



THE OHIO PEACE OFFICER TRAINING COMMISSION- OPOTC Meeting

Ohio Peace Officer Training Academy
1650 State Route 56 S.W., London, Ohio 43140

Minutes
May 12th, 2026

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Vernon Stanforth at 10:04 a.m. in the cafeteria of the Ohio Peace Officer Training Academy, London, Ohio.

The following members attended the meeting:

Voting Members

Sheriff Vernon Stanforth
Sheriff Thomas Kochert
Chief Andrew Powers
Chief Robert Chabali
Captain Dougals Hubaker
Wynette Carter-Smith
Leah Amstutz
SAC Jason Cromartie

Non-voting Members

Beth Fligner, AG

Absent

Colonel Charles Jones
Carol O'Brien

With a quorum present, the meeting was called to order at 10:04 a.m.

Chairman Vernon Stanforth moved to approve the February 10th, 2026, OPOTC minutes. Without objection the motion was approved with a vote of 6-0 (2- abstained).

Chairman Vernon Stanforth moved to approve the amended November 12th, 2025, OPOTC minutes. There were two motions that were left off the original minutes. Without objection the motion was approved with a vote of 6-0 (2- abstained).

Chairman Vernon Stanforth welcomed the newly appointed commission members, as well as staff in attendance. The Chairperson reported that the only item under the Chairperson's Report was that two Administrative Hearings (119) were scheduled to be held following the conclusion of the meeting.

Continuing Professional Training Chairperson Sheriff Thomas Kochert advised that he had nothing to report.

Director Thomas Quinlan requested to add that the 2027 Continuing Professional Training (CPT) hours approved at the previous Commission meeting are currently being developed. He reported that Dr. Wilson advised that four of the six hours have been completed. Therefore, all six hours are expected to be completed well in advance of the beginning of next year.

Curriculum Committee Chairperson Chief Robert Chabali advised that he had nothing to report and deferred to Director Thomas Quinlan and Dr. Erica Wilson.

Dr. Erica Wilson reported that the four programs, 22 lesson plans, and more than 140 hours of curriculum approved at the previous Commission meeting would be released following the conclusion of today's meeting. She stated that this would allow academies to prepare for the July training sessions.

Chairman Vernon Stanforth stated that he had nothing to report for the House Committee in the absence of Colonel Charles Jones.

Chairman Chief Andrew Powers stated he had nothing to report for the Legislative Committee.

During the Academy Report, Director Thomas Quinlan introduced Caitlin Brown as the new Advanced Training Instructor and provided an update regarding recent personnel changes, including employees who are no longer employed by OPOTA as well as transfers with the AGO. He further reported that the agency currently has several vacant positions. However, interviews are currently underway, and those positions will be filled soon. The OPOTA staff will provide an updates that the commission should be aware of:

Art DeLeon – Professional Standards

- The portal has been updated and can now process instructor applications.
- Beginning in July, new and renewal application forms for firearms instructors, POBT instructors, BAS certification, corrections instructors, and firearms requalification instructors will transition to the portal. Paper applications for these certifications will be discontinued at that time. Certifications related to private security will not transition to the portal and will continue to use the existing application process.
- Met with the Ohio State Highway Patrol to finalize the implementation plan for fentanyl detection within the canine program. The associated forms will be updated to reflect this change.
- Currently updating school vendor applications for canine handlers who choose to add these topics to their certification.

Brittany Breshears- CPT Manager

- Reimbursement for quarter one was \$3,000,627.00 compared to in 2025 it was \$4,000,000.00
- Processed and approved 1,350 pre-approval applications
- 306 agencies have submitted some or all training
- 7,561 officers that have completed some or all training requirements which total to 90,383 hours that have been submitted

Dr. Erica Wilson- Curriculum

- Starting new curriculum will start being released next July and January. Currently updating advance training courses. They will be updating about 700 hours of curriculum.
- Looking for subject matter experts (SME) for the curriculum that is being updated

Reverend Eddie Parker

- Reverend Parker is continuing community outreach to share OPOTA's new curriculum, which has progressed from vision to reality, and to gather feedback from community members.
- He recently traveled to Cleveland, Ohio, where he met with Samaria Rice, the mother of Tamir Rice, the 12-year-old who was fatally shot by police in 2014. He presented OPOTA's training videos and curriculum to a group of community leaders and stakeholders, including Ms. Rice's civil rights attorney. The feedback was overwhelmingly positive, with the primary comment being a desire for all law enforcement agencies to achieve the same level of training and professionalism reflected in OPOTA's curriculum.
- An open house was also held for community leaders to preview virtual reality (VR) training videos that are scheduled for release in June.

Director Thomas Quinlan presented a recommendation for future consideration by the Commission. He suggested increasing the POBT mandatory from 740 to 820 hours to allow time for additional elective training. He emphasized that this proposal should be reviewed by the Commission and discussed with stakeholders, including academy representatives and law enforcement agencies, so they can provide input to accept, reject, or modify the recommendation.

If adopted, the additional two weeks of training would provide academies with 80 hours of flexibility to offer elective coursework tailored to the needs of hiring law enforcement agencies, without creating any additional content development burden for the Commission or OPOTA.

Director Thomas Quinlan provided an update on OPOTA's virtual reality training initiatives, noting that season three there are seven new VR training videos that have been produced this year. Six are traditional cinematic scenarios, while the seventh, funded by the Forensic Nursing Network, focuses on a sexual assault and strangulation investigation. The scenario also includes a follow-up component highlighting the collaborative roles of detectives, prosecutors, judges, forensic nurses, physicians, and victim advocates.

He reminded the commissioners that this year's Law Enforcement Training Symposium is scheduled at the Dayton Convention Center on September 13-15th, 2026.

He advised that there are currently approximately 90 remaining spaces on the granite wall of the Fallen Officer Memorial. As a result, expanding that portion of the memorial is not a viable option. Additional names are expected to be added in the coming years, and the current design does not allow for expansion beyond the remaining available space.

Additionally, historical line-of-duty deaths continue to be identified each year. To appropriately recognize these officers, a separate historical granite marker is currently being designed. This marker will complement the Fallen Officer Memorial, becoming part of the overall memorial area while ensuring these officers are permanently honored and remembered alongside those recognized on the memorial wall.

Caty Abbott presented two amended administrative rules for initial filing:

- Ohio Administrative Code 109:2-1-13
- Ohio Administrative Code 109:2-9-11

These rules have reached the five-year review requirement under Ohio Revised Code Section 106.03. Staff reviewed both rules to determine whether they remain necessary, require amendments, or conflict with any statutory or administrative provisions. The review concluded that both rules remain necessary and that the proposed amendments are needed to reflect recent changes to the Ohio Revised Code.

The proposed amendments to Ohio Administrative Code 109:2-1-13 incorporate training on interacting with individuals with dementia, as required by Ohio Revised Code Section 109.7410. The proposed amendments to Ohio Administrative Code 109:2-9-11 update the rule to maintain consistency with the out-of-state occupational licensing recognition and credit for prior training provisions contained in Ohio Revised Code Chapter 4796.

Staff requested that the Commission recommend the initial filing of both proposed rules to the Attorney General.

Following a detailed explanation of the proposed amendments to Ohio Administrative Code 109:2-1-13, the Commission voted to recommend the initial filing of the rule to the Attorney General. The motion was approved without objection by a vote of 8-0.

Following a detailed explanation of the proposed amendments to Ohio Administrative Code 109:2-9-11, the Commission voted to recommend the initial filing of the rule to the Attorney General. The motion was approved without objection by a vote of 8-0.

Art DeLeon stated that one of the courses currently required for Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA) instructor certification is under review. As a result, current instructors seeking to add the PREA topic to their certification do not have access to the required course. He explained that he worked with the Advanced Training section to determine whether the course is necessary for corrections cadets in an academy setting. Based on that review, staff recommends removing the course requirement, which would make the certification process more accessible while continuing to meet training objectives.

Caitlin Brown explained that the course in question is an investigative course that certifies participants as PREA investigators in an administrative capacity. After reviewing the requirements for corrections cadets and training officers, staff determined that serving as a PREA investigator is not a function they would typically perform in their day-to-day duties. Instead, their responsibility is to comply with PREA Standard 115.34 regarding staff training. Accordingly, staff recommends amending the Corrections Instructor Guidelines to remove this course as a certification requirement.

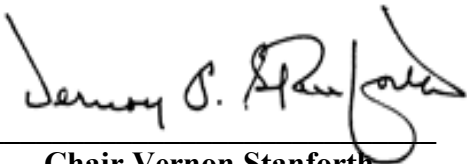
Chief Chabali moved to amend the Corrections Instructor Guidelines to remove “Investigating Sexual Abuse in a Confinement Setting” from Topic Number 2-7 Overview of PREA. Motion was approved with a vote of 8-0.

Art DeLeon advised that, while reviewing new curriculum topics specific to communications, staff explored alternatives to meet the Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) training requirements. Through discussions with Director Quinlan, it was determined that Situational Awareness and Intervention Training–De-escalation (SIT-D) and Integrating Communications, Assessment, and Tactics (ICAT) training would provide equivalent instruction and could be included as alternative options for meeting the communication training requirement for a BAS certificate.

A motion was made to expand the POBT Instructor Guidelines, specific to communication topics, to include SIT-D and ICAT as additional requirement alternatives. Motion was approved with a vote of 8-0.

Motion was made to adjourn. Motion approved without objection 8-0.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 10:57 a.m.


Chair Vernon Stanforth

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