

**BLET ADVISORY GROUP
MEETING MINUTES
December 3, 2021
Western Piedmont Community College
Morganton, NC**

Jennifer Fisher called the meeting to order at 10:03 am and thanked everyone for attending the September 3, 2021, BLET Advisory Group meeting. As some organizations still implemented travel restrictions, a teleconference line was established for the meeting. Leann Supko conducted a formal roll call. A quorum was present. Jennifer Fisher recognized guests in attendance and asked that they introduce themselves.

Members Present:

Kelly Blackwelder, Town of Elon Police Department
Joseph Cotton, North Carolina State Highway Patrol
Jon Gregory, Wake Technical Community College
Kenneth Klamar, Sunset Beach Police Department
Sammy Turner, Brunswick County Sheriffs' Office
Aaron Vassey, Cleveland Community College
Steve Warren, Western Piedmont Community College

Members Absent:

Rick Barney, Craven Community College
Billy Kelly, Rockingham Police Department

Ex-Officio Members Present:

Jeffrey Smythe, Sheriffs' Standards Division
Michelle Schilling, Criminal Justice Standards Division
Autumn Hanna, Sheriffs' Standards Division

Ex-Officio Members Absent:

Diane Konopka, Sheriffs' Standards Division
Charminique Williams, Criminal Justice Standards Division

Staff Present:

Jennifer Fisher, North Carolina Justice Academy
Leann Supko, North Carolina Justice Academy
Trevor Allen, North Carolina Justice Academy
Stacy Holloman, North Carolina Justice Academy
Alex Gazaway, North Carolina Justice Academy
Arron Stevens, North Carolina Justice Academy

Guests Present:

Jacquelyn Bryley, Charlotte-Mecklenburg Police Department

OLD BUSINESS

- Approval of September 3, 2021 meeting minutes
 - Members were afforded an opportunity to review the minutes from the September 3, 2021 meeting. Jon Gregory made a **motion** to accept the minutes. Sammy Turner **seconded**. Leann Supko conducted a formal roll call vote. **None opposed**. No further discussion. **Motion carried**.

- Approval of October 20, 2021 meeting minutes
 - Members were afforded an opportunity to review the meeting minutes from the October 20, 2021 meeting. Sammy Turner made a **motion** to accept the minutes. Joseph Cotton **seconded**. Leann Supko conducted a formal roll call vote. **None opposed**. No further discussion. **Motion carried**.

- Overloading of Patrol Techniques
 - Mrs. Fisher prompted discussion on the overloading of the Patrol Techniques lesson plan. Often, a topic has been placed in this block if it is unknown where else to put it in the curriculum. Mrs. Fisher asked for discussions, to begin with, school directors, instructors, and stakeholders on recommendations on the issue. Mrs. Fisher opened the floor for discussion. A discussion ensued with proposing recommendations to the new development team to consider additional hours in the Patrol Techniques block of instruction. No further discussion.

- Addressing Gender
 - Mrs. Fisher reached out to legal staff to inquire where documentation of gender needs to be addressed in the BLET curriculum. This topic was prompted by questions in the field regarding gender variations. One recommendation is that this is specific to notetaking/report writing. For now, it is proposed to include an asterisk in the gender box of a form and indicate “see narrative,” explaining the asterisk in the narrative portion of the report. Mrs. Fisher asked that any recommendations on this topic be sent to her via email. Mrs. Fisher advised that documentation of gender variations will be addressed in the new BLET curriculum unless a need to address it arises sooner. Aaron Vassey thanked Mrs. Fisher for addressing the matter. End of discussion.

- BLET Job Task Analysis (JTA) Revision Update—BLET 2023
 - Alex Gazaway provided the group with an update on the BLET 2023 revision. Based on information from the field, hours will be added in the Patrol Techniques, Rapid Deployment, and Crowd Management lesson plans. Additionally, a standardized field sobriety test will be added to the Techniques of Traffic Law Enforcement lesson plan. Mr. Gazaway stated input throughout the revision process is greatly appreciated. The topic of gender variations is in the research phase. The discussion has led to possibly addressing gender in the Orientation block of instruction or provided in the BLET Course Management Guide.
 - Some blocks of instruction continue to increase in hours. A few lesson plans are slated to be sent out for feedback before the holidays. The Firearms and Subject Control Arrest Techniques lesson plans have been sent to their respective advisory groups for feedback. The SharePoint site is up and running. Mr. Gazaway asked those to contact

him who did not have access. Mrs. Fisher opened the floor for discussion. No discussion ensued.

NEW BUSINESS

➤ Membership

Mrs. Fisher presented Steven Warren with an honorary plaque on behalf of the BLET Advisory Group and NCJA. Mr. Warren served over twenty-four (24) years on the BLET Advisory Group, and Mrs. Fisher expressed her appreciation for his dedication and service to the BLET program. Mr. Warren stated it is an honor to have been a part of the BLET Advisory Group. Mr. Warren said he felt it was time to give someone else a chance to participate.

Mrs. Fisher also presented a plaque to Billy Kelly, who could not attend the meeting. Mr. Kelly served over six (6) years to the BLET Advisory Group. Mrs. Fisher expressed her appreciation for his dedication, service, and expertise.

Four new members will be joining the Advisory Group effective January 1, 2022. Jacquelyn Bryley of Charlotte-Mecklenburg Police Department, Boris Neal of Wake County Sheriffs' Office, Yovana Vest of Fayetteville Technical Community College, and John Etheridge of the College of the Albemarle.

➤ The Future of Subject Control (SCAT)

Mrs. Fisher introduced Arron Stevens and asked if he would provide the group with an update on the direction he sees SCAT going with the BLET 2023 curriculum. Arron Stevens thanked the school directors and instructors for their feedback and ideas on the SCAT program. Mr. Stevens stated some new SCAT techniques are being added while some of the existing techniques are being removed. The goal is for the SCAT block to move towards being more tactical de-escalation and being less combative. The techniques that were unlikely to be used in the field or are hard to retain will be removed. Another goal is to allow school directors to teach SCAT techniques to best suit their logistics/audience. Mrs. Fisher opened the floor to questions/discussion.

Jon Gregory inquired if there would be any instructor updates to teach the current SCAT instructors any new techniques added. Mr. Stevens stated he plans to block off several months in the coming year or two to travel from East to West NCJA campuses to host the instructor updates. The first to be trained on the new techniques will be those who will be instructing in the BLET 2023 pilot programs. After the pilot programs are complete, additional instructor updates will be offered, working out any issues identified in the BLET 2023 pilot programs. Mr. Gazaway elaborated that the goal is to get staff trained on new SCAT techniques to work out issues during the pilot process.

Mr. Stevens concluded by giving a brief overview of the Gracie Survival tactics/course. Mr. Stevens described several of the Gracie Techniques and how they would be incorporated into the new BLET. Mr. Stevens explained that the proprietary rights would not be an issue as Mr. Stevens is certified in those tactics. He has located additional resources outside of the Gracie's to use in the citing of the material for the lesson plan. No further discussion.

➤ Rapid Deployment Instructors

Michelle Schilling stated last year, there were some preliminary discussions on implementing Rapid Deployment as a specialized instructor course. The topic was presented to the Education and Training Standards Committee in February 2021 for consideration. There has been much discussion with School Directors and NCJA staff to ensure the training meets the requirements of a specialized course. This change would coincide with the BLET 2023 revisions. Jon Gregory inquired if current Rapid Deployment Instructors would be grandfathered in as specialized instructors? Ms. Schilling replied yes, current instructors would be grandfathered in. Renewals will be required every three years. Those instructors with multiple specialized certifications will have their renewals synced. No further discussion.

➤ BLET Academies and Oversaturation

Ms. Schilling stated there is concern over the number of BLET Academies. Currently, there are 66 delivery sites, and recently, additional requests for academies have been received, some located next to current academies. After a brief discussion, the topic was tabled pending research and feedback from stakeholders.

➤ 2023 BLET State Exam

Ms. Schilling stated there are also some preliminary discussions ongoing regarding the 2023 BLET state exam design. A brief discussion ensued. Ms. Schilling said the exam would be based on training objectives. Training and Standards will reach out for feedback as the process progresses.

➤ Proposed Lesson Plan Revisions

Jennifer Fisher reiterated to the group that only critical revisions will be made, such as statutory changes or fixing incorrect information, until the BLET 2023 curriculum is complete. All new information will be channeled to the BLET 2023 revision.

Firearms

Mrs. Fisher updated the group regarding a proposed revision Steve Johnson presented to the Education and Training Committee on November 18, 2021. Mr. Johnson's proposed revisions were voted on and approved by the Education and Training Committee. The revisions clarified the language in the Firearms block of instruction, ensuring the clarity of prohibited technologies such as laser lighting systems in the BLET Firearms Training previously approved and presented by the BLET Advisory Group. Mrs. Fisher advised the group that the revisions only further explained the various types of laser lighting systems and did not conflict with what the advisory group had previously discussed and approved. Mrs. Fisher provided the group with the updated revision to be implemented effective January 1, 2022. Mrs. Fisher reiterated that additional training might be added to the basic requirements, based on the individual BLET academy's needs. School Directors will be responsible for documentation and liability of any additional training, content, or time. Mrs. Fisher opened the floor for discussion. No discussion ensued.

OTHER BUSINESS

➤ Division Reports

North Carolina Criminal Justice Training and Standards Division Report

Ms. Schilling stated an email was sent out on Executive Order 240 to School Directors. Executive Order 240 will expire on March 1, 2022. Meetings are currently taking place to cover parameters April 2022 and onward. Feedback from the School Directors Conference showed an 80% satisfaction with the conference. Planning has begun for the 2022 School Directors Conference, which will be held August 20 – 22, 2022, in Greensboro, NC. Mike Whitley has joined CJ Training and Standards as the SMI Program Manager. The General Instructor Program Manager will start next week. End of report.

North Carolina Sheriff's Training and Standards Commission Division Report

No report.

North Carolina Department of Justice Division Report

No report.

➤ Open Discussion

2022 BLET Advisory Group Meeting Dates

March 4, 2022 10:00 am Cleveland Community College hosted by Aaron Vassey

June 3, 2022 10:00 am Sunset Beach Police Department hosted by Kenneth Klamar

September 2, 2022 10:00 am NC Highway Patrol Training Center hosted by Joseph Cotton

December 9, 2022 10:00 am Wake Technical Community College hosted by Jon Gregory

Mrs. Fisher opened the floor for discussion. No further discussion ensued. Mrs. Fisher thanked the group for their dedication to the BLET program.

ADJOURNMENT

Steven Warren made a **motion** to adjourn the meeting. Jon Gregory **seconded**. Leann Supko conducted a formal roll call vote. None opposed. **Motion carried**. Meeting adjourned at 11:31 am.

Respectfully submitted,
Leann Supko
Program Assistant
North Carolina Justice Academy

Date
January 3, 2022