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Ohio Peace Officer Training Commission

Meeting Thursday, July 11, 2019

held at the

Ohio Peace Officer Training Academy 1650 State Route 56 SW
London, Ohio 43140

Minutes - July 11, 2019

A. Opening

Call to Order

Acting Vice-Chair Colonel Richard Fambro called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

Chief Kral led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Ms. Donna Long called the Roll Call.

Commission members present

Sheriff Michael Heldman

Colonel Richard Fambro

Lt. James Fitsko

Ms. Carol O'Brien

Dr. Reginald Wilkinson

Chief George Kral

Chief Clayton Harris

SAC Todd Wickerham

Commission members absent

Sheriff Vernon Stanforth-Chair

Dr. Emily Passias-Resigned from Commission

Staff Attorney General's Office

Mr. Louis Agosta-Deputy Director-OPOTA Staff/TTC

Jeffrey Boucher-Associate Assistant Attorney/AGO

Ms. Brittany Brashears-OPOTC Staff

Ms. Bridget Coontz-AGO

Ms. Jill Cury-OPOTC Staff

Ms. Courtney DeLong-OPOTC Staff

Ms. Arienne Fauber-OPOTC Staff

Mr. Michael Golec-OPOTA Staff

Ms. Kim Hahn-OPOTC Staff

Mr. Richard Hardy-Director of Certification/Standards and Education/Policy

Ms. Amber Jicha-OPOTC Staff

Mr. Andrew King-OPOTC Staff

Ms. Donna Long, OPOTC Secretary-OPOTC Staff
Mr. Scott Mann-OPOTA Staff
Ms. Lori Rinehart-OPOTC Staff
Ms. Lynnette Rodrigue-Deputy Director Advanced Training London
Mr. Jeffrey K. Scott – Executive Director-OPOTC/A

Guests

Mr. Matthew Dickey-Dayton Police Department
Mr. David Justice-Columbus Division of Police
Mr. Robert Meador-Columbus Division of Police
Ms. Sharon Montgomery -Ohio State University
Ms. Lisa Murray-Columbus Division of Police
Ms. Amber Rose-Columbus Division of Police
Mr. Lawrence H. Roseboro-Ohio State Highway Patrol Academy
Mr. Jeff Sowards-Central Ohio Technical College
Mr. David Wiseman-Delaware County Sheriff's Office

B. Chair Report

Colonel Richard Fambro-Acting Vice Chair

Acting Vice-Chair Fambro welcomed the guests and asked those in attendance to introduce themselves. The first item of business was approval of the minutes of the May 09th minutes, which each Commissioner received electronically.

MOTION:

Ms. O'Brien moved to approve the minutes of the May 09, 2019, meeting. The motion was seconded by Chief Harris. No discussion was forthcoming; a vote was taken and passed unanimously. Yes-8, No-0, Absent-1.

Acting Vice-Chair Fambro move the House Committee report to the next order of business. At the May 9th meeting Chair Stanforth asked the House Committee to meet, discuss and bring to the full Commission a recommendation for a Vice-Chair.

The House Committee met at 9:00 a.m. prior to this meeting to discuss and make the recommendation for Vice-Chair.

MOTION:

SAC Wickerham made the recommendation of Chief Clayton Harris to serve in the absence of the Chairperson as Vice-Chair. The motion was seconded by Dr. Wilkinson. A vote was taken and passed unanimously. Chief Harris abstained from the vote. Yes-7, No-0, Absent-1.

After the vote Chief Harris chaired the meeting as Vice-Chair to the Commission.

Vice-Chair Harris thanked the Commission for the wonderful honor. He then introduced new Legal Counsel for the Commission, Mr. Jeff Boucher. Also, stated for the record, Commissioner Dr. Emily Passias, with the Department of Education resigned from the Commission. A replacement will be appointed by the Governor. With nothing further, that concluded the Chairperson report.

C. Curriculum Committee
Sheriff Heldman, Committee Chair

Committee Chair Heldman, stated there was nothing at this time to report. That concluded the Curriculum Committee report.

D. Legislative Committee
Lt. Fitsko, Committee Chair

Committee Chair Fitsko stated the committee hasn't met; however, currently in the Legislation they're working on getting PTSD approved without the accompanying happening physical injury. We're the closest we've come in a long time, but we're not dead in the water and still actively working to getting it in the budget this year. There was nothing further to report, concluding the Legislative Committee report.

E. House Committee
Colonel Fambro, Committee Chair

Colonel Fambro stated with the appointing of the Vice-Chair position during the Chair Report there was nothing further to report for the House Committee. That concluded the House Committee report.

F. Continuing Professional Training Committee
Sheriff Michael Heldman, Committee Chair

Chair Heldman stated there was nothing to report, that concluded the Continuing Professional Training Committee report.

Staff Reports

G. Commission and Academy Updates
Jeffrey K. Scott, Executive Director

Director Scott stated this was his second meeting; he is honored to be in the position he is in. The staff is great to work with and very dedicated and hard working. He acknowledges the work they do behind the scenes.

Agenda item 7.1: Director Scott introduced new staff and explained the new roles of some current staff members. The following staff was asked to stand as they were introduced.

Mr. Richard Hardy – Director of Professional Standards and Educational Policy: Mr. Hardy is retired from the West Jefferson Police Department. Mr. Hardy and his teams are moving along effectively.

The Director of Advanced Training position closes for applications next week. Director Scott and his management team will be reviewing the applications and plan to have interviews setup soon. Director Scott utilizes the team concept. The management team meets every Wednesday morning.

Mr. Scott Mann – Mr. Mann is a Law Enforcement Training Officer (LETO) who has filled many roles. He is now over our Marketing and Social Media. Director Scott encouraged the Commissioners to “like” OPOTA on face book; where we have a definite following. Mr. Mann has been instrumental in working with the downtown staff to bolster the things we are doing at OPOTA and reaching the law enforcement community with what we have available.

Mr. Lou Agosta - Has moved from Deputy Director to Accreditation Manager. Since the clerical help is no longer available for CALEA, Lou will be handling all of the CALEA duties. Director Scott appreciates all Lou has done to assist with some initiatives that needed done and can now focus on the Accreditation.

Mr. Andrew King – Staff Attorney has been with us for 3 weeks now and has done a great job since his arrival. He’s definitely a right hand and provides legal guidance. He has already tackled a couple of initiatives. He also worked to resolve the 119 Hearing that was scheduled, and then canceled for this afternoon.

Mr. Michael Golec – Deputy Director of Advanced Training at the Tactical Training Center Campus. He stepped in and has been doing some great work; he has a good team of instructors and is moving along nicely.

Mr. Richard Meadows – Has been the Interim Deputy Director of Advanced Training at the Richfield Campus, and was recently promoted to Deputy Director.

Ms. Lynnette Rodrigue – She is still the Deputy Director of Advanced Training London and is recognized for her hard work as well and her leadership of a great staff and team.

This is the management team which meets weekly. It’s great to see these faces come into this room every week and look to the future of OPOTA.

Director Scott spoke about the 8 hour RITE Training the LETO’s participated in July 1st and the support staff, general service staff and guest participated in one of the two, 4 hour training sessions offered on July 2nd.

Director Scott thanked SAC Wickerham for participating in the training as well. His direction is for a baseline of fundamental workmanship for our facility; with everyone on the same team. Some staffers were present to speak about the training, how they are using the training and what they thought of the training.

Ms. Amber Jicha believes OPOTA is heading in a new direction; each day is a gift, a service to the good of the people we serve and coworkers. The ladder gives a positive foot forward. Employee’s doing their best. From a union stand point, she is recommending it for all of the Attorney General’s staff.

Ms. Rodrigue stated they were volun-told (highly encouraged) to attend; it’s a new day touched her more on the personal level. She was able to use it to help someone else move up to the (good) middle of the ladder. Training works only if one opens their mind, looking at self and liking what you see. Only you can see you. She stated the majority of what was taught is covered in our courses.

Mr. Hardy stated in 29 years of law enforcement training, sometimes we put up that wall. This was a great opportunity to let everybody know where we’re at and see the changes to be made. It makes you focus on others, yourself and how you are going to interact with people; because we are all different. There are signs all over OPOTA, it’s a new day. It is a new day at OPOTA and he is honored to be a part of it.

Director Scott posted a few signs around the building. Two key words came out to the training, “it’s a new day” and “pivit” which is embracing change. If not, we will become angry and bitter, stuck in a vacuum type effect when we need to “pivit”, change our attitude; change our vision of what we see. This is a long term type of change, but seeing the fresh things taking place, is encouraging.

It's a new day and we are moving forward. Colonel Fambro stated he had taken the training before; he lives it every day. It's reinforcing.

Director Scott has told staff they are to hold him accountable just as he is to hold them accountable.

Agenda item 7.2: The next item to discuss was Physical Fitness Standards Working Group. Director Scott wanted to bring the Commission up to speed on the task he has given LETO Joel Siebert, our physical fitness expert. LETO Siebert was asked to formulate a SME group throughout the state. A survey will go out across the state to see who is interested in serving on that committee. This committee will really need to look at the entire curriculum for physical fitness.

Cooper Standards, which this board has adopted, no longer does research for law enforcement. The validity of their product, of their standards could come in to question down the road. They stopped the law enforcement research in 2016 or 2017, which brings up concerns that we don't have the validity to fall back on. This allows us to relook at what our physical fitness standards are.

There's no policy on transgender. One of the tasks put on LETO Siebert is to really look at our job task performance as law enforcement; and how we equate that to our physical standards. They have looked at moving away from just a setup, push-up, and run concept to be opening and presenting before the Commission at some point the possibility of a job related obstacle course. There seems to be a lot of validity when we are able to apply a job task analysis to our physical fitness standards.

Director Scott as also asked LETO Siebert and the committee to look at the entire curriculum from the standpoint of mindfulness, alternatives, and physical fitness; including yoga, cross fitness, and having three other components as part of that lesson plan to include nutrition, health prevention, and mental health prevention and a financial component. Many students don't even know how to balance a checkbook. Stress in law enforcement, stress at home, we want to touch on some basic knowledge skills that will keep them at the top of their game.

This was just a brief for the Commission and to be able to report either to the Curriculum Committee or directly to the Commission itself.

Dr. Wilkinson asked if these standards were for new recruits, existing officers or both? Director Scott replied just for recruits at the basic academy level. He is hoping other agencies will join for their own standards. Dr. Wilkinson asked if it would be appropriate for both open and closed academies? Director Scott responded, yes.

Part of this stems from Director Scotts experience with the FBI National Academy in Quantico. He has put LETO Seibert in touch with the physical fitness staff at the academy and they are already sharing information.

The Army is talking about getting rid of sit-ups due to back issues that have resulted over the years. It's been one of those, we've done it for the past 50 years, why change? Well for hurting our officers and putting them in harm's way; creating difficulties for them in their future, we already know the gun belts but stress on their backs; why do we want to continue that behavior. These are questions this committee will be tackling and having the federal component in relationship will be vital to us.

Dr. Wilkinson stated there may be some models already out there, may not have to recreate the wheel. Being recently appointed to the States School Board, he would be happy to help with that. Director Scott appreciated the offer to help and will let LETO Siebert know.

Agenda item 7.3: The next item for discussion was the Jail Basic and the Corrections Basic Standards working group has come together with Mr. Hardy at the helm for us. He has been in contact with the Sheriff and wants good communication with the BSSA in terms of the corrections basic program. Friday, July 12th is the Jail Advisory Board meeting and then Tuesday, July 15th is the Community Corrections meeting. We are looking at two curriculums, one is setting and not being used by any department that they are aware of. They are looking a revamping that curriculum and possibly bringing it together with the CBT for similarity.

Agenda item 7.4: We are working on the initiative for commander and instructor process. We need to invest in our instructors and our commanders; making sure they have the professional development needed to be good at what they do. The current recertification process asks instructors to teach in two separate academies for the total of 24 hours, plus having certain amount of continuing education hours somewhere. Director Scott is in the process of preparing regional meeting locations around the state of Ohio to meet with commanders in August and September; with the sites being regional they hope commanders will have reasonable access and won't have to travel great distances to be heard. This will be an open forum to have open communication and to hear from the commanders. He also wants to hear their ideas with the concept that he is bringing forward on the recertification process. He hopes to be able to present data and a proposal to change how recertification for instructors and commanders are done.

Agenda item 7.5: PSIG is the private security arm with the Ohio Department of Public Safety, Ohio Division of Homeland Security, and Private Investigator Security Guard Services. After extensive conversations with Executive Director Brandon Gardener; we currently develop the curriculum for the security guards and are responsible for the academies that conduct the training throughout the state of Ohio.

They are very much interested in taking over the curriculum and having the oversight and running the academies for the basic academies for security. We are down one Education and Policy curriculum writer who will not be replaced in the near future. That position was over writing the curriculum for private security. Also, we don't have any SME's internally; we look externally for guidance with that curriculum. Since we only deal with the development of their curriculum, it's Director Scott's recommendation to the Commission to entertain the PSIG's offer to assume those duties under Homeland Security.

Executive Director Gardener would still like OPOTA to over-see the firearms component. PSIG isn't interested in diving into this area, but they are moving forward with the curriculum. They have several continuing education opportunities for their security officers. They also have the staffing and the means to handle that curriculum. Director Scott hopes for the support of the Commission, but stated it will take legislative action in the Ohio Revised Code to make the change. PSIG has invited Director Scott to speak at their July 17th working group and he would like to attend with the support of this Commission.

Chief Kral stated he indicated they wanted to take it back; was there a reason we took it from them in the first place or have we always done it. Director Scott responded, his understanding is we've always had it. They are a growing arm with the Department of Public Safety and have evolved over the last several years. Their expert panel is good and the security industry is growing rapidly. Det. Fitsko asked if Public Safety would have oversight? Director Scott stated yes.

Vice Chair Harris asked if a working group would help to determine any impact on how we present it and anyway of doing it more due diligence on the process opposed to just going with it. Director Scott stated he could ask their working group if they could have a working group between their Commission and ours. Vice Chair Harris stated he would like to see that and what comes out of the group; then we'd

be in a better position to make that decision, including the impact it would have on legislation. With the Commission approval, Director Scott will work with PSIG on creating a working group between them.

The next item was under Section 109.78 concerning firearms training. Currently, there's a minimum of 20 hours for the security guards in their initial training for firearms handling and qualification. Director Scott expresses his concern and in discussions with Executive Director Gardener, the ORC says minimum, he would like to see that doubled to 40 hours. These men and women are being asked to carry firearms and act in a capacity under stress similar to that of law enforcement. Law enforcement officers are getting 70 hours currently. Director Scott wanted to open up with the Commission on whether they would support him in asking for that increase.

Vice-Chair Harris questioned if the thought process was for the Commission to remain involved in the firearms portion and the firearms related curriculum; meaning we aren't all the way out. That may be the reason they are still a part of OPOTA, to ensure those who are working and carrying a firearms are on the arms of an organization to maintain some consistency as a decision making of a group which can change things they are learning and increase what they are doing in firearms. We need the working group to look at both aspects. Director Scott responded, part of this is that we have the technical expertise for the firearms, but we don't for the security. From that respect we maximize and excel in firearms which are why they recognize that as our expertise, but their expertise is private security and their training. We rely on them when we create our curriculum anyways. Vice-Chair Harris stated he is always in support of more training, especially when it comes to firearms.

Director Scott stated not all security go for the firearms certification. Det. Fitsko asked if they were open to increasing the hours? Director Scott stated very much. They were looking for me to come to our Commission to gain your support and take that support back to them. The way he interprets the Ohio Revised Code under 109.78, it says minimum 20 hours. It doesn't prevent us from increasing the hours and in approaching this he would really like the Commissions support.

Sheriff Heldman felt it was best if Director Scott did speak with their commission, because in today's world with liability and everything involved; people are out there who aren't used to carrying a firearm. Sometimes it's the first time they've ever held a firearm; 40 hours is not a lot of training. They then only have to come back every year for additional training and requalification. Also, the recommendation was to take that from 4 to 8 hours of training including the requalification. It is a perishable skill if not practicing and using every day. Vice-Chair Harris asked if it required a roll call vote, Director Scott didn't think it needed to be as long as they have a concurrence with the overall Commission to go forth.

Chief Kral asked if that was concurrence to change or to have a discussion. Director Scott responded at this point just for the discussion to see if they support it; then it is up to him to make it happen. SAC Wickerham asked if there was a concurrence to present and put together a working group; to study it with the Ohio Revised Code? Director Scott will take it to the group.

Agenda item 7.6: At the May Commission meeting it was approved for the Executive Director to make reasonable, minor changes based on our curriculum and development staff. We had a case come up on curriculum code BAS 2-2k, update process which worked out well. They had very minor changes which didn't change hours, or anything significant. He wanted to report back and appreciated the Commission giving OPOTC/OPOTA that flexibility; they were able to get the changes made relatively easy and get the information out to the academies.

Agenda item 7.7: Director Scott reported to the Commission there have been some issues with eOPOTA in terms of our navigation system. He is working with the I.T. department and two-thirds of those programs have been fixed. Due to our new management learning system, we have seen some issues develop in the program conversion process. They're working to get those repackaged. The I.T. department is helping tremendously on that project. If we can't get a couple eOPOTA courses fixed quickly, he will have to disable them. It's not fair to those taking the course; they can navigate through it very quickly and not take the entire program. This is a concern.

Agenda 7.8: Director Scott is working with Karlton Moore and Ed Burkehammer with the Ohio Department of Criminal Justice Services through the Ohio Department of Public Safety. One thing they are discussing has to do with eOPOTA and the learning management system. There are a lot of initiatives they are working on with the Ohio Colligative Board; they are looking for a system to be able to put those standards on a platform so agencies getting that particular accreditation complete all the training requirements that go with it and being able to fulfill something similar to what Power DMS would do for agencies who have accreditation standards now.

Our discussion has been on how OPOTA can potentially partner our training with ODCJS and the platform they are looking to go to. There are several vendors who could potentially help us with our conversion and eOPOTA. It would allow us to be a lot more robust in the things we are doing and be a benefit to the agencies as a whole. He is looking for future partnerships where they could do OPOTA's advanced training initiatives and their initiatives together in training and financial hardships. Director Scott will keep the Commission up to date as they look at different vendor opportunities.

Agenda 7.9: Director Scott encouraged everyone to go to the Attorney General's website, where our forms have been reposted online allowing for easier navigation for our consumers in law enforcement and the academy commanders. The team has done a fantastic job. He thanked the staff for their work.

The SF400, the notification of officer commission is being worked on and upon completion will be able to be done online, making the process faster. The form has been condensed to one page. We are working to be in compliance with the Federal Government in terms of social security numbers, which has been fixed on the form.

We have had difficulties with agencies disclosing to OPOTA reasons why officers are resigning or retiring; did they retire, was it in good standing, was it dishonorably, did they resign in lieu of termination; these are things we need to know; they could be things that need to be investigated. The SF401 is being updated to take in account all of those different opportunities for chiefs or sheriffs to be able to select not just generic boxes and try to explain, but select the appropriate box based on the situation. They will also have the ability to attach documents to the form. This will help when we received public record requests or just general inquiries. The forms are in compliance with A.D.A. areas.

Director Scott stated that completed the staff report.

Vice-Chair Harris speaking for the Commission reminded Director Scott they appreciate his work, but they do want his patience. He reminded the Commission the 119 Hearing originally scheduled for today had been canceled.

H. Old Business

Chief Clayton Harris, Vice-Chair

On the agenda were a couple items which Director Scott covered.

Agenda 8.1: Director Scott updated the Commission on the new technology (DART) evaluation project. Stating the purchase order has been processed. Commanders have been reaching out to be one of the project sites. We are getting 3 devices and will be looking for academies that we can get it out to.

Director Scott spoke with Commander Meador regarding their Virtual Reality process they are looking at and how they could compare and analysis some data. He is hoping to have more to report on how it will be initiated throughout the state in November.

Director Scott hopes looking at technology is an answer to increasing hours of firearms; then analyzing the data to see if the hours need to be increased or will this technology allow what they are looking for.

Florida cadets are working on their basic platform skills without throwing on piece of ammunition down the range. This allows an increase in the basic platform skills and saves on the ammunition used.

Agenda 8.2: Update on the SRO HB 318 and lesson plan update. It was put upon us to create an SRO program, making 3 programs acknowledged by the ORC; the National, the State and the OPOTA curriculum. The OPOTA curriculum is completed.

Vice Chair Harris asked if there was any other old business; hearing none that concluded the old business report.

New Business

Chief Clayton Harris, Vice-Chair

Agenda 9.1: Director Scott gave an update on the Pearson Vue testing, seeking approval for his proposal. The proposal is to engage in an MOU with Pearson Vue Testing Centers to take over our current paper, pencil and Scan Tron testing. They are a leader in testing and accessibility is critical. The student will sit in front of a computer to take the test. The test is fully monitored; each student has their own cubicle. They specialize in the Special Adapt Testing. There are over 48 testing centers in Ohio, plus surrounding states. This allows convenience for the student and testing centers will eliminate the need for busing cadets to London for testing.

U.S. Military who are deployed can take test wherever they are deployed. Wherever they register, our exam will be available to them. The hope is to move into a computer adapted testing model. We would need to write 2500-4000 test questions to have a test bank in order for the computer adapted testing to function correctly. The hope is to transition with Pearson Vue. If approved today we could transition and be up and operational by October 1st. There are processes to follow, but if all went well the plan is to be up and running and functional. Then moving into test development taking the current test bank and model it into a computer adapted test model. It will take over 2 years for the work to be completed.

There will be a dedicated law enforcement officer and a team would work together quarterly or every other month. As we get the test questions developed, we will bring in an expert to ensure we are in compliance with all regulations in test questions development for every test question we have.

This process is being taken very seriously; our team needs the proper tools to put the steps in place that are defensible for us and beneficial for the students taking the exams.

Chief Kral asked what the difference was between the PPC and PVTC? Director Scott answered PVTC's are the agreements; those with PVTC by the location can open up a testing center with Pearson Vue as an agreement. A college, technical college or a joint vocational school could enter into an agreement with Pearson Vue to become one of their PVTC's.

The question is should that particular institute have an academy, do we want that academy testing at that same location or do we want them going to a separate facility in order to have separation, without an appearance of any impropriety or favoritism. There are strict rules in place at every Pearson Vue testing center. But they lean towards some kind of separation to avoid any questions.

The PPC's are already setup and ready to go; those are Private Pearson Vue owned testing centers. There's a testing fee of \$55 per exam. In an effort to recover our internal cost within OPOTA/OPOTC of developing this new testing, Director Scott recommended a \$95 charge per person per test to cover the fee and the expense of increasing OPOTA staff.

Director Scott as had the opportunity to speak with commanders throughout each sector in the state and the cost as been brought up by him. Most have acknowledged a fee/charge was going to happen anyways and for the majority of the places if they have them in house it's a matter of budgeting for that; but for independent schools who have open enrollment; this is just a cost that will be put back onto the student in the fee structure. It's not a cost as a facility they would accrue.

Ms. O'Brien asked Chief Kral when he said it cost him \$5000 dollars how many people are being sent down for the test. Chief Kral stated it was for 40 trainees at a time, and that is just to rent the bus, plus he has to pay overtime for the instructors to go as well. Ms. O'Brien asked if this was much better on his budget even if required to pay \$95? Chief Kral stated for 40 people it would \$3800, but that doesn't include what the overtime cost would be. It's still a cost, but anything less makes him smile.

Vice-Chair Harris stated it is noted nationwide testing of this nature is the way many professionals are being tested across the country. It's time for law enforcement to be a part of what is fairly reasonable and a change in how things are being done; instead of always being behind the eight ball of these processes. Many of the things people were afraid of in the early onset of this style of testing, with cheating and other things; many of those things have been resolved and corrected. Cameras are also required in the centers as well as another form of monitoring. They also hire proctors who are trained to watch for all kinds of different things.

Vice-Chair Harris asked if there were any other questions on this? Commander Meador stated the testing cost is \$55 with an additional \$40 going towards OPOTA? Director Scott stated it would go to the Commission side of the house. Commander Meador asked to develop this thing that you anticipate will take approximately two and a half years. Director Scott stated it will take two and a half years to develop it, but then we also have to continue it. Commander Meador asked if that \$40 be in perpetuity and the other question on the cost is the 2019 is \$55 per student for test and in 2021 its \$110, how do you control the cost of a third party vendor? Director Scott stated that would be through the MOU. It would be contractually developed as a result of our MOU. This could be renegotiated and could affect agencies budget.

SAC Wickerham asked if there were other vendors who offered this that we could compete against? Would the bank of questions still belong to OPOTA. Could they transfer to another vendor? Director Scott stated we own the test questions. We could certainly try to compete but he has yet to find a company that can do what Pearson Vue does. There's not a vendor that has the locations and the reputation they have. Ms. O'Brien stated there's other company we could deal with if Pearson Vue came back with an unacceptable cost.

Vice-Chair Harris asked what cost saving would OPOTA experience because of it, or is it all based on the work that has to be done; which would increase the cost? Director Scott responded there is a slight increase in cost for us; he would consider it nomizable because we now have a mechanism to recoup and recover those cost that we've never had before with the OPOTC side of the house. Chief Kral asked roughly how many people are certified through OPOTA a year? Director Scott stated using just the basic, about 2500 per year, not including corrections basic, humane agent, refresher, court officers and the current private security.

Dr. Wilkinson stated the issue of cost saving is important, but what are the savings being used for? Director Scott stated it increases the efficiency, the fact that the majority of these agencies will drive 25 miles or less is cost savings enough. The other advantage is some people test better in the morning, some at night, this gives them the option of choosing the time that works for them.

Academy can go as an academy, but that has to be coordinated through Pearson Vue; based on the number of seats available at that time. Major city areas usually have a large area of seats available. The students will have on-site results the day of the test. Pearson Vue will work with the commanders as long as the commander calls in advance to make the arrangements. Are Commanders still looking at two – three weeks after the closing audit before the students can test? Currently, there is a ten day wait period, to allow the students time to study and prepare. If you feel that is something that should be looked at, we would be happy to have that input by our commanders meeting when they talk.

Commander Wiseman asked how the special accommodations training, how would we accomplish that? Director Scott stated for a single student they would show up a Pearson Vue and PearsonVue would be notify in ahead of time and would actually have to have the IEP paperwork so they know what they are dealing with; this would be for all platforms were exams are administered. Director Scott is anticipating October of this year. Chief Kral asked if it was known how many hours they were talking about reducing it from? Director Scott stated right now on the SAT's we have to have more conversation, but they couldn't give us an official recommendation until a MOU is in place. They have evaluated our product and currently there recommendation is time and a ½. But, it could be reduced based on test questions. We currently are double the time the experts say we need.

Vice-Chair Harris comment that since OPOTA has never charged, so every issue related to this and every individual that completes any academy or anything they have to test for, will now be charged when they weren't charge before. Many of the commanders are taxed with insuring that barriers for completion are removed. It could create barriers for individuals.

Director Scott stated it's a more controlled environment then it is here; they are either put in this or the small conference room. Pearson Vue has gone to the level of lighting, and sound. Ms. O'Brien stated she believed the Chief was talking about the actual money, the \$95 dollars; which for the private academies it will be due up front, and for the academies the people here run, they will absorb the cost.

It is probably the price of doing business these days. Commander Meadors asked will there be a date when testing will no longer be testing done here and Pearson Vue will do it all or will there be some sort of transition period. There was discussion on the academies already started, will they be testing at OPOTA or at Pearson Vue. Commander Sowards stated they have a test date for November 14th, their academy is in session right now; if the testing centers are up and going as planned by October 1st would we still be good with our scheduled November 14th pencil and paper test? Executive Director Scott stated that would be reasonable based on this discussion. If there's an academy that is on the books, until we get firmed up with Pear Vue testing already on the books will be allowed; until a conversion date is known.

Any academies scheduling forward would be under the new testing model. Commander Sowards asked if information will be put out in regards to where these testing centers are. Will it then fall to the commanders and what is the time line they need to notify Pearson Vue with the number of people who will be testing. How far out to they need to be notified.

Director Scott stated that depends on the center, how busy they are, etc. He recommends commanders reach out a month prior to and schedule the test date locking it in the books. The plan moving forward is OPOTA will give Pearson Vue the list of candidates and their identifiers and then let the commander know they are good to go. The commander can pick whichever testing facility they want to use.

Commander Sowards asked if their academy is 6 months long, are they going to be limited to the one month or can they call 5 months ahead to lock in their test date. Director Scott stated he couldn't answer that question; he would have to check with Pearson Vue.

SAC Wickerham suggested the concerns the commanders were expressing be written into the MOU so they are able to hold them accountable. Director Scott there will be the opportunity in the upcoming commander's round table events.

Vice-Chair Harris asked if we are too far ahead for a vote? Or is more information needed before they vote. Director Scott stated he was asking the Commission for permission to proceed with that relationship and developing of the testing. Dr. Wilkinson asked if working preventing the raise in price in the MOU? Ms. O'Brien responded her guess would be that any contract or MOU that is entered into especially with our business section is going to have a set rate for the length of the contract/MOU. Then if we are working toward a system where we are able to administrator the test, it would take care of it in the short term.

Ms. O'Brien stated when the commanders are setting up their systems, their prices haven't remained consistent; they have probably gone up due to cost. So, it's the cost of doing business. She can't imagine that it's not an advantage to have your academies taking their test in the morning and having their results done. When academies send a whole group down here, it may not be towards your academy, but it is to those taking test and doing the driving. It's got to be easier going somewhere closer to home. Ms. O'Brien stated the Director is allowing for a transition.

MOTION:

Chief Kral recommended the Commission move forward with the Pearson Vue Testing. The motion was seconded by Sheriff Heldman. A vote was taken and passed unanimously. Yes-8, No-0, Absent-1.

Agenda 9.2: Director Scott stated one concern he has relates to the refresher course; which relates to the Ohio Administrative Code 109.2-1-07 which allows the director through the advanced training section to develop a curriculum for our refreshers. There was a point in history where there was an 80 hour refresher requirement; which was decreased to 16 hours. In the current model, policing, keeping a current for 3 hours, they do 6 hours of legal on arrest, search and seizure, 2 hours of civil liability and use of force and 5 hours of stops and approaches. Currently there's a 25 question written exam at the end.

Director Scott is concerned. What are we doing for the officers and their agencies to assure they are going back out on the streets safely, for themselves, their partners and their agencies? In looking at the perishable skills that exist; by code as Executive Director he is allowed to increase it, but wants to come to the Commission with their support to make that increase to 40 hours to include 8 hours driving, 8 hours on the range, and 8 hours of defensive tactics as part of that curriculum.

Lt. Fitsko asked if the test would increase? Director Scott responded, yes the test would increase and there would mandatory check offs with the perishable skills: driving, defensive tactics and firearms; which are consistent with our basic curriculum.

Commander Meador stressed caution on hours, is 5 days needed, not all shifts are 8a-5p. Director Scott feels we have an obligation to be sure they are being put out on the street and truly evaluated. It perishable skills we need to ensure them. He understands some agency may have to deal with overtime.

Currently the refresher is a two day program, this would take them to a 5 day program; Monday through Friday, with 40 hours. The goal is to get them through the refresher as quickly as possible in order to get them employed and on the street.

MOTION:

Sheriff Heldman asked the Commission to approve the increase of refresher hours to 40 hours. The motion was seconded by Dr. Wilkinson. A vote was taken and passed unanimously. Yes-8, No-0, Absent-1.

Dr. Wilkinson proposed the Director give an update on the progress with the Attorney General's 2015 Advisory Group. Director Scott would like to see if Attorney General Yost would like to get a new working group officially together. A lots changed and are there other recommendations of the working group or advisory committee.

Vice-Chair Harris asked if there was any other new business, hearing done that concluded the new businessreport.

Before going to the guest forum the Vice-Chair wanted to thank Director Scott and Mr. Lou Agosta, they had children from his summer academy here a week ago and they were very pleased with what you do on a regular basis and how the staff took care of them. It was a group of about 50 young high school students and they had a wonderful time at OPOTA.

**I. Guest Forum
Chief Clayton Harris, Vice-Chair**

The Vice-Chair asked if any guest had any concerns they'd like to bring before the Commission?

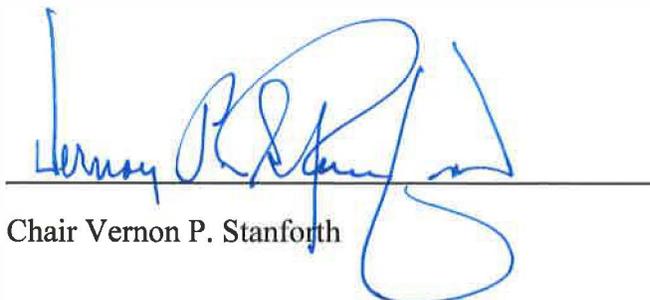
Vice-Chair Harris asked if there was anything else from the guest forum, with no other business to be brought before the Commission the chair entertained a motion to adjourn.

This area was intentionally left blank.

MOTION:

Ms. O'Brien moved to adjourn the meeting. Chief Kral seconded the motion. A vote was taken and passed unanimously. Y-8 / N-0 / Absent-1.

Time:11:42 a.m.



Chair Vernon P. Stanforth

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