

AUTO COLLISION REPAIR LICENSING ADVISORY BOARD

Meeting Minutes of January 26, 2011

Members present: Dave Reynolds, Chairman, and Independent Collision Repair Member

Tom Broderick, DBR, Chief of Auto body, Salvage Operations

Louis D'Quattro, Jr. – DBR, Deputy Director, Division of Regulatory Standard,

Compliance and Enforcement

Dave Doucet, RISP, Law Enforcement Member

Chris Hurd, New Car Dealer Member

Members Absent: Gerry Galleshaw, Public Member

Dennis Gamba, Direct Repair Member

Dan Coleman, Glass Industry Member

Scott Wendel, Insurance Industry Member

Others Present: Jina Petrarca-Karampetsos, Providence Auto

Russell Thrall, I-Car

Fred Santaniello, NEIT

Cheryl Booker, NEIT

Randy Bottella, ABARI

Kim Precious, Implementation Aide

Evelyn Ferrara, Licensing Aide

Dave Reynolds: Called meeting to order at 10:35 A.M. Motion to

approve minutes of August 25, 2010, and September 8, 2010, with corrections. Seconded: LD, All in favor. Just to let the board know, we have some conversations that are pending with the state fire marshal and right now we are setting up some type of arrangement for the end of February. We will get back to you on that when we get that done. I make a motion to pass Executive minutes. Seconded: CH, All in favor. I'd like to move right on over to NEIT.

Fred Santaniello: What we wanted to do is basically update the board as to where we are. We were charged with the responsibility in developing a diagnostic test that would pre-test individuals coming into the certification program so we could get an idea to what they did know.

Dave Reynolds: These are pre-testing tests? So if they can pass a test like this they don't have to take the class?

Fred Santaniello: That is right.

Dave Reynolds: And we have those in English and Spanish?

Fred Santaniello: Yes. Cheryl Booker who is the training coordinator is working on putting together the schedule for the test.

Cheryl Booker: We plan to start the week of March 29th . That will give about a month and half for a pre-test to be given. Our plan is to

offer one class a week. Then start with next subject and go through the five classes and on and on.

Dave Reynolds: I think that pre-testing is an excellent idea. If somebody could pass and do well with the curriculum why put them through the class.

Cheryl Booker: If you think that coming into NEIT to take the exam would be a deterrent, we can put the pre-test on-line where they would have to log in and take the exam. That is possible, I just have to get the tech guys to set that up.

Dave Reynolds: That could be a viable option.

Fred Santaniello: The only thing we would add if in fact the test would be taken online we would have to certify the credibility that they are the one who in fact took that exam.

Dave Reynolds: Just in case somebody else took the test.

Fred Santaniello: What we would do is keep those people separate and just have a practical kind of experience one on one with the instructor to make sure the instructor was certain the individual was the individual who took the test and the test results indicated what he or she really knows.

Randy Bottella: I might caution you on that because the next step would be what happens when you find somebody who didn't take the test at all. We need to make sure we have the right person.

Jina Petraraca-Karampetsos: On-line is good. The flip side there has to be a warning notice that there will be verification at some point and if they fail that they will have to take the class.

Randy Bottella: That is much better it is being foretold.

Jina Petrarca-Karampetsos: I think it is convenient. So maybe the notice will deter someone from cheating.

Chris Hurd: I would just be worried. I mean the reason we want these guys licensed is because of safety issues and it is pretty easy to bypass if it is on-line. So I don't know if you are accomplishing the safety compliance.

Louis DeQuattro: I would have concerns if they were certified that way.

Dave Reynolds: On the onset let's keep it with the schools. Maybe next year we can re-visit it and have an on-line option.

Dave Doucet: How many people are going to need certification?

Dave Reynolds: 1 out of 5. There will be quite a few.

Randy Bottella: The variables are numerous. We don't know how many people qualify and the training they received. And we don't know how the shops are going to adhere to it. Are they going to go above the minimum or below the minimum? An owner may choose to just put himself through the classes or might choose to send all of his techs.

Jina Petrarca-Karampetsos: It may turn up down the road that shops make it a requirement of employment.

Randy Bottella: As we move forward it would become the industry standard.

Dave Reynolds: That is why we are trying to set up as many options as we can.

Randy Bottella: In the next five to six years I do feel that every year you will see more people becoming certified because it is going to be contingent. As they leave one shop and go to another they are going to be asked for certification. It will be an incentive to be certified.

Dave Reynolds: It is a liability issue. This board in the future will look at it and will probably up the anti on the certifications because I think the public is going to call for it.

Randy Bottella: We recognized that we couldn't come in with a sweeping change and overwhelm the industry; it wouldn't work for the shop owners or for the schools. There have been more changes to cars in the last decade than there has been in the last 50 years and the need for on going training is going to exist.

Dave Reynolds: We now have the lowest fatality rate ever recorded in this country. It is directly related to the fact we have more smart vehicles that are designed to save people. We need to have properly educated people fixing those vehicles and putting them back on the road again correctly.

Louis DeQuattro: Is this a perpetual certification or do you do it once.

Dave Reynolds: I believe it is every 5 years.

Jina Petrarca-Karampetsos: I don't have the regulation in front of me but this certification you have to show proof of it upon renewal yes?

Dave Reynolds: Yes.

Jina Petrarca-Karampetsos: I thought that it had to be current. I thought that every time you renew your certifications had to be current. So if certifications are every 5 years that might lead to a potential gap of a year. The only thing you have in here is the

documentation should include transcripts to be made readily available. It does not say anything about them being current.

Dave Reynolds: Yes. A gap of a year. We have to look at the regulation again. We might have to stay within the three-year time span. It would stand to reason that the certification would have to be valid through the licensing period.

Randy Bottella: The only thing I question is if there is no change in the class that they went to. Is it really still current?

Jina Petrarca-Karampetsos: Is it possible to take a test to opt out?

Dave Reynolds: I like that idea.

Randy Bottella: If I went to class in 2002 for measuring with Chief it is the same today as it was then. But with safety restraint and anti-lock break the class of 2002 it is useless today. It is a completely different system. So possibly the key wording it should be current.

Dave Reynolds: Yes. What we are going to do is put some type of language together because there are some other changes coming to this regulation 4 that we have not gotten to. The schedule for advisory board meetings for the coming year is here. Anyone see a problem?

Chris Hurd: I'm out of town on February 23, 2011.

Dave Reynolds: What we would do is make sure we get the schedule and agenda shipped out to you Chris. If there is anything you wanted to vote on or make sure that you were present when it was voted on you would let us know and we would hold it for next meeting and that goes for anybody else on the board. I make a motion to pass schedule. Seconded DD, All in favor.

Randy Bottella: Question, are the changes on regulation 4 coming? When we meet with the Fire Marshal we need to make sure it is absolutely crystal clear on the renewals they have to have a letter from the fire Marshal specifically stating they have been inspected for painting. We had it on for the last renewal and it was not adhered to at all. The letter has to state from the fire department and I'm a prime example my fire department came out and said he is all set. It did not say spraying, nothing and I told him you inspecting for spraying. They never said anything about spraying. Forwarded it in to the department I had no problem at all. They never said anything about me being inspected for spraying.

Louis DeQuattro: I think what we need it to get a consistency among the cities and towns and the education and training.

Dave Reynolds: I make a Motion to adjourn. Seconded: CH, All in favor. Meeting adjourned 11:23.