



Ohio Peace Officer Training Commission
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Ohio Peace Officer Training Commission
Thursday, July 9, 2015
held at the
Ohio Peace Officer Training Academy
1650 State Route 56 SW
London, Ohio 43140

Minutes

I. Opening

A. Call to Order

Chairperson Vernon Stanforth called the meeting to order at 10:03 a.m.
SAC Anthony led the Pledge of Allegiance.
Ms. Donna Long called the Roll Call.

Commission members present

Chairperson Sheriff Vernon P. Stanforth
Sheriff Michael Heldman
Chief Clayton Harris
Mr. Willis Amweg
Mr. Stephen Schumaker
Colonel Paul Pride
SAC Stephen Anthony

B. Guests and Staff

Attorney General's Office

Julia Brinksneader
Jeff Clark
Jill Del Greco
Mary Davis
Lou Agosta
James Burke
Alice Robinson-Bond
Jill Cury
Arienne Fauber
Justin Hykes
Anne Laux
Donna Long

Attorney General's Office
Attorney General's Office
Attorney General's Office
OPOTC Executive Director
OPOTA Deputy Director
OPOTC Deputy Director
OPOTC Deputy Director
OPOTC Staff
OPOTC Staff
OPOTC Staff
OPOTC Staff
OPOTC Staff

OHIO PEACE OFFICER TRAINING COMMISSION

Rick Meadows
John Reedy
Lori Rinehart
Brittany Thompson

OPOTA Staff
OPOTC Staff
OPOTC Staff
OPOTC Staff

Guests

Geoffrey Barnard
Jackie Bowman
Anthony Jackson
Catherine Kieley
Captain Shawn Lee
Chris Malson
Bob Meader
Dave Miller
Jeff Sowards
Paul R. Weber
Ellis R. Willis

Cleveland Heights P.D.
Cuyahoga Community College
Cuyahoga Community College
Kent State
Ohio State Highway Patrol
Dayton PD
Columbus Police Academy
Grandview Medical Center PD
COTC
Clark State Police Academy
Sinclair Community College

II. Chairperson Report

**Sheriff Vernon Stanforth
Chairperson**

Chairperson Stanforth welcomed the guest and moved to approving the minutes.

Motion

Mr. Amweg motioned the minutes of the May 14, 2015 meeting be approved, the motion was seconded by Mr. Schumaker. No discussion was forthcoming; a vote was taken and passed unanimously.

Sheriff Heldman motioned the minutes of the May 28, 2015 meeting be approved, the motion was seconded by Colonel Pride. No discussion was forthcoming; a vote was taken and passed unanimously.

Chairperson Stanforth welcomed Chief Clayton Harris, Cuyahoga Community College Police Department to the OPOTC. Chairperson Stanforth assigned Chief Harris to the Curriculum Sub-Committee. With nothing else forthcoming that concluded the Chairperson Report.

III. Curriculum Committee

**Sgt. Troy Mineard
Committee Chairperson**

Committee Chairperson, Sgt. Mineard was absent from this meeting and there was no discussion forthcoming, this concluded the Curriculum Committee report.

IV. Legislative Committee

**Chief David Wiseman
Committee Chairperson**

Committee Chairperson, Chief Wiseman was absent from this meeting and there was no discussion forthcoming, this concluded the Legislative Committee report.

V. House Committee

**Colonel Paul Pride
Committee Chairperson**

Committee Chairperson, Colonel Pride, stated there was nothing new to report at this time. That concluded the Curriculum Committee report.

VI. Continuing Professional Training Committee

**Sheriff Michael Heldman
Committee Chairperson**

Committee Chairperson, Sheriff Heldman referred to Executive Director, Mary Davis. Ms. Davis stated a vote would be required at the September 10th OPOTC meeting for the 2016 Continuing professional training (CPT), as the requirements need to be announced to the field by October 15, 2015. The biennium budget bill signed by the Governor, included mandates to the OPOTC from the General Assembly for continued professional training hours for 2016 and 2017. They have directed the OPOTC to require 11 hours of CPT for 2016 and 20 hours for 2017. The legislation directed for the first year biennium, \$5 million dollars into the Law Enforcement Assistance Fund to pay for 2016 CPT reimbursements to all officers at 100%. For 2017, \$10 million dollars was directed into the Law Enforcement Assistance Fund to pay for 2017 CPT reimbursement. The formula for payment is; the first 11 hours will be reimbursed to all officers at 100%, the remaining 9 hours will only be reimbursed for the full time officers. The agencies first 50 full timers will get 100% reimbursement and any full timers after the first 50 will be reimbursed at 80%.

Ms. Davis went on to say the Administrative Rule states the executive director shall approve the program for continuing professional training. Attorney General DeWine wants to assure quality in training of CPT hours and wants an actual program for 2016.

Sheriff Heldman asked with more training hours required would more on-line training be provided? Ms. Davis stated there would be some on-line training available, but as hours have increased should there be a maximum number of hours allowable for on-line training? Currently, all 4 hours can be satisfied with on-line training.

Mr. Schumaker stated Attorney General DeWine is extremely intent on CPT covering subjects identified by the advisory group. There are a number of plans in the works and we are still working on the options as to how it will be administered and how much of the training would be in person verses on-line training and how much considering the budgets set forth could be stress induced scenario-based training.

Chairperson Stanforth asked if additional mandated topics were to go into effect would we be able to cover them under CPT or would legislative changes be required? Ms. Davis stated the Administrative Code states CPT may not be other mandated training. Chairperson Stanforth suggested the OPOTC consider changing code so any new mandated courses could be included in the CPT process for the first couple years. Most officers are completely up to date on mandated training even without breaks in service. We fought hard to address break of service with mandated training.

Ms. Davis asked Mr. Hykes if it's the commission's desire to change that rule, is it feasible to be changed by the first of the year with the JCARR process? Mr. Hykes responded yes. Ms. Davis stated the most recently mandated topic was in 2012 on human trafficking. Ms. Robinson-Bond stated they are still currently having breaks in services where we are picking up

people who haven't had the human trafficking mandate. If this is going to be in question, should it apply to those things such as human trafficking? If they take human trafficking in 2016 are they going to be able to count it for CPT as well, or is it just a black line from here forward?

Chairperson Stanforth responded if the issue is serious enough for the Legislature to come in and say "we want you to have this training", then it's incumbent upon us to say it's important enough to us to ensure we facilitate mandated training to all peace officers not just in basic training.

Ms. Davis stated if the desire is to have draft language for the September meeting on what the rule change would look like, we can do that. Mr. Hykes stated the OPOTC would have to approve the language at the September meeting. Mr. Amweg requested to see the language prior to the September meeting. He is expecting some heavy discussion during that meeting and would want to see the proposed language prior to that meeting. Mr. Hykes stated that could be done.

Mr. Schumaker added that with the information from the advisory group everything may not be able to fit in to 11 hours in 2016. We need to keep in mind when we add something, we may very well be moving something else out; there will be choices to be made.

Chairperson Stanforth stated if things need moved back, it doesn't have to be 2016. We can push them back to a 2 or 3 year period for CPT and after that window if they don't have it, it would be on their own to receive the training.

With no further discussion forthcoming, this concluded the CPT report.

Staff Reports

VII. Commission And Academy Updates

**Executive Director
Mary Davis**

Ms. Davis stated yesterday the Governor's office held their first collaborative meeting on the advisory group setup, by executive order, by the Governor, which she was in attendance. The group led by Chair John Born, Director of Public Safety and Carlton Moore; both were very clear in their visual aids, that listed the task force's recommendations and what their group would be looking at. They are recommending two other groups to be the lead in a couple areas. They are looking to the Supreme Court for the recommendations in regard to the Grand Jury Process. In regards to training, they are looking to the Attorney General's Office and the OPOTC.

The group's two priorities are determining a model use of force policy and looking at agency minimum standards/accreditation. Ms. Davis offered the use of OPOTA simulators for their non-law enforcement members interested in a presentation on use of force as they start to look at those model policies. They took her up on that offer and will be using the simulators for their next meeting.

Ms. Davis then spoke to another item attached to House Bill 64 which is the biennium budget, which is another mandated topic on handling companion animals. Mr. Hykes stated companion animal training is something we are required to start doing. The effective date is 90 days from the date the Governor signed the budget bill. There are two aspects of the companion animal

training, one would be basic training. It would have to be included in any basic training starting on October 1, 2015. There will be an emergency update to the curriculum which will be voted on in September by the OPOTC. For advanced training the language is very similar to the other mandated trainings we've had, human trafficking, crisis intervention, and domestic violence, it mandated the Attorney General's Office create rules regarding the training, what is in the training, and time frames for when current police officers complete the training. Mr. Hykes will be working with professional standards, advanced training, and education & policy sections to figure how the best way to implement it so officers are mandated to take the training without a break in service. Putting in with CPT may be one way of doing it. They will draft the rules specific to this situation instead of break in service. These should be presented to the OPOTC in September as well.

There were inquiries about the number of hours, Mr. Hykes responded legislature mandated the specific areas of training; handling companion animal related calls, identity and understanding animal behavior, state law related to the companion animals, avoiding a companion animal attack, and using non-lethal methods to defend against a companion animal attack. It will be up to OPOTC and the subject matter experts to get together and determine the hours. Mr. Hykes stated for advanced training he doesn't know if the hours or the actual course will be developed by September. There will be proposed rules as to when officers will have to get the training. Hopefully, a curriculum for basic will be done due to it going into effective soon after that.

There was some concern if the hours were not determined until the September meeting and a new academy was to start their opening audit on September 4th how does the commander create a class calendar schedule for the opening audit? Ms. Davis responded there was a similar situation in 2012 and as soon as the Governor signed off on it, it is effective. Ms. Davis asked Ms. Arianne Fauber to respond, Ms. Fauber replied usually they add it to the existing curriculum when it was ready. Most commanders completed a (SF185 change of schedule) form and add it onto the end of their academy. Then we kept a log of who offered that topic in that academy so that when appointments came in, we had the information of who had the training. So the commander would be using the curriculum dated July 1, 2016 and then adding on to the end of the calendar.

Another question from the commanders was will the instructors have to go through training and if there will be training with actual animals? Ms. Davis replied we will have to make it feasible. Currently, there are no animal experts on staff. We have a similar humane agent curriculum that we work with that we can pull some information from, but we won't be asking students to bring animals to the training. The definition of companion animals is; any animal that resides in a residence, or any cat or dog regardless of where they reside. Ms. Davis responded that it does say it is not a wild animal.

Ms. Davis stated if there were no other discussions that concluded the Commission and Academy updates.

VIII. Old Business

**Sheriff Vernon Stanforth
Chairperson**

Ms. Davis moved to the ongoing review of Ohio's law enforcement training. Many items discussed are updates on their progress. Attorney General DeWine's direction for Ms. Davis is to focus on the advanced training piece and for the OPOTC to focus on the basic training recommendations. This is already in line with the current process.

Ms. Davis stated a survey was sent out to all the peace officer basic commanders for their input on the recommendations as they relate to peace officer basic and also included a couple items that relate to the Job Task Analysis (JTA) completed a few years ago. This included adding OC Spray and Taser into the training, seeking their thoughts and the impact this training might have.

Ms. Davis spoke about recommendation #1, regarding having a high school diploma to be eligible to enter the basic academy and recommendation #15 which removed the 650 hour cap as the minimum training hours. Those rule changes are set for public hearing tomorrow and are moving forward.

For recommendation #7 which relates to basic academy oversight and recommendation #9, in regard to the model of basic training. We are looking at an academy self-audit, evaluation for commanders and a recertification process for commanders. A group has been convened to look at all three of those items.

Another idea brought up by the Attorney General and senior staff was to increase the quality of academies by looking into an accreditation process. We will be looking at the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies (CALEA) training academy accreditation and North Central standards differences; or even looking into a home grown in-state accreditation process. If the OPOTC is interested in exploring the concept, the staff can start looking at differences and at the requirements of the existing certification programs and how it may be implemented in Ohio.

Sherriff Heldman asked if it was known how many were already accredited. Ms. Davis responded she has spoken with Rhonda Grizell, the former commander at the Columbus academy who said their agency is CALEA accredited; however, their training academy is not. They have looked into it, but don't have the resources required to move forward. Colonel Pride verified that Ohio State Highway Patrol was not CALEA training academy accredited. Those are two of our bigger academies, so probably very few training academies have CALEA accreditation. Colonel Pride stated there are accreditations for every section agency wide. If you have the money they will put together an accreditation program for you. One of his questions is for the commanders who are tied to universities. How many different accreditation processes are there available or are they all similar? Do they tie into the universities accreditation the same way or is there a different package for every university?

After a brief discussion it was concluded the universities do not tie into the university's academic department. It's specific to the police training package at that university. Colonel Pride requested information of the universities. Mr. Amweg stated things are pretty similar, a lot of the universities are CALEA accredited and then there is the International Association of Campus Law Enforcement Administrators (IACLEA), which is almost an identical version of CALEA. It was actually born before CALEA made some changes in their accreditation process accommodating campus law enforcement. Those are the two big ones.

Chief Harris stated IACLEA was created because there were no provisions in CALEA for security; many campuses had security guards who weren't peace officer trained. But now, CALEA has adopted some of the processes that ICALEA had. But, for this purpose he feels researching it to see what's out there, what's available, how it goes, the different categories where it would fit and where it would fit in this State is definitely appropriate. Also, if there is an organization like CALEA that actually has an accreditation and we created for the State, how would that fit? Would we do both, or would it be accepted as the standard?

Mr. Schumaker stated OPOTA is separately CALEA accredited. How many academies around the State have a similar accreditation? Are those accredited institutions of higher performing institutions? Is there a correlation between CALEA Accreditation and some of the things we're looking for as far as performance from academies?

In Ohio, OPOTA and maybe one other academy are accredited in training in the nation there are only 38-42 accredited in training. It is a time-consuming and expensive process. Sinclair Community College looked at the cost benefit analysis of the yearly cost to continue with the accreditation. When asked if it brought value to the program, Commander Willis advised they liked the idea of standards, and are actually modifying, putting a ghost shell of CALEA, around, their program, but at this point and time are not going the CALEA route.

Chairperson Stanforth stated there was enough interest around the table to move forward with the research.

Ms. Davis moved on to recommendation #11, instructor evaluations. This was included in the recent survey sent out to the commanders. Upon getting an idea about what the evaluations might look like, they will pilot those with a few academies around the State.

Recommendation #12, order of topics is moving forward. A couple of institutions have provided OPOTC a list that they have created and follow, which has proven very beneficial.

Recommendation #21, 40 hours advanced annual training. This was placed on the back burner as we looked at basic training. Attorney General DeWine would like to focus his attention on that.

Recommendation #23 and #25, Use of Force annual training/model policy. We will hold off until the Governor's Group takes action. They are researching some national model policies.

Ms. Davis stated she had nothing further discussion. With no other questions or discussion this concluded the Old Business.

IX. New Business

**Sheriff Vernon Stanforth
Chairperson**

Mr. Schumaker shared that several weeks ago he along with Executive Director Davis, and staff spent the day with the Washington D.C. Metro Police Department. They were a very gracious host, taking them also to a FLETC facility and to look at their scenario based cities. They got to explore D.C.'s new facility which has an indoor scenario based city which all officers go through. They were able to view some training scenarios their veteran officers were going through. The group came away very impressed. The more they see of this type of training the more we want to see Ohio go in that direction.

Ms. Robinson-Bond announced recognition for Richfield Certification Officer Roger Le who will be joining the military. The staff and OPOTC thanked Mr. Le for his service.

With no further discussion that concluded the New Business.

X. Guest Forum

**Sheriff Vernon Stanforth
Chairperson**

Commander Meader, Columbus Police Academy stated his staff was interested in requiring Cooper Standards at the beginning of an academy, is there a time line as to when standards are to be established and when new recruits must meet them? Ms. Davis stated we are still in the evaluation stage. Commander Meader asked if that would become the hard rule at the entry level requiring they meet the 15% Cooper Standards?

Ms. Davis stated her staff are gathering data which has changed some of the initial thoughts on the percentile. Mr. Burke stated from the information gathered from around the State, it appears the 15th percentile gave students time to meet the 50th percentile. The 15th doesn't have a high percentage of passing; we are researching the possibility of changing to 20-25%. That is what the numbers are showing. We are putting the data in a document and upon completion it will be sent out. Ms. Davis stated we are still examining the matter.

Commander Willis stated he was part of the committee that spoke about that rule. The thing they noticed about their academy, if they do have a failure for PT within their academy it will be the individual who barely swept in on that 15th percentile. That is a high risk group. When you have that standard coming in, you will have a small group in 15th percentile, they are going to be the ones to struggle. But, because you have a standard, people tend to try to exceed that. So, routinely they bring in people of a much higher level. They've had a great success rate. They counsel the students who enter the academy at the high risk level.

Hearing no further comments, that concluded the guest forum.

XI. Motion To Adjourn

Chairperson Stanforth asked if there was anything further to address. With nothing forthcoming, he asked for a motion to adjourn.

Colonel Pride moved to adjourn the meeting. SAC Anthony seconded the motion. The vote passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned.

Time: 10:53 a.m.


Chairperson

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