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**Ohio Peace Officer Training Commission Meeting
Thursday, July 8, 2021, 10:00 a.m. - Cafeteria
Held at the Ohio Peace Officer Training Academy**

Minutes – July 8, 2021

A. Opening

Call to Order

Chair Stanforth good morning, the meeting was called to order at 10:02 a.m.
Lt. Fitsko lead the Pledge of Allegiance. Ms. Long called the roll.

Commissioners Present:

Chair Sheriff Vernon Stanforth
Vice-Chair, Chief Clayton Harris
Ms. Leah Amstutz
Ms. Wynette Carter-Smith
Colonel Richard Fambro
Lieutenant James Fitsko
Sheriff Michael Heldman
Chief George Kral
Ms. Carol O'Brien

Commissioners Absent:

S.A.C. Eric Smith. FBI

Ms. Long confirmed there was a quorum with 9-Present, 1-Absent.

Staff in Attendance:

Richard Hardy, Director Professional Standards and Education – OPOTC
Deano McNeil - OPOTC Staff
Jill Cury - OPOTC Staff
Lori Rinehart - OPOTC Staff
Courtney DeLong - OPOTC Staff
Brittany Brashears - OPOTC Staff

Dan Ozbolt, Director Advanced Training – OPOTA
Deana Leffler - OPOTC Staff
Michael Walton - Associate Assistant Attorney General - AGO

Guest in Attendance:

Lt. Col Chuck Jones - Ohio State Highway Patrol
Paul R. Weber - Clark State Community College
Chuck Crosby -Sinclair College
Amber Rose - Columbus Police Department
Lt. Donald Olivero - Columbus Police Department
David Koepke - North Central State College
Commander Brad Copeland - North Central State College
Sharon Montgomery - Ohio Traffic Safety Council.

B. Chair Report

Chair Stanforth welcomed everybody to the July 8th Commission Meeting, the guest was asked to stand and be recognized by name and who they represented for the record.

Chair Stanforth reminded the Commissioners the microphones are not amplifiers, but are merely recording devices. So, if you're speaking, speak up so you can be heard across the room and the microphone will be able to pick up and record your conversation. Please go the corner of the table to the microphone to accommodate you if your voice is not loud enough.

Chair Stanforth stated the minutes for the March 11, 2021 and the May 13, 2121 meeting are still in the process of being transcribed and prepared, so we're not voting on those until the next scheduled Commission meeting. The Chair had nothing to report at this time, but may throughout the meeting. That concluded the Chair Report.

C. Curriculum Committee Report

Sheriff Heldman, Curriculum Committee Chair state the Curriculum Committee met this morning. There were 27 changes starting with the peace officer basic training, refresher training, private security basic training, corrections basic training and jailer basic trailer. The changes were basically an update that had been made through House Bill 133, House Bill 8 and other updates as well. Basically, all SPO's would be affected and the Curriculum Committee recommended the requested changes.

MOTION: Sheriff Heldman made the motion to accept the changes presented above. Chief Harris seconded the motion. A vote was taken and passed unanimously. Yes-9, No-0, Absent-1

Sheriff Heldman, Curriculum Committee Chair stated that concluded the Curriculum Committee Report.

Chair Stanforth asked if there was a Legislative Committee Report.

D. Legislative Committee Report

Lt. James Fitsko, Legislative Committee Chair reported at this time the General Assembly were currently on summer recess. There is nothing to report until the Ohio Legislature returns in the fall. That concluded the Legislative Committee report.

Chair Stanforth asked if there was a House Committee Report.

E. House Committee Report

Colonel Robert Fambro, House Committee Chair stated the House Committee had nothing to report, concluding the House Committee Report.

Chair Stanforth asked if there was a Continuing Professional Training report.

F. Continuing Professional Training (CPT) Report

Sheriff Heldman, CPT Committee Chair stated there had been a change in the Continuing Professional Training. There was money approved by the Legislature for the Continuing Professional Training for 2022. The Chair spoke with Executive Director Holcomb this morning, there's work to be done by the Committee. Over the next six weeks, there will be a meeting with a select group of people. We will be contacting them to meet and hopefully come up with some topics to present to the OPOTC staff to put together the CPT topics for 2022 for the amount of 24 hours.

Chair Stanforth asked since the funding will be from the State Legislature, who gets to say what the topics will be? Is it the Commission or the Legislature?

Dwight Holcomb, Executive Director of OPOTC/A replied the topics will come back to the Commission. So, it will be up to the CPT Committee to come up with the topics to be approved by the Commission for the 24 hours.

Chair Stanforth asked if the time frame was altered or is it still required to be done within notification?

Dwight Holcomb, Executive Director of OPOTC/A replied notification will still come out in October. This entire programs on a really tight time frame and it is different than in the past years. In the past there's been a twenty dollar per hour reimbursement, this new process will require new input from every law enforcement agency in the state. Agencies will have to supply to OPOTC by December 2nd of 2021, a spreadsheet our staff is developing. This spreadsheet will list all of the officers, deputies and sworn staff within an agency and their yearly salaries. Which can become complicated because the yearly salary for a younger officer may come in on January 1st at a particular step, and there may be a step rate increase in there and then there may be the contractual increase. So, one person could have three different rates in one year. Things are still being worked out. Rules need to be established.

Yesterday, we had a meeting with senior staff. You've heard the name Mr. Doug Dumolt. Mr. Dumolt is one of our lead attorneys who is really helping to spearhead this. There are a lot of things that need done, we need to be up and running by December 1st with this program. Law enforcement agencies need to be able to start submitting all their information to us by December 2nd. As Sheriff was saying, we are asking this committee to get together, to identify the 24 hours of training and get it to us by the end of August. It won't be approved by this Commission until the September meeting, but it will give us a little bit of time so, internally, our training staff can begin to look at what needs to be done for what we may have to develop for that training. Again, very, very tight timeframes. 15 million dollars was allocated to the state. So, the money is there. We just need to develop this program and make it work very, very efficiently.

Chair Stanforth sorry, I question the September timeframe, is this something that we should expedite this Commission to have an August commission meeting?

Dwight Holcomb, Executive Director of OPOTC/A replied we could, if we want to do that. But let's put it this way. If the Sheriff's committee were to meet next week or sometime soon and come up with the hours very quickly, then I would probably suggest that we have a meeting to get it approved. So, that helps us move along even faster. It depends upon how quickly the CPT committee can come up with their recommendations.

Chair Stanforth ask if there was any other discussion? The Commission is aware and council may have to educate me, but my understanding is the state of Ohio is no longer declared in a State of Emergency. So therefore, our meetings must be in person. We can no longer do virtual meetings. So, if we have an August meeting, you are required to attend in person.

Mr. Michael Walton, Associate Assistant Attorney General stated that is correct.

Dwight Holcomb, Executive Director of OPOTC/A stated the Sheriff and I had a good conversation just a short time ago about getting this done, so we are able to begin to develop any type of Curriculum.

Sheriff Heldman, CPT Committee Chair I've looked at my calendar and I've got a couple of different dates to look at July 22nd or July 27th, probably meeting here with that group of people.

Chair Stanforth asked meeting here with that group of who? Are you planning to include the Curriculum Committee?

Sheriff Heldman, CPT Committee Chair I am looking at representatives from the Ohio Association of Chiefs of Police, Ohio Small Police Unit, The Ohio State Highway Patrol Academy and the Commission CPT Committee. Bringing others in to get ideas from.

Chair Stanforth stated his concern with such a tight time frame, you broaden your subject matter experts to broad, it becomes so cumbersome that you can't expedite the issue.

Dwight Holcomb, Executive Director of OPOTC/A responded again, the sooner we can get the information together, the sooner our staff can get started on the topics. Legislature has given us a very, very tight time frame on this. I'm not as concerned about the training development, as I am on the whole behind the scenes process. My concerns are that we still have to develop the entire process of how we're getting all this information from over 960 law enforcement agencies in the state for 30,000 police officers and peace officers from the state into a database to extrapolate formulas to be able to do the reimbursements. But again, having the trending topics as early as possibly can help us out on that stage.

Chair Stanforth confirmed the reimbursement is not immediate, the coursework is what we need immediate.

Dwight Holcomb, Executive Director of OPOTC/A responded correct. We need to know what the 24 hours of topic are going to be come January 1st and that they are available come January 1st or before it's going to be paramount to the success of this process. We have not had CPT time since 2017. We're trying to learn from issues and stuff from the past dealings with this, we had staff involved talking about the pros and cons of how it was handled before and the road bumps that we ran into. So, we're trying to find ways to make it more efficient this time for not only agencies, but for us also.

Chair Stanforth ask if there was any other discussion? Hear nothing that concluded the CPT Report.

Chair Stanforth moved to the Staff and Academy Updates.

G. Staff and Academy Updates

Dwight Holcomb, Executive Director of OPOTC/A Thank you, sir. First of all, I'd like to introduce our new staff to the Commission. At least two of them are here. Sitting over here against the wall is Ms. Deana Leffler. Ms. Leffler, join us just a couple of weeks ago, as our new Senior Assistant Attorney General. She is joining Ms. Cynthia Peterson with all of our legal work. Over here is Ms. Laura Lopez-DeLaet. She's our new Professional Standards Administrative Assistant working for Mr. Richard Hardy. She's also backing up Ms. Long today, learning how the system works. So, we've got a back-up in place. Ms. Julie Halyama wasn't able to attend today, but, she is our new Online Training Administrator, helping to work on our new OPOTA On-Line format. Her position is as an intermittent employee, who is able to work as needed, and she's been greatly appreciated. She's helped us accomplish a great deal in the last couple of weeks since we launched OPOTA On-Line.

For Advanced Training, this week we are starting to open up here, like everyone in the State is doing. We're kind of taking away our safety protocols from COVID. This was

our largest classroom in the last year in which we can pull 30 people in here during the COVID environment. We're now taking that 6 feet separation down to 3 feet. So, we've been able to double all of our class seating for students, which will be very helpful as we continue filling up classes, and having to create more classes. Being able to add more seats will help us be much more efficient.

We've now have been able to reach out to 32 different locations around the state to provide regional training. So, that is really good. Mr. Ozbolt and his group continue to find more places around the state as we reach out to do training where they can successfully host us. Back on June 24th at 9:00 a.m., with the assistance of Ms. Bridget Coontz, Section Chief of Constitutional Offices, who hosted nearly a 3-hour public records update, online live, and it was exceptionally well received. We had 291 attendees for that session. We have not done that before, or at least not under this administration. It was very successful. These are the type of things we're going to continue to try to do in the future with the new OPOTA online. It's going to be a great format for being able to support this type of interactive with long term and virtual training. But the first one we did back with, Ms. Coontz, was very successful.

Just to kind of brief the Commission, training has its reality in how to duty train. Two weeks ago, today, it was the final day of a several days driver training course out on our track. We had a lead car that was being operated by one of our instructors. The pursuit car had a student in it along with an instructor. Things happen in reality and happens in training too, the 2 crashed unintentionally. The airbags were set off on the peace officer car behind it, slightly causing some minor abrasions to our instructor who went off to the hospital and was subsequently released that night. It does go to show that reality, when you're doing pursuit driving, crashes do happen and unfortunately it happens here. But everybody was safe and everybody returned back to the agencies and back to their work.

On Monday, March 14th, we launched the OPOTA-Online. Everybody is probably familiar with the old eOPOTA format, Attorney General Yost as he came in, really gave us a good charge to let's really take this into the next century. Let's bring this up to a new level. And it took nearly a year of discussions with I.T. and just a host of partners on how we could really redo OPOTA- Online. We were able to successfully migrate from the old eOPOTA to all records to the new OPOTA-Online, we did a lot of testing to make sure nothing got missed. Every officer's records that had been in the old systems or in the new system. The caliber of the videos that we're producing are exponentially better than what we did in the past. In the past, a lot of the training was simply a class that had been provided. It was a PowerPoint presentation of a video that was on there. We are now doing a lot of very professionally managed and produced videos and training segments. One of the things we've also started was something we're calling the roll call briefings. These are shorter 8 to maybe 12, or 14 minutes in length. So, you the officers as they're working during the day, if they have an opportunity between calls, they can pull up a video, they can take a course on-line, they can very quickly do it and be done in that short time frame. We're also developing longer, more beyond the basic type of training. Those things will be getting launched here very shortly too.

Some analytics that were just recently reported to me. Since we launched, we've had over 2000 individuals that have logged into the new system. We're also able to tell now through the analytics that 93 percent of those people were coming from a desktop and 6 percent were coming from their mobile phone and 1 percent were coming from tablets. So, we can see what type of usage we're getting because we're trying to make sure that our platform is responsive to the devices that the individuals are using. That's very important. When we first kicked off in that first couple of weeks, we had over 300 inquiries for assistance. Most of those were for accounts have been locked out. If you had not been in the eOPOTA account for over 2 years, you did have to reach out to us to reset it. Course enrollments since we launched on June 14th, we've had 2,349 course enrollments and of that, 1,329 have been successfully completed. So, it's getting a lot of use, which is very good.

We just finished our first CALEA year review, which was very successful. Mr. Agosta, our accreditation manager worked with CALEA remotely, and got through about a third of our records that were randomly selected and everything looked really good.

Pearson Vue is almost completely the single source of where testing is being done. Now, Mr. Hardy and his group have done a fabulous job in the last year working with Pearson Vue. We had the city of Columbus Police Department in this building yesterday for testing? We have one more day of testing coming up here in July, and then all testing will be done through the Pearson Vue process and will no longer be done here in the academy. So, it's been a very long road. This Commission has been talking about remote testing for a number of years. It's finally been successfully completed. And by the time we get to our next meeting, I'll probably be able to fly with some good statistical analysis that Pearson Vue is going to be able to give us all the testing that's going to be.

Dwight Holcomb, Executive Director of OPOTC/A I had in my notes to talk a little bit about the state budget in the CPT that we've already talked about, but as we mentioned, there are some tight dates by December 1st, we have to have this program up and running. And then by December 2nd, then agencies around the state have to supply us with information on salaries for all of their staff.

And finally, to my report, this is kind of an emotional one that I want to talk a little bit about from the standpoint of what happens out here that many people don't know about. This happened to Ms. Long not too long ago. We have a Memorial Wall out here and our staff frequently enjoy walking out there on sunny days, getting exercise during their lunch. Back on June 14th, Ms. Long ran into a lady who was at the Memorial Wall and she had her son and daughter-in-law with her. The lady was Mrs. Paula Vogel Jones. Mrs. Jones is now 73 years old, when she was three years old her father was killed in the line of duty. Her father was Norman Vogel, Portsmouth Police Department killed in the line of duty on November 23, 1951. Mrs. Jones didn't know about this Memorial Wall. She had found out about it earlier this year when a friend told her about it and she actually watched this year's Memorial online. When her son and daughter-in-law came into town this year, they brought Mrs. Jones out here. Ms. Long got to meet and talk with her, was able to get a copy of a past Memorial Program that

had the location of the 809 names out there, and was able to find her father's name on the wall. They were given sheets of the rose paper used at the Memorial Ceremony and was able to etch his name. Ms. Long really helped this family. That's what our staff does out here when they run into people who are out here at the Memorial Wall, whether it's Ms. Long or Mr. Hardy or any of us, we go out and talk to them. And this was a very interesting story because it was 70 years ago since her father passed away. She was able to visit the Memorial Wall and find her father's name on this wall. And that's a great tribute. With that, I complete my report.

Chair Stanforth before we move on to the old business, I want clarification on some things. There was a comment, I don't know if Sheriff Heldman was party to the conversation separately from a BSSA member concerning first line supervisor training and that we are no longer doing first line supervisor training and that it is being done by a separate entity and we have advocated our role as educators of advanced training.

Dwight Holcomb, Executive Director of OPOTC/A Yes. In fact, we met at the BSSA about three weeks ago to talk about a couple of different topics like that. The first line supervisor had been pushed back. Mr. Ozbolt and his staff, are currently working on the curriculum and getting it updated. And that class will be scheduled here later this year. We're also looking at not only the first line, but also jail administrator was another topic that we talked about. So, we were working with one of the captains from the sheriff's office to help update that curriculum. So those are coming and those will be both offered here later this year.

Chair Stanforth now address the issue that private entities are conducting that or other entities, not necessarily private, but we still allow the curriculum that we have to be taught by a community college or any other academy setting, it's not just here.

Dwight Holcomb, Executive Director of OPOTC/A they are not just taught here. There are other entities out there that offer their version of First Line Supervisor training, but it does not have an OPOTA endorsement to it. You could have the ABC company coming out of California that offers police and law enforcement training and they could have a first line supervisor course, if an agency wishes to send their people that course, they have that opportunity. But, for an OPOTA course, that curriculum is then developed by us and put on by us here in our setting, whether regionally or however we're going to do that to get the OPOTA certificate. The other problem is our curriculum is publicly available through public records. So, somebody could ask for a public record request for our curriculum, get our curriculum through that public record request, and then certainly put that on. But it's not an OPOTA course.

Chair Stanforth so, if the BSSA, the Chiefs or the State Patrol want to conduct that course, they would have to meet the standards of an academy. They would have to be endorsed and approved to get a certificate from this Commission, they would have to conduct a school, but with the auspices of the academy.

Dwight Holcomb, Executive Director of OPOTC/A It would become an OPOTA course, which they would register through our OPOTA system, under our course

numbers, and then show in the individual officers Polaris account that they took that course. Then we have a record on file. We can certainly partner with a lot of different places and trying to provide OPOTA curriculum in different locations in support of whether the BSSA or any other entity.

Chair Stanforth No, I think it needed to be on the record, that OPOTA conducts it, and we are going to continue conducting it. And if someone chooses to conduct the course, they need to do it on their own without OPOTA blessing. And if it is an OPOTA approved course that they have met the standards to conduct a course on our behalf.

Dwight Holcomb, Executive Director of OPOTC/A from a standpoint of an agency that wants to put a course on, they would register through us. They've got our curriculum to put it on. We are maintaining and watching over the standards, so that we're sure the curriculum that is being developed with the seal on the certificate issued by this Commission and the Attorney General meets those standards we want them to have. Which is why we're back again, we met with the BSSA talking about the first line supervision and the jail administrator and those courses are getting revamped to be out here later on this year.

Chair Stanforth being revamped how?

Dwight Holcomb, Executive Director of OPOTC/A the curriculum needs updated. So, we're working on the curriculum updates. So, before we offered the course we wanted to make sure the curriculum was current. And so, that's going through the review process now.

Chief Clayton Harris, Tri-C Community College Thank you. I just wanted to add that the Ohio Chiefs' have been running a Supervisors Course since 1971, so that organization has been doing it for quite a while also.

Chair Stanforth but, that's their curriculum, not OPOTAs curriculum, correct? Which is fine.

Dwight Holcomb, Executive Director of OPOTC/A Yeah, which is if you take the OACP course, you get a certificate from OACP.

Chair Stanforth I'm sure, the BSSA does the same thing, you get a little certificate from them and it's not an OPOTA certificate, but it just shows the completion of a coursework that may have been generated by the BSSA staff.

H. Old Business

Chair Stanforth asked if there was any old business to discuss. Hear none, that concludes the old business report.

I. New Business

Chair Stanforth asked if there was any new business.

Ms. Carol O'Brien So, in conversations with a number of people here at OPOTA, with some issues that have come up. I would like to suggest that the Commission gather information to study the physical fitness standards that are currently being utilized by OPOTA. We currently use the Cooper Standard, which is physical fitness based on push-ups, sit-ups and a mile and half run. And there are different standards for male and female. Many of you may be old enough to remember when that all came about. However, that is now into question again and there's been a lot of controversy regarding that. The other area that comes in to question with the Cooper Standards is it really preparing our cadets for a career in law enforcement. The questions that I've heard are how many peace officers run a mile and a half in their first year of business and how many have to do the set number of pushups, etc., I think it would be beneficial to the Commission and the academy if we look at those standards that are currently in existence, put together a subject matter expert group that is not only law enforcement, but also a legal component, and possibly something to show whether or not what you're doing fits the job requirements. Can we get a subject matter expert group together to look and see if the physical fitness standards we are currently using are best suited for the future training of our officers?

MOTION: Ms. O'Brien made the motion for Executive Director, Holcomb to form a subject matter expert group to study the physical fitness standards. Ms. Carter-Smith 2nd the motion. NOTE: under the Guest Forum the motion was determined not necessary. The motion was withdrawn.

Chair Stanforth asked for discussion.

Ms. Leah Amstutz asked if there any, social emotional standards that go along with it as well? I just know in education social, emotional, and the mental health, all of those pieces are very important too.

Dwight Holcomb, Executive Director of OPOTC/A asked if Ms. Amstutz meant on entry level for the academy?

Richard Hardy responded they are addressed in multiple places throughout the basic lesson plan.

Dwight Holcomb, Executive Director of OPOTC/A What are you talking about pretesting before they go into an academy or taught in the academy?

Ms. Leah Amstutz I think all the above from that standpoint, I just think we hear more talk about this type of thing. Especially, mental health.

Ms. Carol O'Brien in dealing with local law enforcement agencies around the state, a number of them will hire and send them to an academy where they go through a psychological exam as well as a number of tests. It depends on the agency, an open academy doesn't require the testing, but some police academies do. She agreed with Ms. Amstutz.

Commander Crosby, Sinclair Academy stated the topic of psychological evaluations has been talked about before. I think that becomes problematic at the entry level, especially for the open academies. Any psychological evaluations done at the academy will have costs associated with it, and when they get hired by an agency, oftentimes they will go to their own Psychologist, duplicating the process. So, I would just say, if anything, I think that it might be cost prohibitive at the academy level.

Chair Stanforth stated someone has have to pay for it.

Chair Stanforth I think it's worthy of a review and in and of itself and even considering maybe an exit evaluation, if someone's leaving, making sure they're leaving with a sound mind, that they're not leaving with issues that have been suppressed by their career.

Lt. Col. Chuck Jones, OSHP stated his only input from that point is, I hope the academies are somehow represented in this process.

Chair Stanforth responded sure.

Chair Stanforth stated that in establishing the committee, we'll have the executive director try to find the right people to fit on the committee. I don't want to burden our current committee with it, although it may be a commission member will be representative as the chairperson of that committee. But obviously, the Curriculum Committee is being tasked with a lot of work right now. And this is not something else they need to be tasked with, although that would be potentially the place for the report would come to for their evaluation later on by this this subcommittee.

I was not a proponent of the physical fitness standard, and since I'm the most tenured Commission Member, I was here when it was implemented. A lot has changed over the last 40 years. When I went to the state patrol academy, it was it was an honor to get those certificates. I don't know if you still get an OPOTA certificate and a state patrol certificate, but, it was an honor to get that. But that was before there was a physical fitness standard for OPOTA. And my argument back then and still on my mind at this point is the Commission's responsibility is a minimum standard. And by us imposing a physical fitness standard, we're restricting who agencies can hire, before they get their foot in the door. That's been my concern with physical fitness standards, although I recognized the need for physical fitness for law enforcement, the ramifications for those that are not physically fit.

I'd be interested to find out if the studies for physical fitness has borne out the fact that if you're physically fit, you have to you have less opportunity for PTSD, you have less opportunity for heart issues. We see officers trying to get prepared to do their annual physical fitness, have heart attacks and die in the training room, or on the track, or wherever it may be. Are those numbers down? I don't know if anyone's ever done that research, but that was the issue is why we're doing this in the first place. But it'd be nice to be able to have this maybe look back and see what those numbers are. I'm sure they're out there.

The Cooper Standard was something that was a high mark and apparently had moved away from that now. And it's time that we as a Commission take a broad look to make sure that we are doing what's correct today and that our physical fitness standards are applicable to today's society and today's expectations. So, with that the Chair we ask the Executive Director to create a subcommittee under the Curriculum Committee. Making sure it consists of at least a Commission Member, along with Subject Matter Experts (SMEs), to review the physical fitness standard.

Colonel Robert Fambro I think it's worth mentioning, we still use Cooper. Cooper's still valid. They stopped providing data. From a testing and evaluation standpoint, I think no one size fits all. Agencies have to decide what's best for them. A lot of agencies have moved away from using that type of test, lots do road test, but I think we're talking about job task analysis and what fits versus, whether you're going to do a physical fitness test (PT Test). So, I think it's important that this SME group knows what task the Commission want them to attack.

Chair Stanforth asked the Executive Director to move forward.

Dwight Holcomb, Executive Director of OPOTC/A asked if any Commission Members would like to be a part of the SME group, so we can get it on the calendar and start working.

Chair Stanforth stated we can't have more than three Commission Members on that SME group.

It's probably wise to have one of our legal counsel be a part from the beginning to migrate to the legal challenges. And Lieutenant Fitsko, with no legislative agenda for the immediate future, it might be good for you to be the chair. Colonel Fambro agreed to serve on the committee.

Chair Stanforth shared a personal story of his last 2-mile run, but there's relevance to it. We always say it's cardiovascular, it's not leg muscle, it's not how far you can run, it's how well you can endure it in this stressful situation.

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

Chair Stanforth Guest Forum, would anyone in attendance would like to have an opportunity to speak to me.

Ms. Long advised the Chair that the motion under New Business was not voted on.

Chair Stanforth agreed, we did have a Motion and a 2nd. The chair does have that ability to create committees as they chose.

Ms. Carol O'Brien withdraw the motion made under new business.

Dwight Holcomb, Executive Director of OPOTC/A stated while we wait to see to hear if anyone had any comments, I wanted to introduce Mr. Dina McNeil. Mr. McNeil is one of our new additions to our curriculum development team. So, it's nice to have him here. And then just another general comment for everybody. There still seems to be a lot of thought out there that OPOTA is closed. I think what happens is because the cafeteria and dorms are closed, they think that means we're not training. So, if you hear those rumors, please set them straight that OPOTA is fully functional and running, we just don't house people or have a cafeteria. I think there's a lot of confusion on what's closed here and what's continuing to operate.

J. Guest Forum

Chair Stanforth asked if there was anything from the Guest Forum?

Mr. Brad Copeland proposed to the Commission to consider adding Police Rifle Carbine to the Peace Officer Basic Training lesson plans for cadets to be better equipped for agencies. Currently with our firearms program we prepare our cadets in the field with shotguns and handguns and we got the rifle, and I think we're being misled in that context. Speaking with some of the sheriffs and chiefs of police their thoughts about training that they do, aren't what actually occurs in the field when it comes to what the officers that are coming out of the academies received once they reach these agencies. And I think if we could train up our cadets coming out of our programs with patrol rifle, we would better prepare them for going to work for police agencies. There are agencies that are actually considering taking shotguns out of play in the patrol vehicles and going strictly with the patrol rifle. We don't currently do anything for our cadets on the official platform of leaving our academies.

Chair Stanforth so what would be the advantage of doing it in basic rather than Advanced Training?

Mr. Brad Copeland stated currently, because of budgetary restrictions, agencies don't send their officers to advanced training. And what I've found in my experience is that officers coming out of the academy, going into agencies, receive typically, maybe an hour or so of training on a patrol rifle, maybe 100 rounds or so, and does it get them to a point that they operate the rifle. Yes. Does it give them the opportunity to operate effectively, efficiently? I don't believe so. And when you leave an agency, a lot of times, I think what happens because of the budgetary restrictions, is that they don't provide the training the officers should have. And I think incorporated into a basic program, making it mandatory, would give the officer a better opportunity and put them in a better advantage operationally when they reach an agency. It's an item we hope, we never have to use. But, if we use it, we want to make sure its proficient.

Chair Stanforth stated if we didn't mandate that agencies had to use rifles, and the agencies were able to choose their weapon, when do we stop training? Basically, every agency would have a different type of weapon. I mean, we've already identified three and what if there's a fourth one, etc.

Mr. Brad Copeland I think from what I've seen in my area, most agencies have incorporated the basic AR Full Rifle platform. And I've seen that pretty much standard across the board. But, it's the same basic platform that would be extremely beneficial to the cadets in that context and for the government agencies to do their jobs. How much training to do what we need to provide and how far can we go? We can only do more. But, I think this is something that you've seen such an explosion of patrol rifles within the operation, within the departments, that I think you should put that in context.

Dwight Holcomb, Executive Director of OPOTC/A stated one of the things that we obviously run into with the 60 plus more academies that we're teaching around the state with different functions. We're trying to find a curriculum that fits everybody. There are agencies like Toledo or Columbus Police Department that would have to teach their staff in that same format, yet they don't deploy weapons, they don't deploy a rifle. We've had conversations in the past year or so with large agencies that don't deploy shotguns to all of their staff, so they are interested, let's get rid the shotgun as part of the basic curriculum, because to them it's a waste of time, because only their supervisors carry a shotgun. So, we've done advanced training. So, it really becomes that balance. How do you get something that works great across the state for, again, as the sheriff is saying, it's basic training, where an agency that wants to deploy a rifle in that type really becomes an advanced training course? It becomes a dilemma, how do you balance it for every academy in the state, for all of the different clientele that you have? It's a tough question.

Chair Stanforth yes, you can review that and take it up with the Advanced Training.

Dwight Holcomb, Executive Director of OPOTC/A Rick is here and obviously the curriculum design people here in Advanced Training will take a look at it and give some ideas to it and see about it. But, I'm not even sure how many hours that would add to at the top. But you know what I'd be really curious to know is how many agencies across Ohio have done away with the shotgun and gone straight to the patrol rifle.

Mr. Brad Copeland I don't know in that respect. I know Ashland City Police Department was one who recently found out they were talking about doing away with shotguns in the cars and going strictly with patrol rifles in vehicles. I know that in ODNR, we incorporate 16 hours of basic patrol rifle operator training. Approximately, 400 to 500 round per officer and then 2-days (16 hours) is what we did for our officers to get them up to base and cooperation. From what I've heard from various agencies around the state, Ohio, they've done anywhere from 1-hour to 4-hours to 8-hours for initial officers coming out of the coming out of their agencies for Parole Rifle Operations.

Mr. Dan Ozbolt stated for in-service training it's going to be at the discretion of the department as to how they're going to want us to do with that. Now, if you're going to be more conscientious, you're going to have at least a bare minimum of 2-days of that. Realistically, that's probably not going to happen. You're probably going to get a few hours, a couple hours at the in-service level. What really needs to be looked at is more

and more agencies are discarding shotguns. In fact, we see people coming in for Shotgun Instructor courses who are afraid of the shotgun.

Dwight Holcomb, Executive Director of OPOTC/A stated we can talk later and we could do a survey and get out there and see, because this could be one of those changing times that the shotgun has been the old format and things are changing over with different platforms. Thank you.

Chair Stanforth asked if there were any other comments? The Chair would entertain a motion to go into Executive Session, to discover, to discuss issues with our legal counsel.

Mr. Michael Walton, Associate Assistant Attorney General asked if this petition was to do with the 119 hearing? We could do that after the meeting. Because that's not covered under the Open Meetings Act.

Chair Stanforth is there anything else for the good of the order? Seeing none, the Chair entertain a motion to adjourn.**Adjournment**

MOTION: Motion to Adjourn moved by Ms. O'Brien. The motion was seconded by Ms. Carter-Smith. The meeting stands Adjourned.

Time: 11:02 a.m.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Vernon P. Stanforth", is written over a horizontal line. The signature is stylized and cursive.

Chair Vernon P. Stanforth

These transcripts are not verbatim. Audio recordings are available upon receipt.