

SHERIFF AND DEPUTY SHERIFF EDUCATION AND TRAINING BOARD

Minutes of the October 22, 2024 Meeting

Members Present

Angelinel Brown
David Glass
Barry Howe
Stephanie Jirard
Brandon Neuman
Jody S. Smith
Jason Tarap
Ed Walker
Eric Weaknecht

Members Absent

Michael J. Koury Jr.

Commission Staff Present

Sally Barry
Theresa Ford
Heather Hewitt
Doug Hummel
Dorthey Jacobelli
Don Numer
John Pfau
Ekaterina Shull
Lindsay Vaughan
Deb Williams

Others Present

Penn State University
Steve Shelow
David White

Temple University
Anthony Luongo

Others

Sheriff Daniel Zeigler
Sheriff Rochelle Bilal
Sheriff Christopher Leppler
Sheriff Bryan Sampsel
Sheriff Kerry Stover
Chief Deputy Marc Shaffer
Sgt. Mitchell Kaehler
Elizabeth Van Nostrand

The October 22, 2024 meeting of the Sheriff and Deputy Sheriff Education and Training Board (SDSETB) was called to order by Chairman Eric Weaknecht, at 2:00 p.m. The meeting was being held at the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency (PCCD), Harrisburg, PA 17110 and via Teams video conference call. Chairman Weaknecht informed everyone that the meeting was being recorded.

Mr. Numer, PCCD, informed the Board that a quorum of members was present. Board members in attendance included: Chairman Weaknecht, Vice-Chairwoman Smith, Lt. Brown, Deputy Walker, Deputy Tarap, Mr. Glass, Mr. Howe, Ms. Jirard, and Judge Neuman. Mr. Numer introduced and welcomed Deputy Tarap, Allegheny County Sheriff's Office. Deputy Tarap was recently appointment to the Board.

Chairman Weaknecht asked if everyone had an opportunity to review the minutes from the July 23, 2024 Board meeting. He stated that if there was no discussion, then he would entertain a motion to approve the minutes.

Deputy Walker made a motion to approve the meeting minutes from July 23, 2024. Vice Chairwoman Smith seconded the motion. Chairman Weaknecht asked if there was any Board discussion or public comment regarding the minutes. No discussion ensued and the motion passed with the following votes:

Voting Aye: Board Members Brown, Glass, Howe, Jirard, Neuman, Smith, Tarap, Walker, and Weaknecht

Voting Nay: None

Ms. Shull, PCCD, reviewed the first quarter fiscal report for state fiscal year 2024-2025, period ending September 30, 2024. The balance from the previous year was \$4,828,174.56. The fee collections as of September 30, 2024 was \$2,779,803.23. The total available funds were \$7,607,977.79. The total expenditures as of June 30, 2024 was \$853,683.88 which included \$192,408.74 in reimbursements to counties. The total expenditures and commitments were \$7,194,893.20 which included \$298,926.86 in administrative expenses. The details of the administrative expenses were included on page 12 of the meeting packet. The uncommitted balance as of September 30, 2024 was \$413,084.59.

Chairman Weaknecht asked if there were any questions regarding the fiscal report. He stated that if there was no discussion, then he would entertain a motion to approve the fiscal report.

Sheriff Smith stated that she would abstain from a vote on the fiscal report since the correct fiscal report was not provided in the meeting packet. Ms. Shull re-explained the fiscal report and provided the report via sharing the report on the video conference screen. Sheriff Smith asked if the fiscal report would be included in the official meeting packet and documented in the minutes. Mr. Numer stated that the packet would be revised and reflected in the meeting minutes.

Deputy Walker made a motion to approve the first quarter fiscal report for state fiscal year 2024-2025, period ending September 30, 2024. Mr. Howe seconded the motion. Chairman Weaknecht asked if there was any further Board discussion or public comment regarding the fiscal report. No further discussion occurred and the motion passed with the following votes:

Voting Aye: Board Members Brown, Glass, Howe, Jirard, Neuman, Smith, Tarap, Walker, and Weaknecht

Voting Nay: None

Mr. Numer provided the training supervisor's report as included on the meeting agenda. Mr. Numer stated that approximately 5.3 million dollars has been paid to date for county reimbursements. He explained that \$6,690,141.00 remains owed to the counties for submitted invoices. Mr. Numer stated that PCCD fiscal and program staff will continue to review the ability to issue more payments. The plan is to issue reimbursements of 2.5 million during state fiscal year 2024-2025, with a potential increase if revenue permits.

Mr. Numer stated that fee collections have been trending upward since fiscal year 2020-2021. Fee collections for fiscal year 2023-2024 was just over 5.75 million, which was slightly higher than the original projected 5.7 million. Mr. Numer stated that the collections were approximately \$800,000.00 more than the previous fiscal year.

Mr. Numer informed the Board that the program was being audited by the Pennsylvania Auditor General's Office. He explained that the program is audited once every three years.

Mr. Numer reported that basic training class B-24-02 began on July 8, 2024, with 40 deputies. The current enrollment was at 38. Mr. Numer stated that enrollment opened for class B-25-01 on July 31, 2024 and the class was filled with 40 deputies on the class roster and an additional 40 on the waiting list. The entrance physical fitness test for class B-25-01 will be conducted on December 3, 2024. Class B-25-01 will begin January 6, 2025 and graduate on May 16, 2025. Mr. Numer stated that 3 basic training classes will be conducted in 2025. Mr. Numer reported that 90 deputies completed waiver training during 2024. Three classes were conducted.

Mr. Numer reported that 1,924 deputies were enrolled in the on-line continuing education training for 2024. He stated that 86 percent of the deputies completed the continuing education training. Mr. Numer stated that 265 deputies needed to complete the 2024 on-line continuing education. Mr. Numer reported that 11 deputies completed the Firearms Instructor Certification class and six deputies completed the Patrol Rifle Instructor Certification class. He reported that 10 deputies completed the Firearms and Patrol Rifle Instructor Re-Certification class that was held from August 13th through August 15th, 2024.

Mr. Numer presented the proposed policy changes as recommended by the Policy Work Group. Mr. Numer stated that the proposed changes regarded time extensions and providing provisions to allow deputies to continue serving in full-duty or a limited

identified capacity. He stated that board members Lt. Brown, Vice-Chairwoman Smith, and Deputy Walker served on the work group. Additional members included sheriffs, chief deputies and training officers. Mr. Numer stated that the recommended policy changes was not being voted on at this meeting. This was the first opportunity for the Board to review to proposed changes. The Board would have a second review at the February 4, 2025 meeting and if approved, the policy would be reviewed by the PCCD.

Mr. Numer provided an update regarding the Job Task Analysis that was being conducted by the Dering Corporation in conjunction with Temple University. He stated that the results of the analysis will be presented at the February 4, 2025 meeting.

Mr. Hummel reviewed the time extension request submitted by Sheriff Wayne Emerick, Bedford County. The request was for Deputy Matthew Fuzie to continue employment and to serve in an administrative capacity, non-uniformed and unarmed, until he completes the required training for certification. Deputy Fuzie was on the waitlist for class B-24-02 and failed the academy entrance physical fitness test. If he would have passed the test, he would have been guaranteed a spot in class B-25-01, beginning January 2025. Class B-25-01 and the waitlist filled-up prior to Sheriff Emerick attempting to enroll him in the class.

Mr. Hummel reviewed the time extension request submitted by Sheriff Bryan Sampsel, Centre County. The request was for Deputy Eckenroth to continue employment and to serve in an administrative capacity, non-uniformed and unarmed, until she completes the required training for certification. Deputy Eckenroth is currently attending the Basic Training Academy with class B-24-02, which is scheduled to graduate on November 15, 2024.

Mr. Hummel reviewed the time extension request submitted by Sheriff Shawn Zerfoss, Clarion County. The request was for Deputy Andrew Thompson to continue employment and to serve in an administrative capacity, non-uniformed and unarmed, until he completes the required training for certification. Deputy Thompson is not currently enrolled in basic training.

Mr. Hummel reviewed the time extension request submitted by Sheriff Michael Churner, Clearfield County. The request was for Deputy Richard Casher to continue employment and to serve in an administrative capacity, non-uniformed and unarmed, until he completes the required training for certification. Deputy Casher is not currently enrolled in Basic Training.

Mr. Hummel reviewed the time extension request submitted by Sheriff Jerry Sanders, Delaware County. The request was for Deputy TKel Brown to continue employment and to serve in an administrative capacity, non-uniformed and unarmed, until he completes the required training for certification. Deputy Brown is currently attending the Basic Training Academy with class B-24-02, which is scheduled to graduate on November 15, 2024.

Mr. Hummel reviewed the time extension request submitted by Sheriff Chris Campanelli, Erie County. The was for Deputy Brandon Leuellen to continue employment and to

serve in an administrative capacity, non-uniformed and unarmed, until he completes the required training for certification. Deputy Leuellen is on the waitlist for class B-25-01, beginning January 6, 2025.

Mr. Hummel reviewed the time extension requests submitted by Sheriff Richard Keuerleber, York County. The requests were for Deputies Jacob Pantalone, Rafael Rey, and Matthew VanWhy to continue employment and to serve in an administrative capacity, non-uniformed and unarmed, until they complete the required training for certification. Deputies Pantalone, Rey and VanWhy are currently attending the Basic Training Academy with class B-24-02, which is scheduled to graduate on November 15, 2024.

Deputy Walker made a motion to approve the time extension requests for Deputies Matthew Fuzie, Tarryn Eckenroth, Andrew Thompson, Richard Casher, TKel Brown, Brandon Leuellen, Jacob Pantalone, Rafael Rey, and Matthew VanWhy. Mr. Howe seconded the motion. Chairman Weaknecht asked if there was any further Board discussion or public comment regarding the motion. No further discussion occurred and the motion passed with the following votes:

Voting Aye: Board Members Brown, Glass, Howe, Jirard, Neuman, Smith, Tarap, Walker, and Weaknecht

Voting Nay: None

Mr. Hummel reviewed the time extension request submitted by Sheriff Kerry Stover, Clinton County. The request was for Deputy Curtis Dershem to continue employment and to serve in full-duty capacity. Deputy Dershem was on the waitlist for class B-24-02 and failed the academy entrance physical fitness test. If he would have passed the test, he would have been admitted to the academy class starting July 8, 2024. Sheriff Stover reports that during the sit-up event, Deputy Dershem failed the sit-ups because he was repeatedly told by the evaluator that his nose was bleeding. He claims that Deputy Dershem stopped the event because he thought he was being instructed to stop. Deputy Dershem is scheduled to attend class B-25-01, from January 6, 2025 to May 16, 2025. The request did not comply with the Board Policy.

Sheriff Stover submitted a written letter indicating that Deputy Dershem has been provided training through his office in firearms, taser, court security, and prisoner transportation. Sheriff Stover expressed having staff shortages and the need to have Deputy Dershem serve in full-duty capacity.

Sheriff Stover attended the meeting via video conferencing and expressed that Deputy Dershem stopped during his sit-ups because he thought he was being instructed to stop. He was not sure if there was an issue due to the potential of blood borne pathogens. Ms. Jirard stated that if a medical issue occurred that she did not have an issue with approving the time extension request.

Deputy Walker made a motion to approve the time extension request for Deputy Curtis Dershem. Mr. Howe seconded the motion. Chairman Weaknecht asked if there was any

further Board discussion or public comment regarding the motion. No further discussion occurred and the motion passed with the following votes:

Voting Aye: Board Members Brown, Glass, Howe, Jirard, Neuman, Smith, Tarap, Walker, and Weaknecht

Voting Nay: None

Mr. Hummel reviewed the time extension request submitted by Sheriff Brian Szumski, Luzerne County. The request was for Deputy Jaysoon Brielmeier to continue employment and to serve in full-duty capacity. Deputy Brielmeier was on the waitlist for class B-24-02 and passed the academy entrance physical fitness test. He was not admitted to the class due to no available openings. Deputy Brielmeier is scheduled to attend class B-25-01, from January 6, 2025 to May 16, 2025. The request did not comply with the Board Policy.

Deputy Walker made a motion to approve the time extension request for Deputy Jayson Brielmeier. Mr. Howe seconded the motion. Chairman Weaknecht asked if there was any further Board discussion or public comment regarding the motion. No further discussion occurred and the motion passed with the following votes:

Voting Aye: Board Members Brown, Glass, Howe, Jirard, Neuman, Smith, Tarap, Walker, and Weaknecht

Voting Nay: None

Mr. Hummel reviewed the partial training waiver request submitted by Sheriff Wayne Emerick, Bedford County. Sheriff Emerick requested a partial training waiver for Deputy Sheriff Robert Devore. Deputy Devore completed the City of Baton Rouge, Louisiana Basic Police Training Academy on August 9, 1999 and retired from the Baton Rouge Police Department on March 31, 2020. Based on his training and experience, staff recommended that he be waived from training for the following subjects: Module 2, Professional Development; Module 3, Physical Training; Module 4, Firearms; Module 5, Defensive Tactics; Module 6, Security/Rapid Deployment; Module 7, Deputy Safety; Module 8, Investigations; Module 9, Emergency Services; and Module 10, Competency Training. Deputy Devore would be required to complete Module 1, Law (168 hours) and Module 6, Security (48 hours).

Mr. Hummel reviewed the partial training waiver request submitted by Sheriff James Ott, Blair County. Sheriff Ott requested a partial training waiver for Deputy Sheriff Matthew Waldman. Deputy Waldman completed the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs Police Officer Standardized Training Program on April 26, 2024. Based on his training, staff recommends that he be waived from training for the following subjects: Module 2, Professional Development; Module 3, Physical Training; Module 4, Firearms; Module 5, Defensive Tactics; Module 6, Security (Rapid Deployment); Module 7, Deputy Safety; Module 8, Investigations (Role of 1st Responder); and Module 10, Competency Training

(Days 3, 4, and 5). Deputy Waldman would be required to complete: Module #1 Law (168 hours), and Module #6 Security (48 hours), Module #8 Investigations - Standard Field Sobriety and DUI Checkpoints (32 hours), Module #9 Emergency Services (56 hours), and Module #10 Competency Training Days 1 and 2 (16 hours).

Mr. Hummel reviewed the partial training waiver request submitted by Sheriff Bryan Sampsel, Centre County. Sheriff Sampsel requested a partial training waiver for Deputy Sheriff Christopher Conkey. Deputy Conkey served in the United States Coast Guard from June 2016 through February 2023. Based on his training, staff recommends that he be waived from training for the following subjects: Module 2, Professional Development; Module 3, Physical Training; Module 4, Firearms; Module 5, Defensive Tactics; Module 9 Emergency Services (Tactical 1st Aid); and Module 10, Competency Training (Days 1, 2, and 5). Deputy Conkey would be required to complete Module #1 Law (168 hours), Module #6 Security (72 hours), Module #7 Deputy Safety (88 hours), Module #8 Investigations (40 hours), Module #9 Emergency Services - EVOC (40 hours), Module #10 Competency Training Day 3 (Scenario Training) and Day 4 (Mock Court Hearings) (16 hours).

Mr. Hummel reviewed the partial training waiver request submitted by Sheriff Kerry Stover, Clinton County. Sheriff Stover requested a partial training waiver for Deputy Sheriff Kelly Strange. Deputy Strange completed the Alabama Peace Officers' Standards and Training Commission, Police Academy on December 6, 2018. He served as a Deputy Sheriff for the Calhoun County Sheriff's Office from August 5, 2019 to October 27, 2021 and from March 28, 2022 to May 17, 2024. Based on his training and experience, staff recommends that he be waived from training for the following subjects: Module 2, Professional Development; Module 3, Physical Training; Module 4, Firearms; Module 5, Defensive Tactics; Module 6, Security/Rapid Deployment; Module 7, Deputy Safety; Module 8, Investigations; Module 9, Emergency Services; and Module 10, Competency Training. Deputy Strange would be required to complete Module 1, Law (168 hours) and Module 6, Security (48 hours).

Deputy Walker made a motion to approve the partial training waiver requests for Deputies Robert Devore, Matthew Waldman, Christopher Conkey, and Kelly Strange. Mr. Howe seconded the motion. Chairman Weaknecht asked if there was any further Board discussion or public comment regarding the request. No further discussion occurred and the motion passed with the following votes:

Voting Aye: Board Members Brown, Glass, Howe, Jirard, Neuman, Smith, Tarap, Walker, and Weaknecht

Voting Nay: None

Mr. Hummel reviewed the instructor applications for Mr. Matthew Mazzara and Mr. Joshua Patrick, submitted by Penn State University. The request was to certify Mr. Mazzara to instruct Physical Conditioning, Security, and Deputy Safety. The request was to certify Mr. Patrick to instruct Defensive Tactics and Security.

Deputy Walker made a motion to certify Mr. Mazzara and Mr. Patrick as instructors for the subjects requested. Mr. Howe seconded the motion. Chairman Weaknecht asked if

there was any further Board discussion or public comment regarding the requests. No further discussion occurred, and the motion passed with the following votes:

Voting Aye: Board Members Brown, Glass, Howe, Jirard, Neuman, Smith, Tarap, Walker, and Weaknecht

Voting Nay: None

Mr. Numer reviewed the request from Sheriff Rochelle Bilal, Philadelphia Office of the Sheriff. Included in the meeting packet was Sheriff Bilal's letter to PCCD Executive Director, Mr. Michael Pennington. The request was for the Board and PCCD to conduct basic training for deputy sheriffs in Philadelphia. The request was made to accommodate current deputies and prospective applicants. Sheriff Bilal stated that having an academy in Philadelphia would positively impact the number applicants and recruits. Conducting training in Philadelphia would allow their deputies to return home each day, instead of being hours from home for nearly five months. Sheriff Bilal stated that her office is experiencing a staffing shortage. Mr. Numer reported that previous requests to conduct basic training in Philadelphia were considered. In 2015, a study was conducted that included an attempt to solicit additional information from the Philadelphia's Office of the Sheriff. Additionally, discussions were held with a prospective training facility, located in Philadelphia, to determine cost and other logistics surrounding the delivery of the training curriculum. The previous study determined a change in the training location for the academy not to be financially or logistically feasible for the program. Mr. Numer stated that the Board and PCCD needs updated information to effectively examine the current request. Staff will need to collect further information from the Philadelphia Sheriff to ascertain their need. Staff will also need time to research a potential training location, assess costs, and determine instructor availability, etc.

Sheriff Bilal stated that she and her staff were willing to answer any questions to assist in the process. She stated that she has the support of state representatives, the Philadelphia mayor, and city council. Chairman Weaknecht asked staff how much money it would cost to evaluate the request. Mr. Numer stated that costs associated to reviewing the request would include staff time and some travel. He stated that the evaluation process will begin with sending Sheriff Bilal questions for her response. Sheriff Smith stated that consideration for the request needs to consider the potential impact to the program in its entirety. Sheriff Bilal thanked the board for agreeing to review her request.

Mr. Hummel reviewed the time extension requests that were approved by the program supervisor. This was for informational purposes and did not require Board action.

Mr. Hummel reviewed the Partial Training Waiver Applications that were approved by the program supervisor. These waivers were in accordance with the Training Policy. This was for informational purposes and did not require Board action.

Mr. Numer introduced Ms. Lindsay Vaughan, PCCD. Ms. Vaughan briefed the Board on a research project that was being sponsored by the PCCD and conducted through Temple University. The research project will study the impact of Act 79 of 2018, which established new requirements and procedures for firearms relinquishment and the

retrieval of firearms that have been ordered relinquished pursuant to a Protection from Abuse (PFA) order. Ms. Vaughan introduced Ms. Elizabeth Van Nostrand, Temple University. Ms. Nostrand explained that the research project will include the use of surveys and interviews. Sheriff offices will be selected and asked to participate in this project. Ms. Vaughan and Ms. Van Nostrand wanted to inform the Board and those in attendance of the project, to raise awareness and legitimacy of the research project.

Mr. Dave White, Penn State University, provided the basic training delivery report. He reported that the current basic training academy class is in week 16 of training and will graduate on November 15, 2024. Three deputies attempted their last try at passing the physical fitness test. Mr. White reported that two passed the test and one failed, resulting in one deputy being dismissed. He reported that the entrance physical fitness test for class B-25-01 is scheduled for December 3, 2024.

Mr. Tony Luongo, Temple University, provided the report on continuing education training and curriculum development. He reported that 86 percent of deputies completed the continuing education training. Subjects included Legal Updates, Preparation for Service, and Judicial Security. The training period will close on November 15, 2024. Temple staff responded to over 250 help desk requests for assistance to the training. Most of the issues involved the need for password re-sets and deputies using “out-dated” web browsers to access the training. Mr. Luongo reported that the 2025 on-line continuing education training will include the subjects: Professional Liability and Ethics, Critical Decision Making and Response, and Legal Updates. A meeting was held to finalize the subjects to be developed for 2026. The subjects included: Report Writing, Combating Bias, Drug Identification, and Legal Updates. Mr. Luongo stated that a report will be provided at the February meeting concerning the results of the Job Task Analysis.

Deputy Walker made a motion to adjourn the meeting and to conduct an executive session. Mr. Howe seconded the motion. Chairman Weaknecht asked if there was any further Board discussion or public comment regarding the request. No further discussion occurred, and the motion passed with the following votes:

Voting Aye: Board Members Brown, Glass, Howe, Jirard, Neuman, Smith, Tarap, Walker, and Weaknecht

Voting Nay: None

Deputy Walker made a motion to reconvene the Board meeting. Mr. Howe seconded the motion. No discussion occurred, and the meeting was reconvened with the following votes:

Voting Aye: Board Members Brown, Glass, Howe, Jirard, Neuman, Smith, Tarap, Walker, and Weaknecht

Voting Nay: None

Chairman Weaknecht asked if there was any other board discussion or public comment. He announced that the next Board meeting was scheduled for 2:00 p.m., Tuesday, February 4, 2025, at the PCCD and via Teams video conferencing.

Chairman Weaknecht asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Deputy Walker made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Howe seconded the motion and the meeting was adjourned with the following votes:

Voting Aye: Board Members Brown, Glass, Howe, Jirard, Neuman, Smith, Tarap, Walker, and Weaknecht

Voting Nay: None