



**DAVE YOST**  
OHIO ATTORNEY GENERAL



Ohio Peace Officer Training Commission  
Office 800-346-7682  
Fax 740-845-0362

## **Ohio Peace Officer Training Commission September 09, 2021**

Held at 1650 State Rte 56 S.W., London, Ohio 43140  
Meeting was held in the cafeteria

### **Minutes – September 09, 2021**

#### **A. Opening- Call to Order**

**Chair, Stanforth** called the commission meeting to order at 10:22 a.m.

**Chief Clayton Harris** lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Ms. Donna Long** did the Roll call

#### **Commissioners Present:**

Sheriff Vernon Stanforth, Chair  
Chief Clayton Harris, Vice-Chair  
Ms. Leah Amstutz  
Sheriff Michael Heldman  
Ms. Wynette Carter-Smith  
Ms. Carol O'Brien  
SAC Eric Smith

#### **Commissioners Absent**

Colonel Richard Fambro  
Lieutenant James Fitsko  
Chief George Kral

**Ms. Long**, we have a quorum. 7-Present, 3-Absent

**Chair Stanforth** welcomed all the guests and asked each to take the opportunity for the record to identify themselves as present for the commission meeting.

#### **Attorney General Staff Attendees**

Mr. Dwight Holcomb, Executive Director, OPOTC  
Ms. Brittany Brashears, OPOTC  
Ms. Jill Cury, OPOTC  
Ms. Kim Eggerton, OPOTA

Ms. Arienne Fauber, OPOTC  
Ms. Deana Leffler, OPOTC  
Mr. Dan Ozbolt, Director of Advanced Training  
Ms. Carol Simon, OPOTC  
Mr. Micah Stoll, Advanced Training Instructor  
Ms. Erica Wilson, Director of Training Curriculum  
Mr. Michael Walton, AGO

### **Guest Attendees**

Major John Altman, Ohio State Highway Patrol  
Cmdr. Chuck Crosby, Sinclair Community College  
Lt. Matthew Dickey, Dayton Police Department  
Cmdr. Mark Lang, Columbus Police Department  
Ms. Sharon Montgomery, Ohio Traffic Safety Council  
Cmdr. Ernie Oergel, Polaris Career Center  
Cmdr. Jerry Snay, Stark State College.  
Mr. David Wiseman, Delaware County Sheriff's Office

### **B. Chair Report**

**Chair Stanforth** welcomed everybody. The first item of business was the approval of the prepared and presented minutes for the March 11, 2021 meeting. Do we have a motion to approve?

**MOTION:** a motion for the approval of the March 11, 2021 minutes was made by Sheriff Heldman. Ms. Carter-Smith seconded the motion. A vote was taken and passed unanimously. Yes-7, Absent-3.

**Chair Stanforth**, the Minutes are approved.

**Chair Stanforth**, as for the chairperson report, I don't really have too much. Chair Stanforth asked if Mr. Holcomb; would be discussing the testing procedures in his report by any chance?

**Dwight Holcomb, Executive Director**, for Pearson Vue? He had not planned on it for today, but if you have a question it can certainly be addressed.

**Chair Stanforth**, we can do that now then. I've had some concerns, and since the staff are here that are involved. I've been getting more communication from sheriffs and some chiefs. I don't know if the chief may be getting any contact from his constituents as well about how things are functioning at the academy. I had an in-depth conversation. It was a listening session, I didn't get to participate much except to listen. This was concerning the Pearson Vue, they weren't opposed to Pearson Vue. Their argument was the procedure that Pearson Vue should be more expedient than what it is, that they are waiting. I can't recite the explanation as to why they have to wait so long to get the results. In their mind, when they sit down at a computer, they should know promptly the results of that test. But, it has to go through Pearson Vue and whatever procedures they do before they give it to OPOTA. They say they're waiting weeks out before they get a certification notification. Now they know the cadet has passed, but before they have to wait to put this deputy or this patrol officer on the street because they didn't have this certificate in hand. The delay from getting that to the school commander is apparently where it is being disseminated

too. Their question is why is this becoming so labor intensive, when it should be going the other way by going into electronic testing system? Their questions are, what have we accomplished that we're still waiting for that piece of paper so we can put that patrol officer on assignment?

**Executive Director Holcomb**, So, I look to some of my certification officers in case I have this information incorrectly. Basically, if we go historically, everybody took the test at one time, it was done here, they were processed as a batch. What's happening is that you're going to find some students and some cadets that are registering to take the test, but they're delaying taking it. Some to nearly the end of the 30-day cycle. So, the process has been that until that final cadet has taken the test, and all the results for that academy class are in that's when everything will get posted. A lot of times it can hinge on one particular cadet. There are some academies that are getting more in tune to this, where they are now blocking time out to make sure all of their candidates are taking the exam all within the same timeframe. Some academies may have to block out some time in the morning, some in the afternoon, maybe on the second day. They're trying to get their cadets through as a group much more efficiently. We were aware of what you're talking about, trying to figure out how we can streamline that in the future, but right now until all of the results are in for the entire class, the class itself is not getting certified. That's probably where the delay is coming in. You may have the individual cadet that is very eager. They go the very first day and take that exam. We are getting their results from Pearson Vue on our end, but some results are delayed because there may be that one cadet that's waiting until almost the end of that time frame. That is an identifiable problem that we are aware of, and we've been discussing how we could potentially do that a little bit better. The biggest thing that we can find to help, and I talked to one of the large academies this morning, is to work with Pearson Vue to block out some time, so that all their cadets are taking the exam pretty much simultaneously within the first couple of days. That helps out the entire process.

**Chair Stanforth**, Is the decision to wait for an entire class to finish taking the test a Pearson Vue or an OPOTA decision? And why? I suppose the question is if we're going to this new technology, why are we waiting to sit everybody? What have we accomplished other than sending everybody to London sitting down the same day? Now we're still requiring them to go to the remote testing site, and still everybody has to be completed. That is causing delays with those that have tested.

**Executive Director Holcomb** I look back to the certification staff, maybe they can help me out with the process of why we've historically always waited until the entire class has been done.

**Ms. Brashears** The reason is so we're not touching that file all the time. An example is Columbus, they have 70 at this time. That keeps us from touching that file 70 times. That could keep us from missing somebody. There is a lot of different reasons. We have encouraged our commanders to push these cadets to test. However, what we're finding out is that we're having some cadets that are waiting until the last minute. Previously, we have been told we don't want to touch a file more than once. That's just trying to keep us from touching a file more than once, everything is electronic and we don't want to be going back and forth numerous times. We would have to go and find all these files electronically, up to 70 times, after every time somebody tests. The other problem is that sometimes those results do not get to the certification officer as quickly as we'd like. I don't know if

that's a Pearson Vue issue getting to OPOTA? I'm not sure, we just have a lot of things that we're still trying to figure out.

**Ms. Fauber** stated each school gets a 30-day testing window to accommodate. We've extended it out. Typically, before when we use to test, they only had a 14-day window. Due to COVID, there was a lot of restrictions with being able to find enough places to test. That's why the window was extended out 30 days. We hope to bring that back to two weeks once things start opening up a little more. What Ms. Brashears was touching on, is if we would do each student individually when we got the test results, we would have to go in and find the document number for the evaluation. You have to find the document number for that particular student enrollment form. So, that's a search on every single person of an academy that has 70 people. That's a lot of touches, and that's a lot of searches. That's us putting in our part, sending it to the administrative professionals for them to do their part. The concern with that is because we don't have a paper file, it's not easy to see just by looking at it, who's already tested, and who has not. If we get all the test results at the end, we know everyone's accounted for. We don't need to keep track of anything. You know it's done and that school has closed and you can move on. Whereas, if you get them one at a time, you would constantly have to be going back to make sure that everybody has tested and is done. That it is actually closed. Those are some of the reasons.

The timeframes really aren't that much longer because before you used to have your closing date, then you had to wait so long to test, and then you had to come to London. That timeframe is really the same. It's just they get to test sooner, but they're not getting their test results until everybody's closed. The window itself, really isn't different, but now that they can test as soon as they get that test date. They're wanting those results right now; the timeframe isn't all that much different from what it used to be. It's just they know their results a lot sooner and they can test sooner.

**Ms. Brashears** Just to add on that, if we're touching that file so many times. Possibly, we're going to be doing that all day, and because of that we're not going to get to our other work that we need to do. If we have several people that have tested in different academies, we have to search and find all these people and these different academies. That's just going to take up more time. It was just easier for us to do it all at once, because we're spending a lot of time doing that. If we are doing it individually by just one person that's going to take a lot more time. Unfortunately, we're kind of already behind being short staffed, and training new staff. We are trying to work and do what we think is right, and unfortunately, cadets aren't getting stuff right away.

**Executive Director Holcomb** One of the things you hear, historically around here, is this organization is very labor intensive with paper and how many times we have to touch something that comes through. With help from the Attorney General's Office, we're working on updating a lot of our computer programs and platforms, trying to help to find ways to streamline things that take out a lot of this human touch that has to be done, so things can be done electronically. I think what we're seeing here with Pearson Vue is one of the things that wasn't anticipated when we went to this system is it doing very well in allowing people to test locally. The results are immediately coming in, but because of the way we have to touch so many things around here, it's still works most effectively to wait for all the cadets to test, and the test results are completed. This allows our staff to be able to touch more efficiently and effectively and to get that information out. I certainly would hope that in the future, as we continue down this road with our I.T. department, and try to

streamline information, that if the cadet finishes, we get the information from Pearson Vue and we can get it in the system. They get a certification quicker, that would be ideal. It's just a matter of getting to that point.

**Sheriff Heldman** I've had some concerns from the correctional academies. It's on the billing side and paying because they can't get a purchase order from the agency. It's supposed to be a credit card, and our office went through this. We had to work with our county auditor. It took something like three weeks in order to get the bill paid. When this was explained to us, I believe it was the academy was going to pay at the end for all the students. Well, in the corrections academies, it's not happening that way.

**Chair Stanforth** It's not going to be allowed to happen anyway. Not with a credit card. It can't even be approved.

**Executive Director Holcomb** So if correction academies are doing the testing, Pearson Vue will take a credit card?

**Sheriff Michael Heldman** Yes, but a county does not have a credit card.

**Executive Director Holcomb** So, the problem then becomes trying to get it processed through a purchase order. I don't have an answer at this time.

**Sheriff Michael Heldman** No, it was just brought up in our last meeting.

**Executive Director Holcomb** I believed Mr. Hardy made some inquiries on that, so we'll double check on where we stand with that matter. So, this is continuing to be a problem?

**Chair Stanforth** How many testing sites do we now have in the state?

**Executive Director Holcomb** I believe there are around 60 sites. I think there's three right here in the central Ohio area, so they are easily attainable, an easy drive to do pretty much any place in the state.

**Chair Stanforth** Any comment on the Pearson Vue?

**Cmdr. Jerry Snay** Not on Pearson Vue, but if we could possibly take a couple days off of the process. I am not sure if we can legally do this, but does the commander need to sign the certificates? Currently, I receive the certificates through email, send it to an administrative person who prints it and then snail mails it to the cadets. This can add four or five extra days. That's my opinion.

**Ms. Fauber** That's something we can look at, but what our administrative professionals do, if it's someone who is certified, when we send that email to the commander, we also send an email to the student and the chief or the sheriff to let them know what the certification number is even though it hasn't been signed yet.

**Cmdr. Jerry Snay** OK, so they are getting that?

**Ms. Brashears** That is a process that has been looked at in our section. It seems like a lot of people want the commander's signature on the certificate for some reason. I do know it is being looked at.

**Cmdr. Chuck Crosby** On the Pearson Vue, I get an email every Wednesday morning. If I have someone that's a member of my academy, I get the actual test results from Pearson Vue. I send the results to the cadet, because oftentimes the chiefs, sheriffs want to know so that they can get the process moving. I understand the certificate. Is there a way, if the commanders were receiving this result every Wednesday morning, and we forward this out? Can that speed up the process somehow, and would it require changes?

**Ms. Fauber** The students are getting the results a lot of times, so they're already telling their agencies. That doesn't really speed the process up. It makes them want to speed it up, but it doesn't really do anything on our end. What I always tell the chiefs and sheriffs when they call is you're more than welcome to start someone on training. They cannot function as an officer until they get that certificate number. If they have training they have to attend, they can do that stuff, but they cannot function as a peace officer until we get that and close the academy out.

**Cmdr. Chuck Crosby** If we get the Pearson Vue information to the agencies in a timelier manner, is that part of the delay?

**Ms. Fauber** No.

**Cmdr. Chuck Crosby** If they're waiting until the whole academy finishes, I can tell you the academy I just had test, their test dates ranged over about three, to three and a half weeks. Which I can only imagine the nightmare that it creates on your end for tracking. But, every time someone in that academy took a test, that following Wednesday, I get an email with the score. If there's a chief that wants that information, can that speed up them generating the SF400 form?

**Ms. Fauber** It might speed up that process, but it's not going to speed up the time that we need to get them certified.

**Cmdr. Chuck Crosby** OK, so the delay we're talking about has nothing to do with testing, getting the information to the chiefs and giving the SF400 to OPOTA.

**Ms. Fauber** No, the delay is in us getting all the test results for all the students in the academy to close the academy. If you have a test window from August 31<sup>st</sup> to September 30<sup>th</sup> and have someone test on the 30<sup>th</sup>, we can't close the academy until that student is tested and we get all the results. I don't even see the results until all the students have tested.

**Chair Stanforth** A smaller window to test would solve that problem. I don't know why you would give somebody 30 days to get everybody tested with the fact we now have 60 test sites. When we first started talking Pearson Vue we had six test sites in the state of Ohio, and we thought that's not practical. Now we got 60 and I guess we'll have 100 before too much longer. Columbus was a test site?

**Cmdr. Mark Lang** No, sir. We tried, but they don't want us to be a test site. We have heard, too, from Pearson Vue that in order to group schedule, to send everyone at the same time, you can only do that at a company owned testing site. So, while there may be 20 testing sites in Columbus, there are only three that are owned by Pearson Vue. Which three isn't bad for Columbus. There might be other cities that don't have that luxury.

**Chair Stanforth** If you're testing 70 people at 70 workstations, how do you find 70 workstations on the same day, is that practical?

**Cmdr. Mark Lang** We haven't had to do it yet, but our hope is that between all three centers and a morning and afternoon session, we can get everybody done in the same day.

**Chair Stanforth** Whereas, if you're in an academy in my area, Green Vocational in Xenia or Southern State Community College. We are usually lucky to have six people. I don't understand how you have six cadets that are going to be qualified to take the test, and you're going to give them 30 days.

**Ms. Simon** Originally it was going to be 2 weeks. Then it was in the middle of COVID, and the testing sites didn't have enough stations due to spreading people out. Students were calling to get testing, and they were saying there was a 2-3 week wait. So, that's why at that time, we had to go out to the 4-week mark. We do want to see it back down to 2 weeks, as soon as we get to the testing sites having enough availability out there for everybody. It's a huge help when the commander schedules everybody at one time, especially for the smaller academies. It's great to see all the cadets test on one day.

**Chair Stanforth** I think that if I was commander, I'd want them all at once if I could. Whose call is that?

**Executive Director Holcomb** It's up to commander and the students.

**Chair Stanforth** No, the time limit?

**Executive Director Holcomb** The time is with us. This went into effect back in July, and now we're seeing some of the growing pains, and issues that are coming out of this new process. Which, we need to try to address and try to help streamline. As some of these classes have gone through the process, we are becoming aware of some of the issues. Things that didn't work as we had envisioned, and now we're seeing them.

**Chair Stanforth** I think it's a valid point, and I'm understanding this a little better. I understand that the work load we had nearly 10 years ago, 20 people were working on something, you only have two or three people working on now. I understand that. Yet, we're going to a new technology, and new technology we often find does not make it less labor intensive.

**Dwight Holcomb, Executive Director** This new technology certainly sped up the process, and speeds up the information. As the commanders have said they get the reports.

**Chair Stanforth** One of the key words that I heard say several times in this, and during this dialog was historically. Sometimes we need to throw historically out the window and start looking at things in a new approach, and how we can do it better. When it comes to all law enforcement. The concept of law enforcement, training, policing, recruiting, and all this stuff. This is an opportunity we need to start looking at making it better. I think Pearson Vue is definitely a path for the future testing. I like the idea, and always have liked the idea. However, it can't be more labor intensive than sitting down with a pencil and paper.

**Ms. Brashears** From what I understand also, there's a lot on the testing coordinator that wasn't all planned. Ms. Buehler is not here, but from what I understand, there's a lot of work that was not anticipated.

**Chair Stanforth** A lot more work on the setup side, or long term?

**Ms. Brashears** I think there's a lot more steps in processing everything than expected.

**Ms. Fauber** There's a lot of reports that have to be generated and, the format that Pearson Vue uses is not the format that we need it to be. Which requires reformatting of forms, and things that have to be done. Another holdup, since we're talking about things that make the process take longer. The commanders need to make sure the students use their own personal emails, and not their school emails. We have found students are using their academy email, and once they're done with the academy they no longer have access to that email. The Pearson Vue testing email goes to that email address, and they never get their email. Then they are calling needing an extension, because they're outside the testing window. The commanders need to stress that the email they enter is one they will have access to after completing college or the academy. That way the student gets their email and we're not having that issue.

**Chair Stanforth** Good point. Any other comments on that topic? My next question is, are the results of the success rates of each academy still being recorded? I don't recall seeing those results, do we still process that information? I've had several law enforcement administrators ask how do I know this is really a good academy to send cadets to? How are they graded? Do I know I'm sending my candidate to a good school?

Thirty years ago, we only had a couple of schools to send them to, and you knew if it was good or bad. Then we started open enrollment. I know the Commission saw some of these results as success rates. That brought up some schools that were 100%, and the red flags went up. How can you be 100% all the time? I think those academies are now gone. However, I think we need to have a way of seeing a rating of current academies.

**Executive Director Holcomb** We should certainly be able to generate a report, and have that at the next Commission meeting with the statistics of all the academies.

**Chair Stanforth** It would be beneficial for us. It's something that the academy should be striving for as well, to get that good mark.

Moving on to the Curriculum Committee.

### **C. Curriculum Committee Report**

**Sheriff Michael Heldman** The Curriculum Committee met this morning. Ms. Erica Wilson was introduced as the new Director of Curriculum. There was discussion on updates which had occurred, that will go into effect on October 15th due to emergency updates. The HB110- R.C. 2921.36 didn't change the SPOs, but there were some clarifications, and technical corrections taken place.

Peace Officer Basic Training - Curriculum Code BAS041d, no hours added and 5 lesson plans were updated: Topic 2-2O, Other Offenses - due to HB110 - R.C. 2921.36, which impacted SPO #10; the number of SPOs was unchanged. Topic 3-8, Responding to Victims' Needs and Rights - due to SB126 - R.C. 2903.31; Topic 11-7, Drug Awareness -

due to HB9 - R.C. 2925.62; Topic 11-11, Lineups - had clarification and technical corrections; and, Topic 11-12, Gambling - due to HB110 - R.C. 2915.01.

Private Security Basic Training- Curriculum Code PSA039b, no hours or SPOs added and 1 lesson plan reviewed: Topic 3-3, Drug Awareness - due to HB9 - R.C. 2925.62.

Corrections Basic Training - Curriculum Code CBT036d, no hours added and 1 lesson plan reviewed: Topic 1-2, Ethics and Professionalism - due to HB110 - R.C. 2021.36.

Jailer Basic Training - Curriculum Code JBT035b, no hours added and 1 lesson plan reviewed: Topic 1-2 Ethics and Professionalism - due to HB110 - R.C. 2921.36. There was a motion to accept the changes as presented, and I would move the same for the Commission to accept the changes as well.

**MOTION:** Sheriff Heldman made the motion to approve the recommended changes as presented. The motion was seconded by Chief Harris.

**Chief Harris** I wanted to add that SPOs were unchanged in these recommendations and changes.

**Chair Stanforth** Any questions?

Ms. Wilson, is there anything you would like to add?

**Ms. Wilson, Director of Curriculum** I would just like to add that the curriculum codes did change. (The codes are added above.)

**Chair Stanforth** Does anybody have any questions on the changes? A vote was taken and passed unanimously. Yes-7, No-0, Absent-3.

**Sheriff Heldman** That concludes the Curriculum Report.

#### **D. Legislative Committee Report**

**Chair Stanforth** Any updates?

**Legislative Committee** Chair Fitsko was absent. Chair Stanforth stated he didn't know of anything that's been generated in the last months. Mr. Holcomb agreed.

#### **E. House Committee Report**

**House Committee** Chair Fambro was absent. Chair Stanforth stated he didn't know of anything that's been generated in the last months. Mr. Holcomb agreed. There will be a House Committee meeting to discuss the end of the year housekeeping items.

The House Committee will be getting documentation for the meeting on next year's processing at the November meeting. Ms. Long will be sending that information out to the House Committee itself. I talked to Ms. Long, they are looking at a new recording system. The House Committee will establish any rules of operation if we have a new recording system and how we will document our commission meetings moving forward on that matter.

#### **F. Continuing Professional Training Committee Report**

**Sheriff Heldman** I spoke with Director Holcomb this morning and the commission staff is working hard to put the curriculum together for the CPT that will begin in January. At this point, there is nothing else to report.

**Chair Stanforth** Are there any questions or comments on CPT?

**Executive Director Holcomb** Only thing I might add in, beyond the concept of the curriculum is the work that is going on behind the scenes creating the spreadsheets that will be sent out to all law enforcement agencies in the state of Ohio. That will be probably by the end of October. Every law enforcement agency whose officers are subject to CPT will need to fill out the form, we will need to know the officer's name, their current rate of pay, a count of how many sworn officers you within the agency. The spreadsheets will need to be back to us towards the beginning of November. Then we can start compiling all that information for the distribution of funds. There're multiple parts of the Attorney General's Office working on this, I.T.S., finance, OPOTC trying to get this all accomplished.

**Chair Stanforth** Small turnaround for this document?

**Executive Director Holcomb** Yes, small turnaround for this document.

**Chair Stanforth** So how are we facilitating the encouragement to complete the document?

**Executive Director Holcomb** I wish I could give some incentives, but there aren't any. Just need to get it into us. We've made this document as user friendly as possible, so hopefully the agencies will be able to cut, paste, and import the information that's needed without somebody having to hand input. We are asking for about a six-week turnaround to get back to us, so we can start putting it into our system, and then financial people can start looking at how all this is going to work. We are asking for it to be back to us from them by November 1st. The form will be going out sometime towards the end of this month.

**Ms. O'Brien** Is there any penalty? Like with the prior CPT, if the form wasn't returned in time you didn't get reimbursed.

**Executive Director Holcomb** Those are still being worked up in the rules.

The first part of getting the data in on 30,000 law enforcement officers from around the state is going to be amazing. We've created a special email address to send everything back to, so it goes to one location. A special thanks to Mr. Doug Dumolt and others who have been working tirelessly on this. Mr. Dumolt has a lot of good insight, and thoughts on it.

**Sheriff Michael Heldman** That concluded the Continuing Professional Training Report.

**Chair Stanforth** moving on to the Executive Director Report.

## **G. Staff and Academy Updates**

**Executive Director Holcomb** First off, you've already met her, but I'm going to ask Ms. Wilson to stand and give a self-introduction. Ms. Erica Wilson was brought on back in August as our new Director of Curriculum Development. That position and duties have

been basically incorporated into what Rick Hardy has been doing for a number of years. We have staff that will be reporting to Rick as well as those reporting to Erica, as we look at redesigning how we develop and maintain our curriculum. I will let Ms. Wilson give you some of her background.

**Ms. Wilson, Director of Curriculum** My name is Erica Wilson. I've been here for about three weeks, and it has been a delight working with all these individuals. They are such hard workers, and are passionate about what they do. I just appreciate coming into a workforce like this. Not all cultures are dedicated to their work.

My background is in training and curriculum. I worked for the Bureau before this for a couple of years doing leadership training, development and curriculum. Before that, I worked Federal, with FEMA doing their training and curriculum for all FEMA core members who are going out into the field and assisting for emergencies. Prior to that I did training at the One Stop, training individuals coming back into the workforce. I am also working on my doctorate. Hopefully, I'll be done with that by December and I'll be Dr. Wilson; maybe, by the next meeting we have. Once again, thank you so much, I appreciate everybody for being so welcoming. I am going to work hard to make sure that the curriculum that we have set forth for our officers are on point.

**Dwight Holcomb, Executive Director** As she said she is working on her Ph.D. I think her study is very interesting will you tell us the topic of your study?

**Ms. Wilson, Director of Curriculum** Yes, my topic is transparency and credibility for local government organizations, via social media. Just making sure and testing the perception of our stakeholders to make sure that we're putting out information that is transparent and credible to our constituents.

**Chair Stanforth** So, have you found that transparency and credibility, do they often conflict?

**Ms. Wilson, Director of Curriculum** They do, a lot of people think that they're correlated and they're not. At least studies have shown that they're not, people find them to be completely different. Some people find that organizations are transparent with information that they want to share, not necessarily what the public needs to hear. So, then that turns into them, not necessarily being credible, they're only sharing information that they want to share and not what they need to share.

**Chair Stanforth** So from a law enforcement perspective, sometimes sharing information before we can validate it is not what the public wants. They want information more rapidly. They think that it's transparent, but it's not always transparent, because we may not have accurate information that's ready to be disseminated, especially to a social media platform.

**Ms. Wilson, Director of Curriculum** You're absolutely right, and I think that making them aware that we have to go through a process before we can get you the accurate information that will lead to being transparent, giving them honesty. That's what they value. Whether they can't get the information rapidly, they still value you being honest and saying, Hey, we just don't have it. We have to make sure we calculate the data precisely before we can share it with the public. Most of the time, they appreciate that honesty rather than getting false information.

**Chair Stanforth** Getting the message so that they understand the message, and we just don't dig our heels in and say; Well, I won't give it to you, isn't always received well right?

**Ms. Wilson, Director of Curriculum** That is very difficult because some people don't understand terminology, they don't understand the language, and they automatically believe that you're not being credible or transparent based off of their ignorance per se.

**Chair Stanforth** Just as we said earlier about how to make it as cop friendly, we have cop speak. Most of the public don't understand, cop speak and we don't know how to translate that into a language so that the average person can understand what we're saying, so it is understandable to the public, and we get frustrated and they get frustrated.

**Ms. Wilson, Director of Curriculum** Yes, I'm sure they get frustrated, but Google is our best friend. You can always Google terminology/ cop slang to understand. Most people want that instant gratification; they don't seek knowledge to understand. They want you to tell them. The study is to understand the perception of our constituents, and decide if we want to adapt and adjust to what they define transparency or credibility to make everything a little bit more cohesive that we can work together for the greater good.

**Chair Stanforth** Good. Best of luck.

**Ms. Wilson, Director of Curriculum** Thank you.

**Dwight Holcomb, Executive Director** We're reorganizing the offices in the main administrative wing, and we've got our general services division doing some remodeling on the other side of the hallway. The goal is to have Ms. Wilson's office on the side where her staff is. Hopefully, we'll have that remodeling done in the next couple of weeks and we can get her situated over there. She's been a great addition, she's jumped right into all of the cop speak, and everything else around here. She's great at asking questions; she's been a very good addition to our staff. Thank you.

On the Advanced Training side, Mr. Ozbolt is here to answer any questions. It's interesting that we've got over 100 courses on the books now for 2022. His staff continues to add classes to the catalog, so that continues to develop. Mr. Ozbolt just recently met with general services staff, working on updating and repaving our driving track this coming fall. They are also working on changes, additions, and improvements to both our outdoor ranges in the coming months. We've been working on those for a couple of years, and are moving forward on the updates.

Next week, we've got over 122 students attending courses. Only one of the classes is here in London and the other four are regionally. We have classes up in Richfield, Xenia, over in Dayton and then downtown at Columbus State Community College. Not only are staff continuing to get a lot of classes on the books, but they continue to promote those regional areas to get training out in communities, where it makes it a little closer to home for everybody. On August 26th, there was a general staff meeting, and luncheon. Attorney General Yost was very kind, he stopped in for about a half hour, and was able to speak to staff and answer some questions. It was very nice of him to take some time out of his day to come join us.

Just a quick update on COVID here at the academy. Back on August 24th, we had a three-day advanced driving instructor class. At the end of day two, there was one student who was notified that he may have been exposed to COVID. He went into one of the health

locations, and found out that he did test positive. He notified us, then we canceled the class the next day. We notified all those people to get tested. We did some checking, as of now, none of those students were affected. Only the one student. We will have all of those students back sometime later this year to finish the third day of their training. We'll work them into existing classes that are here.

We have spot cases here at the academy where staff are ill, family members exposed etc. General services are working to keeping everything moving. We've got staff working remotely from home, trying to take care of themselves and families. We just need to be cautious about everything, we're doing everything we can to make sure that our classes continue on. General services continue to do a great job of sanitizing and taking care of all of the facility, so that we can maintain our OPOTA training and keep everything going on. Concludes my report.

**Chair Stanforth** I have a program that I believe is a Department of Education program that is being piloted in Warren County, Warren County schools. It's a modified quarantine pilot project within the school system. When you commented here about a class being actually shut down because somebody may have been exposed, this concept is, if I understand it right, a student who tests positive, the rest of the class is to be quarantined. This pilot program removes the students who tested positive. That student would go home and get medical treatment. The rest of the students would not leave the classroom. The rapid test would come into effect. They would all be required to participate in the program. They have to wear a mask the whole time they are in the classroom, because they had their potential for the exposure. They would have the rapid test, I believe two to three times during what would have been the quarantine period, and if they test positive, they are removed. If they don't test positive, they get to stay in the classroom and still function in the classroom as normal, but with the modified mask wearing and the rapid testing. Are you familiar with that program?

**Ms. Amstutz**, I think it just started late last week or something like that. I can look into it, and find out more information about it.

**Chair Stanforth** If we could do that here, instead of if somebody tests positive, they're removed and students are sent home. The students could stay in the class room, but here's the condition. We do a rapid test right now on everybody, if you test negative, you can stay in the class, but you wear a mask throughout the rest of the quarantine period. The quarantine period would be based on the recommendation of the Department of Health. I think it's 7 days, or 10 days, I'm not sure. But, I think that's something that we may be able to entertain, on a modified quarantine.

**Dwight Holcomb, Executive Director** We've been very fortunate. Confirming with Director Ozbolt, this is only the second class we've had anything. We've been very fortunate from the standpoint that we register classes, and we tell them if you've got a sniffle don't come. We will reschedule you for another class, and most of our students are coming in very healthy.

This particular student had no signs, received a call and said he was in a room of people last week and one of the people tested positive. He went to get tested, and ended up testing positive. Fortunately, we've been very good in all of our classes having separation, so there could be something we could do rather than shutting down the whole class.

**Mr. Ozbolt, Director of Advanced Training** That class was a little bit different because it was a driving class where they were in a car with an instructor, and possibly other students.

**Chair Stanforth** Ventilation is our friend, yes, I understand that. That would be something you take into consideration the dynamics of the class, the room where additional spacing is needed and so forth. Do they mask up when they're in the cruiser anyway?

**Mr. Ozbolt, Director of Advanced Training** No, the requirement here is if, you've been vaccinated, you don't have to wear a mask. This particular student was from out of state. He didn't have any symptoms, he was just notified that he was exposed. Like the Executive Director said, he did the right thing, he went immediately to get a rapid test.

**Chair Stanforth** So that rapid test, is that anything that any schools are using?

**Cmdr. Mark Lang** We are trying, but we don't have them yet.

**Chair Stanforth** I can get them for you. I just got thousand delivered to my office, and I'm a little office.

**Dwight Holcomb, Executive Director** Anything that we can do, because we want to minimize ever closing down classes. We need to keep training up and going. So, if this is a potential way to do this. We don't want to close down classes. We want to keep the students in class.

**Chair Stanforth** I think this pilot project may be something that could be on a much broader scale. I think the rapid test, and we had COVID come through the jail like every other jail. We started rapid testing ourselves in our jails and we were able to identify everybody. We were able to quarantine those people accordingly. We got ahead of it. We got ahead of the curve, and now we're on the downside because we are doing the rapid test ourselves. We're not waiting to send them out to a clinic somewhere. We're not waiting three or four days for a result. We do the rapid test as soon as they come into jail, and that's been a very effective tool. I think we can do the same thing for our academies. You want to come to the academy, day one, you take a rapid test. In week two, you come in the classroom, and take a rapid test. I don't know what the state patrol is doing, are you using the rapid test?

**Major John Altman** Cadets that aren't vaccinated, they take a BinaxNOW test on Friday, and then again on Sunday every week or they don't attend. Now, I think exposure this week with symptoms was 4 cadets. They all got rapid tested, were all negative and went right back to class.

**Chair Stanforth** Trying to be smarter than the virus, it's a challenge. Thank you sir.

## **H. New Business**

**New Business** Chair Stanforth asked if there was any new business?

**Ms. O'Brien** I need to leave after this meeting, and as I understand it, Eric has to leave also. I had concerns about not having a quorum for the 119 Hearing.

**MOTION:** Ms. O'Brien made a motion for the 119 Hearing following this meeting be able to continue without a quorum. After legal counsel explained the procedure below, Chief

Harris seconded the motion. A vote was taken and passed unanimously. Yes-7, No-0, Absent-3

**Mr. Michael Walton** The Commission has the authority to set its own rules regarding its quorum, and how it conducts its business. Just to cover all bases, it is better to put it on the record that there will not be six and that is essentially alright. My understanding is that five members of the Commission will be able to stay for the hearing, what Carol is suggesting is a Motion that the 119 hearings be conducted by those five members and then they can either recommend a decision to the whole Commission or they would just be the five that would go ahead and vote.

**Chair Stanforth** That works, do we have to take a legislative action for us to do that or just vote?

**Ms. O'Brien** We can vote.

**Mr. Michael Walton** You have a quorum now.

**Chair Stanforth** Quorum. Yes, but do we need a motion to do that?

**Ms. O'Brien** I made the motion.

**Chair Stanforth** Chief Harris seconded the Motion.

**DISCUSSION:** Hearing none, Chair Stanforth called for a vote. The vote passed unanimously. Motion passed, Yes-7, No-0, Absent-3.

**Chair Stanforth** Any other new business? Hearing none, that concludes the New Business.

#### **I. Old Business**

**Chair Stanforth,** Is there any old business? Hearing none, that concludes the Old Business.

#### **J. Guest Forum**

**Chair Stanforth** Are any guests wanting the opportunity to address the Commission on any issues you may have? Hearing none, that concluded the Guest Forum.

#### **K. Adjournment**

**MOTION:** The chair will entertain a motion to adjourn. Ms. O'Brien seconded the motion. A vote was taken and passed Unanimously. Yes-7, No-0, Absent-3.

**Adjourned** Adjourn at 11:19 a.m.

Vernon P. Stanforth

**Chair, Vernon Stanforth**

**These transcripts are not verbatim.**