



Ohio Peace Officer Training Commission Meeting
Thursday, May 9th, 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 – May 9th, 2024

- A. Opening- Call to Order, Chair Sheriff Vernon Stanforth** called meeting to order at 10:16 a.m.

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

Commissioners Present:

Chair, Sheriff Vernon Stanforth
Sheriff Michael Heldman
Chief Clayton Harris
Colonel Charles Jones
Lieutenant James Fitsko
Ms. Carol O'Brien
Ms. Leah Amstutz

Commissioners Absent:

Chief Robert Chabali
Ms. Wynette Carter-Smith

Ms. Denise Becerra confirmed there was a quorum with 7-Present, 2-Absent

Attorney General Staff in Attendance:

Cynthia Peterson, Principal Assistant Attorney General- OPOTA/C
Nicole Hendrix, Law Clerk- OPOTA/C
Dr. Erica Wilson- Director of Curriculum and Development- OPOTA
Courtney Delong, Assistant Executive Director of Professional Standards – OPOTA/C
Scott Spangler, Director of Advanced Training – OPOTA
Alexis Miller, Deputy Director of Curriculum- OPOTC
Elizabeth Fulton, OPOTC Staff
Judith Wilson, OPOTC Staff
Denise Becerra - OPOTC Staff
Heather Cloutier, OPOTC Staff
Kristen Samworth, OPOTC Staff
Arienne Fauber, Certification Specialist- OPOTA/C
Carol Simon, Certification Specialist- OPOTA/C
Barbara Cain, OPOTC Staff
Richard Butsko, Assistant Executive Director of Advance Training- OPOTA/C
Thomas Quinlan, Assistant Executive Director- OPOTA/C
Bryan Lee, Senior Assistant Attorney General-AGO
Byers Emmerling, Associate Assistant Attorney General- AGO
Anthony Traska, Accreditation Manager- OPOTA/C
Doug Dumolt, Director of Law Enforcement Operation- AGO
Kelly May, Public Information Officer- AGO
LeAnn Myers, Certification Specialist- OPOTA/C
Michael McGreevy, Compliance Specialist- OPOTA/C
Nicki Mazzocca, E-Learning Design Specialist- OPOTA/C

Guests in Attendance:

Captain Jeff Davis- Ohio State Highway Patrol Academy
Major Mike Kemmer- Ohio State Highway Patrol Academy
Sgt. David Coleman- Franklin County Sheriff's Office
Commander James Rease- Central Ohio Technical College
Commander Roger Deardorff- Hocking College
Ernie Oergel- Polaris Career Center
Commander Patrick Greenhill- Polaris Academy, Barea Police Department
Lieutenant Bruce Mihalak- Fairview Park Police
Dave Koepke- North Central State College
Commander Brad Copeland- North Central State College
Commander Ron Morenz- Lakeland Community College
Paul Hartinger- Modern Public Safety
Major Lon Etchison- Xenia Police Department
Alvin Gills- Great Oaks Career Campuses
Chief Matt Delp- Ohio Association of Chiefs of Police
Tom Vaughn- Ohio Association of Chiefs of Police
Kristen Slaper- Ohio Department of Public Safety
Steve Click- Ohio Department of Public Safety
Sharon Montgomery- Ohio Traffic Safety Council

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

Motion: A motion for the approval of the April 11th, 2024, minutes by Chief Clayton Harris. Sheriff Michael Heldman seconded the motion. A vote was taken and passed unanimously. Yes- 7, No- 0, Absent- 2.

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

Sheriff Heldman stated there was a CPT held a meeting on April 11th, 2024. The 2025 topics were discussed and reviewed. There was a compiled list provided from the 2025 survey that was completed. The list of recommendations for the mandatory 8 hours is listed and asked Dr. Erica to detail them.

Director of Curriculum Dr. Erica Wilson stated that the 8 mandatory hours that OPOTA will advise to complete are Legal Updates 2 hrs., Use of Force for 3 hrs., Ethics Law 2 hrs. and Search and Seizure-1 hr. refresher. The additional topics to be completed in the 24 hours are Report Writing, Domestic Violence, Officer Trauma and Wellness (focusing on suicide), Leadership Course and Vehicle Dynamic.

Sheriff Heldman stated that those are the 2025 CPT Topics for recommendation.

Motion: A motion for the approval of the 2025 CPT Topic recommendations by Sheriff Heldman. Chief Clayton Harris seconded the motion. A vote was taken and passed unanimously. Yes- 7, No- 0, Absent- 2.

Sheriff Heldman stated that was all on CPT.

D. Curriculum Committee Report

Sheriff Heldman stated there was a Curriculum Meeting held on April 11th, 2024. The hours of the curriculum based on Basic Training program change. The 240 hours were reviewed and updated. There were 14 lesson plans which included Peace Office Basic, Jailer Basic, Correction Basic and Private Security. All topics were touched with the Emergency Updates.

Director of Curriculum Dr. Erica Wilson wanted to inform the academies that once it gets passed the Emergency Legal Updates will be posted today to give everyone time to include into the academies for July 1st. SPO changes have changed as well, no hour change only the Emergency Legal Updates.

Motion: A motion for the approval of the Emergency Legal Update recommendations by Sheriff Heldman. Chief Clayton Harris seconded the motion. A vote was taken and passed unanimously. Yes- 7, No- 0, Absent- 2.

Sheriff Heldman stated that the committee met and discussed the recommendations from the Blue-Ribbon Task Force Report. These recommendations would take place in July of 2025. There were 72 hours of lesson plans discussed, the motion was made by the committee which accepted the recommended change, pending the decision of the commission.

Ms. Carol O'Brien asked if he was asking to adopt the Blue-Ribbon Task Force recommendations.

Sheriff Heldman stated it is difficult due to the Blue-Ribbon Task Force Report has not been accepted. However, we are requesting the 72 hours of changes be approved in the curriculum.

Ms. Carol O'Brien asked if it made sense to wait on this motion.

Sheriff Heldman agreed.

E. House Committee Report

Coronel Charles Jones stated that the House Committee had nothing to report.

F. Legislative Committee Report

Lieutenant James Fitsko stated he spent April 10th visiting the state house, lobbying. He met with many of the representatives to discuss PTSD, recreational marijuana, and House Bill 230. He hopes to have more information for the next commission meeting.

Chair Stanforth asked if there are any motions for any of those topics.

Lieutenant James Fitsko stated, not at this time.

Chair Stanforth stated we could move on to the Directors' report.

G. Commission and Academy Report

Executive Director Thomas Quinlan stated he would like to introduce new staff members. Nikki Mazzocca who is the new E-Learning Design Specialist. He stated that she is currently working very diligently on training that will be available online for CPT.

Director of Curriculum Dr. Erica Wilson stated that Nikki is currently working on NIBIN. The rough draft for NIBIN has been completed. There should be something posted online within the next couple of weeks. Once that is completed, she will be starting to work on MARSYS Law. She stated that OPOTA has been working hard to have those courses available on OPOTA Online.

Executive Director Thomas Quinlan advised that during the LETS there will be availability to complete the 8 hrs. of CPT. Additionally there is a new Certification Specialist, LeAnn Myers. Anthony Traska, who is our Accreditation Manager, is currently working on getting us set up for reaccreditation this August. He also introduced Matthew Rahde, who is the new Firearms Instructor. Additionally, he introduced Julie Anthony, who is the new Curriculum

Design Specialist. He wanted to remind commissioners to complete the Ohio Ethics Training online as soon as possible. The training must be completed by the end of the year. Also, the Financial Disclosure Forms are due by May 15th for all commissioners. Once they are all completed, the filing fees will be paid in full.

Assistant Executive Director Courtney DeLong informed that Greg Brillhart will be retiring at the end of this month. He is our Compliance Specialist for the Northwest Region. He has been with OPOTA since November of 2005. Before joining OPOTA he was a fulltime police officer of 28 years. She would like to thank him and wish him a happy retirement. There is a policy change proposal regarding the issuance of certificates. The current regulation outlined in 109.2112 and 109.2107 of the administrative code established the requirement of obtaining a certificate of completion from the executive director after successful completion of POBT. This process as it currently exists, introduces a delay between successful completion of the state certification exam and the certification preventing operational deployment of officers. Ultimately impacting the agency's responsiveness and effectiveness. Legal bases for certification are found under division D section 109.75 of the revised code. The executive director granted the authority to issue certificates to individuals who have satisfactorily completed Peace Officer Basic Training. The proposed policy changes include the issuance of a formal certificate, Peace Officer Basic Training Certificate will now be issued to those students employed by a law enforcement agency upon successful completion of POBT and passing of the state certification exam. This will allow officers to be assigned practical training and experience in the field. Newly appointed officers holding a certificate may perform the functions of a peace officer with direction and oversight from their appointing authority. Restrictions should be clearly defined by each agency to ensure compliance with legal standards and to maintain integrity and quality as law enforcement operations. The implementation strategy will include allocating existing resources and personnel to prioritize the entry of examination results and subsequent issuance of certificates to employed officers. The testing coordinator will now issue certificates to everyone who is employed with a law enforcement agency and has successfully passed POBT and the state certification exam. Certificates will be issued 24-72 hrs. after the exam date is received by OPOTC. This policy change will significantly reduce the gap between POBT and the state certification exam to issuance of certificate. Thereby accelerating the operation deployment of officers and enhancing the law enforcement agencies' responsive and effectiveness. Leveraging existing legal frameworks and optimizing current processes, this policy change seeks to achieve the objectives without the addition of personnel or significant resources allocation.

Lieutenant James Fitsko wanted to thank OPOTA for taking the time to work on this.

Sheriff Heldman wanted to confirm that this process works.

Assistant Executive Director Courtney DeLong stated she has also been working with IT developers to help create new views options to help OPOTA see the new appointments for

individuals who have a first appointment. They are now able to see those and make them a priority. They are processed within 24 to 72 hours. Additionally, for CPT 2044 as of April 22nd, 174 agencies have been reimbursed, totaling \$1,911,444.38.

H. New Business

Executive Director Thomas Quinlan wanted to thank Chair Stanforth and members of the commission on taking time to learn about the recommendations of the Blue-Ribbon Task Force and for the consideration on adopting the recommendations that require the approval of the commission prior to implementing. Attorney General Yost directed him back in September of 2023 to establish the Blue-Ribbon Task Force, focused on the future police training in Ohio. He assembled a diverse group of professionals and practitioners to bring the vision into reality. The eleven members include:

Chief Kurt E. Althouse Vandalia Police /ACP Rep. (SW Ohio)
Sheriff George Maier Stark County / BSSA Rep. (NE Ohio)
Sheriff Orvis Campbell Tuscarawas County (SE Ohio)
Steve Click Director for Ohio Office of First Responder Wellness– DPS (Statewide)
Eric Henderson Dayton Police Assistant Chief (SW Ohio)
Dr. Emily Ribnik Director for Criminal Justice Coordinating Centers of Excellence, NEOMED
Lieutenant Colonel Aaron Jones Cincinnati Police (SW Ohio)
Assistant Police Chief Nicholas Konves Columbus Division of Police (Central Ohio)
Chief Danilynn Miller Sylvania Police (NW Ohio)
Pastor Eddie Parker (Statewide)

He was honored to chair the task force with all the subject matter expertise they bring. There are three of the members, current or former Basic Academy Commanders and six of them have run academies for large agencies. The collection of seasoned professionals making up this task force covered all parts of Ohio and brought subject matter expert knowledge from disciplines within the profession. The task force inaugural meeting was on October 4th, 2023, and the work concluded on January 24th, 2024. Over these months the task force held 10 meetings, 4 were held in person open to the public. More than one hundred law enforcement, private sector, basic police academy commanders, and elected officials attended these meetings, even a former executive director of OPOTA attended and spoke at a meeting. The task force also reviewed hundreds of pages of academic and scholarly work products produced on the topic and publications from associations such as PERF, Police Executive Research Forum and hosted presentations with experts in the field such as a research group from the University of Chicago.

The work resulted in 7 recommendations along with accompanying support for each. The Attorney General released our report on February 21st, 2024, and has provided the commission with that interim time between February and today to study the report. This report is not a connotation of prior state approved training protocols or content established by

this commission looking in the rear-view mirror, this report is singularly focused on the future of police training in Ohio. These recommendations require changes from the current model, over time due to law changes and how police may function, court ruling, established case law that impact police operations and most importantly community expectations. Attorney General Yost stated, police training in Ohio has been patched together with a course added here and there, to address a timely need. Recently, at the request of the Attorney General Office the Ohio State University, John Glenn College of Public Affairs conducted and released a study outlining a road map to provide quality training for every peace officer in Ohio throughout their career. The International Association of Directors of Law Enforcement Standards and Training known as IADLEST, completed an audit at the request of the commission to see how OPOTC stands in relation to national practices and academy functions and outlines a series of recommendations. Combining the OSU report, IDALEST report and the Blue-Ribbon Task Force Report are all complementary of one another, and not in conflict. When they are implemented in unison, these transformations will generate a sustainable platform for the future of police training in Ohio. It is important to note that these recommendations are interdependent, and the best results will be realized when the combined strategies complement one another over time. He will highlight the 7 recommendations then conclude with a summation of what is being asked of the commission to act on to move the report to vision to reality.

**RECOMMENDATION #1 | PART 1 | Communications
AMEND POBT CURRICULUM TO REFLECT CONTEMPORARY POLICE
SERVICES.**

Issue:

OPOTC current curriculum requires a minimum of 740 hours to receive a certificate. Within the required curriculum, there are courses taught that do not add sufficient value to the basic education of a new officer.

Select lessons should be removed and replaced with courses such as Communications training, Situational Decision-Making, Cognitive Demands, Active Threat Response, and Practical Application through use of new technologies, such as VR, after-action de-briefs, and scenarios.

Courses marked for deletion from POBT may be completed on an elective basis or as a prerequisite for sitting for the state certification exam. First Aid and NIMS/ICS are already available online courses.

Remedy:

Several studies have recently been published that directly address basic peace officer training. Studies find that “*recruit training does not focus enough training on decision-making, communications, and other critical skills officers use daily.*” (PERF Survey on Recruit Training P. 21)

Persuasive publications include PERF’s:

- **CRITICAL ISSUES IN POLICING SERIES** –
Transforming Police Recruit Training: 40 Guiding Principles, published in November 2022 outlines many of the prevailing changes needed in police services training. See examples on the next page.
- **CRITICAL ISSUES IN POLICING SERIES** – **Guiding Principles on Use of Force**, published in March 2016 highlights well-researched recommendations yet to be adopted widely in Ohio peace officer training.
- As a result of these publications, authored by highly respected leaders in the profession, the task force is advocating for adopting relevant recommendations for the future of police training in Ohio.
 - POBT curriculum recommended for **deletion** and be changed to either a prerequisite or be offered as advanced training topics:
 - ☐ Blue Courage – 16 hours – post-grad.
 - ☐ First Aid – CPR – AED – 8 hours – becomes a Prerequisite available in online format.
 - ☐ ICS / NIMS – 8 hours – Prerequisite/online
 - ☐ NHTSA – Speed Measuring Device – 40 hours – moved to POBT post graduate offering.
 - **REMOVES 72 HOURS TRAINING.**
 - **Communications Training must be adopted.**
 - ✓ Basic C Interpersonal Communications C Mediation Course – 48 hours added.
 - ✓ Incident De-Brief Training – 4 hours
 - ✓ Active Shooter / Threat Response Training in POBT w/wrap-around actions, e.g. duty to render aid – 8 hours.
 - ✓ 12 hours in Critical Decision-Making Model, Tactical Breathing, Crisis Mitigation C De- Escalation, and Managing Cognitive

Demands. ADDS 72 HOURS TO CURRICULUM.

RECOMMENDATION #1 | PART 2 | PT Testing MODERNIZE PHYSICAL FITNESS TEST STANDARDS

Issue:

The entry PT standards to start a POBT academy are in place for a reason and should remain unchanged.

The **Completion PT Standards** have received a wide scattering of opinions as to what the appropriate standard should be for a one-time only pass/fail fitness test. (Once passed, the requisite sit-ups, push-ups, and 1.5-mile run are rarely required to be maintained post academy unless memorialized into a Collective Bargaining Agreement.)

The issue is what practical adjustments may be made to the standard while maintaining the relevancy of having a standard?

The Task Force has heard many public comments on both sides of the issue and studied the impact of maintaining or revising the standard.

Remedy:

The fact is in today's applicant pool there is a decrease in fitness levels maintained by individuals. This impacts recruitment and retention. There are many examples where an individual either did not achieve the required pass/fail standard to pass an academy or was injured during the academy impacting their ability to pass the final exam. The rule permits only two attempts to pass and then requires an applicant to repeat an entire basic peace officer academy. This is true when a standard is missed by any margin, which can be simply by 1-2 push-ups, sit-ups, or a few seconds on a run.

In response to the realities facing the profession today, the Task Force members are proposing an **adjusted standard** to graduate from a basic peace officer academy. Taking the starting standard and comparing it with the ending standard the difference was calculated. Using 75% of the difference is generally considered a passing score in many arenas. Therefore, the recommendation is to permit a student to pass the PT portion of the final exam when completing all three required tests and **in only 1** category may achieve at least a 75% standard. Under this method only a BASIC certificate may be issued, and the student will be permitted to sit for the State Certification Examination. (See Certification Level Recommendation).

The BASIC certificate will be an indication to hiring authorities that the student did not achieve the requisite 100% pass/fail standard but met an alternative compliance model. The chart below provides the relevant alternative standards, as a proposal, that must be met. Students will still have two opportunities to complete the fitness test. Also, within one year of graduation, a student may be permitted to re-test to upgrade their certificate level.

**RECOMMENDATION #2 | PART 1 | Peace Officer Certification
ESTABLISH CERTIFICATIONS LEVELS REFLECTING TRAINING AND
EXPERIENCE.**

Issue:

POBT training in Ohio has always adhered to a simple certificate approach to training. Complete the requisite minimum hours and receive state certification allowing an individual to receive a peace officer commission from an appointing authority.

With developments such as the AG's STAR academy designations, closed academies that typically provide greater than 880 hours of training, and the National Decertification Index, the Task Force is recommending changes to the basic certification process to establish levels of professional achievement.

The Conditional, Basic, and Intermediate Certification levels will be approved by OPOTC.

Remaining Certification tiers approved by Executive Director upon application and proof of compliance.

Remedy:

Many professions recognize levels of certification or achievement. For instance, in the trades there is typically an apprentice, a journeyman, and a master designation. Nurses have training levels indicated by LPN, RN, BSN, CNP. Doctors are designated as residents, board certified, fellow, and other specialty designations.

Ohio recognizes a graduated system for licensing to operate motor vehicles. There are temporary permit holders, probationary drivers with restrictions on time of day and occupants, operators, and commercial vehicle operators as examples. Licenses are further categorized with endorsements, like motorcycle operators, including a one-year probation period requiring the use of a helmet.

Restrictions also apply, for instance a requirement for corrective lenses.

The Task Force recommends establishing a graduated system of certification for peace officers in Ohio. While not a precise guide, the table on the following page offers a snapshot of what such a system may resemble. The approach allows for taking the State Certification Exam prior to passing the physical fitness test, which was requested during the public forum portion of our work. The system also provides for certification at a basic level in cases of reciprocity, those who have never completed Ohio peace officer training, or those who have not satisfied all PT “END” requirements, noted elsewhere in this report.

While peace officers are in-career, this system rewards officers who seek ongoing Continuing Professional Training, advanced educational achievements, and completion of approved Field Training Officer Programs. Importantly, completing a requisite Tactical Patrol Officer program, also cited elsewhere in this report, becomes a motivating factor. The greater the experience and the more advanced the educational achievements, the higher the certification recognition.

RECOMMENDATION #2 | PART 2 | Instructor Certification **ESTABLISH INSTRUCTOR CERTIFICATION LEVELS THAT PROVIDES A TRAIN-THE-TRAINER OPTION.**

Issue:

Currently there are Basic Instructors and Special Subjects Instructors.

Any instructor wishing to instruct in POBT must have completed the required course in Instructor Skills, currently set at 80 hours, prior to teaching recruits. This standard is recommended for revision. There are some areas that require a specialized instructor designation, for instance firearms, legal, driving, and others.

The Task Force heard repeatedly throughout the process requests to amend the certification requirements and return an option to generate so-called Master Instructors or Train-the-Trainers who may certify others to instruct in POBT.

In-career turnover and promotions have generated a need for more instructors.

Remedy:

The Task Force recommends reducing the required hours to earn a Basic Instructor certification by eliminating built-in down time and adjusting student teach backs. This can

be done by adjusting the instructor / student ratio and how many teach backs a student observes. For example, perhaps dividing the teach back days so each student listens to only half a class of teach backs versus every student. The recommended hours should be reduced from 80 hours to around 56 hours.

In addition to specialty instructors in topics like firearms there should be different instructor levels created that adds competencies on a certificate, such as Immersion Instructor for those receiving additional training to deliver Virtual Reality scenarios. Additional training certification should be awarded for instructors who are specialty trained to create legally, tactically, and medically safe scenario-based training.

For a select few instructors with particularly high competencies, training, and experience, a Master Trainer designation may be awarded permitting individuals with this designation to certify other officers to become instructors in a particular area, for instance, Instructor Skills, Subject Control, Firearms, or similar. Currently only OPOTA instructors may certify instructors to train other instructors. In the past, select officers were permitted to train other trainers but this permission was removed over the years. In other circumstances OSP and now Regional Partners have been permitted to offer these designations. Due to turnover, promotions out of assignments, and other factors there is now a need to restore this program on limited terms.

It is recommended that this permission level be very selective and limited to agencies with closed academies where OPOTA struggles to provide sufficient course offerings to meet the needs of these agencies.

RECOMMENDATION #3 CREATE A TACTICAL PATROL OFFICER PROGRAM.

Issue:

The task force members believe there is a current disconnect between training and application.

Multiple officers respond to calls involving uncertain chaotic events or to rapidly escalating situations. Too often during multiple officer responses, conflicting commands are shouted, and confusion only becomes exasperated.

The task force is recommending a program that is tailored towards Field Training Officers, officers-in-charge, and first-line supervisors.

Having personnel in critical positions specially trained will perpetuate the ideal training and

response practices to some of the most unpredictable calls for service.

Research conducted and presentations received by the Task Force provided ample indication of a need to address Cognitive Demands of policing.

The University of Chicago Sit-D Whitepaper finds on Page 1 that the “*cognitive demands make it more likely that officers will act without sufficient deliberation and that their actions will be driven by cognitive biases.*”

The program recommended is a custom program developed by the Ohio Tactical Officer Association in coordination with OPOTA.

The program will complement Situational Decision-Making training and allow for officers to apply sound tactics and be more deliberative in their responses after assessing rapidly evolving situations.

This course is vital as it relates to improving community trust through increasing cultural competencies. Improving officers’ assessment of situations, reducing avoidable uses of force and discretionary arrest will impact both officer and public safety and wellness.

Remedy:

An intensive training initiative meticulously crafted to equip law enforcement officers with comprehensive tactical skills.

These skills are strategically chosen to enhance officers' capabilities in handling unexpected and ongoing violent criminal events, ensuring their safety and the safety of the community they serve.

The TPO certification program covers relevant topics, each aimed at building a robust foundation for tactical proficiency.

Training Hours Breakdown:

- Critical Incident Leadership for Patrol Operations – 8 hours
- Contemporary Use of Force and Case Law – 4 hours
- Active Shooter Response – 16 hours
- Tactical Patrol Officer Rifle C Pistol Level I C II – 16 hours
- Close Quarter Concepts for Patrol – 16 hours
- Subject De-escalation During Vehicle Encounters – 8 hours
- Conflict Resolution C De-Escalation – 8 hours
- Self-Aid / Buddy Aid (TCCC) – 4 hours

Total Hours: 80

The program's meticulously crafted design promotes a well- rounded and thorough

approach to tactical training. By seamlessly integrating legal, leadership, and medical components with specialized tactical skills, officers are equipped with a diverse skill set to navigate a broad spectrum of challenges more effectively.

Legal and Ethical Foundation

The legal module establishes a solid foundation for ensuring officers comprehend the laws governing their actions. The program instills ethical decision-making by addressing legal considerations in using force and presenting real-world case studies.

Leadership in High-Stress Situations

The leadership module focuses on qualities essential for high- stress situations. Officers develop skills in swift decision- making, effective team coordination, and clear communication, fostering strong leadership capabilities crucial in dynamic environments.

Medical Proficiency and Self-Aid

Incorporating a dedicated medical module, the program emphasizes the importance of tactical medical training. Officers acquire life-saving techniques, trauma care skills, and self-aid practices, enhancing their ability to respond to injuries and emergencies.

Specialized Tactical Skills

The tactical modules, including Active Shooter Response, Firearms Proficiency, Tactics, and Close - Quarter Concepts, provide officers with specialized skills tailored to diverse operational scenarios. From active shooter situations to urban and rural tactical considerations, officers gain expertise in strategic responses.

Vehicle Encounters Involving Occupants

The program recognizes the significance of tactical vehicle operations. It covers maneuvers, positioning, and engagement strategies essential for law enforcement officers. Understanding the points of failure C friction with subject interactions in or around vehicles is a key focus. Pre-stop procedures are emphasized to mitigate risk and enhance officer safety. Additionally, the module includes guidance on vehicle- based cover and concealment strategies, ensuring officers are well- prepared for high-stakes situations involving vehicular engagement.

De-escalation and Conflict Resolution

The Scenario C De-escalation and Conflict Resolution C De-Escalation modules emphasize the importance of non-violent resolution strategies. Realistic scenario-based

training helps officers refine their decision-making and communication skills in dynamic situations, promoting de-escalation as preferred when possible.

Public Safety Integration

The addition of the Public Safety Integration module underscores the commitment to ensuring the public's safety during law enforcement operations. Officers engage in strategies prioritizing community safety, fostering positive relations, and effective communication.

Continuous Adaptation

The program ensures officers stay abreast of evolving legal standards by addressing contemporary use of force and case law. This knowledge empowers them to adapt their tactics within the bounds of the law, enhancing overall effectiveness.

In summary, this comprehensive program goes beyond traditional tactical training, preparing officers for the challenges of violent criminal events and the complexities of daily law enforcement. It fosters a well-rounded, adaptive, and ethically sound approach, ultimately contributing to the safety and well-being of both officers and the communities they serve.

RECOMMENDATION #4

INCORPORATE ELEMENTS OF REALITY-BASED SITUATIONAL DECISION-MAKING

SCENARIOS INTO BASIC AND ADVANCED TRAINING; EMBRACE NEW TECHNOLOGY.

Issue:

Ohio has both Open and Closed Basic Academies. Not all academies are created equally. There are 59 basic academies in Ohio which creates an inherent risk for a lack of consistency in training.

The 740 hours of training mandated for commissioning leaves some academies to train the classroom portions of the curriculum only. Many closed academies offer well over 1,000 hours of training which oftentimes includes significant scenario-based training, creating varying competencies in career.

The PERF study on Recruit Training cited the Ohio Attorney General's Office finding that closed academies realize significantly higher scores on state-mandated testing than open academies can demonstrate. (P.16).

Remedy:

Research conducted by the Task Force and during multiple meetings of the group, revisions to current training were thoroughly discussed. There is ample support through documents, Task Force discussions, and public comment to warrant inclusion of varying levels of scenario-based training and practical applications of the lessons presented in the classroom.

Benjamin Franklin is quoted as saying: “Tell me and I forget, teach me and I may remember, involve me and I learn.” Even when using proper adult learning theories, for students sitting in a classroom listening to an instructor and watching a PowerPoint slide show is forgettable.

Additionally, any retention that might be conveyed has a much shorter shelf life than those experiences gained through performing a task and de-briefing lessons regarding what went well and where a student may improve.

The use of Virtual Reality technology as an example may significantly increase retention of a lesson. A student listens in class to the “what” and “how,” then is immersed in a VR scenario and has an actual lived experience to remember. Then a student is permitted an opportunity to apply this education and experience into practice which will result in actual learning.

The references relied upon during the Task Force’s work support requiring the ICAT model be incorporated into peace officer basic training and the Sit-D model into advanced training, approximately 16 training hours each. Further, all training needs to incorporate relevant and applicable scenario-based training using both ‘every day’ and ‘high-risk’ situations. Community members’ contributions should also be infused into training.

RECOMMENDATION #5 | PART 1 | Lesson Plan Format**DEVELOP INTEGRATED LESSON PLANS ACROSS TRAINING PLATFORMS. [POBT–CPT]****Issue:**

The Task Force finds that much of the law enforcement training is narrowly focused on single point lessons from a solo point of view by the Subject Matter Expert who chiefly

contributed to the lessons being taught.

The lesson plans are devoid of other relevant matters that should be conveyed to officers during the instruction of critical topics in policing.

Well-established, researched, and published reports by agencies such as PERF have not been widely adopted in Ohio.

PERF’s Critical Issues in Policing Series – ICAT, a Training Guide for Defusing Critical

Incidents, Oct. 2016 AND Implementing the ICAT Training Program at Your Agency, May 2023 are prime for adoption.

Remedy:

It is recommended to expand an officer’s view of the tasks they perform and increase cognition of alternative perspectives that lesson plans teach across functions.

Lesson plans prepared by OPOTA should include relevant practical scenario-based applications to reinforce the student performance objectives. Courses, when appropriate, should include an end of course review or examination to ensure learning and retention.

To ensure a balanced approach to conveying new material, lesson plans should include varying perspectives of those impacted by officer responses. Supervisors must evaluate responses by understanding the broader implications associated with policing. Providing students an understanding of the supervisory perspective will help broaden higher order thinking.

Other factors that should be incorporated into learning objectives for officers’ centers on community perspectives and matters related to officer wellness. Where applicable, policy implications should be included and considered.

RECOMMENDATION #5 | PART 2 | Integration Model

DEVELOP INTEGRATED LESSON PLANS ACROSS TRAINING PLATFORMS. [POBT–CPT]

Issue:

Training is singularly focused on one topic at a time, with some topics being required to be trained before other topics are even presented.

Officers require more than knowledge to perform the duties of a peace officer. They need skills which are difficult to convey one topic at a time. Officers engaging in subject control training that stop on a whistle does less to prepare an officer or enhance their skills than balancing the approach.

The “what comes next” method should be inclusive in much of the training protocols. Following a subject control encounter, it can be followed up with a duty to render aid, report writing, collection of and preservation of evidence, testifying in court, and other similarly linked experiences of an actual event.

Remedy:

“Transforming Police Recruit Training” warns police academy training is often presented in silos. *“The check- the-box approach to recruit training ignores the reality that many skills – such as communications, crisis intervention, and defensive tactics are interconnected.”* (p.22)

POBT training should include PERF’s ICAT model while advanced training introduces the Sit-D model. Situations in policing are dynamic and require multiple skill sets to resolve. *“Scenario-based training provides opportunities for officers to practice and demonstrate proficiency in [multiple skill sets] in a realistic, hands-on, and sometimes stressful environments.”* (P.60).

A balanced approach in academies is required. Police training needs to be *“rooted in academic inquiry and developing recruits’ [and seasoned officers], critical-thinking and decision-making skills...”* (p.70).

Blending of training concepts and skills is recommended in an integrated fashion. Training is mostly presented as separate and distinct from one another... *“not enough academy training is focused on helping [peace officers] understand and practice the connections among the various topics they are taught.”* (P.22)

To remedy this effect, the Task Force recommends coursework be offered in clusters of activities officers commonly encounter during calls for service. Not only is communication essential, but streaming together a series of tasks is more persuasive and realistic to officers’ duties than singularly focused training. In addition to a multi-disciplinary

approach to training, community engagement should be provided during training to allow for greater insight into officers' actions towards the people they police.

RECOMMENDATION #6

CPT HOURS REQUIRED SHOULD FOCUS ON PROGRESSING POLICE SERVICES.

Issue:

The Task Force noted that CPT training is ensuring Ohio peace officers engage in no less than 24 hours of annual training which shifts momentum since previous training standards post POBT were left entirely to individual agency discretion.

However, it was also noted there are very few conditions placed on what training must be provided to qualify for reimbursement. Training that perpetuates outdated or flawed concepts exacerbates the issues in policing.

CPT training should be offered to move the profession to a more progressive, forward-looking model by abandoning training strategies that merely reinforce undesirable tactics. Agencies may train topics as they see fit; however, training eligible for reimbursement should be more accountable.

Remedy:

Ohio Administrative Code Rule 109:2-18-02 - (A) Every appointing authority shall require each of its appointed peace officers and troopers to complete up to twenty-four hours of continuing professional training each calendar year.

Current funding will reimburse up to 40 hours of training with no less than 24 hours required. Of the required training hours, the Commission has elected to mandate 8 hours on topics of its choosing. The remaining 16 hours of training are determined at the discretion of each agency. All training completed by OPOTA is approved as CPT eligible. Others may submit lesson plans, in advance of training being delivered, along with the instructors' information who will present the materials.

There have recently been approximately 900 separate submissions approved for CPT approval in 2023. While the courses met the criteria for training per code, many were likely gauged towards models of policing that merely perpetuate old habits or lessons. As with any profession, on-going and relevant training is necessary to ensure the best and most up-to-date practices are being reinforced. When being reimbursed by the state the

training should focus on a more modern approach to delivering policing services.

It is recommended that training approved for reimbursement focuses on progressing police services or focus on career path training goals such as supervisory, investigative, tactical, and instructor certifications.

Further, along with CPT requirements, the Task Force encourages agencies to embrace standards established by the **Ohio Collaborative Accreditation Program**.

RECOMMENDATION #7
BROADEN ANNUAL FIREARMS QUALIFICATIONS STANDARDS.

Issue:

Agencies vary along the spectrum of what firearms training requirements officers meet annually.

The state requires only a single annual qualification of 25 shots (minimum score of 20) on a prescribed target.

Agencies may require far greater standards, yet many require the base level only.

There is no practice that ensures officers do more than demonstrate the skill of how to accurately discharge their weapon. The component lacking is verification an officer knows when the use of deadly force is legally permissible.

Remedy:

An officer should, via a written exam, demonstrate annually they understand both state and federal law as it relates to the use of a firearm, as well as their respective agency policy.

It is recommended that agencies be required to include an annual written exam on the law to coincide with the live-fire qualification stage. The exam should focus on the 5-6 main factors related to the use of firearms in constitutional policing with a focus on the sanctity of human life.

Core concepts such as when the law permits the use of deadly force, i.e. any force that carries a substantial risk that it will proximately result in the death of any person, the definition of what constitutes serious physical harm, the *Graham v. Connor* decision,

and other relevant topics.

It is also recommended that agencies opt to include policy considerations into the use of force and deadly force, particularly if policy is more stringent than law.

Now with the report summation and the 7 recommendations have been outlined, he will discuss the commission can enact relevant recommendations under the scrutiny of the commission. Some approvals from the commission will require code changes to the Ohio Administrative Code. The decision points are that it is asked of the commission amend the curriculum for Peace Officer Basic Training to incorporate 72 hours of new subject matter content, specifically add 48 hours basic and interpersonal communications, mediation, and instant de-brief training. This is the heart of what officers do daily and require greater skills than currently provided in the existing lesson plans that address communication styles and methods.

Chief Clayton Harris wanted clarification on the replacement of 72 hours and not the elimination of any type.

Executive Director Thomas Quinlan confirmed that it is a replacement. There are 740 mandated hours to become a peace officer. Most academies are about 800 hours or greater, the closed academies are 1100 hours. This will not change the minimum mandate; they always encourage greater training. It will move 72 hours of existing training to either post-graduation or as a pre-requisite to enter the academy. Most of those courses are already completed on an online format, therefore they can be completed before they enter the academy. A motion will need to be made for the 8 hours basic communication skills to be adopted by the commission into the 740 mandated hours.

Chairman Stanforth stated that would be one motion, and it would be overwhelming for the commission to keep track of everything. He would have liked the recommendations to be provided to the commission. He stated the report was provided to the commission; however, the talking points were not provided. It makes it difficult for the commission to remember the talking points rather than reviewing and following along.

Executive Director Thomas Quinlan stated he will provide the document that states all the information verbatim with the script prepared to all the commission members.

Chairman Stanforth he stated that document will be provided after the commission makes the decision. He confirmed that all the commission members have the recommended motions in front of them. He asked if the task force members have the presentation available to them.

Executive Director Thomas Quinlan stated he sent it to all of them last night, however, he made revisions and provided them with a final copy this morning. They are happy to provide you with their copies and he stated he has additional copies that he can provide to every member therefore they have it. He stated that they are making copies to provide to all the commission members now.

Chairman Stanforth he would have preferred to have it to follow along with, however he does not want to stop the process. He stated that the issue he has is that historically the commission responsibilities are to establish the minimum standards and wants to know if they are pushing that line, will the new minimum standards be unattainable by the agencies in Ohio. His concern is if this will be a challenge of agencies. Regarding the certification levels, will that be truly attainable.

Executive Director Thomas Quinlan advised that will not impact, that will come into consideration once an individual has completed the POBT and will come once they are in career. This is escalating levels that will get noted on a certificate for the future. What he is asking for is the support of the commission that they recognize in career progress and additional experience.

Chairman Stanforth asked that where in the recommended motions does that item fall under.

Executive Director Thomas Quinlan stated that under recommendation number two. To support and recognize escalating levels of Peace Officer Certification. It is important to note that there is no requirement in the certificate to advance beyond the basic certificate. Any officer may work an entire career with only a Basic Peace Officer certification.

Sheriff Heldman asked if this will impede an officer from getting promoted if they only have a Basic Peace Officer certification.

Executive Director Thomas Quinlan clarified that every agency always has their own discretion regarding who they promote and what their standards and contracts require for escalating though the ranks. This will be a recognition of their years of service and obtaining higher levels of education and achievement. He wanted to emphasis that no one has to go past the certification level.

Chairman Stanforth asked if anyone had any questions.

Chief Clayton Harris wanted to congratulate the members of the Blue-Ribbon Task Force for putting forth such great work. He understands that this took a lot of time, effort, energy and expertise to complete the recommendations and all the documentation. This is representative of all their talents and years of experience on the work product that has come out of this. He stated that they looked at all the issues and came up with recommendations that can move the state forward and wanted to thank them.

Chairman Stanforth asked if the task force members have considered the cost for the recommendations due to how it will impact training academies or agencies.

Executive Director Thomas Quinlan stated that the 740 hours are required, therefore there would not be any burden to what an agency is already being required in a basic academy. Through the tactical patrol officer program, those would also qualify for CPT reimbursement for much of that training. If they complete the 80-hour course for two years, they can basically be reimbursed for their time. There isn't a lot of expense other than adding a written exam for a firearms course and for the lesson plans, they would be something OPOTA would produce would include the community perspective, supervisory expectations, wellness, therefore there would be no additional cost.

Sheriff George Maier wanted to add that his office already has an exam for use of force which officers are required to complete each time they try to compete or qualify for the range. Therefore, it would be adding another step and not adding additional cost to the training requirement. That is an opportunity to refresh their officers in departments pertaining to the use of deadly force. He assumes that other agencies are using this, therefore all law enforcement agencies in Ohio are training the same way.

Chairman Stanforth requested clarification on annual the firearms qualification.

Executive Director Thomas Quinlan stated this required an annual written exam. This was to confirm that people understood the constitutional ramifications of use of force, what the definition of physical harm is, when you are allowed to use lethal force and what the agency can add regarding their policies. This would confirm awareness of the annual requirements or the expectations regarding deadly use of force and can also assist in qualified immunity situations, advising that they did know what the law states.

Chairman Stanforth confirmed that this would not alter the 25 rounds practical.

Executive Director Thomas Quinlan confirmed it would not.

Chairman Stanforth confirmed that the recommendation is to have an annual exam and presented by a certified instructor or the range master.

Executive Director Thomas Quinlan stated that once approval has been given, there will be a need to have an Ohio Administrative Code change to allow for this. How it was done at his previous agency is that it would start in the classroom for a safety briefing, then completed a 10-question test. Once that was completed, they would proceed to the range for the qualification course. Ideally, this could be posted through the online e-learning design specialist and individuals could go online and annually complete the exam for those smaller agencies.

Chairman Stanforth would recommend using the online tool. He suggested that it would also create uniformity throughout the state regarding what is being taught. He stated the commissions' goal is to address the complete recommendations.

Chairman Stanforth asked if any commissioners had any additional questions based on Mr. Quinlan's presentation. He also asked if any of the task force members had any questions for the commission members beyond what the director presented in his report.

Sheriff Orvis Campbell wanted to thank the commission and stated that the work that was completed took smaller agencies into consideration when identifying these issues. He believes that the commission will find it would make it easier for these agencies to hire, for example to the levels of certification. He will still require his agency the passing of all physical fitness testing standards. As well as for the younger staff, this will give them the opportunity to have more options than basic certification. This will give them the opportunity to improve and move forward and feel like they are striving toward future goals. He believes the 72 hours will not remove any part of what is no longer necessary. That came from prioritizing the training with providing the new generation of recruits who would benefit due to being technologically savvy. They felt that the communication skills and mediation was a priority for basic police officer training due to that is what this profession has become.

Steve Click Director for Ohio Office of First Responder Wellness stated that one thing the report didn't reflect was, how officers are being taken care of. They took into consideration how this would impact officers now and those who would be in this profession in the future. This was a fundamental aspect of the conversation regarding officer wellness.

Pastor Eddie Parker stated that he gave voice to the community throughout the state of Ohio.

He would like the commission to know that this report echoes many community concerns. He stated that ninety percent of the gathered data clearly reveals that there is a cry for enhanced communication skills which is included in this report. He stated that when those who serve and protect are better equipped with communication skills the communities and officers will be safer. The way that we communicate has changed in the past decade, due to technology. He is excited about this report and believes that enhancing communication skills with the younger generation is important. He stated that he believes that communication skills that are culturally competent with situational decision-making skills are proven that it reduces unwarranted arrest officer involved shootings. He stated that this report answers community concerns.

Chief Kurt E. Althouse Vandalia Police stated a lot of time was spent on how these issues would impact the smaller, medium and larger agencies. The goal was to increase professionalism across the state of Ohio, each of the recommendations merit consideration and allow to advance police training. The situational decision making is critical in the profession due to every decision of officers is scrutinized and captured on video. Enhancing that training for every officer is very critical and important now more than ever. He thanked the commission for their time and the opportunity to be there.

Chairman Stanforth asked if it was the commissions desire to act on each recommendation separately or in a single motion.

Executive Director Thomas Quinlan stated it would be helpful if it was collectively for time purposes. He did want to point out something that he might not have made clear enough. He stated the request to return to some level of train the trainer or master instructor. The commission had voted in the past to remove that due to it getting out of control. Universally they recommended having some level of that authority back. Therefore, there was a recommendation to have train the trainer model that way others can certify instructors to train in the field.

Bryan Lee, Senior Assistant Attorney General confirmed that if the commission is comfortable making a collective motion on adopting the recommendations; that would be a decision for the commission.

Chairman Stanforth stated that he would entertain the motion, if the commission accepts the motion for the recommendations of the Ohio Blue-Ribbon task force in its totality. If that motion is made that would satisfy all the individual motions that have been recommended.

Ms. Carol O'Brien stated that Sheriff Heldman's committee looked into this and requested him to make the motion or to recommend the acceptance of the report.

Sheriff Heldman stated that they agree with the 72 hours, and he would feel

comfortable making the motion.

Ms. Leah Amstutz clarified that the 72 hours was all that was discussed in the meeting.

Chief Clayton Harris stated that he has been following the task force since the beginning and understands why they did it. He was hoping that everyone else was following along as well. He agreed that there was plenty of time to review the report and to bring any comments that needed addressed. He believes the report was very appropriate and easy to follow along with which it listed all the recommendations. He stated that he would be comfortable with voting with the Blue-Ribbon Task Force recommendations collectively.

Ms. Carol O'Brien wanted to state that this is an amazing product and that this will be good for law enforcement.

Colonel Charles Jones agreed and stated that this was great work from the task force. He advised that a numerous amount of these issues have been presented to the commission within the last couple of years to see this completed is great.

Chairman Stanforth stated that he has served on the commission for a long time and believes he is the ranking member as well as serving as chair for nineteen years. He stated that when he became a member, he wanted to see how he could impact, change or make it better. He truly believes that the task force did not make recommendations to just make a change, each recommendation has merit upon itself. In its totality, it is a better day for law enforcement and a better day for communities and the state of Ohio. He is excited that this report will leave a thumbprint on law enforcement for the next twenty-five years and thanked the task force for all their work. He stated the work is not done and that they are facing a dysfunctional legislature, however hopefully they will be able to guide this through. Additional steps need to be made to have the recommendations imbedded in the law for the state of Ohio. He hopes that they will see the value that was placed in all the recommendations and will be quick to make this into a reality.

Motion: A motion for the approval of the Ohio Blue Ribbon Task Force recommendations by Chief Clayton Harris. Sheriff Michael Heldman seconded the motion. A vote was taken and passed unanimously. Yes- 7, No- 0, Absent- 2.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

Chair, Sheriff Vernon Stanforth- YES
Sheriff Michael Heldman- YES
Chief Clayton Harris- YES
Colonel Charles Jones- YES
Lieutenant James Fitsko- YES

Ms. Carol O'Brien-YES
Ms. Leah Amstutz-YES

Executive Director Thomas Quinlan thanked the members of the task force for their time and consideration

Lieutenant Bruce Mihalak stated he wanted to thank all the work that was put into the Blue-Ribbon Task Force. He wanted to state that he doesn't understand the need for a tier system for officers. He believes it will open some departments to liability issues if you have different officers with different types of certificates. He gave the example regarding a use of force situation and if one of the officers has a master's certificate and another does not, he is afraid an attorney will ask why a certain officer have not been sent to complete a master's training versus a basic training certificate. He stated his department does everything in house, they have awards recognitions for their officers. If everything is done in house, he would have access to the information versus having the master's certificate, he would need to request that information. He also advised that he is not in favor of lowering the physical agility standards. He believes that in this profession we are currently looking for a body with a pulse and the real problem is that no one wants to do it anymore. He stated as a citizen of this state and the country, he is concerned that no one wants to do this job anymore. He also asked if the recommendation requires CPR and First Aid to be completed by the individual prior to the academy which would have a cost. He asked if it would still be functional to complete those classes post-graduation.

Chairman Stanforth clarified that the recommendation is to support and recognize levels of certification, however, not mandate it.

Executive Director Thomas Quinlan stated this will also help hiring authorities. The agencies could determine to hire certain individuals with a certain skill set. Again, no one must use this, however many states have a level of certification. An example is Ohio using levels of driver's license, as well as levels of doctor's profession. He stated they are professionalizing the profession by recommending the certification level. He stated that CPR and First aid would a pre-requisite prior to the academy. However, the academies can run their academies as they see fit if they complete the 740 minimum standards. Therefore, they can include it in their academies or require it to be a pre-requisite, it is their option.

Commander Ernie Oergel stated he believes it would be fair to complete the physical fitness test before and after the academy. He agrees with the communication part of the recommendations as well as the new topics and the virtual reality aspect of it. He has seen the virtual reality presentation. However, his question was if they will be loaning them out and if there isn't enough for agencies could they continue to do people-based scenarios. He also stated the First Aid course most individuals already have in completed. NIMS and ISC should be done once individuals have joined a department. He also asked for clarification on training the trainer.

Executive Director Thomas Quinlan confirmed that virtual is not required, we are embracing technology. Those courses are being removed from the curriculum, however, can be completed anytime the agency dictates. Train the trainer has gotten out of hand in the past. The regional academies already have individuals in those academies; therefore, they could reach the expectations in house and do not need to be expanded further.

Paul Hartinger stated he wanted to inform the commission that communication is being taught. He asked if they are adding new curriculum will OPOTA assure that the instructors are teaching the content. He stated that for example and individual takes the 40 hours de-escalation course can then teach that course, however, does not have any credentials to teach this. He wants to make sure that instructors have the certification to teach courses like crises de-escalation or communication skills. Otherwise, there will be instructors that will teach these classes guided off how they interpreted a class. He would like to have an update for train the trainer for instructors in the academy and make sure they have the skills to do so.

Commander Ron Morenz asked if 40 hours of speed measuring devices are taken out IT will be at a cost to a cadet. The academy will have to send the individual to get the class completed. He believes this course is essential for this profession and he does not understand why that would taken out. He stated that lowering the standard for PT is not the answer.

Major Lon Etchison stated he supports the recommendations from the Blue-Ribbon Task Force; however, he has some observations. He mentioned that most commanders would not be able to go past the basic certification in the tier certification due to them not going through an academy and it would exclude half of the officers within the state. He hopes there would be an equivalency for the tactical patrol officer program that way it is not vendor specific and should not be a monopoly by the Ohio Tactical Officers Association.

Executive Director Thomas Quinlan stated that he wanted to thank the task force for their time and consideration and for the task force recommendations.

Chairman Stanforth stated this will be brought up to the AG for his next action.

Ms. Carol O'Brien agreed.

I. Old Business

Chairman Stanforth asked if there was any old business to discuss. Confirming there was none he moved to the next item on the agenda.

J. Open Forum

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

Commander Ernie Oergel- Polaris Police Academy wanted to confirm what Courtney DeLong stated regarding their certificates being prioritized. Once they pass the state test these individuals will be pushed to the front due already being hired by agencies. He stated that he additionally has more students who have agencies waiting until they pass the state exam to be hired by agencies before being sworn in or to be appointed. He wanted to know how the 24-72 hrs. turnaround would work with these individuals.

Executive Director Thomas Quinlan individuals who have already had a position, appointed and a certificate, they can join an agency. That agency has 10 days to send in the SF400 and the individual will be allowed to work due to already having a certificate. The process that is changing is for new graduates. If they have an appointment from an agency and OPOTA receives it, we will process the certificate. For those who are open enrollment and currently do not have an actual offer of employment, however once the SF400 is received that will be processed within 24 hrs.

Assistant Executive Director Courtney DeLong stated that there will be two ways an agency can let OPOTA know they are going to hire someone. There will be forms changing, those will go out to the commanders advising them of these changes. We want the academy to let OPOTA know who from the academy has received employment. There will be a form which will indicate who from the academy has employment and there will be a final check before the exam. Therefore, these individuals will receive a certificate once they take the exam. The other option is for individuals to receive the open enrollment letter and they can take that letter to the agency that is interested in hiring them. The agency will then submit the SF400 electronically as usual and be moved to the front of the line and have the certificate within one to two days.

Commander Ernie Oergel- Polaris Police Academy wanted to bring attention to the web checks. He is requesting to have that process expedited. He stated it's currently taking 8-10 weeks to get the results back.

Executive Director Thomas Quinlan stated that the process is handled by the legal team.

Principal Assistant Attorney General Cynthia Peterson confirmed that the process was doing better. However, it has been slower in the last six weeks due to limited staff. The newest attorney Nicole Hendrix, who was sworn in on Monday. She will be responsible for completing the web checks. She had already been reviewing the web checks prior to being sworn in, which means that they still need to be reviewed by a licensed attorney. As of

Monday, she can now look at them on her own, which will speed the process back up. She is getting ready to interview for both vacancies in legal hopefully the turnaround time will be faster. She also wanted to advise that this issue is not just about web checks, it also has to do with disclosures which do not show up on web checks. Therefore, those disclosures have to be vetted, which needs additional information and court documentation. She advised that there was a situation where there was an academy that had 50 students with disclosures.

Executive Director Thomas Quinlan advised that routinely there are classes that have disqualifiers that must be checked. Therefore, the workload has greatly increased.

Principal Assistant Attorney General Cynthia Peterson stated that at times it is very minute detail. An example could be a charge that was originally domestic violence plead to a disorderly conduct, they would have to see the court document to verify the A1 section was noted in the entry. If it was not, then it is not a disqualifier. If it was noted, then it is a disqualifier. There are instances where you have been trying to get court documents from fifteen years or twenty years ago with small court systems that don't have online access. The process is very time-consuming.

Executive Director Thomas Quinlan stated that it is the student's responsibility to go to the court and gather the archives records.

Commander Ernie Oergel understands that OPOTA is trying to get everything computerized, however he does have concerns. He stated that he has heard a rumor that if an instructor is teaching a morning class and then goes to another academy and teaches an afternoon class, the instructor's name does not appear. He hopes this is not happening because he has a lot of instructors that teach at different academies and hopes this is not an issue with OPOTA transitioning to online processes.

Executive Director Thomas Quinlan stated that would be reviewed by our field auditors. They would be reviewing attendance sheets and the instructor's information as well as crediting those hours to the instructor. He advised that he follow up with the Portal personnel and see if there is any recognition in this situation. He also wanted to make aware that with closed academies as well as career center colleges provide FASA to pay for the academies. FASFA has made a ruling this year that for colleges or academies to receive financial aid by law it must be the state minimum hours. They will only provide financial aid based on the 740 hours. Even in the law it states that we encourage more, FASFA does not care, they request 740 hours. An example is his academy that has 800 hours and will need to decrease to 740 hours, or we would need to charge a separate fee for the different in hours. This will also affect the STAR Award, due to not having those extras we cannot participate in that. He has spoken with additional academies, and some are not familiar with that new ruling. Basically, what the government is implying is that if you try to give the extra money for these additional hours, they will totally take away the ability for financial aid. This change will have a big impact on closed academies moving forward.

Major Lon Etchison- Xenia Police Department requested clarification on certification issuances. He currently has an indivial that has graduated from the academy, and wanted to know that once he passes his test, he can operate with an FTO before he receives his certificate.

Assistant Executive Director Courtney DeLong advised that is correct.

K. Adjournment

Motion: A motion to adjourn was made by Chief Clayton Harris. The motion was seconded by Ms. Carol O'Brien. A vote was taken and passed unanimously. Yes- 7, No-0, Absent- 2.

The meeting stands adjourned.

Time: 12:15 p.m.



Chair Vernon Stanforth

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