



Ohio Peace Officer Training Commission Meeting
Thursday, Nov. 14th, 2024, at 10:00am

Ohio Peace Officer Training Academy
1650 State Rt. 56 S.W., London, Ohio 43140
The meeting was held in the cafeteria.

Minutes –November 14th, 2024

- A. Opening- Call to Order, Chair Sheriff Vernon Stanforth** called a meeting to order at 10:09 a.m.

Chair Vernon Stanforth led the Pledge of Allegiance.
Ms. Denise Becerra called the roll call.

Commissioners Present:

Chief Robert Chabali
Chair, Sheriff Vernon Stanforth
Colonel Charles Jones
Lieutenant James Fitsko
Ms. Carol O'Brien
Ms. Leah Amstutz
SAC Gregory Nelsen

Commissioners Absent:

Ms. Wynette Carter-Smith

Ms. Denise Becerra confirmed there was a quorum with 7-Present, 3-Absent

Attorney General Staff in Attendance:

Scott Spangler, Director of Advanced Training – OPOTA
Nicole Hendrix, Law Clerk- OPOTA/C
Brian Malachowsky, Senior Assistant Attorney General- OPOTA/C
Dr. Erica Wilson- Director of Curriculum and Development- OPOTA
Eddie Parker, III., Community Engagement Liaison- OPOTA Staff
Brittany Brashears, CPT Manager- OPOTA/C
Barbara Cain, OPOTC Staff
Robert Strausbaugh, Director of Advanced Training- OPOTA
Judith Wilson, Testing Coordinator- OPOTC Staff
Elizabeth Fulton, OPOTC Staff
Susan Boggs, Project Coordinator- OPOTA
Carol Simon, Certification Specialist- OPOTA/C
Michael Willford, Certification Specialist- OPOTA/C
Arienne Fauber, Certification Specialist- OPOTA/C
LeAnn Myers, Certification Specialist- OPOTA/C
Kristen Samworth, OPOTC Staff
Doug Dumolt, Director of Law Enforcement Operation- AGO
Cynthia Peterson, Principal Assistant Attorney General- OPOTA/C
Alexis Miller, Deputy Director of Curriculum- OPOTC
Richard Butsko, Assistant Executive Director of Advance Training- OPOTA/C
Thomas Quinlan, Assistant Executive Director- OPOTA/C
Art DeLeon, Deputy Director of Professional Standards-OPOTA/C
Rachel Huston- Section Chief, Executive Agencies- AGO
Patrick Denier- Assistant Section Chief, Executive Agencies- AGO

Guests in Attendance:

Sharon Montgomery- Ohio Traffic Safety Council
Ernie Orgel- Polaris Police Academy
Patrick Greenhill- Polaris Police Academy
Justin Hibbitt- Westerville Police
Chief Charles Chandler- Westerville Police Department
Sgt. David Coleman- Franklin County Sheriff's Office
LT. Scott Blacker- Franklin County Sheriff's Office
Captain Jeff Davis- Ohio State Highway Patrol Academy
Major Mike Kemmer- Ohio State Highway Patrol Academy
Brent Hunter- Ohio State Highway Patrol Academy

Chair Stanforth announced there was a set of minutes to approve.

Motion: A motion for the approval of Aug 8th, 2024, minutes by Chief Robert Chabali. Lieutenant James Fitsko seconded the motion. A vote was taken and passed unanimously. Yes- 5, No- 0, Sustained- 2, Absent- 1.

B. Chair Report

Chair Stanforth welcomed guests and asked everyone to speak into the microphone when addressing the commission. He stated he did not have anything to report.

C. Continuing Professional Training Committee Report

Chair Stanforth advised the Sheriff Heldman was not able to make it today due to a scheduling conflict. If he was here, he would have been eligible to vote due to it being the last commission meeting before his term expired. His term expired in September; however, he had 60 days after that to serve or until a replacement was made, which ever came first. He is retiring from the office at the end of his term. He believes there has been a recommendation which has been passed on to Governor's Office Board and Commissions. It might take some time to have that process completed. He stated there were no other items under Continuing Professional Training at this time.

D. Curriculum Committee Report

Chair Stanforth stated that at the beginning of the year they will be making new chairmanship assignments. He advised that the Curriculum Committee had nothing to report.

E. House Committee Report

Coronel Charles Jones stated that the House Committee met earlier this morning to discuss the recommendations for 2025 OPOTC Chair and Vice Chair as well to discuss the meeting dates for 2025. The recommendation for the 2025 chair. The recommendation is to have Sheriff Vernon Stanforth maintain the OPOTC Chair position. He stated it is open for other nominations at this time. Hearing no other recommendation he will make a motion.

Motion: A motion for the Sheriff Vernon Stanforth to maintain his position as Chair for the year 2025 by Colonel Charles Jones. Lieutenant James Fitsko seconded the motion. A vote was taken and passed unanimously. Yes- 6, No- 0, Sustained- 1, Absent- 1.

The recommendation from the House Committee was to have Chief Clayton Harris maintain the OPOTC Vice Chair position. He stated it is open for other nominations at this time.

Carol O'Brien stated that she believed Chief Harris would be retiring next year.

Colonel Charles Jones advised he had not heard that information.

Sheriff Stanforth stated he had not heard that information either.

Director Thomas Quinlan advised he had not provided the information to the commission secretary.

Colonel Charles Jones hearing no other recommendation he will make a motion. He stated that if this needs to be readdressed later, it can be.

Motion: A motion for Chief Clayton Harris to maintain his position as Vice Chair for the year 2025 by Colonel Charles Jones. Carol O'Brien seconded the motion. A vote was taken and passed unanimously. Yes- 7, No- 0, Absent- 1.

Colonel Charles Jones stated that the house committee discussed the recommendation for meeting date in 2025. He advised the quarterly meetings will continue. However, there is a conflict with the previous meeting dates. One of the committee members has a conflict with meeting the second Thursday of every quarter. The recommended meeting dates for 2025 are February 11th, May 13th, August 12th and November 12th. The meeting will be moved from Thursdays to Tuesdays. He stated November 12th is a Wednesday not a Tuesday, due to Tuesday being Veteran's Day. He opens that recommendation for discussion. Hearing no other recommendation he will make a motion.

Motion: A motion to for the OPOTC Meetings scheduled quarterly on every 2nd Tuesday; Feb.11th, May 13th, Aug. 12th, Nov. 12th by Colonel Charles Jones. Chief Robert Chabali seconded the motion. A vote was taken and passed unanimously. Yes- 7, No- 0, Absent- 1.

F. Legislative Committee Report

Lieutenant Fitsko advised nothing as far as the state is concerned. At the federal level, the Windfall Elimination Provision passed the United States House. Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer has pledged to bring the bill to a vote. He asked if anyone had any questions.

G. Commission and Academy Report

Executive Director Thomas Quinlan wanted to introduce new staff that joined OPOTA. Roy Crago who is the new Fixed Assets Coordinator and Paula Quackenbush who has been promoted to Administrative Assistant. He wanted to remind the commissioners to complete the Ohio Ethics Law Training for 2024. There is an online link to have that completed. Denise sent that link to everyone. Therefore, everyone knows where it's located to have that requirement completed by the end of the year. He wants to inform the commission of the work that is being done and who is receiving the benefits of that work. This year to date they have issued 1,249 certificates to new officers, that number only focuses on the POBT. The current enrollment is 904 students, across 48 academies. Out of the 59 academies, 48 are currently running academies, which is an excellent response to having that many fully engaged. There will also be an additional academy starting November 21st with 37 additional students. This year we have provided 333 courses this year to date, with 4,694 students attending. Those numbers reflect a fifty percent increase from this time last year.

The year-to-date reimbursements for quarters one, two and three have been completed. The reimbursement is paid quarterly to the agencies that are reporting. So far for the three quarters we have paid in the amount of \$16,041,330.10 to agencies. There are 730 out of the 930 agencies reported some or all the training. There are 200 agencies across Ohio that have not reported any hours of training. Therefore, it's very busy this year due to sending officers and agencies ninety- sixty- and thirty-day notices of their CPT compliance. There have been 34 extension requests for this year. Last year there were 115 extension requests. He expects to receive a lot more. These requests are due before December 15th to be considered. He also advised the 33,000 officers in Ohio; 22,887 have completed and reported a total of 575,914 hours of training. That averages about 25 hours per officer, which means they are at the 24-hour, or more threshold.

He wanted to give the commission specific update on the information on the Virtual Reality Training under the Ohio Attorney General's Program because this year they are implementing this as an option for CPT. Therefore, it directly impacts the work of the commission. He wanted to make sure that the required mandatory courses that were picked in May are complete and finishing the last one and available electronically in January. There have been a lot of questions regarding other available options to acquire the other 16 hours

set under the five categories leadership, report writing, vehicle dynamics, domestic violence and officer wellness. The virtual reality courses have been released for 2024. Approximately 170 instructors have been approved across the state, 160 headsets are distributed around the state. There is a class currently being held upstairs; those classes are held monthly. Therefore, everyone gets trained as well as having enough trained instructors available. There are headsets at the largest closed academies, and at all the regional partners, plus ours. Therefore, anyone across the state can request them to have in-house to use. Agencies can also purchase their own headsets if they wish. They can have headsets available for their staff during any shift for training.

Since they are allowing this to satisfy the requirements for CPT 2025, he wanted to make the commissioners aware of what the program involves. The first page of the handout talks about a multi-dimensional approach under the Blue- Ribbon Task Force recommendation. They are all set up around De-Escalation & Crisis Mitigation, Officer Wellness, Duty to Render Aid, Duty to Intervene, First Amendment Auditors and the Teen Brain. They tried to include the most recent related topics that are in the field of training and incorporated them into lessons. There are 6 lessons for 2024 that are already professionally produced. These include actual actors that produce these videos. Other VR courses are designed to have an avatar which show them going from room to room shooting. How these videos are distinguished from many other VR courses is that our goal with Virtual Reality is to provide a good balance of trying to prevent a shooting in the first place. That's how the VR training is set up and includes real actors on location, not an artificial environment. The first series that are currently available are Investigating Teens in a Park, Teen on a Bridge Threatening Suicide, Domestic Violence Call, Pink Slip Situation, Well-Being Check, Irate Family, Shots Fired response at a High School. All of these involve cognitive demands of policing.

Series 2 has already been filmed and are currently in post-production. The 6 Virtual Reality Training Videos; Series 2 will be available in June of 2025. It takes a lot of time and resources to complete these scenario-based training videos due to the amount of logistics and individuals involved. The benefits of these videos are that many officers can run through these training scenarios at a time versus the typical 2 officer single scenario training. All these lessons have a tell me, show me, involve me approach that is being built into these lessons. Series 2 include Stolen Kia Pursuit, Mental Health Call, Vet-to-Vet, Knock and Talk, Officer-Involved Critical Incident and Protest at City Hall. Each category of those videos has a nexus to the five categories and the remaining 16 hours. If agencies inquire about where to get the additional 16 hours of training, this would be an option as well as there are 1,249 approved CPT lesson plans as of now. There are also over 6,000 hours of training available that have been approved. However, now that they are specific by category, there will be 12 scenarios available from year one and year two where they can get all the lesson plans from Leadership, Report Writing, Officer Wellness, Domestic Violence, Vehicle Dynamics. All those categories will be built into scenario-based training.

On the final page it reflects a diagram with a breakdown on each individual course. The benefit to these scenario- based training is we can control variables, real actors are used, less staff required, less space used, they are nonlinear- audience focused, include case law approach and lastly, they are memorable and retainable. Each video has additional story lines, “beyond the call” which includes the investigation phase. There are also officer’s back stories built into these scenarios. It includes how they learn to cope with certain scenarios, while they might be dealing with the same thing in their own life. In these scenarios you’re emerged in the scenario with the headset, visibility of 360 degrees on location.

Series II

Kia Boys on Route 16- Pursuit/PIT

Trouble on the One Bus- Mental Health Call w/ Butcher Knife

Return Call to Oak Street- Wellness/ PTSD

Knock & Talk at the Red House

Traffic Stop at Butcher Street Storage- OICI

Protest at City Hall

He wanted to inform the commissioners of what’s currently occurring regarding the Virtual Reality scenario-based training in case they’re asked questions, due to it being involved in the academies as well as CPT.

The last update regards the Blue- Ribbon Task Force, which was approved by the commission in the May meeting. There has been substantial progress in curriculum changes, courses are in development and scheduled to be released in July of 2025. Before that happens, Dr. Erica Wilson will present it to the Curriculum Committee. The committee will have the opportunity to make modifications and recommend it to the full commission. If approved, all the instructors will be trained. For example, the ICAT training, which they are already working with The Bureau of Justice Assistance and Police Executive Research Forum to have the ability to train at no cost. Hopefully train as many instructors as possible to be “trainers” in the state of Ohio, which can then go out and provide this training. Currently, Richard Butsko is doing the same thing with Sit- D Training at the University of Chicago. The basic training standards that were adjusted resulted in 708 people passing the PT Standard. A total of 58 people that would have been eliminated from the academy have passed and are now serving. That is due to those individuals being within that tolerance of having 1 of the 3, which is 8%. That percentage has not increased from that last time it was reported.

Certification levels are being implemented into the Portal and POLARIS to be recorded and tracked. However, it will have to go through the administrative code changes first. The lesson plans are currently under development for the Tactical Officer Certification course and

will be setting up a counter course for 2025. The firearms test is currently under development as well. The lesson format is changing because they are integrating topics under the recommendations. Legal is preparing a memo for what OAPC changes need to be enacted to make the required changes. Lastly all the required training for 2025 has been communicated to all agencies in Ohio for the required 24 hours.

Executive Director Thomas Quinlan asked his staff if there was any information they would like to add or clarify. Seeing none, he advised that was the end of his report.

H. New Business

Chair Stanforth stated the OAC Changes was next on the agenda.

Executive Director Thomas Quinlan requested to defer on that topic for now until he receives additional work development completed by his staff. There is an expectation that the commission recommend to the Attorney General for changes to be enacted and the Attorney general will support those at the Legislative level. Out of state Licensing Request, are currently working through some additional clarification to the General Assembly on training expectations for federal or military individuals. Out of State Licensing requests have successfully had a quick turnaround time for those currently in municipal, or government policing into Ohio and certified. However, currently they are working through issues with military and federal.

As the Executive Director he has the authority to waive the minimum requirement for academies that is currently ten. He stated he's rarely done it, only under the oddest circumstance. For example, if an academy starts with 10 during the open audit, then twenty-one days later one drops out then he will allow them to continue due to that circumstance. However, there are some agencies that in South-Eastern Ohio that struggling to get to that threshold. He wanted to point out the lesson plans are built in with additional time for scenario training, questions and answers as well as discussions. Therefore, there is a good reason to have a minimum of 10. However, he wanted to advise the commission and have them think about those academy minimums and what would be adequate for these areas in Ohio that are struggling to get to that minimum.

Chair Stanforth advised that from a small agency's perspective, most of his staff are trained at a community college or regional school where the class size might be smaller.

Executive Director Thomas Quinlan stated that if the class starts with 10 ten drops below 10, he will continue to allow the class to proceed. He just won't let them begin a class below 10 individuals. He is still reviewing them, case by case. He wanted some guidance from the commission due to several agencies throughout Ohio requesting clarification on that rule. The

least number that has been approved is seven. He advised that he currently has one request pending for eight.

Ms. Carol O'Brien suggested reviewing that rule to and see if that is still a good number to have or to continue to leave it at 10 with the discretion for the director.

Chair Stanforth asked what must happen for an academy to go under that threshold.

Executive Director Thomas Quinlan stated that the agency will need to make a request, and he would be at his discretion to make a deviation. He advised that Delaware was a good example. They had 10 at the open audit, where people relocated to the area and left their jobs for training. Then one individual was no longer interested, and he did not want to cancel the class due to only having 9 remaining individuals. At his discretion he allowed that class to continue.

Ms. Carol O'Brien stated that the difference in that academy is that the academy was sponsored by sheriffs. Therefore, it was more a closed academy than an open academy. A lot of them open academies have been problematic in the past. Not the ones that are open now, there were some when she first started with the commission.

Chair Stanforth stated there was one that was held in an individual's garage.

Ms. Carol O'Brien suggested that she believes that the situation has changed now.

Executive Director Thomas Quinlan there are 6 academies that deliver 740 hours and do not exceed that. The average of all the larger academies is 1,100 to 1,300 hours. However, the average is 799 hours of all the academies in Ohio. There are several that do nothing more than 740 hours.

Ms. Carol O'Brien asked how many academies are currently running.

Executive Director Thomas Quinlan stated there were 59 academies.

Ms. Carol O'Brien asked how many of those were closed.

Executive Director Thomas Quinlan stated 7 are closed.

Chief Robert Chabali asked if keeping the minimum at 10 and having the discretion to deviate the best option.

Executive Director Thomas Quinlan stated it is because Dr. Erica Wilson would have a really hard time producing a curriculum to allow scenario training, ratios for students and instructors for class discussion when the ranges differ. He wonders what a class would do

with all that down time if the class isn't large enough. He said that he doesn't want to go below 10 and would like to keep that discretion. He stated he has been very strict with that minimum. However, if the commission agrees he would be more lenient with these under representative areas. Especially Southeastern Ohio that routinely cancelled the academy due to not having enough students. He wanted the commission informed about what is happening on this topic. Ultimately, he will keep the minimum at 10 and be respectful of those agencies and academies that are trying hard to deliver a quality product and having struggles with the numbers. If recruiting and retention changes, things might have to change.

Chair Stanforth asked what the verbiage stated on that topic.

Executive Director Thomas Quinlan stated he was not sure; he would have to ask Arturo DeLeon for the actual verbiage. He believes that is the way the rule has been set up and applied for the field auditors.

Chair Stanforth asked if the terminology states that academies are "required". Then does that mean to recommend.

Executive Director Thomas Quinlan states that his preference would be to drive it towards 10 or higher, with a caveat that there is some tolerance for special circumstances. He wanted to inform the commission, therefore did not want to act independently from the commission without bringing it to your attention.

Ms. Carol O'Brien stated that if they leave it as a minimum of 10, with discretion, of the director you will not have academies come forward with low numbers, like two. She suggests leaving it the way it currently is.

Chair Stanforth asked if this requires any action on behalf of the commission. He also asked if the commission needs to give him that discretion or if it is already in place.

Ms. Carol O'Brien stated she does not know what the language reads. She asked if it reads that the director has discretion.

Executive Director Thomas Quinlan advised its stated in the Commanders Handbook. He wanted to make sure the commission knew that he been applying the rule judiciously and with respect for need of ten.

OPOTA has been asked to look at the canine evaluator program to allow what canines can be imprinted with or in addition to under the control of the commission. Dr. Singeltary from Auburn University College of Veterinary Medicine and Captain Hunter from the Ohio State Highway Patrol. They are here to talk about the Pilot Test for fentanyl Imprint Program. Due to the dangers and potency of fentanyl, there will be challenges to using real-life substances. Typically, the canine evaluation must use a live agent to do this. Auburn University is conducting a nationwide study on the ability to capture the scent in an artificial

capacity. This will allow a canine to imprint to and alert to the actual substance, without putting the canine and the individual handle in danger due to using the live agent during training. At one point in the training a live agent is used to verify that the dog did correctly imprint the odor of fentanyl or its derivatives. All they are asking for from the commission is to bless a pilot program which would allow OSP to participate and include two canines. This would allow them to conduct this training in the field, which they might be making arrest based on that. Therefore, he wanted to make sure that the commission knew this would not be opened statewide until the research is conclusive. At this stage we are requesting to allow them only to participate in a pilot program.

He confirmed that ORC 109.73 states the Peace Officer Training Commission shall recommend rules to the Attorney General in respect to establishing minimum qualifications requirement for certification for dogs utilized by law enforcement agencies. There are six stages of research for training, aid development, imprinting, discrimination, generalization, refinement evaluation and operational testing. Currently there isn't a published peer review paper on this.

Captain Hunter, Ohio State Highway Patrol confirmed there isn't, Dr. Singeltary is currently working on that and it's at the beta testing stage.

Executive Director Thomas Quinlan stated that support from his position as Executive Director would be advantageous to have Ohio be a leader in bringing this new technology to law enforcement around Ohio and around the country. Ohio would be one of the few states authorized to do this and perhaps make it safer with the current fentanyl crisis. He advised that he looked at a map from 2017 to 2023 where the fentanyl seizures have occurred, and the heaviest shaded areas is through the Ohio corridor. Therefore, there large amount of fentanyl moving through Ohio and exposing troopers and police officers which involves risks. No one could use it until the commission expanded it to the whole K9 Evaluator Program.

Ms. Carol O'Brien stated that she was confused and asked what was being asked to be approved. She asked if the dogs currently sniff out fentanyl.

Captain Hunter, Ohio State Highway Patrol stated that they do not. He stated that across the country approximately half the states have canine rules such as Ohio does here. It states what agencies can and cannot train on. For example, Indiana has no rules which means law enforcement can train their canines under different agencies and follow their rules. Fentanyl isn't a current imprinted substance for a canine. Therefore, it takes commission approval for them to be able to do that. He stated he has been watching this for years and obviously research has shown that fentanyl is the leading causes overdose death and would love to imprint the canines to detect it. However, the biggest issue is safety. They have no plans to put any of his officers and the public in danger. He has been to numerous conferences in several states to see what they are doing. Essentially it varies across the board and some agencies that are using real substance. He is not comfortable with these areas that use real substance, and they have been waiting on a safe method. Some states use pseudo-order for

various reasons. Ohio does not allow to certify canine on pseudo-odor for various reasons. Auburn University is nationally recognized for working with canines and their veterinary science program is one of the biggest which works with the federal government. This training aid that Dr. Singeltary has established is based off training done using explosives odors that the federal government has taken on and put into practice. It's the same technology that she has done with the explosives and now she has done it with fentanyl. It takes 2 to 3 weeks to make a training aid, which does not have to be overseen by my DEA. There isn't actual substance contained. When they train and imprint their canines, they are doing nasal swabs of the canine to show that nothing from the kit is going into the canine. It has been years of testing since they are at the end stage and Dr. Singeltary has asked agencies around the country to imprint veteran canines on these training aides, and not new canines. The plan is to take approximately two canines that are already working on the road and imprint them on this fentanyl training aid.

Ms. Carol O'Brien asked if any other states are involved in this part of the process.

Captain Hunter, Ohio State Highway Patrol stated yes, none have been sent out yet. The last time he spoke to her she had a few kits that were just getting ready. Ohio would be one of the first states in the country to get these two kits of fentanyl training aides.

Ms. Carol O'Brien asked if his prosecutors were on board.

Captain Hunter, Ohio State Highway Patrol he stated he has talked to some. They have not had any issues with them doing this. They frequently do HIDTA corridor calls, which consist of agencies across the country that include chemists, prosecutors, AUSAs, etc. None of them are voicing any concerns currently. He is not saying there won't be a court challenge, because there very well will be a court challenge. He feels confident with this training aid, with its safety and the support from Dr. Singeltary and her staff. He explained that there have been several states throughout the years that have been imprinting canines with fentanyl and pseudo fentanyl and yet unable to find a court challenge on their canines.

Lieutenant James Fitsko asked what the difference in pseudo is.

Captain Hunter, Ohio State Highway Patrol explained that pseudo takes pieces of that compound and makes a training aid. That is part of the issue, such as Ohio does not allow canines to be certified on it. There is potential to say that it is not the full odor of that chemical compound because you have only taken bits and pieces of it to make a safe training aid. Therefore, it has taken out the dangerous parts of it.

Executive Director Thomas Quinlan added, it makes it inert. This is replicating the odor in another substance. Another fact that would have to be considered is the standard requirement is ten grams for a sample. In this the training would work with one gram. However, they are also talking about fentanyl, which is a hundred times powerful. Therefore, they don't want to

have ten grams. They do use actual substances for confirmation testing. That's where the nasal swabs come in and everything else as well. They would have to adjust for the pilot due to the standards of ten grams to allow one gram just due to the danger and the potency of fentanyl.

Captain Hunter, Ohio State Highway Patrol explained that Dr. Singletary said that canines can certify on this training aid. She would suggest that during certification that you do use the actual substance, and what they are using is one gram bag. According to Ohio standards you would have to recertify it once a year. During the training throughout the year, you are not using the substance, you would be using the training aid.

Executive Director Thomas Quinlan stated that the request would be that the commission support that Ohio State Highway Patrol be the one and only authorized participant in this study in Ohio, until court cases are settled and receive judicial notice for canine to be recognized to be recognized for fentanyl. In a lot of the cases there are also discovering other drugs, usually there are multiple drugs discovered from vehicles due to being alerted from other substances that are authorized. However, fentanyl is an important factor.

Ms. Carol O'Brien asked if his lab was willing to do backup testing. She assumes that if it's used in the field then the labs will be conducting backup testing. She asked if this would be used to indict or for probable cause to arrest.

Captain Hunter, Ohio State Highway Patrol stated that once they are imprinted, they will be used like any other canine. That would be the reason they would only use two.

Executive Director Thomas Quinlan stated that when a canine is used, the officer uses everything in totality that got them to that point. The canines are trained to alert marijuana and other substances as well, that might also be in a vehicle. That is where the court challenges will happen. It will not be statewide until the research can be corroborated and peer reviewed.

Captain Hunter, Ohio State Highway Patrol added that there is essentially a different compound of fentanyl. There is the medical grade and what you find on the street, which is mainly seized by law enforcement and sent to the labs. That is what Dr. Singletary has imprinted and what they are using these for these training aides. They are using the street level and not the medical grade version of it.

Executive Director Thomas Quinlan apologized that Dr. Singletary is not able to connect via online.

Lieutenant James Fitsko asked if it would be more cost effective to try to get the pseudo. He stated that isn't real either, or is a bit confused about why they don't go that route instead of trying to develop this new method.

Captain Hunter, Ohio State Highway Patrol stated that some states do, and others do not allow pseudo. Ohio does not allow pseudo.

Lieutenant James Fitsko asked if he has been challenged in court in other states.

Captain Hunter, Ohio State Highway Patrol stated he's seen it in the western states. It has been seen California and Oregon; they have been the ones who use pseudo.

Lieutenant James Fitsko asked if it had passed the court challenges.

Colonel Charles Jones asked the captain for clarification, when he states that Ohio doesn't allow it. Does he mean the legislature. What does he mean.

Captain Hunter, Ohio State Highway Patrol clarified that the commission does not allow it. He says the commission allows it for training purposes, not for certification.

Lieutenant James Fitsko asked if it would be easier and more cost effective to try to allow the pseudo instead of this new scent. He doesn't know if this will be cost effective in the future. How difficult would it be for smaller agencies to get these training aides versus the pseudo.

Executive Director Thomas Quinlan stated that from his understanding there isn't a lot of research done by these western states that are using pseudo. This will have a large reputable university of veterinary science group behind this. The training will ultimately be peer reviewed. Therefore, it will have greater recognition in courts. You would assume based off that, versus someone else using something just created and approved at the commission level. However, there is no academic research to verify its authenticity.

Captain Hunter, Ohio State Highway Patrol believes courts would probably determine whether pseudo would be acceptable or not for certification.

Ms. Carol O'Brien stated he would be looking at challenges in court. If they haven't been allowed to use it in the past, it would create another level of challenges by defense council or prosecutors that would want to use it.

Lieutenant James Fitsko asked if this is pseudo under a different name. It's not the real drug; it's not the real odor. They are creating new training under a different name.

Captain Hunter, Ohio State Highway Patrol explained that this training aid is the actual odor of the real substance.

Lieutenant James Fitsko stated this is not the real substance.

Captain Hunter, Ohio State Highway Patrol stated it has taken the odor of the real substance and that's what they are smelling.

Chief Robert Chabali asked what he is asking from the commission

Executive Director Thomas Quinlan stated that the commission recognized a one-year cycle until additional research is concluded to imprint two canines. Therefore, trying to bring a recognizable ability to detect fentanyl to Ohio. The goal would be to get this approved across all canine evaluators. Until that time, it will be very narrowly focused on Ohio State Highway Patrol and Auburn University.

Ms. Carol O'Brien asked if there is any cost to the commission or to Ohio State Highway Patrol.

Captain Hunter, Ohio State Highway Patrol confirmed there is no cost at all.

Captain Hunter, Ohio State Highway Patrol states the Auburn University has had grants with Homeland Security that shows that there is a need around the country for law enforcement.

SAC Gregory Nelsen asked if one year is enough or should they revisit it again in a year. Then have the option to extend or make it permanent.

Executive Director Thomas Quinlan stated he supported that if the commission acknowledges that. There is no need to put a clause on this if we revisit it at a different date.

Ms. Carol O'Brien asked if this needs a motion.

Chair Stanforth suggested having a motion.

Ms. Carol O'Brien asked if the commission could be updated in a timely rather than waiting a full year.

Chair Stanforth asked if the director could keep the commission updated.

Executive Director Thomas Quinlan agreed.

Motion: A motion to accept the 2 Canine Pilot Test for Fentanyl Imprint for a review period of 1 year and to revisit at the Nov. 2025 meeting for an update by SAC Gregory Nelsen. Chief Robert Chabali seconded the motion. A vote was taken and passed unanimously. Yes- 7, No- 0, Absent- 1.

Executive Director Thomas Quinlan asked all commission members to come prepared to take a professional photo at the next Feb. 11th commission meeting. The plan is to have the AGO photographer here to take new and updated photos for the commission wall. It is outdated and needs to be updated. He would like to have a more memorable presentation for the lobby. The last update is the Fallen Officer Memorial, it will be on May 8th, 2025.

I. Old Business

Executive Director Thomas Quinlan wanted to circle back on the FASFA issue. He stated they pulled all the different academies to see what the impact is, and it is not having a negative impact as thought initially. They are finding methods to work around that. The average hours for these academies are 799 hours. That information was requested at the last meeting. If at any time this would have to be addressed, he wanted the commission of the average hours and to what amount it could be increased to, with those general elective hours built in above 740 hours. As of now, they are not recommending changes to be approved by the commission. Lastly, there is a process underway now to recruit, hire, and place a dedicated hearing officer for the commission, specifically for the 119 hearings. Therefore, they will not be subjected to those 119 hearings, unless you wish to participate. The hearing officer will provide a written report for the commission to make decisions.

Chair Stanforth asked if any of the old business needs a motion.

Executive Director Thomas Quinlan stated it does not.

J. Open Forum

Chairman Stanforth asked if anyone wanted to address the commission in an open forum.

Ernie Oergel, Polaris Police Academy stated that out of the 56 academies there is a small group of academies that will be affected by it. It does affect those academies that give out financial aid. He would like to know how other academies have work around it. He stated that for the taser training they had to make it a separate class with a separate charge. That comes out of pocket. His main concern is the update from the Blue-Ribbon Task Force, which is supposed to take effect July 1st, 2025. He is trying to figure out what he is supposed to do to get his instructors trained to teach these classes within 7 months to accommodate that. He stated there is no way that will happen before July 1st, 2025.

Executive Director Thomas Quinlan stated that the new lesson plans will be in effect for any classes starting July 1st, 2025, or later. However, the Curriculum Committee will bring that before the commission at the Feb. 11th commission meeting. Once that is done and

approved, then they will have the plan in place to train all the instructors between February and July.

Ernie Oergel, Polaris Police Academy asked if he believed he could get everyone trained in three to four months to teach these classes.

Executive Director Thomas Quinlan stated that if they want to continue to run academies, they will have people come and get trained. It will be done in a streamlined manner, where it will be very easy to accomplish. For example, the ICAT can be done in two days, and then they will be caught up.

Ernie Oergel, Polaris Police Academy stated it was ambitious to get everyone trained.

Executive Director Thomas Quinlan stated that these courses are train the trainer courses. Therefore, once you send one person, you can go back and train as many people as you would like at your agency.

Ernie Oergel, Polaris Police Academy stated the last time he asked that he was advised he could not.

Executive Director Thomas Quinlan stated that these courses are train the trainer courses. Yes, you will be able to provide training to your staff after you attend the train the trainer course.

Ernie Oergel, Polaris Police Academy stated he asked about the instructor course. He was advised he could not in an open academy.

Executive Director Thomas Quinlan stated this is being provided for that accommodation, where everyone has adequate time to be able to train their in-house personnel.

Sharon Montgomery, Ohio Traffic Safety Council is attending as an independent activist of traffic safety and victim support. In the summer of 2018, she worked with Advance Training Instructor, James Burke to make a roll call training video of her victim story. She had been seriously injured in a three-car crash in 2000 caused by a driver using his phone. Her husband died of her injuries. The driver of the other victim was permanently, partially disabled. The offender was charged with a fine of \$75.00. Her thought was if law enforcement officers had a deeper understanding of what can happen down the road when they decide to not stop divers who violate a minor traffic law. They might be more motivated to make those preventive stops. The academy director at that time and James Burke agreed with her and they made a video. It was an election year and staff changed at the academy. He spoke to retired Director Holcomb, and he was sympathetic to the unfinished project. However, the Attorney General's Office was not supportive. She has left flyers regarding the 5th Annual Observance of World Day of Remembrance for Road Traffic Victims on the table. She has some understanding about the challenges in making traffic stops. She wants to make

sure as many peace officers understand the dire consequences that can occur if you don't stop a driver that is breaking the law.

Chairman Stanforth asked what her ask was from Director Holcomb.

Sharon Montgomery, Ohio Traffic Safety Council stated she wanted to get the project started again.

Chairman Stanforth asked if it was the creation of a new video.

Sharon Montgomery, Ohio Traffic Safety Council stated it went to the AG's office where she worked with Kelly May. At that time the AG was working on a similar project. It was going to be a video that covered several topics. The whole thing fell apart, and it didn't move forward.

Chairman Stanforth suggested it should be something that should be viewed by the Attorney General's Office.

Executive Director Thomas Quinlan proposed a plan to have her work with Alexis Miller to outline the goal and the content. To provide them with a different view on the impact of careless reckless behavior. This could provide victim perspective. She can talk to Kelly May and see how they can develop that in a video and what resources need to be pulled to give officers an educational component.

Sharon Montgomery, Ohio Traffic Safety Council, they are not considered crimes unless the procedure decided to prosecute as a crime. They are not covered under the victims' crimes law. Therefore, they cannot receive restitution, give a victim statement

Executive Director Thomas Quinlan that piece might be better with the legislative side.

Chairman Stanforth asked for an executive session. It's a non-recorded session, and only those invited to attend can attend. He advised the commission meeting is not in adjournment.

Rachel Huston introduced herself and advised she is the new representative for the commission.

Motion: A motion to go into an Executive Session to discuss litigation, pending, and threatening litigation, ORC 121.22 by Chief Robert Chabali at 11:45am. The motion was seconded by Ms. Carol O'Brien. A vote was taken and passed unanimously. Yes- 7, No-0, Absent- 1.

Roll Call

Chief Robert Chabali- **YES**
Chair, Sheriff Vernon Stanforth- **YES**
Colonel Charles Jones- **YES**
Lieutenant James Fitsko- **YES**
Ms. Carol O'Brien- **YES**
Ms. Leah Amstutz -**YES**
SAC Gregory Nelsen -**YES**

Motion: A motion to come out of the Executive Session to discuss litigation, pending, and threatening litigation, ORC 121.22 by Carol O'Brien at 12:14pm. The motion was seconded by Colonel Charles Jones. A vote was taken and passed unanimously. Yes- 7, No-0, Absent- 1.

K. Adjournment

Motion: A motion to adjourn was made by Carol O'Brien. The motion was seconded by Ms. Colonel Charles Jones. A vote was taken and passed unanimously. Yes- 7, No-0, Absent- 1.

The meeting stands adjourned.

Time: 12:14 p.m.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Vernon P. Stanforth", written over a horizontal line.

Chair Vernon Stanforth

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