

**PENNSYLVANIA COMMISSION ON CRIME AND DELINQUENCY
SHERIFF AND DEPUTY SHERIFF EDUCATION AND TRAINING BOARD**

Monday, February 9, 2026

2:30 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Meeting Minutes

Members in Attendance	PCCD Staff
Clinton J. Walters - Chair	Kathy Clarke
Ed Walker - Vice Chair	Theresa Ford
David Glass	Doug Hummel
Barry Howe	Kirsten Kenyon
Ben Sites	Jennifer Moore
Jason Tarap	Don Numer
	Ekaterina Schull
	Jacqueline Weaknecht
	Deb Williams
Members Absent	Guests
Angelinel Brown	Anthony Luongo, Temple University
Michael J. Koury	Steve Shelow, PSU-JASI
	Dave White, PSU-JASI
	Sheriff Daniel Zeigler
	Sheriff James Ott
	Assistant Chief Deputy Gregory Ickler
	Lt. Stephen Postell

I. Call to Order

Chairperson Walters called the meeting to order at 2:30 p.m. and a quorum was established. Mr. Numer, PCCD, informed everyone that the meeting was being recorded.

- **Approval of Minutes of October 28, 2025**

A motion to approve the October 28, 2025, meeting minutes was made by Deputy Walker and seconded by Sheriff Sites. The motion passed unanimously.

II. Fiscal Report

- **Fiscal Report**

Ms. Shull, PCCD, reviewed the second-quarter fiscal report for the 2025-2026 state fiscal year, covering the period ending December 31, 2025. The balance carried over from the previous year was \$5,378,777.96. Fee collections as of December 31, 2025, totaled \$3,720,168.73, bringing the total available funds to \$9,098,946.69. Total expenditures as of December 31, 2025, amounted to \$2,211,149.33, which includes \$1,063,905.67 in reimbursements to counties. The total expenditures and commitments reached \$8,696,571.39, including \$416,113.18 in administrative expenses and commitments. Details available on page 11 of the meeting packet. The uncommitted balance as of December 31, 2025, was \$402,375.30.

There was no discussion regarding the fiscal report. Deputy Walker made a motion to approve the second-quarter fiscal report for the state fiscal year 2025-2026, covering the period ending December 31, 2025, which was seconded by Sheriff Sites. The motion passed unanimously.

III. Training Supervisor's Report

Don Numer announced his retirement, and this would be his last Board meeting. Mr. Numer reported that the policy changes regarding Time Extensions the Board approved at the October 28, 2025, meeting have been approved by the Commission. Approximately \$8.5 million in reimbursements have been paid to date. Reimbursements liabilities total \$8,131,208.93. Fee collections continue to trend upward, with collections projected at \$6.8 million for fiscal year 2025-2026.

Mr. Numer provided an update on 2026 Basic Training. B-26-01 is currently in session with 40 enrolled. There are minimal concerns regarding the deputies' progress in physical fitness training. There are some academic concerns. Graduation is set for May 15, 2026.

The entrance physical fitness entrance test for class B-26-02 will be March 12, 2026. There are 40 people enrolled and five on the waiting list. An additional 15 deputies from class B-26-03 are invited to attempt the physical fitness entrance test. Of the 45 enrolled and on the waitlist, 10 deputies have one or more previous entrance test failures. It is anticipated 8 of 10 will not pass, causing shifts in class rosters. Class B-26-03 currently has 40 enrolled with five on the waiting list. Class B-27-01 has 40 enrolled and none on the waitlist. Class B-27-02 will open once the roster for B-26-02 is finalized.

There will be three waiver classes in 2026. W-26-01 has 17 deputies registered out of 35 slots. There is 50 enrolled in the waiver pre-requisite training. Nine deputies completed the pre-requisite training. W-26-01 is expected to have an increase in enrollment as deputies complete the pre-requisite training.

Mr. Numer reported that online Continuing Education training began in January. There are 1,925 enrolled, and to date 330 have completed, resulting in a 17% completion rate. There are 10 hours of continuing education curriculum, including Legal Updates, Drugs

of Abuse, Overcoming Bias, and Effective Communication. Approximately 15% of deputies that attempted the continuing education online courses had technical difficulties during their sessions. The training was temporarily shut down to allow Temple University to fix the technical issues.

Chairman Walters thanked Mr. Numer for his years of dedicated service to the training program and Board.

There was no discussion regarding the supervisor's training report.

IV. Action Items

- **Time Extension Requests**

Mr. Hummel reviewed the time extension requests for the following deputies to continue employment and serve in an administrative, non-uniformed, and unarmed capacity until each deputy completes the required training for certification.

- Deputy Charles Bracken - Armstrong County
- Deputy Tucker Mertz - Carbon County

The time extension request for Deputy Charles Bracken to continue employment and serve in an administrative, non-uniformed, and unarmed capacity until he completes the required training for certification was amended to adjust his training due date to January 4, 2027. This was to account for his attendance in basic training class B-27-01.

Sheriff Sites made a motion to approve the time extension requests for Deputy Mertz and Deputy Bracken as recommended by staff. The motion was seconded by Deputy Walker. There was no further discussion, and the motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Hummel reviewed the time extension request submitted by Sheriff Chester Hawkins, Clearfield County. Sheriff Hawkins requested a time extension for Deputy Ryan Perrin to continue employment and serve in an administrative, non-uniformed, and unarmed capacity until he completes the required training for certification. This request is not in accordance with policy as the result of the extension request time length was greater than one year. Staff recommended the denial of the time extension for Deputy Perrin.

Deputy Walker made a motion to deny the time extension request for Deputy Perrin, as recommended by staff. The motion was seconded by Sheriff Sites. There was no further discussion, and the motion to deny the time extension passed, with Commissioner Glass abstaining.

- **Training Waiver Request**

Mr. Numer reviewed the partial training waiver request submitted by Sheriff Danny Ceisler, Bucks County. Sheriff Ceisler requested a partial training waiver for himself. Sheriff Ceisler is a member of the Pennsylvania Bar Association and is a commissioned intelligence officer in the U.S. Army Reserves. He is also a certified EMT in Pennsylvania.

Based on his experience, staff recommended a training waiver for the following subjects: Module 1, Law; Module 2, Professional Development; Module 3, Physical Training; Module 4, Firearms; Module 8, Investigations; Module 9, Emergency Services; and Module 10, Competency Training. Sheriff Ceisler would be required to complete the following subjects: Module 5, Defensive Tactics (84 hours); Module 6, Security (72 hours) and Module 7, Deputy Safety – Patrol Operations (60 hours).

Deputy Walker made a motion to approve the partial training waiver request. Sheriff Sites seconded the motion. There was no further discussion, and the motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Hummel reviewed the partial training waiver request submitted by Sheriff Jody Smith, Cumberland County. Sheriff Smith requested a partial training waiver for Deputy John Farrell. Deputy Farrell was employed as a police officer with United States Army Garrison, Carlisle Barracks Police Department, from May 23, 2023 through August 23, 2025. He completed the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center Uniformed Police Training Program on January 28, 2020.

Based on his law enforcement experience and training, staff recommended a training waiver 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 Farrell would be required to complete the following subjects: Module #1 Law (168 hours) and Module #6 Security (48 hours).

Mr. Hummel reviewed the partial training waiver request submitted by Sheriff Scott Hahn, Union County. Sheriff Hahn requested a partial training waiver for Deputy Joshua Heath. Deputy Heath graduated from the North Carolina Basic Law Enforcement Training Program administered by the Central Piedmont Community College on November 7, 2025.

Based on his law enforcement training, staff recommended a training waiver 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

Heath would be required to complete the following subjects: Module #1 Law (168 hours) and Module #6 Security (48 hours).

Sheriff Sites made a motion to approve the partial training waiver requests. Deputy Walker seconded the motion. There was no further discussion, and the motion passed unanimously.

- **Training Request**

Mr. Hummel reviewed the training request submitted by Sheriff Rochelle Bilal, Philadelphia County. Sheriff Bilal requested Deputy Tracey McKnight be granted readmission to the Deputy Sheriff Basic Training Academy. Deputy McKnight failed the firearms training module twice and is no longer eligible for certification. Sheriff Bilal requested approval of two action items: #1. Readmission of Deputy McKnight with the provision Deputy McKnight fund her own lodging and meals. #2. Contingent on Action Item #1, Sheriff Bilal requests that Deputy McKnight be granted a time extension to serve in an administrative capacity, non-uniformed and unarmed, not to exceed one year, as permitted by Board policy.

Lt. Postell, Philadelphia Office of the Sheriff, informed the Board that Deputy McKnight has been provided extensive remediation training for firearms and is committed to success.

No motion was made on this training request.

V. Information Items

- **Training Supervisor Approvals**

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.

- **Training Delivery Reports**

Mr. Dave White, Penn State University, delivered the Basic Training report. He reported that three Basic Training classes and three Waiver Training Programs will be held in 2026. In addition, the three firearms train-the-trainer classes will be conducted. Class 73 (B-26-01) is in session and currently in week six with 40 deputies enrolled. Class 74 (B-26-02) will attempt the physical fitness entrance

test on March 12, 2026. The class start date is April 13, 2026. There will be an overlap in classes in April. We are currently running on a six-month budget due to the master agreement between Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and Penn State University, ending on June 30, 2026. Once the new master agreement is approved, Penn State can budget for the second half of the year and 2027.

Mr. Tony Luongo, Temple University, reported the Continuing Education cycle began in mid-January. Staff have addressed several technical support calls for the issues completing the online continuing education training. Temple staff recently completed an update to the training in the Canvas learning management system. The updates will prevent “timing out” and student progress recording issues. A “save & exit” button was added to save progress. Enhancements were made to better track how students are interacting with the classes and any issues can be seen by tech support in real time. Curriculum is being developed for 2027. The continuing education subjects include: Legal Updates, Transports, and Threat Group Awareness. Temple staff are working with Penn State and PCCD staff on updating the Role of the First Responder course for Basic Training.

- **Other Business and Public Voice**

Sheriff Sites inquired if there has been any discussion or consideration regarding utilizing satellite campuses of Penn State for conducting academy training. Commissioner Glass commented that most satellite campuses do not have dorms, which would pose a problem for overnight lodging accommodations. Mr. Numer stated PCCD and Penn State has invested money for infrastructure at the academy in State College and would have to start over if utilizing satellite campuses. No action was taken by the Board.

Sheriff Zeigler presented a question for Public Voice. He inquired the status of the consideration of incorporating the ALERT training program into the academy curriculum. Mr. Numer responded that a proposal was provided to Mr. Hummel and Ms. Clarke for their review and will inform the Board of a decision at a future meeting. Sheriff Zeigler commented that the ALERT training has become standardized in Pennsylvania in the MPOETC academies and the Pennsylvania State Police academy.

Chairman Walters announced that the next Board meeting is scheduled for May 5, 2026. The remaining 2026 meetings will be held on August 4, 2026, and October 27, 2026. All the meetings are scheduled to begin at 2:00 p.m. Deputy Walker made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Sheriff Sites seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.