



FINAL SIGNED DOCUMENT SUBMITTED ON JULY 22, 2019

**Ohio Peace Officer Training Commission  
Meeting Thursday, May 09, 2019  
held at the  
Ohio Peace Officer Training Academy 1650 State Route 56 SW  
London, Ohio 43140**

**May 09, 2019 Minutes**

**A. Opening  
Call to Order**

Chair Vernon Stanforth called the meeting to order at 10:01 a.m.  
Chief Harris led the Pledge of Allegiance.  
Ms. Donna Long called the Roll Call.

**Commission members present**

Sheriff Vernon Stanforth-Chair  
Sheriff Michael Heldman  
Colonel Richard Fambro  
Lt. James Fitsko  
Ms. Carol O'Brien  
Dr. Emily Passias-left at 10:23 a.m.  
Dr. Reginald Wilkinson-arrived at 10:05 a.m.  
Chief George Kral  
Chief Clayton Harris  
SAC Todd Wickerham

**Staff Attorney General's Office**

Mr. Louis Agosta-Deputy Director-OPOTA Staff/TTC  
Mr. Thomas Anger-OPOTA Staff  
Ms. Brittany Brashears-OPOTC Staff  
Kelly Cain-OPOTC Staff  
Mr. Aaron Coey-OPOTA Staff  
Mr. Kerry Curtis-OPOTA Staff  
Ms. Courtney DeLong-OPOTC Staff  
Ms. Arienne Fauber-OPOTC Staff  
Mr. Michael Golec-OPOTA Staff  
Ms. Kim Hahn-OPOTC Staff  
Mr. David Henry- Deputy Director-OPOTC Staff  
Ms. Donna Long, OPOTC Secretary-OPOTC Staff  
Ms. Sarah Pierce-Associate Assistant Attorney/AGO  
Ms. Lori Rinehart-OPOTC Staff

Ms. Lynnette Rodrigue-Deputy Director Advanced Training London  
Mr. Eric Schaefer-OPOTC Staff  
Mr. Jeffrey K. Scott – Executive Director-OPOTC/A  
Ms. Sarah Shendy-OPOTA

### **Guests**

Mr. Elijah K. Baisden, III-Cuyahoga Community College  
Mr. Geoffrey Barnard-Cleveland Heights Police Department  
Mr. James Copeland-Cuyahoga Community College  
Mr. Lee E. Graf-Springfield Police Department  
Mr. William McGee-Kent State University  
Mr. Robert Meador-Columbus Division of Police  
Ms. Sharon Montgomery -Ohio State University  
Ms. Lisa Murray-Columbus Division of Police  
Mr. Jeremy Novelli-Stark Co. Sheriff Office  
Mr. Kevin Reardon-Central Ohio Technical College  
Ms. Amber Rose-Columbus Division of Police  
Mr. Tim Sansbury-Columbus Division of Police  
Mr. Chad Smith-Stark County Sheriff's Office  
Mr. Jerry Snay-Stark State College Academy  
Mr. Ellis Pete Willis-Sinclair College, Dayton  
Mr. David Wiseman-Delaware County Sheriff's Office

### **B. Chair Report**

#### **Sheriff Vernon Stanforth, Chair**

Chair Stanforth welcomed the guests and asked those in attendance to introduce themselves. The first item of business was approval of the minutes of the March 14<sup>th</sup> minutes, which each Commissioner received electronically.

#### **MOTION:**

**Dr. Wilkinson moved to approve the minutes of the March 14, 2019, meeting. The motion was seconded by Dr. Passias. No discussion was forthcoming; a vote was taken and passed unanimously. Yes-10, No-0, Absent-0.**

Chair Stanforth personally welcomed the newly appointed Commission Members in attendance:

- Colonel Richard Fambro-The Ohio State Highway Patrol
- SAC Todd Wickerham-the FBI from Cincinnati area
- Chief George Kral-Toledo Police Department
- Ms. Carol O'Brien, Deputy Attorney General for Law Enforcement

Chair Stanforth stated for the record Dr. Wilkinson had arrived at 10:05 a.m.

With the addition of the new Commission Members the Chair took the opportunity of reassigning committee assignments. The Chair announced the following committee assignments:

- Curriculum Committee
  - ❖ **Sheriff Michael Heldman, Chairperson**
  - ❖ Chief Clayton Harris, Vice Chair
  - ❖ Dr. Emily Passias
- Legislative Committee-Chair Stanforth stated he hopes for the Commission to be on the leading edge coming out of Columbus, being actively involved in directing legislation. The Commission needs to be a voice in Columbus with what we plan on doing, and what we can and can't do. It's more than just meeting here once every couple of months; it's being in tune with what the legislative is coming up with.
  - ❖ **Lt. James Fitsko, Chairperson**
  - ❖ Sheriff Michael Heldman
  - ❖ Dr. Reginald Wilkinson
- House Committee- Their goal is how we function as a commission. What we do on the daily basis, how we conduct the meetings, making sure we stay where we were supposed to stay. The House Committee's responsible for making the actual nomination for the chair and the vice-chair. The vice chair position will require a meeting and recommendation from the House Committee to the full Commission. This can be put on the next agenda.
  - ❖ **Colonel Richard Fambro, Chairperson**
  - ❖ Chief George Kral
  - ❖ SAC Todd Wickerham
- Continuing Professional Training Committee
  - ❖ **Sheriff Michael Heldman, Chairperson**
  - ❖ Dr. Reginald Wilkinson
  - ❖ Lt. James Fitsko

That is the 2019 Commission Members and Committee assignments, which have been electronically sent to the commission members.

Chair Stanforth announced a 119 Hearing is scheduled for after the July 11<sup>th</sup> OPOTC meeting. The Chair explained a 119 hearing is when we've had a revocation of a certification; whether an instructor certification or a peace officers revocation, where the holder of the certification is challenging the revocation and has brought the issue before the entire Commission to hear. The hearing is scheduled based on the expected time of the Commission Meeting. Afterwards the Commission will listen and make a decision as to if the revocation should stand or be put aside.

That concluded the Chairperson report.

### **C. Curriculum Committee** **Sheriff Heldman, Interim Committee Chair**

Executive Director, Jeffrey Scott stated as a result of the May 09<sup>th</sup> meeting, it was clear of the need to give the commanders and academy instructors the opportunity for input on basic curriculum changes. (**Attachment A**) Once the curriculum has gone through its normal process, commanders and academy instructors are given a 30 Day commentary period for submitting in writing to the sub-committee (SMEs) through Survey Monkey. The sub-committee can take all the suggestions and chose to accept some of them, all of them, or none of them. Director Scott believes this is a positive move forward in order to get the commentary out there for their input.

We are placing before the OPOTC Committee today the revised calendar which takes into account that 30 day process. It extends time on the development of curriculum, but Director Scott was thankful to the staff who worked to get this laid out; it wasn't an easy task, but staff did an amazing job. The Chair entertained a motion to accept the changes.

#### **MOTION:**

**Sheriff Heldman moved for the Commission to approval the 30 Day Commentary Period Schedule as presented above. Chief Kral seconded the motion. After a brief discussion and vote was taken and passed unanimous. Yes-10, No-0, and Absent-0.**

#### **DISCUSSION:**

Dr. Passias liked the schedule and the opportunity for input and public comment; but is the intension to create a feedback loop for people who have submitted feedback or comments to understand either why their comments were not integrated or were integrated into the final product? Director Scott saw no objective reason why it couldn't be done, but it could be difficult and time consuming for the staff if you had hundreds of comments on one curriculum. Again, they have an enormous opportunity; so I don't object to it, it's just barring the time we have to get back with them. Dr. Passias suggested a chart to capture the themes of the comments.

Director Scott liked the themes concept; if they found those prevailing themes. Moving forward, there will be a very short presentation whenever there are major SPO's changes, or changes to the curriculum. The presentation would include comments and things taken into consideration that didn't fit with best practices moving forward. Director Scott appreciated the comments and thoughts; it will be looked at and considered.

Ms. O'Brien referred to (**Attachment A**), last page, which states that public comments will anonymous and therefore EPS will not issue any individualize responses. Are the comments intended to be anonymous or just anonymous if someone wants them to be? Director Scott responded allowing them the opportunity to be anonymous. Ms. O'Brien stated so it may be anonymous, which would probably be more appropriate.

That concluded the Curriculum report.

#### **D. Legislative Committee Lt. Fitsko, Committee Chair**

Chair Fitsko invited Dr. Wilkinson to speak regarding his recollection of the Attorney General's statement that we should be more active with the Ohio General Assembly. We spoke about that in regards to CPT. This General Assembly already has its budget in and ready to vote on it. He is not sure if CPT has been introduced into that legislation or not. But, it's important that we look into that. There are always other issues that come before the General Assembly, items we have some interest in; like school resource officers and firefighters carrying weapons and so forth. We need to have some ongoing interest in what's current in the General Assembly and be active in it. Committee Chair Fitsko responded moving forward, he looks forward to this opportunity and hopes to be able to present a report at every meeting on what is currently working through legislation, and which affects law enforcement and training for the state of Ohio. There was nothing further to report, concluding the Legislative Committee report.

**E. House Committee**  
**Colonel Richard Fambro, Committee Chair**

Colonel Fambro stated there was nothing to report, that concluded the House Committee report.

**F. Continuing Professional Training Committee**  
**Sheriff Michael Heldman, Committee Chair**

Chair Heldman stated there was nothing to report, that concluded the Continuing Professional Training Committee report.

Staff Reports

**G. Commission and Academy Updates**  
**Jeffrey K. Scott, Executive Director**

Chair Stanforth introduced Director Scott, stating they'd had a face to face conversation and several phone conversations and welcomed Director Scott aboard.

Director Scott commented he was very grateful to be in front of those in attendance. This is the end of week five, and it's been a lot of information to absorb. He is looking forward to working with the Commission, and our constituents.

Director Scott thanked those who were able to make it for the Memorial Ceremony and thank the staff for all their help and coordination. He thanked Ms. Kelly Cain for all her hard work over all these years. Ms. Cain will be retiring this summer; leaving some big shoes to fill. He is thankful for a staff who worked together to get everything accomplished.

Director Scott attended the Ohio Chief Association's Conference, May 5-7, 2019. He was flooded with business cards, concerns, ideas and thoughts. These were agencies he has dealt with on a one to one basis and he is appreciative of their continued support; not only for him in this position, but for the Commission and the direction they are heading. The relationships with the Buckeye State Sheriff's Association (BSSA) and the Ohio State Highway Patrol need to be maintained throughout his role as Executive Director. It was nice to have that reaffirmation from all those folks.

**The record reflects Dr. Passias left meeting at 10:23 a.m.**

Director Scott had the opportunity to participate in the Light Ohio Blue yesterday evening. Light Ohio Blue, formerly Light Central Ohio Blue, consist of agencies coming together with flashing lights and blaring sirens all over Columbus letting people know law enforcement is out in full force to protect them. This was the first year that OPOTA was represented. Attorney General Yost was able to participate for a while.

There were lots of smiles on people's faces. It brought a lot of support; as they were on the north in of Columbus they stopped at a couple venues and a number of people came up to say thank you and that they appreciated those in law enforcement and all that was being done.

Next, Director Scott shared attending Lorain Memorial Service. The new memorial was constructed for them by the County Commissioners. It was beautiful and it came from a tabletop conversation over breakfast of how Lorain County needed this memorial. The county administrator literally went back to the Commissioners and said we need to do this, and came up with the funding and got it done.

Director Scott will be the keynote speaker at the Cambridge Memorial Ceremony next week. It's a very humbling opportunity. He is grateful for the opportunities to get to connect with our communities and constituents that are also law enforcement.

There will be mandatory staff training for OPOTA/OPOTC staff. The training date for OPOTA Law Enforcement Training Officers (LETO) is July 1<sup>st</sup> and is 8 hours of training. The commission side will have 2 sessions of a 4 hours training on July 2<sup>nd</sup>. Director Scott invited the Commission Members to participant in the training. The training is through the Rite Academy; they will be looking at social intelligence as well as emotion intelligence and how it is equated into the office environment and how we serve.

It is a great program. Florida Law Enforcement has now made this a mandatory course for every officer in the state, including every academy. Would like to see if this is something we might incorporate into our training for the future for law enforcement. Please notify Donna Long if interested in attending the Rite Academy Training so we can have a packet and seat reserved for you.

Director Scott stated that completed the staff reports.

## **H. Old Business**

### **Sheriff Vernon Stanforth, Chair**

Chair Stanforth introduced Ms. Pierce, Associate Assistant Attorney General, and Legal Counsel for the Commission. If the Commissioners had any legal questions they were encouraged to reach out to Ms. Pierce.

Director Scott had one additional item to discuss with the Commission regarding Pearson Vue Testing Centers. The Commission had discussed this item a couple years ago, which he is not sure what came from that conversation in regards to computer adapted testing. However, he would really like OPOTA to advance in the testing area; computer adaptive testing versus the paper and pencil testing that we continue to do today. When employed by the National Register for EMT he had the opportunity to serve with the agency in bringing the computer adaptive testing to the nation for paramedics. That was almost 13 years ago. This is a better opportunity for our students and cadets to really succeed. Computer Adaptive Testing is the wave of the future.

We have a presentation from Pearson Vue on May 22, 2019 at 2:00 p.m. here at OPOTA. Director Scott extended an invite to the Commissioners for anyone who would like to attend. We are still exploring other companies who do testing; but unfortunately, none of them have reached the level of capabilities that Pearson Vue Testing Centers does. They are a nationwide company and do this for the State Nursing Board, Pharmacy Board, and EMS/Fire. There are 13 access points throughout the State and they have colleges that they partner with in order to do this testing. The ultimate goal is to allow our students the flexibility to get to their test, scheduling when they are ready after the 10 day wait period and it's close to home; no need to bus everyone down here or to Richfield. But, it also gives them a test that is more adapted to their learning styles and truly a Metrix that is designed for this area of education.

Director Scott was advised by the staff that under 10-8 under the National Highway Transportation Safety Administration SFST's there was a minor correction that needed to be made. Back in 2017 there was a legislative update that required the word 6 years to be changed to 10 years. There were 2 places identified in the current curriculum that didn't get updated. He is bringing before the Commission today is 2 of those 4 places which need to be fixed; updating 6 years to 10 years to be in compliance with an Ohio law change. This would require a motion and vote.

#### **MOTION:**

**Chief Kral moved for the current curriculum 10-8 under the National Highway Transportation Safety Administration, SFST's be corrected in two places updating from 6 years to 10 years to be in compliance with an Ohio law change. Dr. Wilkinson seconded the motion. With no discussion forth coming, a vote was taken and passed unanimously. Yes-9, No-0, and Absent-1.**

Director Scott stated in having conversation with his staff; they brought up a really good idea. Director Scott brought it before the Commission for discussion. When we have curriculum where there have been mistakes or areas identified as needing corrected, does the Commission want them brought back to them every time for correction or do we want to consider the possibility of a motion that would allow non-discretionary fixes to lesson plans which have nothing to do with SPOs, ratios, or hours that would allow the staff to make those edits or updates with all the legislative changes similar to the above situation where 2 spots needed simple errors in numbers updated. Is that something the Commission wants presented to them every time for a vote or the possibility of non-discretionary fixes being approved?

#### **MOTION:**

**Dr. Wilkinson made the motion to approve the executive director the authority to make non-substantive changes in the curriculum; however, anything substantive has to go before the Commission. The motion was seconded by Sheriff Heldman. After the below discussion, a vote was taken and passed unanimously. Yes-9, No-0, and Absent-1.**

#### **DISCUSSION:**

Chief Harris asked if non-substantive or substantive enough needs to be defined. Is it defined in front of the motion or should it be in the motion? Dr. Wilkinson added the wording to define "implicit or explicitly the ramifications or perimeters" to the motion. The motion above reflects those changes.

Director Scott stated after hearing the discussion at the last meeting, the proposal to increase any hours in subject control or firearms as been currently withdrawn. He would like to see how we can leverage technology to enhance skill and ability. He is proposing utilizing technology through a system called DART. It's a company out of Florida called Digitation. They have created a firearms platform skill enhancer; which can be utilized in academies to allow students to gain platform skills before they actually go to the range. If a student is struggling with trigger management, they would be able to work on that skill and be back into the normal process of the remaining class.

Florida is currently doing this with some of their academies. They are actually using the machine to do a skill, then go to the range and practice that skill with live ammo, come back out and do the next skill without wasting ammunition; develop that skill and go right back out again. If we aren't building those skills piece by piece, we start seeing some of the students struggling on the range; especially those who have never handled a firearm before. We are giving them a platform or the ability to a device that is not as scary; before using live ammo down range. Ammo is expensive and some students have to cover the cost of the ammo they use.

We would like to go out with current OPOTA instructors and this device to work with them and track the data. He wants to bring data back to the Commissioners before looking at any hours for firearms or subject control. He is committing some resources on OPOTA Advanced Training to be able to purchase 3 of the devices and take them out to the academies. Still working on how the academies will be selected for the collecting of data, but any academy interested can contact Director Scott about partnering together. Upon that partnership they will get the devices to the academy and provide training for the initial phase of the process; then allowing the academy to use the device for a determined time frame.

Director Scott would like to leverage technology first, before increasing any hours; then re-evaluate those lesson plans after receiving data and feedback. We will be working with OPOTA Firearm Instructors more intensely in the next couple months on these devices as we move through the purchasing process.

Director Scott asked Commander Meador from Columbus Division of Police to speak on some technology that they are beginning to incorporate as well. Commander Meador stated they are starting a pilot project on Virtual Reality with Firearms. They are working with a local company in Columbus, Startup Company of Virtual Reality to incorporate virtual reality into their firearms so they can get some measurable facts to see if there is going to be value in it. The goal down the line is to use it more in decision making; which will be more difficult to measure how the recruit was prior to using the virtual reality to make a decision versus if they didn't have it. But, firearm skills are going to be very measurable in that manner. They are working with their City Council who has assured them the monies for a pilot project and they are beginning with firearms.

Director Scott stated there would be communication to discuss the results of the obtained data.

Detective Fitsko asked if they had spoken to any of the academies to see if they were interested in any of this; he'd hate to see them purchased and then sit in the parking lot. Director Scott responded there was one already and several in the room were expressing interest. Director Scott felt OPOTA would be able to partner with some academies to make that happen. We won't be able to reach every single academy, but if we can partner with several to accomplish it, they will be impressed with the skill building opportunities to come. Dr. Wilkinson confirmed they would be loaned out. Director Scott explained the devices will be purchased with available drug seizure monies. The plan is to get the devices out to academies with training until the academy instructors feel comfortable with them. The academies will be allowed to borrow them and return them. The goal is for OPOTA instructors to be in touch with their firearms instructors, we won't be teaching their course for them. But, we will be there in a supporting and data collecting role.

Dr. Wilkinson suggested a time frame be in place for how long an academy could keep the device; especially if there's a long list of organizations who are interested in using it. Director Scott stated they would have to limit the time of use per agency. Dr. Wilkinson asked if that was done currently with the training simulators. Director Scott stated not with our mobile academy simulators. This device is extremely portable, can sit on a table.



Chief Harris stated he felt the more research and activities involved in the utilization of advanced technology to increase the skill sets of officers is the most important focus. It is import to look more broadly than just firearms. He appreciates the work going forward; OPOTA, the Commission, Columbus Division of Police and TRI-C are doing the same thing as far as researching and collecting data. Chief Harris is more into the other levels of the skill set. He feels the first initial research and development on beta side is law enforcements response to sexual assaults and using technology for that purpose. The issue will be taking the data, how it works, and if it works effectively and implementing it state wide. Being involved acknowledging the fact that new technology is needed to assist us in staying ahead in training.

Director Scott gave his commitment that they would be looking at all that moving forward. It's not cheap; we're going to need some legislative help in funding down the road. We will go piece by piece.

Chair Stanforth asked if there was any other old business; hearing none that concluded the old business report.

## **I. New Business**

### **Sheriff Vernon Stanforth, Chair**

Chair Stanforth asked if there was any new business. Director Scott asked to speak about House Bill 318, which is the mandatory school resource officer training that has been mandated by the Legislature. The staff has been working hard and he thanks them for all their effort and work. He referred the curriculum which was emailed to the entire Commission; which he had with him. The staff did a wonderful job. In the last couple days he went through it in detail; it's actually a class he would like to take. It did required formal action by the Commission to adopt and approve the new curriculum in order for us to start getting it out to the agencies and departments to start training in order to be in compliance with the Ohio Revised Code.

### **MOTION:**

**Sheriff Heldman made the recommendation for the Commission to approve the OPOTA revised curriculum for the Mandatory School Resource Officer (SRO) Training. Ms. O'Brien seconded the motion. With no discussion brought forth, a vote was taken and passed unanimously. Yes-9, No-0, and Absent-1.**

Director Scott clarified agencies can either go through the National or State Resource Officers Association for training or the OPOTA curriculum.

Lt. Novelli from Stark County Sheriff's Office asked if the Commission was going to approve the curriculum which their agency turned in last month. Director Scott responded legislatively we can't go back in the past to approve a curriculum that hadn't been approved already. Director Scott stated their agency could work with the State School Resource Association to see if they would take their curriculum and approve it. Ms. O'Brien who was present one day for the training recalled comments from at the time Executive Director, Mary Davis as well as other people stating the Commission would be approving that curriculum. In conversation with Stark County Sheriff's Office, it was Ms. O'Brien's understanding that they were assured this was going to be approved. That is something we have to deal with as a Commission and she is not sure how they do it. Somebody who was representing the Commission made statements.

Lt. Novelli stated they were not trying to get into the training game, this is something they took and at the very minimum we agreed when we first presented it that OPOTA could have the curriculum. It wasn't unethical or anything. Lt. Novelli's concern was for the 50 people in his class to be able to get a certificate for taking that class; if the Commission would entertain that. He stated you would think the OPOTA Commission would have the authority to do that. Director Scott referred to Ms. Pierce, Commission Legal Counsel.

Ms. Pierce responded they looked into this at the time it was brought to her attention and items were provided to the Commission at that time. She is happy to look at it again, but she didn't in that law the ability for the Commission to approve a non OPOTA course. It could possibly be a legislative fix, if that's something the Commission wants to pursue. Ms. Pierce believes the prior version of the law before it was changed allowed for that; she is not sure why that change happened. Deputy Director Rodrigue stated there was a discussion about the amendment and the Commission decided in September to make it an advanced training course as opposed to a Commission based course. Ms. Pierce stated the law itself has changed. Ms. Pierce will look into it, but didn't see where that could be allowed.

Lt. Novelli asked about prior equivalency, you have our curriculum if he submitted prior equivalency for those students; could it be approved based on that? Ms. Pierce again offered to look into it, but her prior research didn't lead her to conclude the Commission had that authority.

After a lengthy discussion with Director Scott offering to speak to the Executive Director of the State School Resource Officer Association and LETO Shendy spoke on how much she got out of the course and how it gave her thoughts on improving her curriculum. LETO Shendy felt the course was above the requirements and it was above other curriculums, including the National and Ohio curriculum. She sent a very sensitive email to Director of Advanced Training, James Burke, her Deputy Director Richard Meadows and believed Director Scott had a copy as well. They did a fantastic job as well.

Chair Stanforth asked if the students were tested after the training, which Lt. Novelli responded they were. The Chair questioned if he knew if there was a test after the State or National Association course? Lt. Novelli stated he wasn't sure; they put the test in to see how the students would do on it, the test didn't really affect anything, and they didn't have any issues with the students passing the test.

Chair Stanforth brought the meeting back to the motion on the floor, stating we would pick back up on the discussion with Stark County Sheriff's Office after they finished the business at hand.

Chair Stanforth returned to the Stark County Sheriff's Office SRO discussion stating he felt perplexed by the situation, he doesn't know if the Commission really understands what is going on, especially the new members. This is an issue affecting 48 students. Chair Stanforth asked if the students were looking for the next school year or are they acting involved school resource officers currently? Lt. Novelli responded 2 were for substitute purposes from other agencies and the remainders are acting SRO.

Lt. Novelli, is a corrections commander by OPOTA. He has numerous OPOTA certifications, so knowing how OPOTA runs things, he ran it very OPOTA like. Chair Stanforth responded that's where the problem is, because OPOTA like is not OPOTA. That is the dilemma we are in, we can just approve a course because it is OPOTA like. Unfortunately, we are in the position where that legislature has put us in that we can only approve 3 sources of topics:

- The National Association
- The State Association
- What is generated by the academy, OPOTA

It doesn't allow us a fourth option. Ms. Pierce responded not currently, no. Chair Stanforth continued we could either make that legislatively go back and allow us to make approval of a fourth party of curriculum. He doesn't believe we have a legal state to make this an arbitrated discussion. It could have ramifications on other types of people coming through our door wanting their curriculum whatever topic it is.

Sgt. Smith also from Stark County Sheriff's Office stated he has been an SRO for 14 years. He put the curriculum together. He is accredited by the Ohio SRO Association as a Master Resource Officer. This was put together for resource officers who are just starting out, what they should know things he is still learning today. He believes that they have met those requirements of HB318 which says, 40 hours coming from the National School Resource Officer Association, the Ohio School Resource Officer Association, and a peace officer certified to conduct a course that satisfies the conditions set forth in this division. Director Scott stated the problem with that is that it has to be approved by the Commission and unfortunately, it wasn't a program already approved by this Commission at that time. You have to read the preceding parts of the Ohio Revised Code in order for that to apply. Which is the Ohio Revised Code B1, B and sections 1, 2, and 3, which reads as approved by the Ohio Peace Officers Training Commission.

Chair Stanforth stated that as the Commission it may not have been brought before the Commission, but did the OPOTA by their actions indicate to them that they were an approved course; by the fact that we had attendance, we supervised, we had a senior member of the staff attending, and we had a representative attending. Dr. Wilkinson asked Ms. Pierce if there was a defacto approval of the program even though the Commission never voted on it? Ms. Pierce responded she would have to look into it. Obviously the concern is that if we approve the course which is not supported by the law, we are giving out certificates that don't really mean anything. Ms. Pierce already has all the materials.

Chair Stanforth praised the course, but stated it comes to the issue of being bound by the law. We may be able to bend, but can't bend like that. It could be made as a legislative rule. Don't want to open the door for other agencies. Ms. Pierce asked if any of the students who were running up against a deadline? Chair Stanforth stated if this was after November 2018 they have a year to take the course. Lt. Novelli stated if you were appoint on or before November 1, 2018 you were grandfathered, November 2, 2018 or later you have to take the 40 hour course within 1 year. Chair Stanforth asked if anyone was in jeopardy before the Commission met in July? Lt. Novelli stated he didn't think there was. He would check due to some many different agencies in attendance. Chair Stanforth stated the Executive Director has some privilege in extending for certain circumstances. Director Scott referred to Ms. Pierce to look into to whether that applies here. Ms. Pierce asked them to let us know if there were any up against a deadline.

Lt. Novelli stated he knew there was a couple who said they would take a gamble and get in this one. Sgt. Smith stated they knew going into this that the course may not be approved, and still wanted to take it. In worst case scenario they will get into another course. Lt. Novelli stated the curriculum was turned trying to get it approved. The Commission was kept apprised every step of the way. Director Scott stated you had good intentions; just legislatively did we have the authority to approve it.

Dr. Wilkinson asked for clarification, Director Scott mentioned contacting the Executive Director of the Ohio Resource Officers Association, what can they do? Does the Commission still have to approve it even if the Ohio Resource Officers Association agrees with it? Director Scott stated no, they should be able to say yes, that was a good course, and it met all our requirements and see if we could work something out with them. Dr. Wilkinson commented would that be an easier avenue to pursue? Director Scott stated our process is going to take a lot of time, especially going through the legislature. He thinks it would be faster to get them some resolution, hopefully before the next meeting.

Director Scott is aware of what their position is, they may not want to approval a course they didn't put on themselves. Dr. Wilkinson asked suppose they do approve it, can they only approve what's happened up to this point or going forward they have to conform to legislation. Director Scott responded his interpretation looking at it, now that you've officially approved it; it would be today and moving forward with any courses. Dr. Wilkinson stated Stark County would have to stop what they are doing now and conform to HB318, but they are looking to getting approval to certify those persons up to this point. Director Scott responded he believes that was the point of contention; what does the law allow the Commission to retroactively approve. That's our sticking point. Lt. Novelli stated he understood. Director Scott asked them to reach out to his staff and they would work with him. We are looking at regional training. Deputy Director Rodrigue stated tentative dates are set for July 29-August 2 here at London; cost \$575 London and \$500 Richfield.

Chair Stanforth asked if there was any other new business, hearing done that concluded the new business report.

#### **J. Guest Forum**

**Sheriff Vernon Stanforth, Chair**

The Chair asked if any guest had any concerns they'd like to bring before the Commission?

Mr. McGee, Kent State expressed the academies concerns with 10-8 and 10-6 and gave suggestions on how they recommend cutting the cost. The remainder was inaudible.

Mr. Willis asked if the presentation by Pearson Vue is open if they wanted to send a representative up to it. Director Scott had no objections to it.

Chair Stanforth asked if they were to attend would it be breaking the quorum for public meeting? Ms. Pierce reminded the Commission that nothing could be discussed or deliberated on their public business unless it's in a public meeting like this. They can attend, but need to keep that in mind. Ms. O'Brien responded it was a gathering of information and would be fine.

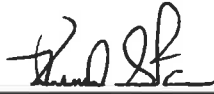
Chair Stanforth asked if there was anything else from the guest forum, with no other business to be brought before the Commission the chair entertained a motion to adjourn.

**This area was intentionally left blank.**

**MOTION:**

**Ms. O'Brien moved to adjourn the meeting. Sheriff Heldman seconded the motion. A vote was taken and passed unanimously. Y-9 / N-0 / Absent-1.**

Time: 11:28 a.m.

 7-12-2019

~~Chair Vernon P. Stanforth~~  
ACTING VICE CHAIR - RICHARD S. FAMBRO

Note: Date signed was 7-11-2019 during the meeting.  
Colonel R. Fambro wrote the date incorrectly.

Donna E. Hong, 7-12-2019  
Secretary to the Commission.

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