

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

Tuesday, May 5, 2026

2:00 – 3:30 p.m.

Meeting Minutes

Members in Attendance	PCCD Staff
Clinton J. Walters - Chair	Kirsten Kenyon
Ed Walker - Vice Chair	Jacqueline Weaknecht
Angelinel Brown	Kathy Clarke
Jennifer Gossett	Doug Hummel
Michael Koury	Deb Williams
Ben Sites	Theresa Ford
Jason Tarap	Ekaterina Schull
	Ulysses Wilson
	Heather Hewitt
	Rachelle Straub
	Jennifer Moore
Members Absent	Guests
Hon. Justin Bodor	Anthony Luongo, Temple University
David Glass	Dave White, PSU-JASI
Barry Howe	Sheriff Chester Hawkins
	Sheriff Barry Custer

I. Call to Order

Chairperson Walters called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m. and a quorum was established. Chairperson Walters informed everyone that the meeting was being recorded and that the use of AI note taking services was prohibited by the Commonwealth.

- **Approval of Minutes of February 9, 2026**

A motion to approve February 9, 2026, meeting minutes was made by Ed Walker and seconded by Ben Sites. The motion passed unanimously.

II. Fiscal Report

- **Fiscal Report**

Ms. Shull, PCCD, reviewed the third-quarter fiscal report for the 2025-2026 state fiscal year, covering the period ending March 31, 2026. The balance carried over from the

previous year was \$5,378,777.96. Fee collections as of March 31, 2026, totaled \$6,278,050.99, bringing the total available funds to \$11,656,828.95. Total expenditures as of March 31, 2026, amounted to \$4,399,736.04, which includes \$2,262,353.58 in reimbursements to counties. The total expenditures and commitments reached \$9,938,577.26, including \$554,949.61 in administrative expenses and commitments. The breakdown of the administrative expenses is available on page 10 of the meeting packet. The uncommitted balance as of March 31, 2026, was \$1,718,251.69.

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

III. Training Supervisor's Report

Mr. Hummel reported on the status of reimbursements. Approximately \$8.9 million in reimbursements has been paid to date. Reimbursements liabilities total \$7.2 million. Fiscal staff processed reimbursements of \$1.3 million covering the period September 1, 2022, through May 31, 2023. Fee collections continue to trend upward, with collections projected at \$6.2 million through the first three quarters of fiscal year 2025-2026.

Mr. Hummel provided an update on 2026 Basic Training. B-26-01 currently is in session with graduation scheduled for May 15, 2026, with 38 participating. One person was dismissed due to failing the physical fitness test, and one person left due to obtaining other employment.

Class B-26-02 entrance physical training (PT) test was held March 12, 2026. There were 57 people tested with 12 failures. 45 people successfully passed. Currently there are 37 attending B-26-02, with one deputy removed by the county, one person left due to other employment, and one person left due to family obligations.

Class B-26-03 will start July 13, 2026, and the PT test will be on June 22, 2026. There are 40 deputies enrolled with five on the waitlist. An additional 15 deputies from class B-27-01 will be invited to participate in the PT test.

Class B-27-01 begins in January 2027 and currently has 40 enrolled and five on the waitlist.

Class B-27-02 begins in April 2027 and currently has 31 enrolled and nine available spots.

There will be three waiver classes this year. Class W-26-01 concluded on April 10, 2026, with 36 enrolled deputies being certified. Class W-26-02 begins June 1, 2026, and has 31 currently enrolled. Nobody is currently enrolled in class W-26-03, which is scheduled in October.

The on-line waiver prerequisite training has 88 enrolled; 58 completed with 30 pending.

Mr. Hummel reported that Penn State University was tasked with researching the possibility of hosting a regional waiver training class. Regional training needs to be effective and efficient. We are considering the pilot class being conducted in the late spring or summer of 2027.

Continuing Education currently has 1,923 deputies enrolled and 1,048 (54.5%) completed the training. The subjects include Legal Updates, Drugs of Abuse, Overcoming Bias, and Effective Written Communication.

Firearms Instructor Certification training will be held May 18-22, 2026; there are currently 15 enrolled.

Patrol Rifle Instructor Certification training is scheduled for August 10, 2026, and has ten enrolled.

Firearms/Patrol Rifle Instructor Recertification class is scheduled to begin August 24, 2026, and has nine enrolled.

Mr. Hummel provided an update regarding the Advanced Law Enforcement Rapid Response Training (ALERRT). He met with the academy's Active Shooter-Rapid Deployment Instructors to discuss the ALERRT Training. Our current curriculum is 24 hours and more robust in comparison to the 16 hours for the ALERRT program. The case studies, statistics, terminology, and tactical training as provided in the ALERRT training are part of our current training program. Our training is also integrated in other academy training subjects. It would be a major project to revise the current academy curriculum to incorporate ALERRT.

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

IV. Action Items

- **Time Extension Requests**

Mr. Hummel reviewed the time extension request submitted by Sheriff Joshua Fitting, Adams County. Sheriff Fitting requested a time extension for Deputy Kaleb Herman to continue employment and serve in an administrative, non-uniformed, and unarmed capacity until Deputy Herman completes the required training for certification. Deputy Herman is on the waitlist for class B-26-03 from July 13, 2026, to November 20, 2026. This request is in accordance with policy. Staff recommended the approval of the time extension for Deputy Herman.

Ben Sites made a motion to approve the time extension request for Deputy Herman as recommended by staff. The motion was seconded by Ed Walker. There was no further discussion, and the motion passed unanimously.

- **Training Waiver Request**

Mr. Hummel reviewed the partial training waiver request submitted by Sheriff Wayne Emerick, Bedford County. Sheriff Emerick requested a partial training waiver for Deputy Elizabeth Gehman. Deputy Sheriff Gehman is currently employed as a Park Ranger with the PA Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR). Deputy Sheriff Gehman graduated from the National Park Service Law Enforcement Academy on December 18, 2020, and completed the DCNR PA Options Law Enforcement Training Program on June 30, 2021.

Based on her experience, staff recommended a partial training waiver for the following subjects: Module 2, Professional Development; Module 3, Physical Training; Module 4, Firearms; Module 5, Defensive Tactics; Module 6, Security; Module 7, Deputy Safety; Module 8, Investigations; Module 9, Emergency Services; and Module 10, Competency Training. Deputy Sheriff Gehman would be required to complete the following subjects: Module 1, Law (168 hours) and Module 6, Security (48 hours).

Chairman Walters made a motion to approve the partial training waiver request. Ben 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 Chester Hawkins, Clearfield County. Sheriff Hawkins requested a partial training waiver for Deputy Sheriff Edward Blakely. Staff reviewed the request and determined that Deputy Blakely does not qualify for the partial training waiver. This determination is in accordance with Section VI (E) of Board Policy. Staff recommended denial of the request.

Sheriff Hawkins requested the Board to consider Deputy Sheriff Blakely's prior service as a Regulatory Enforcement Inspector (November 2021 – May 2022) and Professional Conduct Investigator (May 2022 – January 2025) with the PA Department of State, Bureau of Enforcement and Investigation. The request to consider prior service does not comply with Board regulations Section 421.4(b) and Board Policy Section VI (A).

Chairman Walters made a motion to deny the partial training waiver request. Angelinel Brown seconded the motion. There was no further discussion, and the motion passed unanimously.

- **Instructor Applications**

Mr. Hummel presented the Instructor Applications. Staff recommends Board certification for the following:

- Jonathan J. Garcia – Firearms, Security, and Deputy Safety
- Benjamin F. Jones – Law and Investigations

- Sean O’Block – Firearms and Defensive Tactics
- Brian W. Tienter – Firearms
- Nathan J. Zechman – Physical Conditioning

Chairman Walters made a motion to approve the Instructor Applications. Angelinel Brown seconded the motion. There were no further discussion and the motion passed unanimously.

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 JASI, reported no update on the Master Agreement between the Commonwealth of PA and Penn State University. Basic Training Class B-26-01 will graduate at the Ramada Inn on South Atherton Street on May 15, 2026. Class B-26-02 began on April 13th. The physical fitness entrance test for class B-26-03 will be held at the outdoor track, on June 22nd.

The academy piloted an electronic process for students to submit course evaluations. Evaluations can be completed using Chromebooks for instant submission, and this method is proving effective.

The Special Olympics and Law Enforcement Torch Run will take place at Penn State. There will be 25 runners participating from class B-26-02 to run with Olympians on June 4, 2026.

Mr. Tony Luongo, Temple University, reported on the curriculum development and online continuing education. Due to a recent change in the federal government’s reclassification of approved medical marijuana, Temple will meet with PCCD staff to update the Drugs of Abuse continuing education course to reflect the change.

Our curriculum development subject matter experts (SME) and structural designers continue working with PCCD staff for courses that will be delivered online for continuing education in 2027. The three topics for continuing education in 2027 will be Legal Updates, Transports, and Threat Group Awareness. SMEs are revising the Role of the First Responder for basic training.

In early June, Temple will meet with PCCD staff to discuss and identify the modules and timeline for SMEs in charting the agenda for the 2027 curriculum development cycle for courses that will be delivered in 2028.

- **Other Business and Public Voice**

Ben Sites reported that Representative Jared Solomon had a meeting with executive staff members of the PA Sheriffs' Association. He stated that Representative Solomon expressed interest in having a meeting with the Board and PCCD staff. Representative Solomon is the Chairman of the Veterans in Emergency Preparedness Committee.

Ms. Kenyon stated the PCCD Legislative Director will be reaching out to Representative Solomon.

VI. Future Meeting Dates & Adjournment

Chairman Walters announced that the next Board meetings are scheduled for August 4th and October 27th at 2 pm, at PCCD and via Teams video conferencing.

Ben Sites made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Ed Walker seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 3:36 p.m.