



Ohio Peace Officer Training Commission Meeting
Thursday, Nov. 14th, 2024, at 10:00am

Ohio Peace Officer Training Academy
1650 State Rt. 56 S.W., London, Ohio 43140
The meeting was held in the cafeteria.

Minutes –February 11th, 2025

- A. Opening- Call to Order, Chair Sheriff Vernon Stanforth** called a meeting to order at 10:13 a.m.

Chair Vernon Stanforth led the Pledge of Allegiance.
Ms. Denise Becerra called the roll call.

Commissioners Present:

Chair, Sheriff Vernon Stanforth
Chief Robert Chabali
Colonel Charles Jones
Lieutenant James Fitsko
Ms. Wynette Carter-Smith
Ms. Leah Amstutz
SAC Gregory Nelsen

Commissioners Absent:

Ms. Carol O'Brien

Ms. Denise Becerra confirmed there was a quorum with 7-Present, 1-Absent

Attorney General Staff in Attendance:

Scott Spangler, Director of Advanced Training – OPOTA
Dr. Erica Wilson- Director of Curriculum and Development- OPOTA
Brittany Brashears, CPT Manager- OPOTA/C
Robert Strausbaugh, Director of Advanced Training- OPOTA
Carol Simon, Certification Specialist- OPOTA/C
Stephanie Parish- OPOTA
Art DeLeon, Deputy Director of Professional Standards-OPOTA/C
Arienne Fauber, Certification Specialist- OPOTA/C
Michael Willford, Certification Specialist- OPOTA/C
Anthony Traska, Director of Accreditation, STAR- OPOTA
LeAnn Myers, Certification Specialist- OPOTA/C
Kristen Samworth, OPOTC Staff
Heather Cloutier, OPOTC Staff
Elizabeth Fulton, OPOTC Staff
Melissa Day, Senior Assistant Attorney General- OPOTA/C
Alexis Miller, Deputy Director of Curriculum- OPOTC
Richard Butsko, Assistant Executive Director of Advance Training- OPOTA/C
Thomas Quinlan, Assistant Executive Director- OPOTA/C
Scott Helkowski, Principal Assistant Attorney General- AGO
Brian Malachowsky, Senior Assistant Attorney General-OPOTA/C
Cynthia Peterson, Principal Assistant Attorney General- OPOTA/C

Guests in Attendance:

Commander Brad Copeland- NCSC Mansfield
Joel Seibert- Butler Tech
Commander Mark Preuss- Great Oaks Police Academy
Justin Hibbitt- Westerville Police Department
Commander George Jutze- Owens CC Police Academy
Mark King, Owens Police Academy- Owens CC Police Academy
Commander Doug Daniels- Southern State Community College
Bob Meader- Robert Meader LLC.
James Rease- Central Ohio Tech.
Commander Lowell Rector- Columbus Police Department
Sharon Montgomery- Ohio Traffic Safety Council
Joset Freyhof- Russells Point Police Department/ OACP D4
Matt Delp- Minerva Park Police Department
Tom Vaugh- OACP
Ernie Orgel- Polaris Police Academy
Patrick Greenhill- Polaris Police Academy

Dr. Ruth Baber-Smith- Owens Community College
Commander Bryan Cook- Greene County POBT Academy
Robert Mangan- Cleveland Police Academy
Sgt. Steve Kines Cleveland Police Academy
Commander Amy Harper- Cleveland Police Academy
Joshua Justice- SOPA
Darin Cox, Coordinator- SOPA
Mike Kemmer- OSHP, Academy
Mark Preuss- Great Oaks Police Academy

Chair Stanforth announced there was a set of minutes to approve.

Motion: A motion for the approval of Nov. 14th, 2024, minutes by Sheriff Vernon Stanforth. Lieutenant James Fitsko seconded the motion. A vote was taken and passed unanimously. Yes- 7, No- 0, Absent- 1.

B. Chair Report

Chair Stanforth welcomed guests and asked everyone to speak into the microphone when addressing the commission. He stated he did not have anything to report. He stated there are various issues concerning membership due to two appointments that have yet to be filled. Sheriff Heldman's tenure ended in September 20th of 2024. He could be allowed to continue voting unless someone had replaced him within ninety days. He additionally left his office as Sheriff, therefore would have removed him from the board either way. Chief Harris has also retired, and his term was also over on September 20th of 2024. He believes each members association has made recommendations. The Board and Commissions serve the Governor's Office, which prepares the paperwork for the appointee and sends it to the Governor for approval.

Executive Director Thomas Quinlan advised that the names have been submitted by the BSSA and OACP to the Governor's staff at Board and Commissions. Once they have selected the individuals for both vacancies, they will inform the commission.

Chair Stanforth advised that the commissioners need to keep in mind that they need to keep a quorum, and their attendance is vital as well as their input. He is hopeful that by the next commission meeting, they will have a full commission board. Chief Chabali was asked to serve as the chair of the Curriculum Committee, along with Ms. Leah Amstutz. That committee meets every time the full commission meets. They review the curriculum and make recommendations to the full commission. All these sub-committees are vital and complete a numerous amount of work to present recommendations to the full commission. Chief Chabali was also asked to serve on the Continuing Professional Training Committee as

chair with Lieutenant James Fitsko and Ms. Wynette Carter-Smith. Lieutenant James Fitsko serves as chair of the Legislative Committee along with Ms. Wynette Carter-Smith and with Ms. Leah Amstutz. He would like to have an additional commissioner due to Sheriff Heldman leaving a vacant seat on that committee. He asked if anyone on the board would be willing to serve on the Legislative Committee.

Ms. Leah Amstutz stated she would volunteer.

Chair Stanforth asked if anyone on the board would be willing to serve on the Curriculum Committee.

Ms. Wynette Carter-Smith stated she would volunteer.

Chair Stanforth stated that the committee assignments are as follows:

Curriculum Committee

Chief Robert Chabali, Chairperson

Ms. Leah Amstutz

Wynette Carter-Smith

Legislative Committee

Lt. James Fitsko, Chairperson

Ms. Wynette Carter-Smith

Ms. Leah Amstutz

House Committee

Colonel, Charles Jones Chairperson

Chief Robert Chabali

SAC Gregory Nelsen

Continuing Professional Training Committee

Chief Robert Chabali, Chairperson

Lt. James Fitsko

Ms. Wynette Carter-Smith

C. Continuing Professional Training Committee Report

Chair Stanforth advised there was no report.

D. Curriculum Committee Report

Chief Robert Chabali stated there is a report and will defer to Dr. Erica Wilson.

Executive Director Thomas Quinlan stated that there are handouts on the table if anyone wants a copy of what she is presenting.

Dr. Erica Wilson, Director of Curriculum and Development stated the Education sub-committee discussed Curriculum changes for Peace Officer Basic which includes 1 program, 18 lesson plans and 187 hours of Curriculum. There are 13 lesson plans that have been updated, 56 hours removed, and 72 hours were added based off the Blue-Ribbon Task Force recommendation. She explained that

1-1 Intro to Basic Training- full topic review; no SPO changes

1-2 Intro to Policing – full topic review; Slight update to SPOs #2, #3, #4 and #5. However, there should be no changes to the test questions.

3-2 Blue Courage- removed topic from POBT curriculum per the Blue-Ribbon Task Force report of 02-21-2024.

3-2 Incident Debrief, 3-9 Basic Communication, 3-10 Interpersonal Communication, 3-11 Mediation Communication have all been added per the Blue-Ribbon Task Force report. They will have new SPOs added.

7-1 First Aid/CPR/AED added due to the recommendation to delay removal contingent upon ICAT implementation scheduled for January 2026

8-3 Active Shooter/ Threat Response is also a new topic recommended by the Blue-Ribbon Task Force. That will also have new SPOs.

10-2 Motor Vehicle Offenses there were changes made as of a result of the passage of House Bill 56, number of SPOs unchanged.

10-5 Uniform Traffic Ticket- full review, no SPO changes.

10-6 NHTSA Speed Measuring Device was removed from POBT curriculum per the Blue-Ribbon Task Force.

10-8 NHTSA SFST updated to the current new 2023 version that was released on their website. There are no SPO changes.

13-2 Bombs & Explosives- full topic review to include adding verbiage of “an IED, bomb, and/or explosive devices” to SPOs #3, #4, #5. That should not change the test questions.

13-4 ICS- added due to the recommendation to delay removal contingent upon ICAT implementation scheduled for January 2026. Executive Director Quinlan secured funding for our trainers and trainers in the field at various academies to receive ICAT training.

13-5 NIMS added due to the recommendation to delay removal contingent upon ICAT implementation scheduled for January 2026.

She advised that this spring, summer and winter that training will be conducted. Therefore, train-the-trainer will be happening throughout the year.

Executive Director Thomas Quinlan stated that ICAT is under the Police Executive Forum which is a proprietary model. To receive certification an individual needs to travel to Decatur, Illinois. There was a delay in negotiating with Criminal Justice Assistance to bring the training to Ohio to facilitate training for 150 academy commanders and instructors to serve over 59 academies. The cost to cover that amount of training would be too excessive . Therefore, continued negotiations; they are now at a point where they have provided us with 30 seats. There will be five seats in March, five seats in April, 10 seats in May and 10 in June. They will send individuals from all academies around Ohio to Decatur, Illinois under a grant from the Bureau of Justice Assistance and have then trained as master trainers. They will then come back to Ohio and have until the end of the year to train the adequate staff for their academy in their basic curriculum. That will be implemented in January 2026.

Dr. Erica Wilson, Director of Curriculum and Development, advised that due to the changes of topics, this will mean the order of topics will change as well. Due to the inclusion of 3-2 Incident Debrief Training, they are asking for this to be taught after 12-2 Critical Incident Stress Awareness. Also, 3-9 Basic Communication must be completed within the first 80 hours and serves as pre-requisite for 3-10 Interpersonal Communication and 3-11 Mediation Communication. They are asking that 3-10 Interpersonal Communication be a pre-requisite for 3-3 Domestic Violence, 3-4 Crisis Intervention, 8-5 Stops and Approaches and 3-11 Mediation Communication. They are asking that 3-11 Mediation Communication be taught after 3-9 Basic Communication and 3-10 Interpersonal Communication and there is no order in which it needs to be taught within the rest of the academy. Lastly, 8-3 Active Shooter Threat Response, they are asking that they be taught after 8-4 Building Searches, with no less than 40 hours of firearms training. There are some Instructor Qualification Guideline updates as well that which will be discussed next.

Arturo DeLeon Director of Professional Standards stated the

Incident Debrief Training Qualifications (3-2):

Option One: Licensed Clinical Psychologist, Certified Clinical, Certified/Licensed Counselor, or Licensed Therapist with trauma treatment, PTSD or first responder wellness certifications. (Special Instructor)

Option Two: Advanced training course in subject matter within 5 years, minimum 8 hours- or- 5 years of full-time law enforcement experience, including at least 3 years of SWAT experience with an agency or multi-jurisdiction team, verification letter from agency CEO required. (BAS Instructor); Advanced Training Example: FTO, First Line Supervisor Training.

Basic Communication Course Qualifications (3-9):

Option One: Master's degree in communications or a related field with a concentration in communication. (Special Instructor)

Option Two: CIT Instructor, bachelor's degree or FBI/NA graduate, with 5 years of full-time law enforcement experience. (Special Instructor)

Option Three: Instructional Skills certification, CIT Instructor, completion of a college-level communications course (technical or advanced), and 5 years of full-time law enforcement experience. (BAS Instructor)

Interpersonal Communication (3-10):

Option One: Master's degree in communications or a related field with a concentration in communication. (Special Instructor)

Option Two: CIT Instructor, bachelor's degree or FBI/NA graduate, with 5 years of full-time law enforcement experience. (Special Instructor)

Option Three: Instructional Skills certification, CIT Instructor, completion of a college-level communications course (technical or advanced), and 5 years of full-time law enforcement experience. (BAS Instructor)

Chair Stanforth stated that he did not understand what Mr. DeLeon is talking about.

Arturo DeLeon Director of Professional Standards apologized and explained that those are the Instructor Qualifications for 3-9 Basic Communication, 3-10 Interpersonal Communication and 3-11 Mediation Communication.

Chair Stanforth asked if the commissioners were provided with the information to follow along.

Arturo DeLeon Director of Professional Standards stated that he did not provide a copy of the Instructor Guidelines. What he described were the qualifications that are needed to teach those topics at the basic academy level.

Executive Director Thomas Quinlan stated that every subject is presented on the audit sheet. The Subject Matter Experts help to create the curriculum and what the qualifications should be to present that material and that they have some background knowledge of the topic. These qualifications are making sure that have some college level training or instructor skills as well as training in presenting the material to a basic cadets where learning is being transferred.

Ms. Leah Amstutz stated that she did ask the Curriculum Committee if there was a concern about what would be the impact on current academy instructors. It was stated that these changes should not impact on the instructors that are already in the academies based on the training they already have.

Arturo DeLeon Director of Professional Standards stated that what he mentioned are advanced training courses that OPOTA offers or most instructors in the basic academies level already have that would be applicable to these new topics.

Chief Robert Chabali asked if this information will be released in conferences throughout the state.

Arturo DeLeon Director of Professional Standards confirmed that they will have it before the conferences as soon as the commission approves it.

Chair Stanforth asked the commissioners if they had a clue what he was discussing.

Lieutenant James Fitsko stated that he does. However, he wants to make sure that they are not making it difficult for these academies. He does not want to put academies in a position where they cannot find instructors.

Arturo DeLeon Director of Professional Standards stated that it was some of the work that he accomplished with the help of Dr. Erica Wilson's team. They took the advice of the subject matter expert's recommendations, as well as with his staff, to determine what training already exists that they could use therefore no instructor is scrambling to accomplish these trainings. They can use their existing training in transition to these new topics.

Chief Robert Chabali asked if there would be new SPOs.

Arturo DeLeon Director of Professional Standards stated that everything he just announced are Instructor Guidelines and Qualifications for the new topics that would have new SPOs.

SAC Gregory Nelsen asked if there were any academies that would not have instructors if this change were made.

Arturo DeLeon Director of Professional Standards stated that if there was an instance where an academy does not have an individual that meets any of the guidelines and qualifications, they have until July to do so. They have until that time to find the training or OPOTA can work with

them to look for training that is applicable. If they have training outside of OPOTA, OPOTA can evaluate to see if it fits into these criteria. They have always been flexible in evaluating equitable training to apply and teach at the basic academy levels.

Chief Robert Chabali asked if trainers would not be allowed to train after July 1st.

Arturo DeLeon Director of Professional Standards advised that by July 1st academies should have trainers certified in these new topics. He believes that between now and July they will actively work with those individuals to evaluate the training they have and see what is applicable.

SAC Gregory Nelsen stated that what he is hearing is that they are being proactive and identifying someone who may not have a trainer and reaching out to them and making them aware of these changes.

Arturo DeLeon Director of Professional Standards advised to look at Communications Courses, Option Two: requires a CIT Instructor. Academies already have CIT Training, which normally comes in the form of an instructor level course. Some instructors already have some level of training in that already. There are some qualifications within the guidelines that already call for at least a college level course withing communications or writing. Therefore, they have been able to evaluate transcripts of individuals that hold bachelor's degree or associate degrees.

Chair Stanforth asked again if the committee members have a copy of this paperwork. They didn't have the information in front of them and that is problematic. He stated that he is expecting them to vote on something which they do not have the access to.

Arturo DeLeon Director of Professional Standards apologized for not providing them with access to the document. He stated he could provide a copy of the document and discuss this once they all had a copy of the document. A copy was provided to all commissioners at this time.

Chair Stanforth stated that the question that was asked earlier was whether the academies are more than likely to have these people in place.

Arturo DeLeon Director of Professional Standards stated he did not want to tie the community to just those that hold 80-hour instructional skills. Therefore, there are two different options for those individuals that may not have gone through the instructional skills course. They might be able to get an individual who is a clinician who is already licensed or an individual who already holds a master's in communication that wouldn't require the 80-hour instructional skills.

Chair Stanforth stated that there was discussion before about reducing the 80-hour course.

Executive Director Thomas Quinlan confirmed it has been reduced to 56 hours this calendar year.

Chair Stanforth stated for an individual to become a certified instructor they would have to complete the 56-hour course. Therefore, anyone who already has the 80-hour course would not have to complete any updates. There shouldn't be anyone with the 40-hour course.

Executive Director Thomas Quinlan confirmed. Everyone training as of now has at least the 40-hour with the 14-hour update

Lieutenant James Fitsko asked if they are transitioning to the 56-hour course, should the language be reflected as such.

Executive Director Thomas Quinlan agreed, it should reflect, have completed the instructional skills course. He stated by law that it must be the 40-hour course per Ohio Administrative Code.

Lieutenant James Fitsko asked if that language could be removed.

Executive Director Thomas Quinlan confirmed that it will be updated to reflect that they must be POBT certified instructors with instructor skills.

SAC Gregory Nelsen asked if they identified those courses that will not have instructors between now and July.

Arturo DeLeon Director of Professional Standards stated that he has not looked at the advanced training course catalog. However, most of the courses he has mentioned already exist.

Robert Strausbaugh, Director of Advanced Training stated the regionals have those courses and they are also offered here at OPOTA.

Chair Stanforth wanted to confirm that they are getting out the message on where those courses are available. Therefore, everyone knows where to send their people to get trained.

Robert Strausbaugh, Director of Advanced Training advised it's in the course catalog and they have been for a long time and they will also be adding more. They have been offered at all the six regionals since last year.

Chair Stanforth stated that he keeps hearing there aren't enough instructional skills courses available. He wants to make sure that everyone is informed that these courses are available.

Robert Strausbaugh, Director of Advanced Training stated if any chiefs or sheriffs come to him and ask about instructional skills courses, he can instruct them to visit OPOTA Online, in-person catalog.

Chair Stanforth stated that these questions are going to be asked in the future. He is asking now therefore he knows what to advise individuals when asked.

Dr. Erica Wilson, Director of Curriculum and Development stated that the reason why a copy of the Instructor Qualification Guidelines was not provided is because the Education

Committee ran over and there wasn't enough time to make the updates for the commission meeting.

Arturo DeLeon Director of Professional Standards stated that what the commissioners are looking at now are the Instructor Guidelines for the new topics. Basically, what instructors need to teach in those new topics.

SAC Gregory Nelsen stated they looked very similar.

Arturo DeLeon Director of Professional Standards stated that as you look through the specifications, he wanted to advise that he had the certification staff contact commanders to receive recommendations on how to implement these changes. He wanted to ensure that instructors will be able to submit applications and be granted the ability to teach these topics at the academy level by July of 2025, except for ICAT. That ultimately was his goal when he strategically developed the instructor guidelines for who could teach them. Therefore, you will see a variety of options from special instructors and individuals who already possess the soon-to-be 56-hour instructional skills course.

Chair Stanforth asked if he could clarify the CIT Instructor.

Executive Director Thomas Quinlan clarified that during the Curriculum Sub-Committee that was address and there wasn't time to have that updated before the commission meeting. That was a misprint, it is not a CIT Instructor, it is a CIT Certified Officer. It is an individual who has been through a CIT course and has the requisite skills to teach this. They do not have to be a CIT Instructor, only someone who has completed CIT training. Therefore, anywhere on that document where it states CIT Instructor, it should reflect CIT certified.

Chair Stanforth asked if that would qualify them to be an instructor.

Executive Director Thomas Quinlan stated that would give them the skills to teach communications.

Chair Stanforth asked if that effectively transitions to instructional skills as one of several options. He also asked if that it was "and" or "or".

Arturo DeLeon Director of Professional Standards stated that option one and two are special instructor qualification. Those would be individuals that do not possess instructional skills course, but possess the qualifications in one and two.

Lieutenant James Fitsko asked if that would still be CIT Instructor.

Arturo DeLeon Director of Professional Standards stated that it is incorrect. The CIT Instructor is a miss print. He stated that CIT Instructor should reflect CIT training.

Dr. Erica Wilson, Director of Curriculum and Development stated that that is an error, and the language will be corrected after the commission meeting.

Chair Stanforth stated that in option two it states, “CIT Training, or bachelor’s degree, or FBI/NA”. He asked if they must meet all those criteria or just meet one of those.

Arturo DeLeon Director of Professional Standards stated CIT Training and a bachelor’s degree, or FBI/NA graduate, with 5 years law enforcement experience, without instructional skills.

Chair Stanforth stated when this is presented, it is clear to understand.

Arturo DeLeon Director of Professional Standards stated that a future option they would like to have is a Communication Instructor Course.

Chair Stanforth asked if there was a time frame.

Arturo DeLeon Director of Professional Standards stated there is not a time frame at this point. They would have to work with Advanced Training for this to be developed.

Chair Stanforth stated he is in favor of this being developed due to making this much easier.

Dr. Erica Wilson, Director of Curriculum and Development stated that was the idea, because the turn over to get those courses done took some time. Therefore, they are finalizing the basic communication courses and after they complete the 44-hour courses, she will work with the deputy director of advance training to develop the advance training instructor’s course. That will be a 44-hour communication course, an instructor level course that has teach back, therefore they can learn the curriculum and are able to teach this out in the field.

Executive Director Thomas Quinlan stated that the other options were to allow in the interim other routes to become instructors since it takes effect in July. Until that course is developed and presented.

Arturo DeLeon Director of Professional Standards stated he will continue with 3-11, Mediation Communication.

Mediation Communication (3-11):

Option One: Master’s degree in communications or a related field with a concentration in communication. (Special Instructor)

Option Two: CIT Instructor, bachelor’s degree of FBI/NA graduate, with 5 years of full-time law enforcement experience. (Special Instructor)

Option Three: Instructional Skills certification, CIT Instructor, completion of a college-level communications course (technical or advanced), and 5 years of full-time law enforcement experience. (BAS Instructor)

Active Shooter/ Threat Response (8-3)

Option One: Advanced Building Search Instructor & SORAT Operator Training (BAS Instructor).

Option Two: Advanced Building Search Training & SORAT Instructor (BAS Instructor).

Chair Stanforth asked him to explain SORAT.

Executive Director Thomas Quinlan clarified that SORAT is Single Officer Response to Active Threats or an instructor in either course certifies you with the other course being an operator course.

Chair Stanforth asked who certifies those two categories and what the process is.

Executive Director Thomas Quinlan stated that can be done at OPTOA or at any of the regional programs they have. Once those courses are completed, those get added on to their BAS certificate as another course they are qualified to teach.

Arturo DeLeon Director of Professional Standards confirmed that these are topics most BAS instructors already have which can be carried over into this topic.

Chief Robert Chabali asked if 8-4, Crisis Intervention can still be taught with CIT training received through NAMI, ADAMH, or a mental health board.

Arturo DeLeon Director of Professional Standards stated that is correct and that has not changed.

Dr. Erica Wilson, Director of Curriculum and Development stated that the next topic is the 109 Fire Investigator- Minor License Template. The recommendation is to change the name of the Court Officer Basic to Public Safety Firearms Certification. The change request is to add fire investigators to the curriculum.

Arturo DeLeon Director of Professional Standards stated that due to the change in law, they are now required to include fire investigators in the category. Individuals eligible to carry firearms have now expanded, they decided to be more inclusive in the certificate title that is labeled as to reflect all individuals through that training. This will include probation officers, bailiffs, certain correctional staff, fire tactical medics and now will fire investigators.

Dr. Erica Wilson, Director of Curriculum and Development stated this will be updated from Court Officer Basic to Public Safety Firearms Certification. This will include having a summary of the changes page, explaining the change request due to Senate Bill 98.

Brian Malachowsky, Senior Assistant Attorney General stated two things that need to be addressed. The first being the acceptance of the Court Officer Basic Training will be applied to the fire investigators. Secondly, later today you will review and vote on the rules for those and they are also changing the name of that license.

Chair Stanforth stated that he suggests presenting a motion now, that way it doesn't need to be explained again later.

Lieutenant James Fitsko asked if those who have a Court Officer Basic Training Certificate must do anything extra for the Public Safety Firearms Certification.

Dr. Erica Wilson, Director of Curriculum and Development stated they do not. This new name change is to be inclusive to the fire investigators.

Motion: A motion to accept the Curriculum Update release to add the Blue-Ribbon Task Force courses by Chief Robert Chabali. Leah Amstutz seconded the motion. A vote was taken and passed unanimously. Yes- 7, No- 0, Absent- 1.

Motion: A motion to accept the 109 Fire Investigator- Minor License Template by Chief Robert Chabali. Wynette Carter-Smith seconded the motion. A vote was taken and passed unanimously. Yes- 7, No- 0, Absent- 1.

Motion: A motion to change the name of Court Officer Basic Training to Public Safety Firearms Certification by Chief Robert Chabali. Colonel Charles Jones seconded the motion. A vote was taken and passed unanimously. Yes- 7, No- 0, Absent- 1.

Chair Stanforth asked if this information was available to commanders. He stated he has had a lot of conversations regarding questions pertaining to this.

Arturo DeLeon Director of Professional Standards stated that they have one without new topics. He stated it's available online for them to view.

Dr. Erica Wilson, Director of Curriculum and Development confirmed that the Instructor Qualifications is available online and if they have questions, they can contact their certification specialist to be walked through the document.

Chair Stanforth stated that the information is available. However, they need to know where to look for it.

E. House Committee Report

Coronel Charles Jones stated that at the Nov. 14th meeting a motion was passed to nominate Chief Clayton Harris as the OPOTC Vice Chair. However, there were some issues with his expiration date and his term expired September 20th, 2024. Chief Clayton Harris is not seeking reappointment; therefore, they will need to appoint a vice chair.

Chair Stanforth stated that the committee can recommend someone. If the committee does not choose to, then the chair can recommend someone. He would like to refer it back to the committee to decide.

Coronel Charles Jones opened the discussion for nominations from the committee for vice chair. Hearing none, he volunteered to be the vice chair.

Chair Stanforth stated that Coronel Charles Jones has volunteered and asked if anyone would entertain a motion for this recommendation.

SAC Gregory Nelsen stated he would make the motion to nominate Coronel Charles Jones.

Chair Stanforth asked if there were other nominations. Hearing none the nominations will be closed.

Motion: A motion for Coronel Charles Jones to be Vice Chair for the year 2025 by SAC Gregory Nelsen. Lieutenant James Fitsko seconded the motion. A vote was taken and passed unanimously. Yes- 6, No- 0, Sustained- 1, Absent- 1.

Chair Stanforth wanted to discuss the scheduled quarterly meetings. He asked if they were still appropriate, which typically lasted about two hours. He also asked if the committee meetings are still comfortable with the scheduling. He stated that the committees do not have to wait for the full commission to meet. They have the power to meet at any point. They can meet prior to the full commission meeting, if that works. He also asked if committees were able to meet virtually.

Scott Helkowski, Principal Assistant Attorney General stated there was a new law that passed that allows virtual meetings. However, there are certain categories with exceptions. He stated he would have to go back and review the law to verify we are abiding by it.

Chair Stanforth stated he doesn't know how practical that would be and if that is even an option for the commission.

Dr. Erica Wilson, Director of Curriculum and Development stated that if there are any emergency updates or legal updates for the curriculum, there will be a need to have a sub-committee meeting. Therefore, that may need to occur before the next May commission meeting. Typically, they will have Denise email the committee advising there will be emergency updates that need released and schedule a date to have the meeting. She states that they might have to wait until March to obtain the information about the virtual laws.

Scott Helkowski, Principal Assistant Attorney General stated that the virtual law will take effect in March. However, before you can conduct a virtual meeting, there will need to be a policy adopted by the board for a virtual meeting and in place. He stated the committee is not obligated to meet prior to the full commission. They can meet whenever they want as long as they follow the notice requirements for public notice beforehand.

Dr. Erica Wilson, Director of Curriculum and Development stated that they will try their best to keep the meetings an hour prior to the full commission.

Chair Stanforth stated that if the subcommittee needs more time to meet, they can always have a longer meeting. Therefore, the commission could always meet later, rather than 10am.

Ms. Wynette Carter-Smith asked if they needed to create a policy to have in place in case they needed to meet virtually.

Chair Stanforth stated that the house committee will take care of that with legal counsel.

Coronel Charles Jones confirmed they would.

F. Legislative Committee Report

Lieutenant Fitsko advised nothing to report today. However, he will be attending a lobby day at the state house on April 2nd. He will have an update at the next meeting.

G. Commission and Academy Report

Executive Director Thomas Quinlan stated that there is a new employee assigned to general services, Clifford Edington. He wanted to thank the curriculum committee for completing the 8 CPT mandatory courses and having them available online. Both the written lesson plan and the video are available online. He also informed that they have recommended to the school commanders to incorporate the virtual reality resources into their academy curriculum lesson plans. There are virtual reality courses that are applicable to different lessons. Another thing that they are doing is working with Pastor, Eddie Parker which will bring in the community perspective. That is being added into lesson plans, therefore there is a community component added due to this being a part of the officers' career and profession.

This will be part of the expectation on how they engage the community. This is a unique component in law enforcement training and is proud to be in the front of training.

Richard Butsko, Assistant Executive Director stated that the Blue-Ribbon Task Force-Tactical Patrol Officer Program offered its first class, Critical Incident Leadership class at the LETS Conference. It had 30 students attending. The biggest progress in that program is with the Active Shooter Response as part of this program and with the Ohio Tactical Officers Association, they have run 43 classes at no cost to the students around the state. This is also eligible for 8 hours of CPT per day, which is a two-day class. There are still 15 more classes being offered. They have offered almost a million dollars of free training to law enforcement officers since this program started. The Close to Home Program or also known as the Regional Training Providers, the RFQ to re-bid this project has been launched. The bidding process ends March 6th. There are currently 9 Regional Provider locations around the state. However, there have been requests to add a seventh location. There is a need for one in the southeast portion of Ohio.

Chair Stanforth asked him to explain the Close to Home Program for those who don't know what that is.

Richard Butsko, Assistant Executive Director stated they have regional training partners locations throughout the state. The six are Lorain, Kent State University, Owens, Great Oaks, Hocking and Clark State University. They are considering a seventh due to officers requesting it due to them expressing that the training is too far away.

Chair Stanforth asked if they were actively searching for a seventh or were they coming to them.

Richard Butsko, Assistant Executive Director stated there are two providers currently interested. It's a competitive process and there is a bidding process that needs to be followed. The K9 Evaluator Program has been redone due to the canine community not being satisfied with the work that was done. Therefore, all the canine evaluators were contacted and they all met virtually. They were involved in reviewing the lesson plan and making sure the changes they wanted were included and their voice was heard. The feedback that has been received is tremendously positive.

Brian Malachowsky, Senior Assistant Attorney General stated that the commission adopted the draft rules for the new license earlier in the meeting and he wanted to inform the commission that there will be a few more things like that throughout the year. The rest of the year they will focus on implementing the changes from the Blue-Ribbon Task Force that was approved of last year. They will see a lot more legal changes for the OAC. Lastly, there will also be a 119 hearing this year. As they continue to process the out of state licenses, they will probably have a numerous amount of these challenges.

Chair Stanforth asked if they acted on the option to have a hearing officer.

Scott Helkowski, Principal Assistant Attorney General stated that the board can designate a hearing officer. They will provide the board with a recommendation to either be adopted or modified. The appellant does have ten days to file objections to the report and recommendation. He asked if they had a continuous amount of 119 hearings and if so, how long do they take and if it's even an option to designate one.

Chair Stanforth stated that traditionally they do not have a lot of hearing. However, they have seen the depth of the challenges and complaints. The issue that occurred over the last year was a 119 hearing that kept being pushed back. It took months to accomplish this 119 hearing in its entirety.

Ms. Leah Amstutz asked if it would be a full-time employee if they designated a hearing officer or would be a contractual at need basis.

Scott Helkowski, Principal Assistant Attorney General stated they have a list of individuals who are hearing officers. Once chosen they are contracted on an hourly basis to conduct the hearing and write up the report and recommendation. That would be an added expense to the commission with the work being done as well as a transcript being completed by a court reporter. They are basically treated as independent contractors and hired on a case by case basis.

Chair Stanforth stated that if a hearing officer was designated, it could be that they are not qualified to do the 119-hearing based on the different set of OAC they have to abide by.

Scott Helkowski, Principal Assistant Attorney General stated there are certain hearing officers that have certain expertise in a specific areas. However, you could request certain credentials from attorneys who wish to apply.

Chair Stanforth stated the expense is already built in for transcripts. However, the additional expense is for the hearing officer and that is not in the budget.

Scott Helkowski, Principal Assistant Attorney General stated it's the agencies budget because they are acting on your behalf.

Lieutenant James Fitsko asked if they were anticipating more 119 hearings, or what changed.

Brian Malachowsky, Senior Assistant Attorney General stated it's primarily out of state applicants. The law itself is relatively new and as they process them, he is anticipating that there will probably be some denials. Therefore, that would be the change, as well as at risks officers. There will be more people asking for 119 hearings after that.

Chair Stanforth stated that a 119 will also cover someone who was denied an instructor certification or removed as an instructor.

Brian Malachowsky, Senior Assistant Attorney General stated that the legislature could pass the fire inspector. That might be another license that could come along, which seems like more and more things are getting tossed to OPOTA to regulate. Those could be potential denials that could come before the board.

Chief Robert Chabali asked if a hearing officer is selected, will they be hired via a mutual agreement.

Scott Helkowski, Principal Assistant Attorney General stated they are treated an independent contractor and have a contract or agreement.

Lieutenant James Fitsko asked if an individual requested to have their hearing heard in front of the full commission versus a hearing officer.

Scott Helkowski, Principal Assistant Attorney General stated no, they cannot. It's ultimately the determination of the commission. However, they can still come in front of the commission when the recommendation is submitted, and the commission would have the opportunity to accept or reject that. The applicant also can address the commission at that point and speak to the commission. The final action is done by the commission and then issues the final order.

Chair Stanforth stated that if the commission conducts the hearing, then the burden of proof falls on Scott's staff or the hearing officer.

Scott Helkowski, Principal Assistant Attorney General stated the order will have to be issued anyway. There must be a final order from the commission. That would be something the commission would prepare. If the commission chooses to reject the hearing officer's recommendation, the commission will need to articulate the reasons why. This is due to the requirement in the 119 to do so.

Ms. Wynette Carter-Smith stated she is not opposed to continuing to conduct the 119 hearing as usual, with the full commission. He suggested they can review this topic again if they start to receive a numerous amount of 119 hearings.

Chair Stanforth stated they if they continue with the same process, there will be no need for a motion. If there isn't a motion they at least had a discussion, and for now it will remain the same.

SAC Gregory Nelsen stated that if the option of a hearing officer is considered, it could take thousands of dollars per hearing. This money would need to be put aside for all these

hearings. He agrees that at this moment the best option is to continue with the commission conducting the hearings.

Cynthia Peterson, Principal Assistant Attorney General stated that public records continues to be requested at a high amount. She stated that in 2024 there were 1,006 total public records requests. OPOTA had 544 of those records requests. As of this year, in 2025 there has been 118 requests, OPTOA had 60 of those requests. That information is important because of the things that the commission decides are in the public eye. They receive requests for new and old lesson plans, use of force, deadly use of force involving law enforcement. Anytime law enforcement is in the media, they immediately receive a public records request. It's a big job and there is one person who does it and she oversees it. The legal team is also going to be attending the Commanders Conferences. She will be presenting the topic of web checks at the Commanders Conferences. Lastly, one of the services IADLEST offers is the NDI, it's the National De-certification Index. OPOTA uses this to report any officers who are revoked or have voluntarily surrender their certificate pursuant to negotiations during a criminal matter. This allows agencies to search for officers who have lost their Basic Officer Certificate in another state due to some sort of misconduct or due to a criminal conviction.

Executive Director Thomas Quinlan stated that the NDI has an interest of the White House, which asked post directors around the country to brief them on success stories of the NDI. Ohio is one of four states that presented success stories. He presented a story on an individual who sought out an out of state license, that would have been approved. However, after finding his information on the NDI, he failed to disclose one agency where he was terminated due to misconduct. Therefore, there had been no way to find this information without conducting an NDI search. He was denied the license due to failing to disclose that information on the application. OPOTA does use this tool and expects academies to use this tool as well when agencies, when hiring individuals. This will help to avoid hiring individuals who are coming from out of state who are trying to become Ohio Peace officers and leave an agency in lieu of termination or misconduct. OPOTA only reports officers who have been decertified. However, you can place Brady people on there, who are prohibited from testifying, as well as people who have been suspended. They can also put people who are currently in cease function, however, OPOTA does not. Agencies should be reporting individuals who leave in lieu of termination.

Arturo DeLeon Director of Professional Standards stated he had some statistics he would like to provide for the commission.

- 60 total running academies throughout the state
- 1,034 total students attending those academies. An average of about 17 students per academy.

- Since the new PT Standards have been implemented, there have been 85 officers who are now eligible for certification.

He is very happy with the changes that will be occurring at the Commanders Conference. They are getting curriculum and legal involved as well as him talking about changes to instructors. As well, as the technological advances that they are making to change the commander community to help build out their calendars. He is also working on the evaluator manual that will be coming out soon.

Executive Director Thomas Quinlan stated they have had a lot of inquiries about CPT 2025. He stated that under the Blue-Ribbon Task Force the recommendation that was accepted is that the state can reimburse you for the training any chief and sheriff can submit any training they would like. However, for the state to reimburse you it should be progressing the future of police training. They have narrowed the topics down to nine based on the commission's recommendations. The highest request are legal updates, case law, search and seizure, canines and drones throughout the whole state.

Brittany Brashears, CPT Manager stated he had some statistics he would like to provide for the commission.

- For 2024 there have been 551 officers in cease functioning. They are going through those to get them out of that status.
- The total amount that was paid out in 2024 was \$28,136,427.85
- That paid out for 819,148 hours of completed training
- In 2024 there were 1,284 CPT Pre-approval applications that were approved. 551 of those were 3rd parties. 291 have been approved for 2025.

Executive Director Thomas Quinlan stated that there's still twelve million dollars for the last two years that is still budgeted for that.

Chair Stanforth asked where that money goes.

Executive Director Thomas Quinlan stated if it's not used, it disappears. There is a forty-million-dollar budget, what is not spent goes back to the state's general funds. As OPOTA Commission and Academy, we are not allowed to spend that money. They are provided 50 thousand to administer the program. He is hoping there are OAC changes to allow them to use the unspent resource.

Chair Stanforth stated that within the legislature, they are creating a body to oversee the commission. He asked if this was correct.

Executive Director Thomas Quinlan stated they are proposing a board of review separate from what they do.

Brian Malachowsky, Senior Assistant Attorney General stated the bill is in the first committee hearing. Now it is just a legislative study commission, and it does touch your law at all. It will be members of the House and the Senate getting together and hiring their own staff to issue recommendations. It's basically for the members of the General Assembly to study law enforcement and issue recommendations. It's not touching anything from this body.

Chair Stanforth asked if they are reviewing CPT.

Executive Director Thomas Quinlan stated its separate. The issue will come down to funding. They may make recommendations and issue funds for that. That will not come to OPOTA, or it could be an unfunded mandate that will come to OPOTA.

Brian Malachowsky, Senior Assistant Attorney General stated the legislature will be funding a legislative subcommittee. They are not touching the AG's funding stream at all; it's the legislature appointing their own smaller body within the legislature.

Ms. Leah Amstutz asked if the funding stream for CPT is in the biennium budget.

Executive Director Thomas Quinlan Governor DeWine added forty million dollars into the budget for permanent funding source, as of now its biennium. They do not know if it will be renewed. He is recommending that it become permanent. However, as it's written currently that amount is still one hundred percent for reimbursement of salaries for officers attending training. Zero money goes to OPOTA to create resources for training or delivery of that instruction.

Ms. Leah Amstutz asked if that was something that the AG's office can work with the General Assembly to get it infused as an amendment.

Executive Director Thomas Quinlan stated they are working with Corey Jordan to do that.

Anthony Traska, Director of Accreditation, STAR stated that at the end of 2024 the accreditation came to an end with CALEA. They are now credited for another four years through 2028. They are also looking at another option, which is IADLEST. This might be a better fit.

Executive Director Thomas Quinlan stated they are currently in the second stage of applications the administrative professional 2 position. They will be seeking additional curriculum personnel, e-learning personnel, and an additional certification specialist. All the seven recommendations are underway, either on their way and several are implemented. CPT training is available through virtual reality and through basic. They encourage them to be used at the academies for basic training. Season 1, which are six videos already out already out statewide. 2025 series additional six will be released to them within a week and lesson

plans will be completed and released. They have asked for grant funding for season 3 with a mobile vehicle included. The video is provided for training at no cost.

Lieutenant James Fitsko asked if this money is well spent on the virtual reality program.

Executive Director Thomas Quinlan wanted to inform the commission that

- 160 headsets deployed

- Approximately 130-140 instructors trained around the state to provide the training

- Almost another 100 headsets that agencies are individually purchasing on their own

What is not provided is how many are using this in their first line supervisor class, FTO or POBT classes.

Robert Strausbaugh, Director of Advanced Training stated that this program didn't start until half of last year. Therefore, it has been about seven months since it started. He has reached out to all the regional providers and there has been a form that has been developed. A better option would be online, which is what he'd currently working on. As of now, they fill out the forms, and if they loan them out to an agency who has a train instructor, they will track that. When the goggles come back to a regional, the agency will provide information regarding who watched them. They would also report if it was used to supplement a lesson plan. All the regionals have the capability to use it in their POBT academies. Currently Lorain and Kent State have both used it in their academies. Therefore, the reporting system for this program is relatively new. He does believe that this program is worth it because everybody who has watched them are exposed to a different type of experience. This program is more about soft skills and communications. Therefore, as the commanders report and the information is compiled, he projects that by 2026 there will be one thousand percent increase, which would be four thousand officers within the state. Officers that have experienced it have liked it. Chiefs have contacted him to inquire about purchasing the goggles themselves instead of borrowing them from regionals. If they buy the goggles with the same specifications, OPOTA's VR instructors will upload the videos on them. Lastly, the six regional providers will be offering the instructor course for this program as well.

Executive Director Thomas Quinlan stated at the very first class was last year in June. July and August they had training for those that were issued out. Therefore, they did not even have it in hand until July and August, which is before they started developing the course and putting course offerings out. At the end of the year there were approximately 1000 trained by the end of the year. There are twelve that are online and currently trying to work a thirteenth one which is a sexual strangulation video. Once they are all out and allow them to be used for CPT, the numbers will increase. The investment value will be better known at the end of 2025.

Chair Stanforth asked if he gets goggles and he decides to use them for his agency, OPOTA will upload the videos on them. Also, does it have to be taught to be an instructor.

Executive Director Thomas Quinlan stated it's formatted for Meta 3. If you have that system, they can transfer those files to the headset.

Robert Strausbaugh, Director of Advanced Training stated, yes it must be taught by an instructor. There is a de-briefing after the video that takes 45 minutes for one video. It's the debriefing where the value of the video comes from. The instructors are not only trained to operate the videos, but they are also trained in how to present the courses afterwards with case law being included.

Chair Stanforth stated that is what he wanted to know. The training is not just something you plug in and watch; there's more to the training.

Executive Director Thomas Quinlan stated once they get the initial course done, then they are creating a curriculum online that they will be able to receive report writing class from that. If they have already seen the headset, they can go online and receive additional CPT credits for those same videos.

Robert Strausbaugh, Director of Advanced Training stated that is why they are including the POBT numbers because there is value if you are watching scenario based training.

Executive Director Thomas Quinlan stated that the 2025 Ethics Training must be done this calendar year. Asked the commissioners to have that completed. Also, the 2025 Financial Disclosure form is now available online and the deadline is May 15, 2025.

Chair Stanforth stated that by law they are required to disclose CPT by October. The issue that is creating is that as a sheriff, he is required to submit his budget to the budget commission by June. Therefore, if this gets released by October he must go back and modify his budget. His question is whether there is a way to modify this date via the legislature, or could this information be released earlier than October.

Executive Director Thomas Quinlan stated there aren't any legislature changes needed. It says, to require in the subsequent year, they must notify agencies no later than October 15th. It was sent out in September last year. It was voted on in May, therefore there's nothing preventing them from having an early preview. The problem with May is, if it's in the biennium budget for July 1st for the following year, then the money won't be available, and the training won't be required. Therefore, under the Governors budget, it will be a permanent funding source from the marijuana tax. If that's the case, then they can send it out as early after the May meeting.

H. New Business

Chair Stanforth stated seeing none, will move on to old business.

I. Old Business

Chair Stanforth stated seeing none, will move on to old business.

J. Open Forum

Dr. Ruth Babez-Smith, Chair C.J.- Owens St Community College asked for clarification on the basic communication and if those college degrees must be specific to communication.

Arturo DeLeon Director of Professional Standards stated

Option One: Master's degree in communications **OR** a related field with a concentration in communication. (Special Instructor)

Ernie Oergel, Polaris Police Academy stated the commanders had a copy of the old instructor guidelines and the new ones were presented today. He stated they had no advanced notice of what the academies need for instructors to be eligible to teach. There are commanders here that currently do not have the ability to have a SORAT Instructor or a Building Search Instructor. They will need to get them trained before this takes effect. He is very confused about the guidelines.

Chair Stanforth stated in defense they cannot provide something in advance that is speculation. Once it's approved through the process then it goes to the commission, then the implementation process. He asked when this will be implemented.

Executive Director Thomas Quinlan stated July 1st.

Ernie Oergel, Polaris Police Academy asked if the guidelines will be out before the end of the week, as well as all the curricula.

Arturo DeLeon Director of Professional Standards confirmed.

Ernie Oergel, Polaris Police Academy stated that the expectation is to have the new curriculum by May and the people who are willing to instruct this and have them ready to

teach by July. He requested for this to be delayed. He asked other commanders to attend, therefore, he's not the only one requesting this. He believes this needs to be updated, however he feels that it's rushed.

Chair Stanforth asked if it's implemented in July, and the curriculum be released in May, or anything taught after July 1st, that is not enough time for commanders.

Ernie Oergel, Polaris Police Academy he stated that his academy doesn't start until late August. However, there are academies that start in early June. You must apply 21 days in advance to start an academy class. This will mean in the early part of June you must have instructors ready and the calendar in place.

Dr. Erica Wilson, Director of Curriculum and Development stated that they typically release the lesson plans on May 1st on the OPOTA Portal for them to have for July. They used to do them twice a year. However, years ago they agreed to release just the one July release for curriculum, unless there are emergency legal updates.

Executive Director Thomas Quinlan stated that February 21st of 2024 the Attorney General adopted this, and it was approved by the commission on May 9th of 2024. The curriculum team went to work and built the courses and submitted them to the commission for approval as built. It will come out in May, if you start in late August, you will have that time to prepare. However, some of the courses won't be presented until after Building Searches or Firearms. Therefore, you might not even present these until November or December in your academy. It should be ample time to have instructors get up to speed with the training.

Ernie Oergel, Polaris Police Academy stated he is correct. That Building Searches don't start until April or May. However, when he turns in his opening schedule, he must have certified instructors in August.

Executive Director Thomas Quinlan stated that OPOTA will work with them on that because they know it's a big change. Therefore, on opening audit they will work with them on making sure that they allow adequate time to identify instructors in a new skill set, which won't be taught until April or May of the following year.

Chair Stanforth asked what an adequate timeframe for him would be.

Ernie Oergel, Polaris Police Academy stated January would be an adequate timeframe for implementation.

Executive Director Thomas Quinlan stated this was announced back in the May 2024 meeting that these were the topics. You didn't have the curriculum, however, could have identified instructors that would be capable of teaching certain topics.

Ernie Oergel, Polaris Police Academy stated other commanders that have the same view or want to ask questions cannot, due to the Teams link not allowing them to ask questions.

Chair Stanforth stated what could occur if individuals asked questions and the commission would review and answer those questions. It would not be interactive. It would not fall under the new law.

Scott Helkowski, Principal Assistant Attorney General confirmed it would not fall under the new virtual law.

Ernie Oergel, Polaris Police Academy asked about individuals that are getting nauseous due to the virtual reality.

Executive Director Thomas Quinlan stated it is not for everyone. However, individuals are sitting versus standing.

Doug Daniels- Southern State Community College stated that he completed the report writing for CPT and he wanted to inform you that the lesson plans were not too bad. However, PowerPoint did not coincide with the lesson plans. They were too far ahead of PowerPoint. Also, the videos they could not access or were not available. This was for CPT videos.

Dr. Erica Wilson, Director of Curriculum and Development stated that OPOTA does not provide PowerPoints for any of them. However, sometimes those links are broken. He also asked if there are lesson plans for the CPT topics.

Executive Director Thomas Quinlan stated they are being created in the VR supplement courses. They have never provided other non-mandatory courses. They only provided online courses for 8 hours.

Dr. Erica Wilson, Director of Curriculum and Development stated the 8 mandatory hours are provided in written lesson plans. The additional 16 hours were never mandated to write those lesson plans.

Mark Preuss- Great Oaks Police Academy stated there is a report writing lesson plan from 2023 where the link doesn't work. However, his plan was to use virtual reality scenario and have them write a report from that. He wants OPOTA to have flexibility due to the new guidelines.

Commander Brad Copeland- NCSC Mansfield stated he currently does not have instructors that are qualified. He would like the requirement to start in January.

Ms. Wynette Carter-Smith asked if the timeline could be moved to January.

Ms. Leah Amstutz stated that anytime you have any type of change, there will always be resistance. However, these things are necessary to the training academies in ensuring that they continue to develop peace officers. Delaying it would put them further behind that

standpoint. Staff will be flexible with academies and if the deadline is moved now, then it will continue to move.

Executive Director Thomas Quinlan the date is set for July 1st. The date that is always used is July 1st.

Robert Mangan- Cleveland Police Academy stated it's difficult to have instructors trained and to have a correct student ratio.

Patrick Greenhill-Polaris Police Academy asked that for those who do not have the OTOA classes, but have the commensurate classes, would the state accept those in lieu. Or would he have to go back and take the specific OTOA classes.

Executive Director Thomas Quinlan stated what was created is a certification program that is recognized in the portal that you have designation under this program with only completing the 80hrs thorough a partnership between OPOTA and the OTOA. Eventually that could be, right now they are trying to get this program up and running first.

Colonel Charles Jones stated that he does believe that the January 1st date needs to be looked at and discussed further. However, Director Quinlan has stated that he would work with commanders.

Executive Director Thomas Quinlan stated the only thing that is being removed is Blue Courage and speed enforcement. What's being added is the communication courses is the active threat active shooter. Ohio would be one of two states that don't provide this training. To push that back and not have officer actively trained to handle those responses is challenging to justify.

SAC Gregory Nelsen stated he agrees with Vice Chair Colonel Charles Jones that there needs to be more time to implement the changes.

Executive Director Thomas Quinlan stated he is opposed to January 1st. Does an August or September date suit better.

James Rease- Central Ohio Tech. stated all the courses needed approved by the curriculum committee at his college. It would be August before he gets approval.

Dr. Ruth Babez-Smith, Chair C.J.- Owens St Community College stated they have one semester academy. After eight days they are past the first 80 hours. He wants them to be aware in case there are other colleges who are in the same situation.

Sgt. Steve Kines- Cleveland Police Academy stated that they are utilizing it. He states that if the state doesn't control it at the state level, then outside contractors will. He appreciates that the state is trying to control it. He asked if virtual reality be mandated.

Executive Director Thomas Quinlan stated they have not mandated any virtual reality. If you cannot use the virtual reality, officers can fulfill with other training. It's supplemental only.

Chief Robert Chabali stated that it will be difficult. However, the assistance of the director and his staff will get this done swiftly.

Chair Stanforth asked who has read the Blue-Ribbon Task Force Report. It's very critical for everyone to read, because it's the guideline that will now be followed. A lot of the things that the staff has been working on come from that report. He is surprised that at other venues where he's asked that question, there are not a lot of people who have read it. He asked if there were any questions. Seeing none, he moved on to adjournment.

K. Adjournment

Motion: A motion to adjourn was made by Chair Stanforth. The motion was seconded by Ms. Wynette Carter-Smith. A vote was taken and passed unanimously. Yes- 7, No-0, Absent- 1.

The meeting stands adjourned.

Time: 2:00 p.m.



Chair Vernon Stanforth

These minutes are not verbatim. Audio recordings are available on request.