

**BLET ADVISORY GROUP
MEETING MINUTES
October 20, 2021**

Jennifer Fisher called the meeting to order at 5:30 pm and thanked everyone for attending the October 20, 2021, BLET Advisory Group meeting. Jennifer Fisher conducted a formal roll call. A quorum was present.

Members Present:

Aaron Vassey, Cleveland Community College
Billy Kelly, Rockingham Police Department (present by TEAMS meeting)
Joseph Cotton, North Carolina State Highway Patrol
Rick Barney, Craven Community College
Sammy Turner, Brunswick County Sheriffs' Office
Steve Warren, Western Piedmont Community College

Members Absent:

Jon Gregory, Wake Technical Community College
Kelly Blackwelder, Town of Elon Police Department
Kenneth Klamar, Sunset Beach Police Department

Ex-Officio Members Present:

Charminique Williams, Criminal Justice Standards Division
Diane Konopka, Sheriffs' Standards Division (present by TEAMS meeting)
Jeffrey Smythe, Sheriffs' Standards Division
Michelle Schilling, Criminal Justice Standards Division
Richard Squires, Criminal Justice Standards Division

Ex-Officio Members Absent:

Autumn Hanna, Sheriffs' Standards Division
Chris Scott, Sheriffs' Standards Division

Staff Present:

Alex Gazaway, North Carolina Justice Academy
Amanda Stephenson, North Carolina Justice Academy
Jennifer Fisher, North Carolina Justice Academy
Laurie Austen, North Carolina Justice Academy
Stacy Holloman, North Carolina Justice Academy
Trevor Allen, North Carolina Justice Academy

Guests Present:

Tracy McPherson, North Carolina Community Colleges

OLD BUSINESS

➤ **Juvenile Law and Procedures**

Mrs. Fisher reviewed the proposed critical revisions discussed via email regarding various additional “Raise the Age” legislative changes that had been enacted since the last advisory group meeting. Mrs. Fisher advised that the law changes will go into effect December 1, 2021 and that it was important for us to make all efforts to include them in the curriculum in a timely manner. Mrs. Fisher opened the floor for discussion and asked that the group conduct a formal vote to approve the changes as previously discussed and approved via email communications. No further discussion ensued. Sammy Turner made a **motion** to accept the proposed revisions. Aaron Vassey **seconded**. None opposed. **Motion carried.**

➤ **Firearms**

Mrs. Fisher reviewed the proposed critical revisions discussed via email regarding the use of red dot site systems and mounted flash lights. Additional revisions were made to the instructor notes section of the lesson plan regarding the intentions of combat/encounter training. Mrs. Fisher opened the floor for discussion and reiterated the importance of making all efforts to include this information in the curriculum in a timely manner. Alex Gazaway shared with the group that the BLET 2023 development team has received feedback from the field expressing that flashlights mounted on weapons be added to the lesson plan for delivery agencies as an option. Mr. Gazaway shared that the feedback includes not necessarily qualifying the students with these light systems, but training on them so the officers would not be required to go back to their agencies and receive duplicative training on its use. Mrs. Fisher reminded the group that the intent of prohibiting the use of red dot site systems and mounted flash lights is to keep the training at the basic-level. Sammy Turner emphasized that BLET is intended to teach the basics on calls at nighttime and that students need to learn how to use the basic flash light first before using any types of technology that can be faulty. Mr. Gazaway stated that stakeholders are requesting to have it as an option, if applicable, such as at police departments conducting their own BLET academies. Steve Warren talked about the potential for failure of the technology such as batteries going dead or the system failing, reiterating the need for the basic-level training. Aaron Vassey requested the proposed lesson plan verbiage to be shared with the group for further clarification and discussion. Mrs. Fisher read the section of the instructor notes to the group relating to these topics and stated that as written, delivery agencies would not have that option as part of the state’s minimum requirements. It was further discussed that additional content can always be added to the state’s minimum requirements although any concerns with the added content would be the responsibility of the delivery agency. No further discussion ensued. Sammy Turner made a **motion** to accept the proposed revisions. Rick Barney **seconded**. Jennifer Fisher conducted a formal voting process. None opposed. **Motion carried.**

➤ **Elements of Criminal Law**

Mrs. Fisher reviewed the proposed critical revisions discussed via email updating the statutory language of resisting, delaying, or obstructing an officer in the performance of his or her duties as set forth in Senate Bill 300. Mrs. Fisher opened the floor for

discussion and asked that the group conduct a formal vote to approve the changes as previously discussed and approved via email communications. No further discussion ensued. Sammy Turner made a **motion** to accept the proposed revisions. Steve Warren **seconded**. Jennifer Fisher conducted a formal voting process. None opposed. **Motion carried.**

➤ **Subject Control Arrest Technique**

Mrs. Fisher reviewed the proposed critical revisions discussed via email updating the statutory language defining use of force and the duty to intervene as set forth in Senate Bill 300. Mrs. Fisher opened the floor for discussion and reiterated the importance of making all efforts to include this information in the curriculum in a timely manner. No further discussion ensued. Rick Barney made a **motion** to accept the proposed revisions. Sammy Turner **seconded**. Jennifer Fisher conducted a formal voting process. None opposed. **Motion carried.**

NEW BUSINESS

➤ **Anti-Terrorism**

Mrs. Fisher explained the proposed critical revisions based on the recommendations received from the State and Local Anti-Terrorism Training (SLATT) Program – Bureau of Justice Assistance. The proposed critical revisions would aid in the protection of any possible civil liabilities based on any potential discriminations such as ethnicity, race, types of terrorism groups, etc. Included in the SLATT recommendations was removing the potential immigrant violations and consular notification training objectives and related content from the Anti-Terrorism block since it is not directly related to anti-terrorism. The proposed critical revisions would move these specific training objectives and related content to the Patrol Techniques block of instruction. Mrs. Fisher reiterated that SLATT's recommendations stated that the sections on possible immigration violations and consular notification content should not be correlated with anti-terrorism efforts and it was recommended to remove these training objectives and content from the Anti-Terrorism lesson plan. Steve Warren expressed that his instructors felt as though it was a little too advanced for a basic student. No further discussion ensued. Aaron Vassey made a **motion** to accept the proposed revisions. Sammy Turner **seconded**. None opposed. **Motion carried.**

➤ **Law Enforcement Information and Communication Systems**

Mrs. Fisher explained that while updating the Anti-Terrorism lesson plan based on the SLATT recommendations, she reached out to the Terrorist Screening Center to see if there was a newer version of the *Terrorist Screening Center* video that is currently in this block of instruction. Mrs. Fisher was advised by the Terrorist Screening Center that they are not providing consent to include this video in the BLET curriculum due to the information contained within the video being law enforcement sensitive. The Terrorist Screening Center further advised that this video and its content should not be provided to

any non-sworn law enforcement personnel. Aaron Vassey advised that this video can be found on the internet and instructors can still access it if he or she chooses to present it beyond the state's minimum requirements provided in the lesson plan. Mrs. Fisher emphasized that if an instructor chooses to add the video, beyond the minimum state requirements provided by the North Carolina Department of Justice, the instructor and delivery agency is assuming any potential civil liabilities related to presenting the video.

➤ **Patrol Techniques**

Mrs. Fisher explained that while updating the Anti-Terrorism lesson plan, SLATT recommended to remove the possible immigrant violations and consular notification training objectives and related content from the Anti-Terrorism block. The proposed critical revisions would remove the applicable training objectives and related content from the Anti-Terrorism block of instruction and move them to the Patrol Techniques block of instruction. Mrs. Fisher reiterated that these recommendations only include the potential immigration violations and consular notification training objectives and content. Aaron Vassey expressed his concern of adding the training objectives and content to the Patrol Techniques block of instruction without adding additional time. Mrs. Fisher stated that the information is fairly brief and should not take much additional time to cover. Mrs. Fisher stated that over the last ten years, we have added a fair amount of content to the Patrol Techniques block of instruction with little time also being added. Mrs. Fisher stated that it is important for us to take these concerns into consideration for future revisions to the current BLET curriculum as well as provide this feedback to the BLET 2023 curriculum development team. The group agreed that it is important for us to include the information in the curriculum, although it is challenging to determine where in the curriculum is the most appropriate place along with the appropriate time allocated. Mrs. Fisher asked the group if there was a better place in the curriculum to add the proposed revisions. After receiving no other recommendations of where to possibly include these training objectives and content, Mrs. Fisher requested to table the discussion of overloading the Patrol Techniques block asking that members go back to their agencies and talk with their instructors and stakeholders in the area to further discuss our options for discussion at our next meeting. Any recommendations from the group would also be provided to the BLET 2023 development team for consideration. No further discussion ensued. Rick Barney made a **motion** to accept the proposed revisions. Sammy Turner **seconded**. None opposed. **Motion carried.**

OTHER BUSINESS

➤ None

ADJOURNMENT

Aaron Vassey made a **motion** to adjourn the meeting. Billy Kelly **seconded**. None opposed. **Motion carried.** Meeting adjourned at 6:03 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Jennifer Fisher
BLET Curriculum Coordinator
North Carolina Justice Academy

Date
November 15, 2021