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Ohio Peace Officer Training Commission Meeting March 9, 2023

Held at 1650 State Rt. 56 S.W. London, Ohio 43140

Meeting was held in the cafeteria

Minutes – March 9, 2023

A. Opening – Call to Order

Chair Stanforth called the meeting to order at 10:10am.

Lt. Fitsko led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Ms. Teresa Coffey called roll call.

Ms. Coffey confirmed there was a quorum with 8 present, 1 absent.

Commissioners Present:

Chairperson, Sheriff Vernon Stanforth

Vice-Chairperson, Chief Clayton Harris

Sheriff Michael Heldman

Colonel Charles Jones

Lt. James Fitsko

Ms. Carol O'Brien

Ms. Wynette Carter-Smith

SAC J. William Rivers

Commissioners Absent:

Ms. Leah Amstutz

Attorney General Staff in Attendance:

Mr. Dwight Holcomb, Executive Director OPOTC/A

Ms. Teresa Coffey, OPOTC Staff

Jill Curry, OPOTA Staff

Arienne Fauber, OPOTC Staff

Brittany Brashears, OPOTC Staff

Kelly May, AGO

Carol Simon, OPOTC Staff

Cyndy Peterson, Principal Asst. Attorney General OPOTC

Nicole Hendrix, OPOTA Staff

Deana Leffler, Asst. Attorney General OPOTC

Barb Cain, OPOTA staff

Dr. Erica Wilson, Director of Curriculum, OPOTC

Scott Reinbolt, OPOTA Staff

Lou Agosta, OPOTC

Bryan Lee – Assistant Attorney General

Guest in Attendance:

Doug Engel, Defiance County SO
Bryan Cook, Greene County Criminal Justice Academy
Greg Lattanzi, Dublin PD
George W. Lavenel, Jr. Ross County SO
Theodore Frazier, Jackson County SO
Tracy Evans, Pike County SO
Jamie Patton, Union County SO
Shannon Montgomery, Ohio Traffic Safety Council
John Altman, Ohio State Highway Patrol
Randall Dodds, Logan County SO
Joe Kopus, Logan County SO
Earl Smith, Franklin County SO
Orvis Campbell, Tuscarawas County SO
James Crawford, Coshocton County SO
John Swaney, Madison County SO
Kandy Fatheree, Summit County SO
Ernie Oergel, Polaris Police Academy
Charmaine McGuffey, Hamilton County SO
Paul Weber, Clark State
Bill McGee, Cuyahoga County SO
Steven Hammett, Tri-C Academy
Elijah K. Baisden III, Tri-C Academy
David Thoroughman, Scioto County SO
Chief Deputy Blaine Duduit, Scioto County SO
Sheriff Jason Landers, Paulding County SO
Scott J. Anger, Greene County SO
Sheriff Burchett, Clark County SO
Sgt. David Coleman, Franklin County SO
Deputy Scott Paur, Franklin County SO
Lt. Angie Hollis, Ross County SO
Sgt. Jennifer Stabler, Ross County SO
Lt. Marc Dopp, Columbus PD
Capt. Kris Conwell, Medina County SO
David Lucas, Belmont County SO
Frederick W. Stevens, Seneca County SO
Sheriff George W. Lavender, Jr. Ross County SO
Glenn Nicol, London PA
Matthew Lutz, Muskingum County SO
Gordon Ellis, Brown County SO

B. Chair Report

Chair Stanforth welcomed everyone and thanked the Commission members for their efforts to be present. The Chair reported the protocol for commission meetings and advised the meeting is recorded and open to commission only, but a guest forum will be open at the end. He also asked Executive Director Holcomb to explain the new audio system that was recently installed.

Chair Stanforth announced we will start with our first committee report the Continued Professional Training Committee and Sheriff Heldman is the Chair of that committee.

C. Continuing Professional Training Committee Report

Sheriff Heldman, Continuing Professional Training Committee Chair stated the committee met back in January and believes everything is in place. He turned it over to Dr. Erica Wilson who stated everything is moving forward with CPT and she provided numbers to Executive Director Dwight Holcomb.

Executive Director Holcomb, stated the CPT for agency preapproval during the first ten (10) weeks, we have received 213 applications for CPT preapproval topics. That is 54% of what we did last year. The numbers are extremely high. Out of 213 applications, Erica has approved 143, 70 are processing, 114 are from third party providers. The written CPT curriculum is available to agencies and has been posted on OHLEG. OPOTA Online has everything ready for the school threat safety training. The two (2) hour Arrest, Search and Seizure video is getting its final review. The Legal Updates video is currently under production and should be available in a couple of weeks.

Dr Erica Wilson, stated the OPOTA Online courses are taking longer to get up and running because we have a testing group to make sure that we don't have all of the glitches we had last year. The testing group is testing all of the courses for two (2) weeks. We are grateful to BCI for volunteering to do all of the testing.

Executive Director Holcomb, stated the CPT website went live about four (4) weeks ago. It can be found on the AGnet under CPT. You will find a FAQ page, third party provider forms for agency requested training to be approved for 50C organizations or state organizations, everything you need is listed here and will answer any questions you might have. If you can't find what you're looking for, send an email to CPT questions at [OhioAGO.gov](mailto:CPTquestions@OhioAGO.gov) and we will answer your questions.

Chair Stanforth asked if there were any questions? Hearing nothing, he moved on to the curriculum committee.

D. Curriculum Committee Report

Curriculum Chair Sheriff Michael Heldman, stated he has two (2) reports, the first one from January 26, 2023, that he will be reciting from Dr. Erica Wilson's report. Group meetings have been held since September 2021 on the Physical Fitness Standards. The SME panel recommendations offered are: No change to current assessment to maintain current age, gender-based assessment at the 15th percentile to enter academy and 50th percentile to graduate. To maintain the Coopers Standard method but eliminate age, gender consideration is scoring. All age, gender would have to meet the same entry and graduation standard which will need to be determined. Adopt a skills-based assessment to include dummy drag, fence climb, etc. Eliminate the physical fitness assessment for academy entry and graduation make it a non-tested part of the curriculum. Eliminate physical fitness

exercise hours and utilize the academy portion of the physical fitness lesson plan. Eliminate physical fitness plan from the basic academy curriculum in its entirety. The 300-point three event assessment of Cooper Standards, with the difference of student choosing an overall score to pass. They would have to pass two of the three events. If they are short points in one event, the student can make them up in another event that can be gender based or gender age neutral. Overall the SME panel decision was narrowed down to two recommendations:

1. Maintain the Coopers Standards assessment but eliminate age, gender consideration scoring. All ages and gender would have to meet the same entry and graduation standards, which will need to be determined; or
2. a skills-based assessment, i.e.; dummy dragging, fence climbing, etc.

At this point there is more that needs to be done. This recommendation requires a Job Task Analysis (JTA) to be completed so the committee can make a formal recommendation to the commission so we can move forward.

MOTION:

Curriculum Chair Heldman moved to make a motion for the Attorney General Office to look into the JTA so the commission can make a solid decision on what we do with Physical Fitness Training. The Motion was seconded by Lieutenant Fitsko. Ms. O'Brien asked to make sure that is the right motion stating it was motioned for the AGO to perform the study? It was clarified the AGO would not look into the study and that OPOTA staff does not have the expertise to complete the study. We would have to work with the Chief of Staff for funding so the JTA can be completed by a third party. **Curriculum Chair Heldman amended the motion** for the commission to seek the funds to complete the study.

Lt. Fitsko seconded the amended motion.

A vote was taken and passed unanimously. Yes-8, No-0, Absent-1. **Motion passed.**

Curriculum Chair Heldman. Announced he met with Chief Harris and discussed the changes to the Peace Officer training as well as Private Security, Corrections, and Jailers Basic. The SPO changes for basic Peace Officer Training under Domestic Violence and Building Search. The other is under A-4 Building Searches on SPO increase. The last is a one hour increase for Jailer Basic Training and no SPO changes. Out of four (4) programs and 16 lesson plans, there are two (2) SPO increases and one (1) hour increase. The lesson plans have been made to be current and accurate. The basic SPO's were approved and corrections firearms training 109.772, the committee recommends we approve the 40-hour training with an annual qualification to be held at an academy-based training with qualified instructors to run the academy which was approved as well.

MOTION:

Curriculum Chair Heldman moved to make a motion for the commission to approve the two topics.

Chairperson Stanforth asked if we need two separate motions? It was clarified we do need two separate motions.

Curriculum Chair Heldman moved to amend the motion for changes made to each of the following:

Basic Law Enforcement Training, Basic Private Security, Corrections, and Jailer Basic Training. Ms. Wynette Carter-Smith seconded the motion.

A vote was taken and passed unanimously. Yes-8, No-0, Absent-1. **Motion passed.**

Curriculum Chair Heldman moved to make a second motion to accept the recommendations for the Corrections Officer Firearms Training presented in the material today.

Ms. Wynette Carter-Smith seconded the motion. No discussion was heard from commissioners. A guest, Sheriff Lutz, Stanton County SO asked, will there be any input from audience before you vote? Can you explain the changes?

Executive Director Dwight Holcomb, explained this came out of SB288 and staff started looking how to better accommodate this. Past review of this came out that needed a 40-hour class added for corrections training done at an academy setting at a location near you.

Atty. Deana Leffler, as Executive Director Holcomb explained, having this as a 40-hour calendar and go through academy process with compliance staff as usual, students can attend by their appointed authority, they could attend at OPOTA with one of our qualified instructors, or at a regional provider as well. An additional option was presented which would still be the 40-hour calendar, but it would be at the end of the correction's basic academy. For 109.772 there are a couple of necessary requirements to be qualified to carry firearms while on duty in a jail facility. There is a specific authorization which needs to be given by the person in charge of the facility, plus the person must be awarded a certificate by the Executive Director after firearms course is completed.

Chairperson Stanforth, asked will you explain how SB288 traded all of this?

Atty. Deana Leffler explained the SB288 was extremely long and it was part of leveling the playing field so that all agencies could go through a similar process and be similarly situated. A specific mandate the AG adopted rules authorizing and governing the attendance of correction officers at approved Peace Officer Training schools, which is part of OPOTA's mandate. It also specifies the requirements for prospective students whose person in charge of jail facility approves carrying firearms in facility while on duty. All of the Sheriffs need to be aware it specifically says the person in charge of jail facility can approve carrying firearms in facility while on duty. Prior equivalency is a subsection and it would be granted for Peace Officer who has gone through Peace officer basic and transitions into Corrections or Jail facility, but they would all have to go through the requalification process.

Sheriff Lutz Stanton County SO asked if it was explained about what authority this gives?

Atty. Deana Leffler, yes, the authority is while on duty, and which location where allowed to carry while on duty.

Sheriff Campbell, Tuscarawas County SO, why do we need a commander to do this? This is a corrections issue, so why can't a corrections basic academy commander be allowed to submit paperwork for approval?

Atty. Deana Leffler, asked to teach it or run it?

Sheriff Campbell, Tuscarawas County SO, to run it so a commander can sign off on it. Do we have an answer to that right now?

Executive Director Holcomb, personally I do not have an answer to your question, but I can check on it and get back to you.

Sheriff Campbell, Tuscarawas County SO my second question is will my people be approved to run this firearm course?

Executive Director Holcomb, has your academy ever run the Court Officer Basic Academy?

Sheriff Campbell, Tuscarawas County SO, No we have not.

Executive Director Holcomb, I will look into that for you.

Sheriff Campbell, Tuscarawas County SO, what is the testing requirement for the 40-hour class?

Atty Deana Leffler for the proposed option when there is a separate academy, or stand-alone academy that would not require a state exam.

Sheriff Campbell, Tuscarawas County SO, for clarification, are you saying our corrections officers carry jurisdiction ends at the county line?

Executive Director Holcomb, I would refer that back to your local attorneys.

Sheriff Campbell, Tuscarawas County SO, thank you.

Sheriff Lutz Stanton County SO, a lot of our sheriff don't have commanders, but they do have certified instructors. We're asking for a new 40-hour class to be taught, I would think our certified instructors would be more than capable to teach this 40-hour class and I would like the commission to consider that. Thank you.

Chairperson Stanforth asked Executive Director Holcomb what criteria needs to be met to conduct the course?

Executive Director Holcomb based upon that he will need a commander, and run it as an academy session, which means compliance officers will do inspections, because it is set up as an academy base production.

Chairperson Stanforth so if we can teach one without a commander, why can't we teach the other without a commander?

Dr. Erica Wilson because the court officer basic has a commander.

Chairperson Stanforth is that apples to oranges?

Dr. Erica Wilson No.

Arienne Fauber, OPOTA, there are court officer commanders that are specific requirements for that under OAC 109:2-5-05 which requires a high school diploma or GED. Five (5) years law enforcement experience, five (5) years as a court officer, or five (5) years of experience as a corrections officer authorized to carry a firearm. Two (2) years supervisory experience, three (3) professional references. No felony convictions.

Sheriff Lutz Stanton County SO, I think this will lead us to having "ghost" type people signing off on this type of thing.

Asst. Atty. Deana Leffler, the reason we're talking about COB is because this is a 40-hour course that will satisfy the basic training mandate in the most efficient way possible and the effective date is April 4, 2023.

Executive Director Holcomb, keep in mind they have to get a certificate issued from the executive director of OPOTA, as we do for peace officers and not from the local sheriff's office or whoever is teaching it. CPT is completely different. For example, if you put on a 3-hour legal updates course and you submit it to us, Dr. Wilson approves it for CPT, you don't get a certificate from OPOTA, that means it is CPT approved and you get the credits for it, but it is not one of OPOTA's classes.

Chairperson Stanforth, help me understand, staff, we are only using COB as a guide, but you're mandating the same criteria be held for the corrections officer training same as the court officer training?

Dr. Erica Wilson, if we're using court officer basic, we have to maintain those requirements for court officer basic.

Sheriff Stevens Geauga County SO, if a correction officer already passes a basic course, that has a commander, why can't we complete the court course and not have the commander and keep as a firearms certificate course? Then you won't have a commander attached.

Arienne Fauber OPOTA, if the law requires the certificate is issued through OPOTA, then it has to go through that process, it is not an advance training course, it is a certification requiring it to go through academy process.

Chairperson Stanforth, the legislation does stipulate that these have to be a certified training.

Principal Atty. Cynthia Peterson, certified by the executive director. It's like you're asking to handle this as an in-service training, and the executive director does not sign off on certified in-service training. We are trying to make it as easy as we can by tacking it on to your corrections academy, or if you want to go through OPOTA, or through a regional office, or plug into a POBT, or run as your own.

Ms. Carol O'Brien, So SB288 does require the executive director signs off on this training and that's why you have to have a commander attached?

Principal Atty. Cynthia Peterson, yes.

Sheriff Dave Thoroughman, Scioto County SO, does the commissions have the ability to amend the recommendations? Would it be best to make amendments to our jurisdiction if a county needs to transport out of county so people won't have to worry about transporting out of county?

Ms. Carol O'Brien, at this point and time, we are stuck with this bill, but you can always make recommendations to your legislature.

Chairperson Stanforth, there are two (2) different issues. I think the Sheriff is addressing not the certification of the course, but the language of being able to go outside of your jurisdiction. Can legal explain that again?

Atty. Deana Leffler, the language of the law states that a corrections officer may carry a firearm while on duty in the same manner/extent and same area as a law enforcement officer of the agency with jurisdiction over the place where the facility is located.

Chairperson Stanforth, why does that restrict me to just my county?

Atty. Deana Leffler, It doesn't.

Sheriff Heldman, I want to make sure everyone understands. If an inmate is going to CRC and back that would be perfectly fine?

Atty. Deana Leffler, that is not my decision to make. That would be the person in charge of each jail facility would have to specifically authorize it. According to the language of 109.772 indicates the specific authorization for that county correctional officer to carry in that jail facility comes from that person in charge of that facility. Where and how they're permitted to carry is a separate determination about where the law enforcement agency that has jurisdiction over that jail is allowed to do the same.

Ms. Carol O'Brien, the commission cannot give a legal opinion to the 88 different sheriffs.

Sheriff Heldman, can the attorney general?

Ms. Carol O'Brien, you can ask for one, I don't know that they can respond to it. If I hear you correctly Sheriff Stanforth, your concern is you exchange prisoner at another jail, that sheriff at that facility would have authorization to give permission, correct? Because she is just reading the statutes.

Chairperson Stanforth, Sheriff McGuffey and all sheriffs have a policy on bringing in prisoners to their facility that needs to be complied with and doesn't require MOU. Corrections officers must comply with the county facility they have traveled to.

Ms. Carol O'Brien, no because if you send a corrections officer, with a gun, to another facility implies you know that officer has the authority to do that.

Chairperson Stanforth, we do not need dual authority.

Ms. Carol O'Brien, talk to your local legislatures.

Bob Cornwell, they would have the same jurisdictional boundaries.

Ms. Carol O'Brien, please talk to your local legislatures.

Chairperson Stanforth, how do regional jails train their people?

Atty Deana Leffler, through OPOTA. We're not creating anything new, we're just taking what is existing and trying to fulfill the legislative mandate put upon OPOTA that impacts all of the facilities.

Executive Director Holcomb, it's a course that is there for someone who is now authorized to carry a firearm. This is just a new process for the corrections officers, but the same process that has been used for a very long time and absolutely consistent to everything that we do. We will be making this training, for the sheriffs in the 88 counties, as close to home as possible.

Arienne Fauber, we will work with you to get you through the process. We can give you examples from nearby counties, and plug in COB courses and how regionals have done it. Send us an email and we'll walk you through the process.

Sheriff Lutz Stanton County SO, it sounds like it's easier to be a commander doing this than being a certified instructor.

Executive Director Holcomb, have your instructor's become commanders.

Chairperson Stanforth, asked if there was any other discussion? Hearing none, a motion was made.

MOTION: Accept the court officer basic training as the curriculum for the correction officer basic.

A vote was taken and passed unanimously. Yes-8, No-0, Absent-1. **Motion passed.**

Chairperson Stanforth, asked if there was any further curriculum?

Sheriff Heldman, responded there is nothing else sir.

Chairperson Stanforth, advised he jumped forward in the meeting and did not ask for approval of the January meeting and asked if any corrections need to be made?

Chief Harris, **MOTION:** motioned to accept the January meeting minutes.

Sheriff Heldman, seconded the motion.

Chairperson Stanforth,

A vote was taken and passed unanimously. Yes-8, No-0, Absent-1. **Motion passed.**

Chairperson Stanforth, asked Colonel Jones for a report from the House Committee.

Colonel Jones, nothing to report.

Chairperson Stanforth, asked Lt. Fitsko for a report from the Legislative Committee.

E. Legislative Committee

Lt. Fitsko, responded we're watching SB35 new officers for the funding of training. Also keeping an on eye on is legislation lowering the age to become a certified peace officer from 21 to 18. Hopefully I'll have more details at the next meeting.

Chairperson Stanforth, asked Executive Director Holcomb for the Executive report.

F. Executive Committee

Executive Director Holcomb, announced that we have a few new staff members. Stephanie Parish is a part-time clerk at the front desk, Wesley Stewart is our new auto mechanic, Barry Wisecup is our new advanced training instructor. Rick Hardy has retired as Asst. Executive Director, Tom Quinlan retired chief from the Columbus PD will be our new Asst. Executive Director. Denise Becerra will be starting as the new Administrative Assistant.

The OPOTA portal continues to grow with almost 30,000 active users. Agencies now have the ability to do all of their SF400/401's directly to the portal. Courtney DeLong is working with agencies around the state getting everyone trained. Hopefully everyone will be trained by the end of this year. A new 3-hour training with CPT credit will be happening at the end of April, "What You Do Matters, Lessons from the Holocaust". Also, we are rolling out a new grant program. We're working the Ohio Tactical Officers Association to put on a 2 day, 16-hour school response training during April through June. If a part-time or fulltime SWAT officer, you can register them for the class and your agency will pay the \$600 up front. Once your SWAT officer has successfully completed this, then you can turn in a grant form to the AG's office and your agency will be reimbursed. Also, worth 16 hours of CPT credit. October 24th and 25th is the AGs Law Enforcement Conference. The AG recently awarded Columbus PD and Hocking Tech as a "Gold Star" Academy. Mr. Holcomb has also been traveling around the state meeting with agencies, Sheriffs and Police Chiefs sharing information about CPT and the new OPOTA Portal.

Mr. Holcomb asked if there were any announcements from his staff.

Lou Agosta, OPOTA Staff, announced the Fallen Officer's Memorial will be held May 4th, 2023. We will also be adding historical names to the memorial this year as well.

Mr. Holcomb thanked Lou, who will be retiring soon, for staying on until after the Memorial.

Principal Atty. Cynthia Peterson, Legal continues to deal with public records, they can now go to the portal to see their own public record, but we are still getting a lot of requests. We have been working on a lot of legal reviews and Deana and Shelli are currently working on lesson reviews.

Executive Director Holcomb, with the additional work, we brought on two (2) additional attorneys. What we are trying to do with all of our curriculum design led by Dr. Wilson, and the legal review goes through everything we do.

Scott Spangler, Advanced Training OPOTA, we have a new firearms instructor coming from Texas. We appreciate your patience with our deficit of firearms trainings. We are having our range converted to an indoor range and will have triple staff members soon. Please continue to be patient with us, we are working diligently to get this together.

Scott Reinbolt, OPOTA Staff, the current contracts with the 5 regional training providers expire on June 30, and we're currently negotiating with all 5 to renew those contracts. Also, we're opening the process for proposals to add a 6th regional provider in the NW region.

Executive Director Holcomb, please keep in mind that Scott Reinbolt is talking about regionals and the other Scott was talking about firearms issues with a couple of our instructors so we asked our regionals to help. Those classes are listed on the portal and you can register there.

PearsonVue hosted their industry day with us. If any of the commanders are having issues with PearsonVue, please reach out to us first, we have direct contact with PearsonVue. That concludes the Executive Report.

G. New Business

Chief Harris, asked if anyone had new business to report.

Sheriff McGuffey, asked a question regarding the Peace Officer Training Academy. Will there be any discussion to change the policy to allow people to take the final exam and perhaps create a variance to take the final exam then add six (6) months to whatever that timeframe may be?

Executive Director Holcomb, that particular process is imbedded into the Ohio Administrative Code. We take changes with the administrative code to the recommendations of the commission to the AG to then make those recommendations.

Sheriff McGuffey, is there any plan to do that?

Executive Director Holcomb, there has been no discussion with my staff. It would have to start with this committee and then it would have to go to the Ohio Attorney General and then to the Ohio Administrative Code. Right now everything is status quo.

Ms. Carol O'Brien, Sheriff McGuffey your concern is the one-year timeframe that a cadet has to complete everything and take the final exam?

Sheriff McGuffey, yes, I would like to address that too, but first to clarify I'm asking if there can be a variance of rule change so people can take their final exam after they have attended and passed the 730-hours of curriculum prior to taking the physical assessment so they can get credit for that?

Executive Director Holcomb, within the OAC it indicates that you have to successfully complete all aspects of the academy which at this time includes the PT before you're eligible to sit for the exam.

Chairperson Stanforth, explain to us how you changed the administrative code.

Principal Atty. Cynthia Peterson, that's for your attorney to explain to you.

Atty. Bryan Lee, the commission begins the process and once the commission decides to make recommendations or change to a policy or administrative code then the recommendation will be sent to the attorney general and he has the discretion to change the recommendation. **Chairperson Stanforth**, does that recommendation change have to go through JCARR at certain times of the year?

Ms. Carol O'Brien, if it's the administrative code, the AG doesn't have the unilateral ability to make changes.

Chairperson Stanforth, we make the recommendation to the AG to request that change, the AG staff will then process that, file the changes which then goes through JCARR for review. Then what is the process?

Ms. Carol O'Brien, it depends if we are successful or unsuccessful. If unsuccessful, its status quo, if successful then there is a time period before it takes effect.

Chairperson Stanforth, so there is no fast way to do it?

Ms. Carol O'Brien, correct.

Sheriff McGuffey, can we include in that recommendation the year long rule if you get an injury in October, but you started the academy in February, your year starts in February to allow time to rehab your injury to take the physical assessment?

Executive Director Holcomb, once the academy is done, at one year, I have 180 days..

Principal Atty. Cynthia Peterson, the code does address the one-year limit. That would be another rule change that would need to happen if anyone wants to present a change to the AG as a possibility. So, yes it would require a rule change.

Sheriff McGuffey, could we insert language regarding injury that requires surgery and rehab?

Principal Atty. Cynthia Peterson, there is an ability to get an extension, but the problem is if you have that injury toward the end of your year and you need rehab time, yes, the executive director can give a medical extension, but he doesn't have the ability to run the academy past the one-year mark. Maybe it just needs clarification.

Sheriff McGuffey, I'm just asking if we can address it?

Chairperson Stanforth, will this impact the entire class because an individual request an extension beyond that year?

Ms. Carol O'Brien, as it stands now, yes. The question is, is there a way to close the academy with this one person outstanding?

Chairperson Stanforth, it would take a separate action given by the commission through this same process of modifying the Ohio administrative code. The recovery would probably be faster than the process.

Ms. Carol O'Brien, you are asking if this is something that we would be willing to look at?

Sheriff McGuffey, yes. I was also hoping there would be some kind of reach back to get these people back into the academy. It seems unfair to not have a remedy for this.

Chairperson Stanforth, I think we do have a remedy. If she asked for a medical extension, she could have been granted that. Did she ask for a medical extension?

Sheriff McGuffey, she was not aware that she could ask for a medical extension.

Executive Director Holcomb, Sheriff McGuffey you are saying that you asked for an extension after they took two (2) tries and failed both?

Sheriff McGuffey, yes.

Executive Director Holcomb, you will find that the executive directors office works diligently to do everything we can to maximum the length of time that is available for recovery. We just have to be asked in the appropriate amount of time, but you asked for something after they had already failed twice. If they fail twice there is not an extension for that. That's asking for a third attempt that is a different question, you have to ask before. We will give as much extension as possible with the appropriate documentation because we want them to be successful too.

Sheriff McGuffey, so will there be some consideration and how do I ask about extending time so the people can take the final exam?

Executive Director Holcomb, you can write something and send it to my office that way it will be part of the record.

Sheriff McGuffey, My last question is, with the process of potentially changing the physical assessment, do you know about how long that will be?

Dr. Erica Wilson, the recommendation has been made to seek funding for JTA. JTA can take up to six (6) to nine (9) months to complete all surveys, focus groups, input for ALL police departments in Ohio.

Chairperson Stanforth, after the process begins, but we don't know when that process will begin because it requires funding to do this amount of massive research, collection and preparation and could easily take one year.

Dr. Erica Wilson, it'll be more inclusive as we are extending it out to the public.

Sheriff McGuffey, okay so it could take at least one year.

Chairperson Stanforth, I don't think it will be a quick turnaround because we are asking to change the entire dynamics of the physical fitness training in the state of Ohio. It will impact every academy and it's a big undertaking. The physical fitness assessment has been in place for 22 years and I think

the study will show what today's peace officers are required to do, including the diversity, to make a sound judgement. It could take a year, but I don't want to put a time limit on it.

Executive Director Holcomb, Mr. chairman one of the things to remember the current standards have been in place for 22 years. Whatever happens with JTA or whatever this commission does will probably last for the next 25 years. It is very prudent upon the commission and our staff to assure whatever correction we get is going to be long-lasting.

Sheriff Ellis, Brown County SO, the physical fitness assessment is designed to build cardiovascular efficiency so that when you are in a 2-minute fight for your life, you have sufficient cardiovascular ability to do that. We are training the officers as if their life depended on it, because it does. What I ask is when you look at the standard, understand the standard is that I have to be physically fit enough to chase them, catch them, and subdue them using only the force necessary and being physically fit enough to accomplish that task. Please take that into consideration. Thank you.

Sheriff McGuffey, sheriff do you see a transition there that allows us to move away from Cooper standards into a skill based physical fitness training?

Sheriff Ellis, Brown County SO, I think they can move away from Cooper and into a skill-based training. I believe we can integrate the two, but I think the challenge is identifying the hardest component, which is running. I think the skill-based training is appropriate, but I ask that you keep in mind there is a cardiovascular preparation that is necessary before you engage in full-on combat.

Dr Erica Wilson, we do have exercise specialists, physicians, occupational therapists, and nutritionist on the JTA panel that will be able to address those questions.

H. Old Business - No Old Business

Dr Erica Wilson, we do have exercise specialists, physicians, occupational therapists, and nutritionist on the JTA panel that will be able to address those questions.

I. Guest Forum

Chairperson Stanforth, asked if anyone had any further questions. Hearing nothing a motion was made.

J. Adjournment

MOTION: To adjourn.

A vote was taken and passed unanimously. Yes-8, No-0, Absent-1. **Motion passed.**

Meeting adjourned at 12:15pm.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Vernon P. Stanforth". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line underneath the text.

Chair Vernon Stanforth

These transcripts are not verbatim. Audio recordings are available upon request.