



KENTUCKY EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

Andy Beshear
Governor

Boone National Guard Center
100 Minuteman Parkway
Frankfort, KY 40601-6168

Eric Gibson
Director

Kentucky Qualification System (KQS) Advisory Committee

Mr. Dustin Heiser, KYEM
(Chair)

Mr. Steve Brukwicki,
KYEM

Mr. Drew Chandler,
Woodford County EM

Mr. Michael Froelich,
EEC

Mr. Grant Gillion, KDPH

Ms. Jennifer Hitch, KYEM

Mr. Marc Rudder, KY Fire
Commission

Mr. Todd Schulkers,
Kenton County HS/EM

Mr. Kevin Vogelpohl,
Boone County EM

Mr. Jason York, KYEM

Maj. Eric Walker
KSP

Mr. Garth Wireman,
KENA-APCO

Ms. Charla Sands, DMA,
Legal Counsel, Nonvoting

Dr. Charlie Harris, KYEM,
Secretary, Nonvoting

Tenth Meeting

PowerPoint Used for Guiding the Meeting Is
Attached at the End of These Minutes

Date: 25 November 2024

Location: Room 208, Emergency Operations Center,
Boone Center, Frankfort, KY 40601

Call to Order: Dr. Charlie Harris at 10:03 AM.

Roll Call: Nine of the fourteen committee members
attended virtually or in-person. This constituted a
quorum. Mr. Todd Schulkers, Ms. Charla Sands, and
Mr. Dustin Heiser were excused.

Director's Comments: Director Eric Gibson welcomed
everyone to the meeting. He talked about the
importance of the committee's work based upon the
the recent disaster response to Hurricane Helene.
He emphasized that most Incident Management and
EOC Assistance Team requests from affected states
asked for credentialed personnel.

Introductions: No introductions were necessary.

Reading and Approval of Minutes: Mr. Drew Chandler
moved to accept the minutes from the committee's
previous meeting on August 26, 2024. Mr. Jason York
seconded. The minutes were unanimously
approved.

Meeting Agenda and Objectives: Dr. Charlie Harris
covered the agenda and objectives. The major objectives
of the meeting were:

(1) Provide a KQS Program Update, to Include Decertification, Updates from the QRBs, Online Presence, and Possible Databases to Potentially Store KQS-related Information.

(2) Brainstorm Possible Program Goals for Calendar Year 2025.

Decertification and De-Credentialing Discussion: Dr. Harris mentioned that both QRBs, as well as the Advisory Committee, had now reviewed the draft decertification and de-credentialing section and provided recommendations to improve the document. Dr. Harris noted that all three entities provided similar feedback for revisions. He stated an updated draft with everyone's input would be provided for review at the committee's next meeting.

KQS Online Presence: Dr. Harris talked about KYEM's new YouTube Channel for KQS. There are now short podcasts that explain how to submit for Historical Recognition (HR).

KQS Milestones for 2024 and Overall Project Status: The committee reviewed the program's 2024 milestones and overall status. Importantly, KQS met all of its major milestones in 2024. As a result, the IMT QRB stands ready to evaluate HR packet submissions, with the first packet received on November 7, 2024. The IMT QRB will conduct HR packet evaluation during their next meeting in January 2025. More HR packets are expected for this meeting. The EOC Assistance Team QRB is progressing to be able to conduct evaluation of EOC position, HR packets in mid-2025.

Training Management Systems: The committee briefly discussed two, available training management systems. The first one, "ReadyOp", is used by some of the emergency management agencies, in FEMA Region 4 states, to track training. The second option was a "homegrown" database based upon an ArcGIS 123 application. The committee expressed support for further exploration of both options.

Moving Forward With KQS in 2025: The committee approved a certificate to be presented to credentialed persons. Additionally, they discussed a wide range of goals and ideas, to include: challenge coins or poker chips; presentation of credentials at a ceremony in the State EOC; recognition at an event with the Kentucky Firefighter's Association, at the annual Governor's Conference on Energy and the Environment, and during a meeting of the Kentucky Emergency Response Commission; establishment of the KQS Mentor Program to assist persons new to the profession with learning and possible credentialing; KQS Month at KYEM, and the pursuit of credentialed person recognition by the Governor.

Next Steps – the Advisory Committee's Next Meeting: The committee gained consensus to schedule its eleventh meeting for Tuesday, January 21, 2025 at 10:00 AM.

Public Comments: None.

Adjournment: With no further business to discuss, Mr. Steve Brukwicki moved to adjourn, and Mr. Kevin Vogelpohl seconded. The committee voted to adjourn at 11:06 AM.

Attachments: Advisory Committee Slidedeck 25 November 24 (PowerPoint)