

MINUTES
OF
THE NORTH CAROLINA SHERIFFS'
EDUCATION AND TRAINING STANDARDS COMMISSION

DATE: June 11, 2021

TIME: 8:30 A.M.

SUBMITTED BY: Diane Konopka, Director Sheriffs' Standards Division

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Sheriff Alan Cloninger

The North Carolina Sheriffs' Education and Training Standards Commission meeting was called to order by Chairman Cloninger on Friday, June 11th at 8:30 A.M. The Sheriffs' Commission Meeting was held at Cape Fear Community College, Union Station, 502 North Front Street, Wilmington, North Carolina.

Chairman Cloninger requested a roll call of Commission members. Deputy Director Sirena Jones recorded the following:

MEMBERS PRESENT

Sheriff Shelton White
Sheriff Jack Smith
Sheriff Landric Reid
Sheriff Ricky Oliver
Sheriff John Ingram
Sheriff Alan Norman
Sheriff Alan Cloninger
Sheriff Ed McMahan
Sheriff Mike Roberson
Sheriff Doug Doughtie
Retired Sheriff David Smith
Mr. Marc Nichols
Ms. Tracy McPherson

MEMBERS ABSENT

Sheriff Alan Jones
Sheriff David Mahoney
Sheriff Terry Johnson
Mr. Jamie Markham

STAFF

- Diane Konopka - Director, Sheriffs’ Standards Division
- Sirena Jones - Deputy Director, Sheriffs’ Standards Division
- Ameshia Cooper - Legal Counsel, NC Department of Justice

Sheriff Cloninger declared a quorum was present.

Host Sheriff Ed McMahon welcomed the Sheriffs’ Commission Members and guests to New Hanover County and introduced Cape Fear Community College Vice-President of Economic & Workforce Development, John Downing. Mr. Downing addressed the group and thanked the Commission for the important work they do.

In the first order of business, Legal Counsel Ameshia Cooper read the Ethics Reminder which states:

All members have a duty to avoid conflicts of interest and appearances of conflict. Commission members have an affirmative duty to fully disclose any conflict of interest or potential conflict of interest between the member’s service on the Commission and his or her private interests. One of the most basic rules is that members cannot knowingly use their position on the Commission in a manner that will result in a financial benefit to the person, a member of the person’s family, or a business with which he or she is associated. [N.C.G.S. 138A-31]. Commission members are also prohibited from accepting gifts from persons doing or seeking to do business with the Commission, persons engaging in activities that are regulated or controlled by the Commission, or persons having a financial interest that may be substantially affected by the member’s official duties.

Legal Counsel Ameshia Cooper asked whether any member had a known conflict or appearance of conflict with respect to any matters coming before the Commission at this time. Negative response.

VISITORS

- James Freddy Paxton - Anson County Sheriff’s Office
- Sgt. Jake Zaludek & Family - Brunswick County Sheriff’s Office
- Lt. Billy Gooch - Vance County Sheriff’s Office
- Lt. Nathaniel Ray Shearin - Vance County Sheriffs’ Office
- Capt. Avery Wilson - Franklin County Sheriff’s Office
- Major Travis Philbeck - Franklin County Sheriff’s Office
- Lt. Travis Day - Franklin County Sheriff’s Office
- Leslie Cooley-Dismukes - NC DOJ
- Trevor Allen - NC Justice Academy
- Stacy Holloman - NC Justice Academy
- Susan Gillis - NC Justice Academy
- Laurie Austen - NC Justice Academy

- Amanda Stephenson - NC Justice Academy
- Alex Gazaway - NC Justice Academy
- Sheriff Jody Greene - Columbus County Sheriff's Office
- Tim Fuss - Cape Fear Community College
- Lt. Kim Lewis - Brunswick County Sheriff's Office
- Shelley Kye - Brunswick County Sheriff's Office
- Harry Tate Bond - Brunswick County Sheriff's Office
- Stacy Holloman - NC Justice Academy
- Eddie Caldwell - NC Sheriffs' Association
- Chris Blue - Chief, Chapel Hill PD
- Richard Squires - Interim Director CJ Standards Division
- Mickey Biggs - NC Community College System
- Michael Murphy - Buncombe County Sheriff's Office
- Andy Stone - Sheriffs' Training and Standards
- Stanley Ricks - Nash County Sheriff's Office
- Ronnie Norton - New Hanover County Sheriff's Office
- Stanley Silas - New Hanover County Sheriff's Office
- Lauren Brothers - New Hanover County Sheriff's Office
- Aaron Johnson - New Hanover County Sheriff's Office

II. MINUTES OF 03/2021 MEETING

Sheriff Cloninger

A **MOTION** was made by Marc Nichols to accept the minutes of the March 2021 meeting; Seconded by Sheriff John Ingram. **MOTION CARRIED.**

III. CERTIFICATES/AWARDS/RESOLUTIONS – [Attachment #1]

A **MOTION** was made by Sheriff Alan Norman to approve the list of Professional Certificates and Service Awards; Seconded by Sheriff Jack Smith. **MOTION CARRIED.**

Certificates were presented as follows:
 Sheriff Ed McMahon presented the Advanced Service Award to Ronnie Steve Norton, Jr.
 Sheriff Ed McMahon presented the Advanced Detention Officer Certificate to Stanley Silas.
 Sheriff Ed McMahon presented the Advanced Law Enforcement Certificate to Lauren Brothers.
 Sheriff Ed McMahon presented the Advanced Law Enforcement Certificate to Aaron Johnson.

Sheriff John Ingram presented the Advanced Telecommunicator Certificate to Shelley Kye.
 Sheriff John Ingram presented the Advanced Law Enforcement Certificate to Harry Tate Bond.
 Sheriff John Ingram presented the Advanced Law Enforcement Certificate to Jacob Zaludek.
 Sheriff Landric Reid presented the Advanced Law Enforcement Certificate to Freddy Paxton.
 Major Philbeck and Capt. Wilson presented the Advanced Detention Officer Certificate to Travis Day.
 Sheriff Jack Smith presented the Advanced Service Award to Stanley Ricks.
 Lt. Gooch presented the Advanced Law Enforcement Certificate to Nathaniel Ray Shearin.
 Lt. Shearin presented the Advanced Law Enforcement Certificate to Billy Gooch.

IV. INFORMATIONAL REPORTS

***North Carolina Sheriffs' Association**

Eddie Caldwell

Mr. Eddie Caldwell of the North Carolina Sheriffs' Association addressed the Sheriffs' Commission and provided an update from the Sheriffs' Association. Mr. Caldwell informed the Sheriffs' Commission members that the North Carolina Sheriffs' Association's Annual Business Conference will be held July 23rd – 27th in Atlantic Beach.

Mr. Caldwell reminded Commission members that "Week One" of the North Carolina Sheriffs' Association Jail Administrators' Institute of Leadership will be held at the Rizzo Center in Chapel Hill on August 15th – 20th, after previously being postponed due to the pandemic. Approximately 50 Jail Administrators have indicated interest in participating. Registration materials will be sent out shortly.

Mr. Caldwell provided a summary of Statewide Misdemeanant Confinement Training to be held this Fall as follows. Any Sheriff's Office who is a "receiving" county is required to send staff to one of these (5) training classes.

Haywood County	September 14, 2021
Catawba County	September 15, 2021
Martin County	September 23, 2021
Duplin County	September 24, 2021
Wake County	September 29, 2021

Mr. Caldwell noted that last year the Sheriffs' Association did not conduct legislative updates in person, rather it was done on-line due to COVID. Additionally, a limited number of bills passed last year affecting the Office of Sheriff and law enforcement in general. However, this year the training will be done "in-person" as follows:

Haywood County	November 2, 2021
Catawba County	November 3, 2021
Wake County	November 16, 2021
Martin County	November 30, 2021
Duplin County	December 1, 2021

Mr. Caldwell reported that one of the things the Association was working on with the Legislature is funding to support the Sheriffs' Standards Division, the Criminal Justice Standards Division and the North Carolina Justice Academy – all of which work very closely together to ensure professional training and standards for law enforcement across the state.

Mr. Caldwell further advised that he had a lengthy list of proposed legislation of interest to the Commission. He reminded the Commission that the status of bills of interest is provided to all sheriffs in a weekly email. As such, the Commission opted to delay further discussion on this proposed legislation and wait see what ultimately passes.

***North Carolina Justice Academy [Attachment #2]**

Trevor Allen

Director Trevor Allen addressed the Sheriffs' Commission members and thanked them for the opportunity to present the North Carolina Justice Academy updates. Mr. Allen provided the Sheriffs' Commission with a summary of news and events including personnel updates, as follows:

- On 2/28/2021, Mr. John Teegarden retired from his position as a multi-media technician. His position was previously posted and has been reposted due to a lack of qualified candidates.
- On 4/1/2021, Ms. Tami Warren retired from her position as Accreditation Manager. Ms. Warren also served as the coordinator for the annual Peace Officer Memorial Day Ceremony and has been instrumental in assisting the Commissions in the State accreditation program. Her position should be posted soon.
- The Instructor/Developer position that serves as School Director for Physical Fitness Instructor Training has been posted more than once in hopes of finding the right candidate to fill that position.

Director Allen provided some current statistics:

- In-person Courses: 208
- In-person Students: 3,602
- On-line Completions (predominantly MIST): 97,613
- Instructor Update completions: 5,442
- SRO Update: 2,046

Director Allen also reported on new courses and events, noting that delivery of in-person classes has steadily increased since last year, such that they are now at 100%. Courses currently being delivered include Traffic Crash Investigations, Leadership, Domestic Violence, Legal and Commission-mandated courses. He provided a spreadsheet listing all classes for May and June, as well as a 2021-2022 class catalog.

Director Allen also reported that renovations are complete at the Salemburg Campus Residence Hall C. Next up is Residence Hall B where renovations will start this summer.

ICAT De-Escalation Training is now being offered. A flyer was provided to Commission members with additional information and training dates. This training is provided in a “Train-the-Trainer” format so that agencies may send their officers to receive this training and take it back to further train the officers within their agencies. It is also provided as a direct training to officers in the field.

Director Allen also advised there are four (4) Inner Armour Training courses planned across the state. These classes will be presented by Susan Gillis and will address mental health struggles among law enforcement.

Director Allen stated that the Peace Officer Memorial Day Ceremony was held May 6th at Pinedale Church in Winston-Salem via live-stream. In-person attendance was restricted to those being honored, their agency, and family members. Anyone who was not able to access the live-stream ceremony may request and be provided with a copy of the service. Next year’s ceremony is tentatively scheduled for May 3, 2022. The location TBA.

Finally, Director Allen advised that grant funding is available through the Bureau of Justice Assistance for body-worn cameras. Information in this funding was previously provided via email to all sheriffs. Director Allen has that documentation available for any sheriffs who may need it.

BLET Curriculum Updates

Alex Gazaway

Mr. Alex Gazaway provided an update to the Commission regarding the BLET curriculum. Mr. Gazaway reported that 20-21 of the 40 lesson plans have been developed and put out in different forms. He stated they focused initially on complex lessons such as Criminal Elements, Constitutional Law and Criminal Investigations, with the “heavy lift” on the front end. The remaining lesson plans deal with smaller (4, 8, 12) hour blocks versus the larger (40 - 48 hour) blocks.

Mr. Gazaway provided a sample lesson plan for the Commission’s perusal. He noted there are several hyperlinks in this lesson plan in furtherance of their experimentation with a digital delivery. They will be offering this information on a tablet; noting however that the “books” (paper binders) would still be available. Pilot delivery of the “new” BLET will include both digital and paper copies to be evaluated by the students. Mr. Gazaway stated that Sheriffs are primary stakeholders in this project and he appreciates the input from them and their staff on these lesson plans.

Several lesson plans are in various stages of development, review and proofing. They are working to ensure any and all references included in the lesson plans are updated to the extent possible.

Chairman Cloninger asked Mr. Gazaway to email the documentation provided to the Commission members. He expressed the importance of having their training personnel review this information during this process.

Chairman Cloninger also asked Mr. Caldwell if there was any indication that the Legislature was going to require a new course to be added to BLET. Mr. Caldwell stated the legislature is looking to require training for certain topics; and, he suspects most of those topics are already included in the curriculum to some extent. Topics of Ethics, Minority Sensitivity, Duty to Intervene, etc. would require a change.

Sheriff Ingram asked if the lesson plan that was being passed around was intended to replace CIT-type training. Director Allen advised that this topic was included in multiple blocks – at least 40 hours of training throughout the course, but not in a single 40 hour block.

***Inner Armour Training [Attachment #3]**

Susan Gillis

Ms. Gillis reported that in addition to her primary duty as the Justice Academy Telecommunicator School Director, she also does a lot of supportive type services in the field, specifically in the area of peer support. Law enforcement – front line officers, telecommunicators and detention officers in North Carolina and across the nation endure a lot of stress in their jobs.

In December of 2019, Sheriffs asked the Justice Academy what they were doing to help officers with their mental health. Ms. Gillis stated she was not at that meeting, but rather was at a training session at Wake Community College on Inner Armour Training. Inner Armour is a program that coaches peers in the field on what to do when they recognize stress in their coworkers/peers. We, as a profession, do not trust mental health professionals to tell them what we perceive as weaknesses when we are actually having normal reactions to abnormal situations. This program is based on “positive psychology” working to transform negative behavior and traits into positive traits; ie, takes your strong traits and uses them to address stressors.

The creator of this program, Al MacGregor, has created a 28 question methodology that we can teach to others for use when we recognize stress in the field. Through a grant, we are able to offer this training in four locations across the State (Salemberg, Gaston County, Guilford County, and Dare County) in September. The classes are designed to coach peers to coach other peers. These classes are free and can accommodate up to 30 people. They are not “Train the Trainer” classes, but training for individuals. The trainees will evaluate the training and further opportunities for this training will be considered.

Chairman Cloninger asked the Commission members if there were any questions. Negative response.

***Job Task Analysis (JTA) Update**

Diane Konopka

On June 2nd, our project vendor, Val Lubens met with Justice Academy staff regarding tasks identified by the Job Task Analysis for the Detention and Telecommunicator basic training courses. Mr. Lubens recently provided a summary report noting all work to date. This information is to be used as a basis for curriculum updates/course development and concludes Phase I of the Job Task Analysis for both Detention and Telecommunicators. Justice Academy staff is already working on training objectives that were identified by this study.

Phase II of this project will involve curriculum development and will be handled by Justice Academy staff. Director Konopka is working with Justice Academy staff to determine an estimated timeline for this phase of the project.

As we have stated before, the last DOCC JTA occurred in 2003 and the last TCC JTA occurred in 1998; and based on the results of this current study, it appears that changes to the curriculums for both the DOCC and TCC will be limited. This appears to reflect the good and proactive work of NC Justice Academy staff and the Advisory Groups to ensure this training is current and relevant.

However, one of the areas identified by the study that is not found in the current curriculum relates to physical activities for detention officers, specifically: subdue detainee resisting restraint; tackle or take down a fleeing detainee; carry or drag, with another person, an unconscious or immobile person; and drag, by yourself, an unconscious or immobile person. In the past, this Commission has discussed the subject of physical fitness standards for detention officers, but no such standards are currently mandated. Ms. Konopka stated that before the second phase of this project begins, we believed it important to bring this finding to your attention. Laurie Austen from the Justice Academy will present information on this topic.

Laurie Austen

Ms. Austen advised that back in the 1990s she had the opportunity to assist in chairing a committee for the Sheriffs' Commission that discussed physical fitness requirements for detention officers. Encouraging the importance of healthy eating and a healthy lifestyle was the approach taken, with no set standards for physical fitness. Physical activities for detention officers were set at a level that they could do comfortably.

So as we go forward, we are looking at specific tasks that have been identified by the JTA survey. Before we begin developing the curriculum, it is important to know the wishes of the Commission. Ms. Austen advised she is not asking for information today, but asked them to consider what is important for Detention Officers and what they would like to see in the curriculum going forward.

Ms. Austen stated she is very proud of the staff at the Justice Academy; and while there is no need for entire new program, we want to make what we have even better. Sheriff Cloninger asked if they anticipated a physical fitness requirement for DOCC similar to that in BLET. Ms. Austen reiterated that some of the identified tasks require curriculum to be put in place, but that any such physical requirements for detention officers would not be the same as in BLET POPAT. Sheriff Cloninger raised concerns about current recruitment problems related to staffing the jails, and about placing additional requirements for certification that may further limit the applicant

pool. Sheriff Jack Smith agreed that it is a struggle to get applicants to work in the detention center. The majority of his detention staff is middle-aged and they may have a hard time meeting some of the physical requirements. Ms. Austen stated she understands their concerns, but wants to ensure the best students possible coming out of DOCC training. Sheriff Cloninger agrees this is an important issue and appreciates their work. Sheriff Reid commented that he believes there should be some physical training for detention officers.

TREC Recommendations [Attachment #4]

Leslie Cooley-Dismukes

Ms. Cooley-Dismukes introduced herself to Commission members as the DOJ Criminal Bureau Chief, Chair of the Criminal Justice (CJ) Planning and Standards Committee and staff on the Task Force for Racial Equity in Criminal Justice (TREC). She noted that TREC has made over 100 recommendations and she is here to talk about recommendations that impact the Commission. She stated she made the same presentation to the CJ Commission which resulted in the formation of an advisory group that includes members of that Commission and asks that Sheriffs consider being a part of that group, as well.

Ms. Cooley-Dismukes grouped recommendations she will discuss today into three “buckets”: Code Changes, Policy Proposals, and Best Practices Recommendations that impact the Commissions. TREC is asking Commissions to consider how they can help implement some of the recommendations.

Code Changes:

*Not engage in excessive Use of Force or Abuse of Power. (add in the Code as a minimum standard). Calls for a definition of Use of Force and Abuse of Power.

*Require psychological evaluations for all justice officers to be repeated at times to be determined.

*Require notification of specific Use of Force incidents.

*Collection of demographic data and identify gaps that need to be focused for recruitment.

*Standardize minimum requirements for Criminal Justice and Sheriffs’ Standards.

*Recommended annual Mandated In Service Training (MIST) topics, additions to BLET, and change to process for designating required MIST topics.

Policy Proposals:

*Increase transparency surrounding officer discipline and decertification (Database already exists on DOJ website that is regularly updated by the Divisions).

*Strengthen NCLA

*CJ Fellows program

Best Practices Recommendations:

- *Develop best practices for facilitation of peaceful demonstrations.
- *Diversity Task Force at each agency (recruit, retention and enforcement).
- *Guide for recruitment and retention – bridge gaps such that officers reflect communities in which they serve.

Ms. Cooley-Dismukes stated the Task Force made other recommendations relating to Law Enforcement, but require no Commission action.

Ms. Cooley-Dismukes asked for participation from the Commission for the joint advisory group. Sheriff Cloninger agreed it is important that we have representation. Sheriff McMahon, Sheriff Ingram, Sheriff Doughtie, Sheriff Smith, and Sheriff Oliver agreed to serve on this advisory group.

***Probable Cause Committee**

Sheriff John Ingram

Sheriff John Ingram reported that the Probable Cause Committee met on June 10, 2021. During that session, the Committee reviewed a total of 40 cases. In 16 cases, Probable Cause was found, with seven (7) of those cases resulting in Consent Agreements. Four (4) of the Consent Agreements will be presented today [TAB #] and three (3) will be presented at the September Sheriffs' Commission Meeting. No Probable Cause was found in 14 cases, nine (9) cases were closed pursuant to the Consolidated Probable Cause Policy, and in one (1) case individual was separated prior to PC.

Ms. Konopka also summarized two consent agreements that were signed from the March meeting.

Chairman Cloninger asked the Commission members if there were any questions. Negative response.

A motion was made by Sheriff Alan Norman to approve the Probable Cause Committee's recommendation of the two (2) signed Consent Agreements from the March 2021 meeting as presented [**Attachment #**]; seconded by Marc Nichols. Sheriff Mike Roberson abstained. **MOTION CARRIED**

A motion was made by Sheriff Landric Reid to approve the Probable Cause Committee's recommendation of the four (4) signed Consent Agreements from June 10th as presented [Attachment #]; seconded by Sheriff Ricky Oliver. **MOTION CARRIED**

***Community College Update**

Tracy McPherson

Ms. Tracy McPherson provided an update from the Community College System. In follow-up from prior meeting, Ms. McPherson reported that the State Board of Community Colleges understands the importance of partnership with Sheriffs' Offices and Police Departments. In furtherance of this partnership, the Community College Board allocated over \$150,000 from reserve funds in support of De-escalation "Train the Trainer" programs, as well as direct training. The number of people trained in these areas attached to community colleges or local agencies totaled 239 across the state. Verbal de-escalation training was provided to 123 people by a group headed up by retired Chief Harry Dolan. Ms. McPherson stated Mickey Biggs on their staff has information and is a resource for your needs in this area. This training is complimentary to ICAT training.

Commission Chairman Cloninger asked Mickey Biggs to send this information to all Sheriffs. He also complimented the Community College system for bringing a new course on Public Safety Administration. Ms. McPherson noted that two more colleges have begun offering this program since our last meeting.

She also noted that NC State University has a fully on line Bachelor's degree program called Leadership in the Public Sector. They have starting to partner with Community Colleges in this program.

Chairman Cloninger asked the Commission members if there were any questions. Negative response.

Probable Cause (PC) Process [Attachment #5]

Sheriff Cloninger

Sheriff Cloninger reported that on June 8th, the Commission's Executive Committee met with Special Attorney General Jeff Welty to discuss whether or not Sheriffs' PC hearings should remain closed or be open to public. Mr. Welty presented information the on the history and legal aspects of this matter. The Executive Committee opted to continue to have closed session PC hearings for foreseeable future.

VI. DIVISION REPORT [Attachment #6]

Diane Konopka

Sheriffs' Standards Division Director Diane Konopka addressed the Sheriffs' Commission members and referred them to their June 2021 Division Report [Attachment #??].

Ms. Konopka noted there are currently two full-time vacancies in the Division. Judy Marchetti retired effective June 1st. Additionally, Michelle Andrews, who previously held the position of Processing Assistant for (eastern) new applicant files has accepted the position of Certification Assistant, which was vacated in February. Ms. Andrews is now responsible for processing certification applications for the eastern counties for those applicants with certification “history.” Both positions have been posted and applications are being accepted through June 15th. Long-time temporary employee Jevanna Gibson also recently left the Division to accept permanent employment outside of DOJ. Jevanna has assisted with the Professional Certificate program, as well as other administrative duties related to training.

Ms. Konopka advised that a memorandum from Commission Chairman Cloninger directed to North Carolina Legislators is included in the packet. The purpose of this memorandum is to request additional positions for the Division. Ms. Konopka stated she hopes to have new positions by the end of this session; and thanked Eddie Caldwell and Bradford Sneed for their hard work in pursuing this funding.

Division staff continues to work remotely to the extent possible with staggered in-office schedules for staff. The Division is exploring options to allow staff some flexibility to continue a modified/partial teleworking schedule as DOJ moves towards a “return to workplace” in early July.

Work on the Acadis Database project continues. This has been a daunting task to customize this database into a product to support the work of both Divisions, the Justice Academy and DHHS. It is expected that the Divisions will transition over to the new database before the end of this year. Thanks to Deputy Director Sirena Jones and CJ Interim Director Richard Squires, as well as Justice Academy and DOJ IT staff, for continued work on this project.

*COVID-19 Extensions

The “blanket” COVID-19 training extensions will remain in effect through September 30th for any justice officers who have exceeded their one year probationary period and who have not yet completed basic training. Suspensions for lack of basic training will resume after October 1st.

*Wake Tech Pilot Virtual BLET Program

On January 15th, the Criminal Justice Commission authorized Wake Tech Community College to pilot 114 hours of a virtual BLET. The approved piloted lessons began on February 2, 2021, and ended on February 26th with 24 students. None of the virtual training included practical skills. Criminal Justice staff monitored portions of the virtual delivery and will assess the efficacy of this training once the data from the June 4th state exam is available. A summary of the feedback prepared by CJ Deputy Director Michelle Schilling was provided to Commission members. In her memo, Ms. Schilling noted that both instructors and students cited a preference for the traditional classroom format.

*Certification of Police Telecommunicators

The Division is continuing to receive and process a large number of Telecommunicator certification applications from “non-sheriff” agencies. Current legislation requires that municipal

telecommunicators be certified effective 7/1/2021; however, there is proposed legislation that would postpone that effective date until 7/1/2022. Ms. Konopka noted there is no apparent opposition and expects the date will be postponed.

*Website Updates - Search Engine for Revoked Officer Certifications

The search engine for North Carolina law enforcement and justice officers whose certifications have been revoked or suspended has been updated. As reported at your last meeting, this search engine went live in January of this year and is accessible to the general public. Previously, an exact name match was required, however, this search engine was recently updated to require only the first letter of the first name and the first three letters of the last name to locate a record.

Additionally, Sheriffs' Commission meeting minutes are now being posted on the Division's website. Meeting minutes for the past five (5) years are currently available on the website and meeting minutes will be posted moving forward.

*School Resource Officer (SRO) Certification Rule

In April, a memorandum was mailed to all Sheriff's Offices advising of the proposed updates to the School Resource Officer (SRO) rules. Included was a list of SROs who had been reported for certification with that agency and the status of that certification (namely those deputy sheriffs who needed to repeat the basic SRO training and/or for whom the agency needed to provide training documentation). Feedback was received from many of those agencies allowing staff to resolve many of the questions and concerns. To date, 54 of the 100 sheriff's offices have reported 612 School Resource Officers for certification.

Based on this feedback, a minor update to the F-20 form will be forthcoming, allowing continuous SRO service with an officer's prior agency/agencies to be documented.

The Commission will meet briefly at 9:00am on Tuesday, June 15th, via teleconference to vote for final approval of the amendment(s) to your School Resource Officer rule found under 12NCAC 10B .0510.

*North Carolina Law Enforcement Accreditation Program (NCLEA)

Ms. Konopka reported that NCLEA Program Manager Lacy McVey is unable to be here today. She reminded Commission members that Ms. McVey's position is currently funded by an off-cycle Governor's Crime Commission (GCC) grant that will expire later this year. We have applied for the 2021 GCC Grant which, if awarded, would allow for two positions for the NCLEA program. The status of this grant remains under review by the GCC at this time.

Sheriff Cloninger asked Mr. Caldwell about possible Legislative funding for the NCLEA. Mr. Caldwell responded reminding the Commission that the general consensus has been the Governor's Crime Commission would fund the program for the next one to two years, with plans to approach the legislature at the next session.. Ms. Konopka also noted the possibility for a grant through COPS office.

Otherwise, the Program Guide and Standards have been preliminarily approved following legal feedback from Jeff Welty, Ameshia Cooper and others. Recommended changes were incorporated into these documents. The other primary issue is a hurdle with the Power DMS software contract, currently under review by IT and additional legal review. Once this issue is resolved, the program intends to move forward with contacting the selected pilot agencies which include two (2) Sheriff's Offices.

*DOCC Revisions

Justice Academy DOCC School Director Amanda Stephenson provided information to be conveyed to the Commission in regards a few very minor DOCC revisions. These revisions were related to COVID-19, Radio Communications and Video Visitation. A copy of the updated lesson plans are available for review.

*Resolutions in Memoriam

Ms. Konopka asked the Commission to consider reinstating the practice of Resolutions in Memoriam, stating that many years ago this Commission would present certificates to the affected Sheriff's Office in honor of any officer lost in the line of duty. She suggested working with Justice Academy Director Trevor Allen regarding criteria and eligibility. The Sheriffs' Commission agreed by consensus to further this program..

*Remaining 2021 Meetings

September 9 & 10 – Caldwell County

December 9 & 10 - The Commission opted to meet in Guilford County in December, if it is available.

Before entering into Closed Session, Sheriff Cloninger recognized Columbus County Sheriff Jody Greene. Sheriff Greene addressed the Commission in regards to Jerome McMillian.

A **MOTION** was made by Sheriff John Ingram to go into closed session; seconded by Marc Nichols. **MOTION CARRIED**

A **MOTION** was made to enter into open session; seconded. **MOTION CARRIED**

*****CLOSED SESSION REQUESTS FOR WAIVERS AND EXTENSIONS*****

Ms. Konopka summarized the Closed Session matters as follows:

The request to waive additional BLET for Columbus County deputy Jerome McMillian is approved.

The request for an extension of time for Lee County deputy Elwood Ottaway to complete the BLET challenge was tabled.

The request to waive additional SRO training for Cleveland County deputy Matthew Dyer was approved. Sheriff Norman recused himself from this matter.

The request to waive additional SRO training for Rutherford County deputy John McBrayer was approved.

The request for suspended Washington County deputy Brock Harris to be re-instated and allowed to complete his in-service training deficiency was denied.

The request for the criminal history records checks for deputy Dustin Nichols nickname was approved. Division staff was allowed discretion in the requirement for atypical nicknames.

It was also decided that Sheriffs Cloninger and Roberson shall be provided with DOCC and TCC lesson plans resulting from the Job Task Analysis.

A **MOTION** was made by Sheriff Roberson to approve the waivers and extensions as summarized by Ms. Konopka; Seconded by Sheriff Oliver. **MOTION CARRIED**

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

A **MOTION** was made to adjourn the June 2021 Sheriffs' Commission meeting; Seconded. **MOTION CARRIED.**