



# Ohio Attorney General's **Ohio Peace Officer Training Academy**

**Advanced Training for Ohio Peace Officers**

November 2016

## Officers Praise Blue Courage

Three Ohio law enforcement officers provide testimonials about Blue Courage [in a video](#) released at the Ohio Attorney General's 2016 Law Enforcement Conference in October.

Tricia Knoles, a community resource officer with the Kent State Police Department, Sgt. John Godwin of the Logan County Sheriff's Office, and Chief Matthew Vanyo of the Olmsted Township Police Department, talk in the video about how their lives were changed by the program.

Blue Courage, a two-day leadership development workshop, covers topics such as police culture, resilience, and positive psychology, is part of the basic and advanced training required of Ohio's law enforcement officers. The program was developed by Michael Nila, a former Aurora, Ill., police commander with support from the U.S. Justice Department, to teach law enforcement officers how to manage stress, increase engagement with others, and to fight cynicism.

In the video, produced by the Ohio Attorney General's Office, Knoles talks about how the Blue Courage program encouraged her to take better care of herself.

"We are so used to helping people and giving to other people, but we're not taking care of ourselves the way we need to be," she said. "So Blue Courage just makes you more of a well-rounded officer and person."

Sgt. John Godwin of the Logan County Sheriff's Office experienced a transformation after taking the course. He began taking better care of himself and lost 60 pounds.

"(Blue Courage) made me realize I needed to be healthier. With the stressors that we deal with every day — the lack of sleep, the diet, limited time to exercise — you need to find time for those things. When I look in the mirror now, I see a healthier person."

Officers are exposed to the worst of society, Vanyo said, and that can take a toll.

"The violence that human beings inflict on one another on a regular basis, you start to question people and your belief in people," he said. "(Blue Courage) renewed my belief in the vital importance of being a law enforcement professional and actually reinvigorated me as a law enforcement executive."

“Every police officer, no matter what year of tenure they’re in, they will come away with something from the Blue Courage program, that, I believe, they will carry with them for the rest of their careers and the rest of their lives.”

Dec. 19-20, 2016  
OPOTA Richfield Campus  
4055 Highlander Parkway, Suite B  
Richfield, Ohio  
Cost: \$175

Feb. 14-15, 2017  
OPOTA Richfield Campus  
4055 Highlander Parkway, Suite B  
Richfield, Ohio  
Cost: \$270

May 16-17, 2017  
OPOTA Main Campus  
1650 St. Rt. 56 SW  
London, Ohio  
Cost: \$300

Aug. 8-9, 2017  
OPOTA Richfield Campus  
4055 Highlander Parkway, Suite B  
Richfield, Ohio  
Cost: \$270

Oct. 3-4, 2017  
OPOTA Main Campus  
1650 St. Rt. 56 SW  
London, Ohio  
Cost: \$300

## [Training Offers Insight About Trauma Survivors](#)

Trauma is an emotional response to a terrible event. A continued exposure to trauma can result in a complex array of social, emotional, and behavioral challenges. By learning about the latest trauma research and related practices, individuals can help trauma survivors experience healing, resiliency, and hope.

The Ohio Peace Officer Training Academy and Finding Hope Consulting will be hosting back-to-back training sessions focusing on trauma, brain science, and how to handle trauma-related situations. The first course, Trauma Responsive Foundational Training, will be offered at Mount Carmel West Hospital.

The training coordinates trauma-informed care into a framework that can be used by anyone working with victims. It covers the three stages of positive trauma resolution (re-experience, release, and reorganize) and the five resilience factors found in people who move beyond their traumatic experiences. It also looks

at the effect of trauma on brain chemistry, development, and relationships. Because trauma is processed and stored in nonverbal parts of the brain, expressive, relational and cognitive behavioral interventions are identified to benefit clients of all ages and ability levels.

The second course, Trauma: Theory to Practice, will focus on practical advice on how to handle situations.

The two courses can be viewed as a “101” class for trauma in anticipation of the 2017 Continuing Professional Training (CPT) course Trauma Informed Policing, and officers can receive six hours of CPT training for 2016 (two hours of general and four hours of community relations).

Dec. 1, 2016 | 9 a.m.– 4:30 p.m.

Mount Carmel West Hospital

793 W. State St.

Columbus, Ohio

Cost: Free

Dec. 2, 2016 | 9 a.m.–4:30 p.m.

Columbus Police Academy

1000 N. Hague Avenue

Columbus, Ohio

Cost: Free

## [Advisory Group Issues Pursuit Recommendations](#)

The Ohio Attorney General’s Advisory Group on Law Enforcement Vehicular Pursuits issued its recommendations in a 16-page report released on Nov. 3.

The report includes points to consider when initiating, continuing, and discontinuing vehicle pursuits to best ensure the safety of law enforcement and the public.

Since 2003, law enforcement agencies have been required to have a pursuit policy, but the policy details are left up to the individual departments.

Ohio Attorney General Mike DeWine appointed the 13-member group – which included representatives from law enforcement, local government, and the public – to examine various law enforcement pursuit policies and to identify best practices to be used by agencies throughout Ohio.

At the end of the report, the group recommended that some portion of future Continuing Professional Training (CPT) for peace officers and troopers be devoted to vehicle pursuit best practices and safe driving techniques.

In addition, group members recommended that a state database be created to collect voluntary submissions of vehicle pursuit information, which could be analyzed to further develop related best practices.

## [Time Running Out to Complete 2016 CPT](#)

Peace officers and troopers are required to complete 11 hours of Continuing Professional Training (CPT) before Jan. 1, 2017, in order to continue working in law enforcement.

Officers can take any training, approved by OPOTA, on any general law enforcement subjects to meet the 11 hours required by law. However, in order to be reimbursed, officers must take training on the critical subjects of:

- Community-police relations with a suggested focus on implicit bias, procedural justice, and Blue Courage (4 hours)
- Crisis de-escalation with a required focus on mental illness (2 hours)
- Constitutional use of force (2 hours)

As an option to fulfill the reimbursement requirements, those topics are combined in the course “Policing in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century.”

The one-hour human trafficking update course, which is also required critical subject for reimbursement, is available in a separate online course through eOPOTA.

The remaining two hours of required training may be about general law enforcement topics, for which OPOTA has added five new, one-hour eOPOTA courses to choose from to fulfill the requirement:

- “Disability Training for Emergency Planners: Serving People With Disabilities”
- “Dose of Reality for Law Enforcement Officers: Being a Safe and Critical Consumer of Prescription Drugs”
- “Procedural Justice & Police Legitimacy”
- “The Ohio Automated Rx Reporting System (OARRS) for Law Enforcement”
- “Companion Animal Encounters” (This course fulfills a legislative mandate.)

For more information, send an email to [AskOpota@OhioAttorneyGeneral.gov](mailto:AskOpota@OhioAttorneyGeneral.gov).

## [Experienced Wiretappers to Share Secrets](#)

When a case is stalled, electronic surveillance might be the right tool to provide a breakthrough. The Electronic Surveillance course provides training in the legal and technical aspects of wiretapping and other electronic surveillance to satisfy the requirements of Ohio Revised Code Section 2933.64. Those who complete the course will be certified to use electronic surveillance and wiretaps. The training will be conducted by attorneys with extensive wiretap experience from cases in Hamilton County.

\* This course is restricted to active law enforcement officers only.

Dec. 7- 8, 2016 | 8 a.m. -5 p.m.  
OPOTA Richfield Campus  
4055 Highlander Parkway, Suite B  
Richfield, Ohio  
Cost: Free