



**Ohio Peace Officer Training Commission
November 10, 2021**

Held at 1650 State Rt. 56 S.W., London, Ohio 43140
Meeting was held in the cafeteria

Minutes – November 10, 2021

A. Opening- Call to Order

Chair, Stanforth called the commission meeting to order at 10:10 a.m.

Ms. O'Brien lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

Ms. Lopez-DeLaet did the roll call.

Commissioners Present:

Sheriff Vernon Stanforth, Chair
Chief George Kral
Ms. Leah Amstutz
Sheriff Michael Heldman
Lieutenant James Fitsko
Ms. Carol O'Brien
SAC Eric Smith

Commissioners Absent

Chief Clayton Harris, Vice-Chair
Colonel Richard Fambro
Ms. Wynette Carter-Smith

Ms. Lopez-DeLaet, we have a quorum. 7-Present, 3-Absent

Chair Stanforth welcomed all the guests and asked each to take the opportunity for the record to identify themselves as present for the commission meeting.

Attorney General Staff Attendees

Mr. Dwight Holcomb, Executive Director, OPOTC
Mr. Richard Hardy, Director of Professional Standards, OPOTC
Ms. Deana Leffler, Senior Assistant Attorney General, OPOTA
Mr. Dan Ozbolt, Director of Advanced Training, OPOTA
Ms. Erica Wilson, Director of Training Curriculum, OPOTC
Mr. Michael Walton, Associate Assistant Attorney General
Mr. Garret Anderson, Assistant Attorney General
Mr. Doug Dumolt, Director of Law Enforcement Operation Administration

Guest Attendees

Major John Altman, Ohio State Highway Patrol
Cmdr. Chuck Crosby, Sinclair Community College
Lt. Matthew Dickey, Dayton Police Department
Cmdr. Mark Lang, Columbus Police Department
Ms. Amber Rose, Columbus Police Department
Ms. Tina Hundley, Columbus Police Department
Cmdr. Ernie Oergel, Polaris Career Center
Cmdr. Jerry Snay, Stark State College.
Mr. Paul Weber, Clark State

Dwight Holcomb, Executive Director I would like to make an introduction of Garret Anderson. Garret is the new Assistant Attorney General.

Mr. Michael Walton Assistant Attorney General in the Constitutional Office's section, he will be joining me in representing the commission.

Dwight Holcomb, Executive Director Garret is a proud graduate of Capital University Law School.

Chair, Stanforth Mr. Garret is an Assistant Attorney general, and are there associates?

Ms. O'Brien Yes. There are Assistants, Associates, Senior and Principal, and then you have Deputy Attorney. There's a lot of titles.

B. Chairperson Report

Chair, Stanforth We have minutes from three different Commission Meetings that have been prepared and sent to you electronically for your review. Those minutes are for the May 13, 2021 meeting, July 8, 2021 meeting, and the August 16, 2021 meeting. Do we have a motion to approve?

Motion a motion for the approval of the May 13, 2021, July 8, 2021 and August 16, 2021 minutes by Ms. O'Brien. Sheriff Heldman seconded the motion. A vote was taken and passed unanimously. Yes-7, No-0, Absent-3

Chair, Stanforth the Minutes are approved.

Chair, Stanforth the chairperson report, there is very little to report. I have been very busy over the past six months. However, never so busy that I don't recognize the value of staff. Donna we do appreciate what you have done. I know for me, as chairperson, on an individual basis you have kept me in tow through the years I have been Chair, and kept the organization running smoothly. I know the burden now will be shifted, but as chairperson I do extend my deepest heartfelt appreciation for your service.

Ms. Long Thank you, it was a pleasure.

C. Continuing Professional Training Committee Report

Chair, Stanforth with that in mind, we'll move on to business of the Continuing Professional Training Committee Report.

Sheriff Heldman I have nothing to report. I don't know if someone at OPOTA has anything to add?

Dwight Holcomb, Executive Director We'll make a report on it when I get to the executive director's report because I have staff here to talk about it.

D. Curriculum Committee Report

Chair, Stanforth Sheriff Heldman still holds the floor as we move on to the Curriculum Committee Report.

Sheriff Heldman I have nothing to report on that. Someone else may have?

Ms. Wilson We had some non-discretionary corrections to two of our lesson plans. POBT 2-2 E Crimes Against Property, we had to include some additional instructor notes, and update some of the corrected terms like misdemeanor in that lesson plan. Then we had a correction in POBT 2-20 Other Offenses, there were some corrections made to the worksheet. We removed some terms that needed to be removed in that lesson plan. Legal approved those non-discretionary updates, and we moved forward to make those non-discretionary updates.

Chair, Stanforth Any questions of Erica?

Ms. Wilson It did not change any SPOs, or anything of that sort.

Chair, Stanforth Do any of those changes initiate action by the commission?

Sheriff Heldman No, I don't believe so.

Chair, Stanforth Erica, do you have anything else?

Ms. Wilson No, that is all.

E. House Committee Report

Chair, Stanforth Moving on to the House Committee Report.

Chief Kral We met earlier this morning to discuss recommendations for the 2022 House Committee Chair, Vice Chair and recommendations for the 2022 calendar dates. I was honored to be able to fill in for Colonel Richard Fambro, who is not here, and he is our recommendation for House Committee Chairperson for 2022. We decided that there's really not a need for a vice chair, so we're not making any recommendations for that. Of course, any commission member who wants to be considered, we would obviously leave that in your hands. Regarding the calendar dates, we are not going to change anything. It's going to be the second Thursday of every other month starting in January. Do I make that Motion or does the chair ask for a motion?

Chair, Stanforth You can make motions.

Chief Kral Should I do them separately, or put them all together?

Chair, Stanforth Separately.

Motion a motion was made to appoint Colonel Richard Fambro for the 2022 House Committee chairperson by Chief Kral. Mr. Smith seconded the motion.

Ms. Long You're not recommending the House Committee chair, you are recommending the Chair for the Commission.

Chief Kral Oh, I'm sorry. I read that wrong.

Motion a motion was made to appoint Colonel Richard Fambro the Chair for the 2022 Commission by Chief Kral. Lt. Fitsko seconded the motion.

Chair, Stanforth Any other motions from the floor?

Chief Kral Can I have a moment?

Chief Kral Before we vote, is there any other commission members who would be interested in being the 2022 OPOTC chairperson?

Chair, Stanforth It would be inappropriate for anyone to self-nominate.

Chief Kral Are there any nominations from the floor?

Sheriff Heldman I nominate Sheriff Stanforth.

Lt. Fitsko Second.

Chief Kral It sounds like it would be between Sheriff Stanforth and Colonel Fambro.

Chair, Stanforth the chair should not be here for this portion of the meeting. The vice chair is absent. If I leave the room would we lose the quorum?

Ms. O'Brien No, we have six.

Chair, Stanforth I think for this purpose, I will leave the room, and allow the chair of the committee to conduct this portion of the meeting.

Ms. O'Brien Can I ask a question before you leave? Do you want to remain chair of the Commission?

Chair, Stanforth I enjoy being chair, and would be interested in remaining chair, but that is the Commission's choice.

Chair, Stanforth exited the room.

Chief Kral Everyone, I apologize, I thought you we were making motions for the House Committee Chair.

Dwight Holcomb, Executive Director That's what happens when you go into executive session, and we can't all be there.

Chief Kral I own that one. I thought we were talking about the House Committee.

Ms. O'Brien OK, so not OPOTC. Colonel Fambro for chair of the House Committee.

Ms. Long The chair of OPOTC is the person who assigns who is on what committee.

Motion a motion was made by Chief Kral to have Sheriff Stanforth remain as the chair for OPOTC for 2022. Lt. Fitsko seconded the motion. A vote was taken and passed unanimously. Yes- 6, No-0, Absent -3, Abstained-1.

Motion A motion was made by Chief Kral to withdraw the motion for Colonel Fambro to be the 2022 OPOTC chairperson. Mr. Smith seconded the motion. A vote was taken and passed unanimously. Yes-6, No-0, Absent-3, Abstained-1.

Chair, Stanforth rejoined the meeting.

Chief Kral Sheriff Stanforth, you were successfully voted as 2022 OPOTC chairperson.

Motion a motion was made by Chief Kral to not fill the OPOTC vice chair for 2022. Mr. Smith seconded the motion.

Chief Kral Any discussion?

Ms. O'Brien Why?

Chief Kral We had a discussion in the house meeting with Donna, and she felt there wasn't really a need for it.

Ms. O'Brien If we're in discussion, and for some reason the chair is not here, we would probably need to have that vice chair. At some point, if the chair is unable to come to a meeting we need to have a vice chair.

Ms. Long I apologize, I know as secretary we are not supposed to speak, but I think Chief Kral may be confused with the House Committee.

Chief Kral I may be confused about the House Committee.

Ms. Long Chief Kral was asking about House Committee assignments. That's when I told him that the chair of OPOTC appoints the chair of the House Committee, and there has never been a need for a vice chairperson named on the sub-committees. I believe that is what Chief Kral may be thinking of.

Chair, Stanforth the chair has the privilege of appointing all committee chairpersons. Be it the House, Curriculum or what have you. There have been multiple years where there was no vice chair of the commission, and in those times I usually deferred to the House chair person. The few times that I've had to leave, and I'd defer to the House chairperson to conduct the meetings. I believe I would defer to the House chair to conduct the meetings, because we didn't have a vice chair. I think we elected a vice chair maybe two years ago so we would have a clear alignment of what to do in the chair's absence.

Chair, Stanforth for clarification, your Motion is for the Commission vice chair or the House vice chair?

Chief Kral I'm going to withdraw that Motion about the Commission vice chair.

Motion a motion was made by Chief Kral to withdraw his previous motion in which he asked that a motion be made to not have a 2022 OPOTC Vice Chair. Mr. Smith withdrew his previous second. A vote was taken and passed unanimously. Yes-7, No-0, Absent-3.

Motion a motion was made by Chief Kral to recommend Chief Harris be the 2022 OPOTC vice chair. Ms. O'Brien seconded the motion. A vote was taken and passed unanimously. Yes-7, No-0, Absent-3.

Motion a motion was made by Chief Kral to recommend the 2022 OPOTC calendar dates remain the same from the previous year. The second Thursday of every other

month starting in January 2022. Mr. Smith seconded the motion. A vote was taken and passed unanimously. Yes-7, No-0, Absent-3.

Chief Kral Mr. Chair my report has concluded.

Chair, Stanforth Anything else for the House report?

Chief Kral No.

F. Legislative Committee Report

Chair, Stanforth Moving on to the Legislative Committee report.

Lt. Fitsko There are a lot of House bills and Senate bills that we are currently watching. Two that may be the most concerning that we are watching. The several changes to the concealed carry that have been brought forth, but it doesn't look like anything is really close to passing. Then the qualified immunity, there's quarantine bills out there that we're watching, but it doesn't look like anything's in danger of being passed at this point. If anybody would like these, I can make copies, but there's several here that we're watching.

Chair, Stanforth Would you like to submit those on the record?

Lt. Fitsko No.

Chair, Stanforth Anyone have any questions on any Legislative issues?

Chair, Stanforth You are aware of the Supreme Court's two recent decisions on the 9th circuit and the 10th circuit on qualified immunity?

Lt. Fitsko Yes.

Chair, Stanforth Any other committee reports or anything else concerning the Legislative Committee?

Lt. Fitsko That concludes my report.

G. Commission and Academy Reports

Chair, Stanforth Mr. Holcomb.

Dwight Holcomb, Executive Director Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We're going to start off with an update on CPT. It is the topic that has been very popular. It has been a very interesting couple of months as we move forward with the very first, and very technical part of getting all of the agency data worksheets submitted. The legislation required that

all peace officer agencies in the state of Ohio submit to the Attorney General's Office their salary data information. Our I.T. department, with the assistance of Mr. Doug Dumolt, one of our senior attorneys, worked out what we thought was a really good simple spreadsheet to fill out. It has been out there for several months now. We are getting good results coming back in on it, but as Mr. Dumolt is here and can help me attest, it's a bit challenging to review all these agencies that are coming in. It's very time consuming. The data sheets are coming to either Doug, or some of our staff that work for Rick Hardy. The need to make sure that what they've submitted matches up to their rosters is time consuming. We're finding mistakes, and we're having to send them back and wait on the corrections. It's delaying the process in trying to get everything in. However, Doug and the staff are working diligently to get this done. It is one of our top priorities as we move through, so that we can at the beginning of January start to look at distributions. Doug, would you like to make any comments on the workbook process and how that's going?

Doug Dumolt I can. If anyone has any specific questions, I'm happy to try to field them. I can let folks know that we have roughly 700 submissions in so far from the 900 plus agencies around the state of Ohio. We still have a little way to go until the deadline, as well as the statutory deadline for completion of those workbooks. After the statutory deadline we cannot accept submissions under the law as it currently exists. We have our regional outreach team at the Attorney General's Office contacting everyone who has not yet given us a submission, or we don't have a record of yet, to try to work with them to ensure that everybody gets their fair share of funding for the year. Other areas, the workbooks have been a challenge to work through a number of those. Despite it being a relatively straight forward, at least apparent task of completing these, there are a lot of technical errors that are happening, and as they come in misunderstandings need to be clarified. Roughly a third or more of the submissions that we get from local agencies have to go through a back and forth with their agency CEO or another designated individual who's completing the forms to complete corrections. That is a significant back and forth, that the staff and I have been working on. Lately, things seem to be going well on track. I know we have over, I believe, 375 as of this morning that have been completed in terms of the first round of auditing and processing, and that's of the 900 plus agencies. We have quite a few still to go, obviously of the 700 that were submitted, but we're making good progress. With current progress, I think we are on track for the January distribution of CPT funds, as Dwight suggested. Absent some sort of additional hurdle, the next stage of review is going to be looking for duplicate submissions where an officer might work with two agencies, or two agencies actually requested CPT money for the same officer. That's obviously not appropriate under the administrative code or the statute. We will need to reconcile some of that. There haven't been too many of those yet at this point. Seems to be just clerical misunderstandings, for example when you have a part- time in one jurisdiction, and they're an auxiliary in another, there's rules about who gets precedence, who is going to be the keeper of the records, and who gets the money for the CPT administration. We're making good progress there. I think we're going to hit our goals and deadlines of being done by the first week in January. If anyone has any questions, I'm happy to try to answer them.

Dwight Holcomb, Executive Director as Doug was saying, it is a very labor intense job to do all this. In fact, thank you Doug for being here. Doug is kind of spearheading this whole process. Normally a lot of our staff are here in this meeting. They're not here today because they're probably working on these data sheets now rather than being in attendance. It is a lot of hours that are going into this to make sure that we accomplish the goals that are set, and to get all of these data sheets done by December 1st, which is the final deadline for submission and review. Then we'll have the month of December to do all the final review. As Doug pointed out, even though it's through the education, and in talking to groups, chiefs and sheriffs trying to make sure that peace officers don't show up on multiple sheets, it still happens. That's one of the things that we have to go through manually and double check. That's the first big hurdle that continues, and again, I've got to thank Doug, and all of Rick's staff who have been working on this because without the dedication they put into this we would be nowhere. It's taken a concerted team effort to get all of this work done and it's very much appreciated. On the curriculum side, I'm going to look over to Erica. Erica and her team have been working on the curriculum design for the top seven topics that were approved by this Commission back in August. Erica, if you'd like to make some comments on where we stand on curriculum design for the CPT.

Ms. Wilson Yes, of course. As Dwight mentioned, of the seven topics that were selected for CPT, six of them are in internal review with SME's and with legal. Those will be transitioning soon. Topic one- diversity, inclusion and equity is still under development. We've gotten some new direction from the AG that we want it to incorporate cultural humility. We're working on incorporating that into that lesson plan. It's taking a little bit more time to develop that. Similar to Doug, we're going to be working on applications for departments to apply for their own CPT lesson plans. That's going to be labor intensive as well when we receive them. However, we're going to work through. Dwight and everyone else have been working through the application, and I believe we finally have that approved. It's going to be posted.

Dwight Holcomb, Executive Director The application was posted yesterday on the website. If individual agencies go to the 2022 Continuing Professional Training website, there's five tabs. One is titled "Assessing Training", and you click on that tab. The fourth bullet point is the process and a link for agencies to upload the form. Then the agency can submit their own agency developed topic curriculum based upon the topics approved by this commission.

Ms. Wilson We're very hopeful that all of the topics will be ready in January 2022.

Dwight Holcomb, Executive Director Delivery of topics, once we've got all the curriculum done, it's going to be available on OPOTA online. There's going to be paper copies of curriculum that agencies can use themselves of the curriculum that we developed. It provides for agencies to develop their own curriculum based upon the seven topics, and then have it approved by our staff. There's going to be a wide variety

of delivery options. I'll talk about another delivery option here in just a moment that was launched this week by the Attorney General. Anything else on this CPT before I move to another CPT topic?

Dwight Holcomb, Executive Director Part of the budget bill was the formation of the Law Enforcement Training Funding Study Commission. That commission came together for their first meeting on October 28, 2021. The members of that include a member of the Attorney General's Office, the Director of Public Safety, three Senators, three House of Representatives, and four members of Law Enforcement. They met for their first meeting on the 28th of October. Senator Hogan was elected chair, and the vice chair was Representative West. They had a nice discussion. I was going to give about a 10-minute presentation on where we are and CPT for this year, but that turned into a little over an hour. It was a great discussion with that particular group, to get a handle on what CPT funding needs to do to help law enforcement training in the future. The next meeting for this group is going to be in December. We have planned on December 9th, January 13th and February 10th as dates that they've set for meetings, and by the statute, they have to provide a report to the General Assembly by March 1st. They are on a very tight schedule to be able to come up with some long-term permanent funding possibilities for the state of Ohio Law Enforcement. We'll keep you updated as that group meets. I am not the AG's representative on that, but I am attending the meetings.

Dwight Holcomb, Executive Director Curriculum design staff, I'll let Erica talk a little bit about where we're heading. We've got two positions open for curriculum design. Erica, how are we standing on getting ready to do interviews?

Ms. Wilson Yes, we have slotted three days next week to conduct those interviews on Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday. We have some good applicants, so were hoping to find two good candidates to fill those positions.

Dwight Holcomb, Executive Director These positions are not replacements. These two curriculum design people are new additions, and part of our reorganization, along with bringing on Erica as our Director of Curriculum Development. We're trying to consolidate all curriculum not only basic academy curriculum, and private security curriculum, we're also now taking all of our Advanced Training curriculum, and it's all being run through our curriculum design people to make sure it's current and relative. We've also added on an additional legal review when Deana Leffler joined OPOTA. We're doing a more in-depth legal review of all of our curriculum. It's added a couple extra steps, but it's ensuring a high quality of material that we are developing and putting out the door. That is one of the reasons why we're bringing on these two new additional curriculum design specialists and should hopefully have them on board by the end of this year. In doing that, we did some reorganization of the curriculum design area, we moved some modular desks around, opened up a wall, fixed up an office for Erica to move into. That way we've got all the staff now going to be housed in one central location. We also put in a conference table which aids in Erica's group, getting together to have great exchange information sessions. We've got a lot of things that are

going on in curriculum design as we move forward into the future of all the things we're trying to successfully do here at OPOTA/C.

Dwight Holcomb, Executive Director I'd like to now move on to testing and have Rick Hardy talk a little bit about where we are with Pearson Vue at this point in the testing. I know Commander Lange is here. Commander Lange from Columbus, says they're getting ready to send their first group of cadets to Pearson Vue in the near future. Rick, I'll let you talk a little bit about Pearson Vue and where we are on that.

Mr. Hardy Pearson Vue is operating as we expected. Just to give you an idea, we had 814 people complete testing through Pearson Vue in this calendar year. Of those people, 94% of them passed. We do have a high passing rate, and a very low failure rate, 6% currently. We can do a lot of different reports through Pearson Vue, everything from exam performance by an individual academy to individual student. It is working very well. I understand there was a question at the last commission meeting regarding purchase orders and vouchers. Every commander who submits the eligibility to test receives an email from our testing coordinator that identifies who to contact and so forth. I think one of our biggest challenges, with all due respect is the sheriff's departments, because of the different type of financial arrangements and so forth. If we are aware of that early on, we can help address that very quickly and hopefully get that resolved within a couple of days. Any questions you have on Pearson Vue, please direct them to us and we'll be able to provide updated information.

Chair, Stanforth Are you hearing anything negative?

Mr. Hardy We've heard some comments that people are not finding access to the test center that they want. However, one of the advantages of Pearson Vue was the availability of other test locations other than the one right in their backyard. There may not be one at the location a mile from the academy, but there may be testing opportunities or reservation slots five miles from the academy. That's why we went through Pearson Vue to give students the opportunity and access to two testing locations. We are talking about reducing the eligibility window to 21 days because we feel that the 30 days is just drawing out some of the processing of onboarding recruits at agencies. One thing we have implemented is, we're running weekly reports and daily checks of academies who have an open eligibility test window. We're not waiting until the test window closes to then run a report to find out who's tested or who hasn't. We're doing those on a daily basis. Then our testing coordinator is reaching out to the respective academy commander to let them know that John Smith or Jill Smith have not scheduled an appointment yet, and your testing window closes in two days. If they're telling us that they received documentation that they've withdraw from the academy, we will forward that to certification and they can finish processing those individuals. If we get requests for individuals who have completed we'll finish processing them and get the certificate information out to the agency as quickly as possible. It's a big change, so it's taking some growing pains, but we're getting there. Unfortunately, it is not a real time process in getting these things out to folks.

Chuck Crosby If I understand correctly, then as they test now, we can submit? They don't have to wait for the entire academy to test?

Mr. Hardy Yes, with the caveat CPT, rosters, openings, closings, SF400 processing, and remember we have eight people doing all of that for 962 agencies, 33,000 officers and so forth. We're pushing them to get them done as quickly as possible.

Chuck Crosby This wasn't to put you on the spot because I just finished an academy with 27. We closed on the first of November, and in four days my cadets had their email where they could go in and schedule for the test.

Mr. Hardy We're trying to do those as quickly as possible.

Chuck Crosby Well, and that's kind of what I was getting at. If on that rare occasion where somebody schedules as soon as they're eligible, and then you have somebody who wants to take the maximum time for studying and preparation.

Mr. Hardy We're not going to let them hold up the process.

Chuck Crosby I guess what I'm saying is I think that's a very positive change because I've been getting a lot of calls from chiefs at different agencies and saying, What's the holdup? I think there's a lot of chiefs of agencies that don't fully understand this process yet, with it being new. We're talking through it, and I think that's a great change.

Mr. Hardy Thank you.

Dwight Holcomb, Executive Director A big differential here too, is if you've got an open enrollment student who is not waiting on an appointment and they're going to go try to find a job, that's great. If you've got a cadet that's waiting for this paperwork, they've got an appointment and they're ready to get hired. Let Rick know and we'll get that processed.

Chuck Crosby There's been a lot of change. I can't speak for anybody else, but the agencies that are coming and are recruiting in our academy. They're coming with application in hand, and most of my cadets have conditional offers of employment before they finish the academy. That pressure is coming from the agency because they're trying to fill. They have hired them once they pass the state test. That's where the calls are coming from, so I think it's a great adjustment.

Dwight Holcomb, Executive Director as Rick was saying, this whole process continues to get refined. We've been doing this now since July, when we went live with it. We're in that area of still trying to deal with all the bugs, but we understand completely when someone's taking the test, and you've got a chief or sheriff that's waiting for our paperwork. They want to get them on the street. Let us know and you

can work with Rick and his staff. We're trying to get to that point where we can get it out faster, but as I said right now again, we're kind of focusing on CPT too. Let us know how we can help on that.

Mr. Hardy The voucher issue, if the academies are identifying challenges, we'll help walk that through, and push that through as quickly as possible. The biggest thing with the voucher issue is if it's going through a purchase order process the academy or the agency who may be paying for that have to reach out to Pearson Vue and provide all that contact information to establish that. It's like a line of credit that they have to establish, and submit the paperwork.

Chuck Crosby Yeah, that's the world I came from, and actually it's a sheriff's office that has an officer that completed the corrections academy, that was running into the issue, not the basic police. Where do we get that information? Is that something that I can have in advance? If I have an agency call me, I can hopefully just provide it.

Mr. Hardy Yes, I'll get our testing coordinator Kim to help with that. She should be sending that out with every notification of eligibility to test to every account.

Chuck Crosby Ok, thank you.

Mr. Hardy We get that sometimes these prior equivalents who come into the academies that their eligible to test much quicker. As soon as we have that information, we submit it and if they're eligible for testing completely. The key is having the email notification of these students at the end of the academy versus what comes in at the beginning of the academy. If they have an educational institution email address that they may not have access to after the close of the academy, that's an issue, because that's where the email notification is going to be sent.

Dwight Holcomb, Executive Director Thanks, Rick. Want to talk a little bit now, Rick, if you would, since you were very involved with this about the Star Academy program.

Mr. Hardy We have two that have been publicized as receiving the accreditation from the Attorney General. The first one was the University of Akron Police Department. The second one was Great Oaks Career Center. We have a third one that's being finalized, I believe now. Fairly easy process. One of the mandates we have was raising the bar for recognition, everything from an 85% of the cadets who attempt the final physical fitness assessment successfully pass the 50th percentile is one of the criteria. Two additional hours above the required curriculum hours and several high-risk topics, including subject control, firearms, physical fitness and ethics. Our field compliance staff will walk any academy through the application process. The Academy has to retain all the documentation. They'll forward the application to us with a recommendation, and then we forward it to John Born, and it goes forward from there.

Dwight Holcomb, Executive Director The Attorney General went up and met with Akron, then with Great Oaks just this last week. This is a copy of the designation for the Star Award that is presented to each of the academies as the Attorney General recognizes them. Like Rick was saying, it takes the academies doing much more beyond just the basics. It's a good recognition for the academies because it does maybe make them just a little bit higher level, because they are offering their cadets maybe just a little bit more than other agencies might. Again, we've got two of these issued at this point, and we'll continue down the road and see how this continues to work.

Dwight Holcomb, Executive Director I'd like to now turn it over to Dan our Director of Advanced Training. Dan can talk a little bit about our 2022 in person catalog and he's got a couple of other things to hit on.

Mr. Ozbolt Since the restructuring of OPOTA and going into 2022, we're utilizing approximately 100 adjunct instructors from various disciplines. We have snipers that are all very experienced. They are either active duty law enforcement or recently retired law enforcement. I'll give you an example of one of the snipers we are using is recently retired Columbus officer Kevin Wheeler. Kevin is very well known and respected throughout the sniper community. We're also utilizing some of our crime scene classes, forensic scientists from Ohio State and Purdue University. In addition to our crime scene programs, I noticed there is a little bit of a disconnect between OPOTA and BCI, which we should never have. BCI, in my opinion are the premiere crime scene people in Ohio, if not this region of the country. As a result, we're able to secure a better and credible instructor doing shooting reconstruction, blood stain evidence and things of that nature. There were some possible issues with prior instructors. We're tightening up on that point in 2022. We're using at least 40 regional locations throughout Ohio. We have a real strong emphasis in northeast Ohio, particularly since Richfield closed down. We're trying to compensate for what we lost there since the restructuring, and I think we're doing a pretty good job with that. Thus far in 2022, we have 177 course offerings on the books, and we plan to add many more. We have over a thousand officers registered for the 2022 classes. Obviously, that's going to be much higher by the end of next year. Of our courses, Pistol is in very high demand. One of the reasons why is we reconfigured the firearms track where that was a prerequisite for every other platform. The reason we did that is so that officers would be spending less time in the subsequent platforms. We didn't want to repeat some of the same content over and over again. There was no benefit to that. That's been successful and we're still tweaking it as we go. With that being one of the highest demand courses we have going into 2022, we're offering 18 offerings of Semi-Auto Pistol Instructor. That's the most we've ever had, in fact, that's significantly higher than the pre-COVID numbers. We have approximately 30 instructors and coordinators here. In fact, it's a bump from 2021 numbers which were also higher than 2019 pre-Covid.

Mr. Ozbolt Subject Control Instructor has been a little bit problematic because of Covid. We couldn't offer that until quite recently, we anticipate in 2022 and beyond getting caught up with the demand on that, we have at least a pre-COVID number of offerings

for 2022 going forward and possibly some more. We anticipate adding more investigative classes in 2022 and some tactical classes. We're working with some really good SME tactical teams right now. The objective with the tactical forces is to integrate large city departments along with your smaller regional teams. We're back to working with some offices in Columbus, Delaware and elsewhere to finalize that.

Mr. Ozbolt OPOTA Online, so what was formerly known as eOPOTA has been restructured to OPOTA Online. We have a survey that's out there now, and I want to thank the BSSA and the OACP for helping me push that forward. We're getting a pretty significant response on the quality of OPOTA Online and thus far the reviews are quite fair. We're very pleased with what we're seeing. Officers are liking OPOTA Online much better as opposed to eOPOTA. The quality is better, the content is better, it's been updated. There were some issues with some of the content being outdated. It's a process, we're trying to build that up as we go. We're adding more and more courses on a daily basis.

Mr. Ozbolt To get another SME, people in this room have contributed to that process. Special Agent in Charge Eric Smith put us in contact with a counterterrorism expert at the FBI, and they're contributing significantly to our program. They are meeting with our design specialist at least once a week or every other week. We're very appreciative of that. Give you some examples of some we're actively working on to build that up. Domestic Violence Legal Updates, we're getting that updated. Responding to Sexual Assault, Hate Crimes roll call has already been recorded and we should have that posted on the webpage soon. Mandatory statutory mandated training under SB 68 Proper Interactions with Civilians, the patrol has been very beneficial. Thank you to John Altman, for giving us SME's to work on that. Other courses, Communicating with Disabilities, Domestic Counter- Terrorism, are being worked on, Semi-Auto Pistol Qualification Scoring this is kind of a neat little component that we're going to put online. There's a disconnect we're noticing when officers come into some of our firearms classes on how to support targets. There's a lot of controversy relevant to that, and we're really focusing on that during our instructor level classes, and we're actually going to record it and put something online showing officers. It will be like a refresher for firearms instructors to take a look at how to properly support a target. Miranda Warnings, Community Diversity and Procedural Justice, a wide array of these are being updated. Roll Call Refreshments, we have 16 available, those are basically quick hitters on things such as Miranda. We're going to do something with a Hate Crime component as well. Some legal stuff, search warrants, things of that nature are good refreshers for officers to look at. Maybe if they haven't worked on a particular discipline in a while, they need a good refresher. We're pleased with the way that's progressing, and we ask with all this stuff that you be patient because it's a process. I think we're making good progress throughout that process.

Mr. Ozbolt The fire-arms range, those of you who are familiar with the OPOTA ranges you know we have a quote unquote indoor range. You have the sniper ranges which is a 300-yard range, and the 125-yard pistol range. We had contractors working on that in

the past several months doing lead remediation. It's kind of interesting how that process works. It's never been done here at OPOTA. On the 125-yard range in particular, they took two feet of dirt off the berm, which they thought would be more than adequate. I go down there on a regular basis to inspect it, and it is amazing how many expended rounds are still in that dirt. They had to go an additional foot before they were able to clear it. They went a total of three feet in the berm to clean all that lead out. It was sent to a toxic waste dump and they neutralize it with lime. It's a pretty interesting process. Drainage issues were pretty significant on both ranges, they're in the process of finishing up that process. They'll be seeding here soon, and the project will be relatively close to being on schedule. It'll make a difference on the operations out there. We have other initiatives we hope to be able to accomplish out there, but they are quite expensive. So, we'll see how it goes. That's all I have.

Dwight Holcomb, Executive Director Thank you, any questions for Dan in Advanced Training? Hearing none, thank you. Something that I've sent to the commission members just the other day along with it's going across the entire state. There's a new program that we're working on for delivery of content.

Dwight Holcomb, Executive Director One of the things I was talking about when we talk about CPT and delivery for next year. When you're trying to get out 24 hours of training and some of this needs to be in person, trying to find delivery methods, and long-term delivery methods. With our staff here, there is no way that we could be able to train 33,000 cops in a year's time. It's just not going to work. The Attorney General prompted us to do some research and come up with some ideas. Just this week, we put out a request for qualification for what we're calling our regional provider facilities. We're looking for public institutions that have the ability to help us put on OPOTA curriculum. What we're looking for basically would be one facility that is going to continue to be the center of the state. We're looking for a provider up north, maybe central, northeast, southeast and southwest. When you take my map here, that's basically from the center point going out, it's about 60 miles. It would be about an hour's drive. What we're looking for is hopefully to be able to put regional providers someplace within an hour's drive of every police officer and agency in the state of Ohio. This is a one-year program that we're bringing up, looking at it specifically for CPT, but how else OPOTA and OPOTC curriculum can be provided. Everything will continue to go through the Polaris registration system. All courses are set up by us. They are all completed with our course numbers. Upon completion, where ever these institutions are, these students get an OPOTA certificate because these are truly our courses. We're also in the process of working on retaining a new person to manage this, which would also include regional inspections. All of these requests for qualifications went out just this week. They are due back to us on December 6th, at which time they'll get evaluated, and then we hope to have recommendations to the Attorney General by the end of the December. Our hope is that we can start to make some sort of rewards to these up to five regional providers across the state to assist us next year into delivering CPT and all the rest of the curriculum.

Dwight Holcomb, Executive Director We've done a lot of tremendous changes here in the last two years on restructuring staff and all the things that we've got going on. This is the type of thing that is part of what the Attorney General would like to do, being able to have training close to home. As Dan was talking about, we've got 40 some regional areas we've been using different police departments and sheriff's departments. We've had a couple of courses in the Marietta area, and other places. Now we're looking at how can we go into the next century providing training? I also look at it if permanent funding for CPT comes through with this committee and we have something funded through 2023 and beyond, this type of regionalization and the hope of these type of providers will help to put OPOTA and all of our courses into the future. This is something that's being worked on, been a lot of senior staff on this. I go back and I thank Doug Dumolt for his work on this work, several of the attorneys downtown, our business council, just a lot of people downtown have been working on trying to develop this. We want to do this right, and do it professionally. We want to find the right institutions to help us out on this. Hopefully in the January meeting, I'll have a better report for you to let you know where this has gone, but we're very excited by this. I think it really is helping to push what we are trying to do into the future, as well as providing more regional training and stable places throughout the state. It's very, very exciting and more to come on that as we get reports in.

Dwight Holcomb, Executive Director I'd like to thank Mark Porter. Mark is one of our administrators, and he's been working with OPOTA to put on a national speaker's series. We've been very successful in this. We've got one coming up here on November 18th. John Walsh from America's Most Wanted and the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children, or NCMEC are coming into Columbus and giving a presentation. On December 7th, we're back down to the Cincinnati area. Dr. Engel and members of the Louisville Police Department are coming in to give a lesson learned on all the issues they had with protest and stuff down in Louisville. January 25th- 27th, Dan was very instrumental in putting on a domestic terrorism and hate crimes, hate groups training. Those are three one day courses and we're moving that around the state. On January 25th, we're up at Richfield. On the 26th we're down in Great Oaks, down in Cincinnati, and on the 27th we're back here in the central Ohio area. We're hitting a wide variety of people on this topic across the entire state. We've already concluded one of the trainings which was in Officer Wellness Training that we did back on September 16th here in Columbus. On October 7th, we were up in Bowling Green again on lessons learned for major incidences and that was taught by Dr. Frank Straub. That was very, very well received. We've got a lot of training, a lot of different things that are going on, a lot of people working on making sure that this organization is providing our mission and getting the training and everything out.

Dwight Holcomb, Executive Director One last thing, on a sad note, I would like to bring to everybody's attention. We had the unfortunate passing of one of our general services staff here, Nate Workman. Nate had been with us for quite a few years. He unexpectedly passed during the week of November 18, just before the law enforcement conference. You'd probably recognize Nate if you saw him around. He would have been

the one setting up this room, would have been helping out with everything. He was a great individual and will be deeply missed. He was a great asset here and to all of his counterparts in general services. It was just a very tragic thing for the entire OPOTA and OPOTC family as well as our general services staff.

Dwight Holcomb, Executive Director Finally, as the Commission Chair noted in his comments about Donna earlier. Donna is retiring, her last day with us is going to be November 30th. She and her husband have been talking about this for a while, and the time has come. It's right for her in her life, and for her family that she goes into the next chapter. Donna, we wish you the best and thank you for all of your service.

Dwight Holcomb, Executive Director Mr. Chairman, that concludes the remarks by myself and our staff.

H. New Business

Chair, Stanforth Any new business?

Mr. Hardy I have one thing sir, Happy Birthday to the Marines, and don't forget Veterans Day.

Chair, Stanforth I have, what I think is new business. I have been contacted several times, and I sent Mr. Holcomb a text yesterday on arming correction deputies at county jails. There was a discussion somewhere, some place, that I've had on this issue. I can't find who I had that conversation with, so it's apparent that we must have a new conversation. I found out after I sent Mr. Holcomb a text that there was a letter sent from Portage County inquiring that same thing.

Sheriff Heldman We are trying to get that through yet this year, to allow firearms training for corrections officers. Legislation didn't permit that. They follow the same path as what they do for EMS or SWAT teams. Therefore, that is still pending going in legislation.

Chair, Stanforth The question I had was, where does OPOTA need to come in on this?

Dwight Holcomb, Executive Director I've checked with Mr. Hardy this morning, We can't remember this particular topic being discussed since we've been here. Mr. Heldman, you said there's legislation that's going through right now?

Sheriff Heldman It was started two years ago and didn't make it through. Then it got put on the back burner, and this past year it got brought up by several counties at one of my committee meetings at BSSA. Now with it toward the end of the year, they're looking at trying to get it through the system.

Dwight Holcomb, Executive Director Is there a House Bill, Senate bill or anything assigned to it yet?

Sheriff Heldman No, not yet.

Dwight Holcomb, Executive Director OK, if we can keep in touch so that if this is pursued, then we can make sure that our needs are taken care of here from what we would need to do, potentially for training and everything.

Sheriff Heldman I know early on, when it was first discussed, my captain had looked into it, and he was looking at the verbiage to be the same as what we do with the EMS.

Dwight Holcomb, Executive Director OK, we'll keep in touch and to find out who the leads are on this stuff.

I. Old Business

Chair, Stanforth Any other old business? Hearing none.

J. Guest Forum

Chair, Stanforth I'll ask any of the guest in the room if they have anything they want to present to the Commission.

Ernie Oergel The Star Academy award, does it retro back? To what year or date?

Mr. Hardy We're looking at it through 2021. So even though the program was just recently announced, we'll look at everything from January 2020. If it's a new academy that begin January 2020 moving forward, but it's already closed we can look at those records also.

Ernie Oergel Thank you, that's the information I was looking for.

Chair, Stanforth Anything else? Hearing none.

Chair, Stanforth The Commission needs to meet after the commission meeting to discuss the results of the 119 discussion. The chair will entertain a motion to adjourn.

K. Adjournment

Motion Ms. O'Brien made a motion to adjourn. Sheriff Heldman seconded the motion. A vote was taken and passed unanimously. Yes-7, No-0, Absent-3.

Adjourned Adjourned at 11:14 a.m.


Chair, Vernon Stanforth

These transcripts are not verbatim.