stenotype, and the questions and answers thereto were
 8
     hour or 30 minutes. So we had an agency reach out
                                                                   reduced to computer print under my supervision, and
 9
     and say, hey, we just had a two hour training
                                                              10
                                                                   that the foregoing represents a true and correct
10
     reviewing XYZ policy, going over new
                                                              11
                                                                   transcript of the proceedings given by said witness
     implementation, XYZ, and they provided an outline
11
                                                              12
                                                                   upon said hearing.
12
     of what was taught in that training and who
                                                              13
                                                                               I further certify that I am neither of
                                                                   counsel nor of kin to the parties to the action, nor
13
     attended and the hours and the person who taught
                                                                   am I in anywise interested in the result of said
     it. So it was essentially all of the things that
                                                              15
14
                                                              16
                                                                   cause.
     are required when you upload a certificate of
15
                                                              17
                                                                               Signed the 13th day of November 2024.
16
     completion from another external training source.
17
               MR. SILAS: Can we audit that situation
                                                                               Bellery
                                                              19
                                                                      ryn Hellerise
R #720 - Expires September 30th, 2025
Commission Expires April 12th, 2027
18
     and make sure that we don't have a lot of bogus
                                                              20
19
     training going on? That would be an issue.
                                                                   /s/ Lauryn Bellerose
20
               MS. MISSILDINE: Okay. So, again, I'm
                                                                   Lauryn Bellerose
21
     going to counter that with a question. As we sit
                                                                   ACCR #720 - Expires September 30th, 2025
     today as a staff, no, we cannot. If they upload
22
                                                                   My Commission Expires April 12th, 2027
23
     something with an outline with an appropriate
                                                              23
24
     instructor with the content and say that they've
                                                              24
25
     gone over, we can't be in every one of those, and I
                                                       Page 35
 1
     don't know how else we can police it.
             MR. CHAIRMAN: We can police it by is that
 2
 3
     same agency doing that over and over and over
     again.
 5
              MS. MISSILDINE: Well, sure.
 6
              MR. CHAIRMAN: I think we're building a
     good program. We've got a good program. We've got
 8
     a certification program. I think what everybody in
     this room is continuing to say is let's keep
    building it. Find out what we're doing a little
10
11
    bit wrong, some suggestions and let's move on.
    Anybody else? Last call for public hearing
12
13
     comments. All right. As of 9:46, I call the
14
     public hearing to an end.
15
                   (The hearing was adjourned at 9:46 a.m.
16
                   on November 13, 2024.)
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MEETIN	MEETING SIGN-IN SHEET		
Agency:	Agency: Alabama 9-1-1 Board	Date/Time:	Date/Time: November 13, 2024 @ 9:00am
Chair	Toroma Williams		1 Commerce Street, Suite 620
2	Joi Ciny in comming	Location.	Montgomery, AL 36104
Type:	Regular	Purpose:	Public Hearing & Board Meeting

Name	Title	Agency/Company	E-Mail	Signature
Anderson, Michael	Senior Project Manager	DATAMARK	manderson@mkbakerintl.com	
Barnett, Scott	Partner	Brunson, Barnett, & Sherrer, P.C.	sbarnett@bbslawoffices.com	She so
Branch, Caleb	VP of Market Management	INdigital	cbranch@indigital.net	
Brunson, Johnny	Partner	Brunson, Barnett, & Sherrer, P.C.	jbrunson@bbslawoffices.com	John D
Carpenter, Melissa	Market Manager	INdigital	Mcarpenter@indigital.net	
Moreland, Jeremy	Partner	MST	jmoreland@mstcpa.com	
Morrison, Rachel	GIS Product Manager	INdigital	rmorrison@indigital.net	Hackel Morrows
Murphree, Andi	Inside Sales and Support Manager	INdigital	amurphree@indigital.net	andimunphae
Murphy, Robert	Associate VP & Dir. of Business Development	DATAMARK	Robert.Murphy@mbakerintl.com	
Sherrer, Jeff	Partner	Brunson, Barnett, & Sherrer, P.C.	jsherrer@bbslawoffices.com	

Agency: Alab	Alabama 9-1-1 Board	Date/Time:	November 13, 2024 @ 9:00am	Jam
Chair: Jered	Jeremy Williams	Location:	1 Commerce Street, Suite 620 Montgomery, AL 36104	620
Type: Regular	dar	Purpose:	Public Hearing & Board Meeting	Meeting
Name	Title	Agency/Company	E-Mail	Signature
FROM Shaller	Diredur	Coington Curry E911	frenk shaffer Occumular silicum.	
Aslina amy	Aslina a model Director	St. Chir 911		Acul
Heath Jackson		Consin		CEA
Jim St don	1 much	Bhan ECD	Jim. Stohn @ Gransban	

	Andrewski Andreas Andr					Na	Type:	Chair:	Agency:	MEETING
						Name	Regular	Jeremy Williams	Alabama 9-1-1 Board	MEETING SIGN-IN SHEET
						Title		íams	-1-1 Board	ET
						Agency/Company				
						mpany	Purpose:	Location:	Date/Time:	
						E-Mail	Public Hear	1 Commerce Street, Sui Montgomery, AL 36104	November 1	
						Tail	Public Hearing & Board Meeting	1 Commerce Street, Suite 620 Montgomery, AL 36104	November 13, 2024 @ 9:00am	
						S	t Meeting	v 620	00am	
						Signature				

MEETING	MEETING SIGN-IN SHEET		
Agency:	Alabama 9-1-1 Board	Date/Time:	Date/Time: November 13, 2024 @ 9:00am
Chair	Tarana Milliana	1	1 Commerce Street, Suite 620
Ciali.	Jenemy weddawns	LOCALIOII.	Montgomery, AL 36104
Type:	Regular	Purpose:	Purpose: Public Heaving and Board Meeting

Williams, Jeremy	Webb, Tim	Wallace, Brandon	Smith, Robert	Smith, Joby	Silas, Greg	Nettles, John	Johnson, Fred	Causey, Evelyn	Broadhead, Brandon	Name
Director	Board Representative	Director	Sr. Manager	Board Representative	Board Representative	President	CEO	President/ COO	Director	Title
Geneva County 9-1-1	Congressional District 4	Limestone County 9-1-1	Charter Communications	Congressional District 1	Congressional District 7	Pine Belt Telephone	Farmers Telecommunications	Hayneville Telephone	Homewood 9-1-1	Agency/Company
jwilliams@34entral.com	timwebb@duttonwebb.com	<u>brandon@alc911.org</u>	Robert.smith9@charter.com	jbsmith4@yahoo.com	gregvsilas@gmail.com	john@pinebelt.net	fjohnson@staff.farmerstel.com	ecausey@htcnet.net	brandon.broadhead@homewoodal.org	E-Mail
P THE		Not the state of t	Robert Land		2 A	, (			RIAL	Signature