

MINUTES

NORTH CAROLINA CRIMINAL JUSTICE EDUCATION AND TRAINING STANDARDS COMMISSION

EDUCATION AND TRAINING COMMITTEE August 11, 2021

The Education and Training Committee of the North Carolina Criminal Justice Education and Training Standards Commission met in Room 1427 of the Public Safety Training Center, Wake Technical Community College, Raleigh, NC. Chair Stephanie Freeman called the meeting to order at 2:00 pm. Those in attendance were:

- *Stephanie Freeman, Appointment by the Governor- Correctional Officer-OSDT
- *Steve Johnson, Appointment by the General Assembly- Speaker of the House
- *Lee Farnsworth, NC Law Enforcement Officers' Association
- *Jamie Vaske, NC Criminal Justice Association
- *Nathan Mizell, NC Law Enforcement Training Officers' Association
- *Freddy Johnson, NC Department of Public Safety; Colonel, NC State Highway Patrol - Ex-Officio Member
- *Jane Gilchrist, General Counsel, NC Department of Public Safety - Ex-Officio Member

Visitors

Eddie Caldwell, NC Law Enforcement Officers Association
Thomas Forrest, Pitt Community College
Joe Cotton, NC State Highway Patrol
Chris Blue, Chapel Hill Police Department
Jon Gregory, Wake Technical Community College
Jamie Wicker, Wake Technical Community College
King Thomas, DPS Dept. of Juvenile Justice
Catherine Anderson, DPS Dept. of Juvenile Justice

Staff

Jeffrey Smythe, NC Criminal Justice Standards Division
Sharon Witherspoon, NC Criminal Justice Standards Division
Richard Squires, NC Criminal Justice Standards Division
Michelle Schilling, NC Criminal Justice Standards Division
Trevor Allen, NC Justice Academy
Stacy Holloman, NC Justice Academy
Alex Gazaway, NC Justice Academy

*Committee Members

WELCOME

Chair Stephanie Freeman called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone.

ROLL CALL

Director Allen called the roll, and a quorum was present.

MINUTES

Committee members reviewed the minutes from the May 19, 2021 meeting. Commissioner Lee Farnsworth **motioned** to accept the minutes; Commissioner Nathan Mizell **seconded** the motion. The **motion carried**.

The meeting began with a Committee Action item.

COMMITTEE ACTION

SCHOOL ACCREDITATION

On behalf of the Criminal Justice Standards Division, Deputy Director Michelle Schilling recommended the accreditation and re-accreditation of the following institutions for a period of five (5) years in accordance with 12 NCAC 09B .0200 and 12 NCAC 09C .0401 for the delivery of the Commission-accredited courses as follows:

- Accreditations:
 - * Edgecombe Community College – SMI
 - * Division of Juvenile Justice – Juvenile Justice Officer Basic, Juvenile Court Counselor Basic, Restraints, Controls, Defensive Techniques (RCDT) Instructor, Instructor Training
- Re-Accreditations:
 - * Surry Community College – BLEET, SMI
 - * Winston-Salem Police Department – SMI

Ms. Michelle Schilling shared that Edgecombe Community College currently administers the BLEET program, and they would like to be accredited to deliver the Speed Measuring Instrument program. She also reported that the Division of Juvenile Justice requested to be accredited to deliver the Juvenile Justice Officer Basic; the Juvenile Court Counselor Basic; the Restraints, Controls, Defensive Techniques Instructor; and the Instructor Training courses. Edgecombe Community College and the Division of Juvenile Justice both met all of the requirements for accreditation. Ms. Schilling recommended that they be accredited.

Surry Community College and Winston Salem Police Department both requested re-accreditation for their current courses. During their audit, all requirements for re-accreditation were met. Ms. Schilling recommended that they be re-accredited.

The Committee approved the recommendations as presented, and Commissioner Steve Johnson proposed a **motion** that the following delivery sites be ***accredited and re-accredited for a period of five (5) years in accordance with 12 NCAC 09B .0200 and 12 NCAC 09C .0401*** for the delivery of the Commission-accredited courses as requested. Commissioner Lee Farnsworth **seconded** the motion. **Motion carried**.

The Committee returned to address a Commission Action item.

Based on the Juvenile Justice Division's recent accreditation, they now propose revisions to their curriculum.

COMMISSION ACTION

ADMINISTRATIVE CODE – PROPOSED RULE REVISION

On behalf of the North Carolina Department of Public Safety, Division of Juvenile Justice, Mr. King Thomas requested a rule change to 12 NCAC 09B .0235 – Basic Training Juvenile Court Counselor and Chief Course Counselor curriculum. He proposed that the training topic “Risk and Needs Assessment” be modified to reflect “Assessing Risk and Needs.”

The request would require a rule change to the following rule:

- 12 NCAC 09B .0235 – Basic Training – Juvenile Court Counselors and Chief Court Counselors

The Committee approved the proposed request, and Commissioner Nathan Mizell proposed a **motion** that the Commission authorize the Planning and Standards Committee to conduct a rulemaking hearing to amend the rule ***12 NCAC 09B .0235 - Basic Training – Juvenile Court Counselor and Chief Court Counselor.***

- Paragraph “b(2)(D)” shall be changed from “Risk and Needs Assessment” to “Assessing Risk and Needs”

Commissioner Steve Johnson **seconded** the motion; the **motion carried.**

COMMITTEE ACTION

NC DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY – DJJ

On behalf of the North Carolina Department of Public Safety, Division of Juvenile Justice, Mr. King Thomas proposed that major revisions be made to 12 NCAC 09B .0235 Basic Training – Juvenile Court Counselors and Chief Court Counselors, and 12 NCAC 09B .0236 Basic Training – Juvenile Justice Officers. The proposed changes include major revisions to the following lesson plans and the deletion, addition of objectives, and changes to the course lesson titles. It was also requested that the pilot authority be extended.

- 12 NCAC 09B .0235 Basic Training – Juvenile Court Counselors and Chief Court Counselors
 - Juvenile Law (JC115)
 - Risk and Needs Assessment (JC120)
 - Report Writing, Documentation and Correspondence (JC111)
 - Request to Extend Pilot Authority to the last day of March 2022

The Committee approved the request that major revisions be made to ***12 NCAC 09B .0235 Basic Training – Juvenile Court Counselors and Chief Court Counselors.*** Commissioner Steve Johnson proposed a **motion** to accept the changes, and Commissioner Lee Farnsworth **seconded** the motion. The **motion carried.**

- 12 NCAC 09B .0235 Basic Training – Juvenile Court Counselors and Chief Court Counselors and 12 NCAC 09B .0236 Basic Training – Juvenile Justice Officers (two new lesson plans)
 - Basic Life Support CPR (JJ135-1)

- Basic Life Support First Aid (JJ135-2)
- Request to Extend Pilot Authority to the last day of March 2022

Mr. King Thomas requested major revisions to the CPR and First Aid Curriculum in the Juvenile Justice Common Core Courses. He shared that they are currently using the American Heart and Safety Lesson Plan Artillery. They would like to return to using the (4) four-hour blocks in the American Heart Association CPR and the American Heart Association First Aid curriculum. He also requested that the pilot authority be extended in case additional issues were found.

Commissioner Steve Johnson suggested that the pilot authority be extended until March 2022 to allow Mr. Thomas time to administer the pilot program, assess the changes, and return with an update at the February 2022 meeting.

The Committee approved the following changes and Commissioner Lee Farnsworth **motioned** to extend the pilot authority until Thursday, March 31, 2022.

Commissioner Steve Johnson **motioned** to approve the Juvenile Justice Common Core revisions to the Basic Life Support CPR and Basic Life Support First Aid and to extend the pilot authority until Thursday, March 31, 2022 for rule ***12 NCAC 09B .0235 Basic Training – Juvenile Court Counselors and Chief Court Counselors and for 12 NCAC 09B .0236 Basic Training – Juvenile Justice Officers.***

Commissioner Lee Farnsworth **amended** his motion. Commissioner Johnson **amended** his previous motion to include the approval of the Juvenile Justice Court Counselor major revisions and to extend the pilot until March 31, 2022 for rule ***12 NCAC 09B .0235 Basic Training – Juvenile Court Counselors and Chief Court Counselors.*** Commissioner Nathan Mizell **seconded** the amended motion. **Motion carried.**

Commissioner Steve Johnson made a second motion for the approval of the major revisions to the Juvenile Justice Common Core curriculum. He **motioned** to approve the major revisions in the Juvenile Justice Common Core curriculum and to extend the pilot until March 31, 2022 in rule ***12 NCAC 09B .0235 Basic Training – Juvenile Court Counselors and Chief Court Counselors and in 12 NCAC 09B .0236 Basic Training – Juvenile Justice Officers.*** Commissioner Lee Farnsworth **seconded** the motion. **Motion carried.**

PITT COMMUNITY COLLEGE- REQUEST FOR BLET WAIVER OF MINIMUM ATTENDEE REQUIREMENTS

On behalf of Pitt Community College and their community partners, Mr. Thomas Forrest, the BLET School Director, requested a waiver to reduce the minimum number of students required in a BLET course delivery as outlined in part (b) of the rule 12 NCAC 09B .0204 -Training Course Enrollment.

Mr. Thomas Forrest shared that the responsibility of the community college is to provide training services for the community, and one of the training courses that they provide is a night BLET course. He addressed the difficulty that Pitt Community College has had when trying to administer the night course, which several other colleges struggle with delivering as well due to low enrollment. Mr. Forrest further shared that his students are referred to Martin Community College to complete the night course or that their night course is switched to a day course. He

requested that a waiver provide the adjustment to the student enrollment in their night BLET course so their college could administer the program.

Commissioner Jane Gilchrist shared that the current rule regarding enrollment waivers states that “the Director shall approve the request if it includes a summary of the efforts the school has made to notify its respective community of the availability of the course and the reasons supporting the school's need to enroll fewer than ten (10) trainees.”

The Committee advised that the student numbers for enrollment could only be reduced by a rule change and they have limited ability; therefore, they cannot waive the rule. The Committee denied Mr. Forrest’s request.

The Committee sympathized with Pitt Community College, employers, and law enforcement agencies for officers who are turned away from taking a night BLET course due to low enrollment, and they hope for a resolution. Commissioner Freeman shared that Department of Public Safety experiences the same issues with low enrollment.

APPALACHIAN STATE UNIVERSITY

On behalf of Appalachian State University and the Criminal Justice Standards Division, Deputy Director Michelle Schilling requested that Appalachian State University’s pilot authority for their modified BLET course be extended pending their request for a rule change. Their first pilot was granted in February 2020, and they are requesting an extension until August 31, 2022.

Ms. Michelle Schilling shared that at the February 2021 Commission meeting, the Commission approved for Appalachian State University to administer a hybrid modified BLET schedule with an adjusted period for the course delivery. The modified schedule allowed their full-time students who work as security officers on campus the ability to attend the BLET program simultaneously. The program was piloted to determine how well the new schedule worked, considering the significant time gaps of the delivered curriculum. At different times students had a month or two-month break in between the deliveries and they would return to the program for a review before the remaining course delivery. Appalachian State University began its first piloted modified BLET course on August 3, 2021. They had twenty-five (25) students enrolled in their first delivery who will be taking the state exam this Friday, August 13th. The test results will reflect how well the students performed with the hybrid program.

Appalachian State has requested an extension for its pilot program until August 31, 2022, so they can conduct another BLET course utilizing the same modified schedule. The university plans to return to the November meeting with a proposed rule change to include the hybrid schedule with a three (3) week period that’s currently in the rule.

The Committee discussed that the pilot authority would have to be granted to allow the university to continue administering the modified program.

Ms. Schilling reminded the Committee that the university was accredited last February to administer the BLET program and that they are currently an accredited delivery site. She also shared that the pilot authority was given to deliver the hybrid schedule as they had requested.

The Committee understood that the university’s goal is to return with a rule change at the November meeting, to allow any agency to administer a hybrid program. The Committee

approved the request to extend the pilot. Commissioner Lee Farnsworth **motioned** to extend the pilot authority; Commissioner Jamie Vaske **seconded** the motion. **Motion carried.**

Ms. Schilling suggested that the pilot be extended until August 2022 or until the rulemaking process was completed for a rule change.

Commissioner Lee Farnsworth suggested an extension until August 2022 to allow time for a rule-making request. Commissioner Lee Farnsworth **amended** his motion to include the pilot authority's extension until August 2022. Commissioner Jamie Vaske **seconded** the amended motion. **Motion carried.**

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

NC DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY – DJJ

On behalf of the North Carolina Department of Public Safety, Division of Juvenile Justice, Mr. King Thomas proposed that minor revisions be made to the lesson plans in 12 NCAC 09B .0235 Basic Training – Juvenile Court Counselors and Chief Court Counselors, and 12 NCAC 09B .0236 Basic Training – Juvenile Justice Officers. The proposed changes were the deletion, addition of objectives, and changes to the course lesson titles.

Charlotte-Mecklenburg Police Department Academy Audit Update

Deputy Director Michelle Schilling with the Criminal Justice Standards Division briefed the Committee on the discrepancies identified on an unannounced audit at the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Training Academy. The agency was re-audited and found to have met all of the requirements to administer training. They have established appropriate measures to meeting the required standards and now have physical and digital records on file. There are unannounced inspections scheduled throughout this year to ensure they remain compliant.

2021 School Directors' Conference Update

On behalf of the School Directors' Advisory Group and Criminal Justice Standards Division, Deputy Director Michelle Schilling briefed the Committee on the status of the 2021 School Directors' Conference to include a new break-out session. The conference is scheduled for October 19-21, 2021, in Greensboro.

Ms. Michelle Schilling advised that the conference is still scheduled for October 19-21, 2021, and that registration was extended until September 15th to allow delivery agencies additional time to budget their finances. A break-out session is included for School Directors and Qualified Assistants for state and local agencies. Staff member Jenny Myers will be assisting with the sessions. Please contact Ms. Schilling if there are Commissioners who would like to attend the conference and be recognized. She apologized if someone wasn't recognized at last year's meeting.

BLET Ammunition Shortage Update

On behalf of the Criminal Justice Standards Division, Deputy Director Michelle Schilling updated the Committee on the BLET Ammunition Shortage. She further researched and found that no other BLET School Director had indicated an issue with obtaining ammunition.

Ms. Michelle Schilling shared that at the May meeting, she reported that a school director requested relief for the BLET ammunition shortage his agency had experienced. After the May meeting, all school directors were contacted by email to inquire if their agency had the same difficulty with ammunition for their BLET courses. Ms. Schilling was only notified by (1) one school director who had an issue. Mickey Biggs from the Community College System Office forwarded two (2) sources of information to the agencies who had difficulty so they could obtain ammunition to alleviate any issues. No other complaints were made for the ammunition shortage; therefore, the request for relief was withdrawn.

School Accreditation Audits – Mitchell Community College & Central Carolina Community College

On behalf of the Criminal Justice Standards Division, Deputy Director Michelle Schilling briefed the Committee on the current investigations that her office received relating to the delivery and administration of training. Ms. Schilling shared that her staff had conducted unannounced audits on Mitchell Community College and Central Carolina Community College and found discrepancies with their programs. The Standards Division is currently working with them to ensure they become compliant.

Military and Veterans Certification Discussion

On behalf of the Criminal Justice Standards Division, Interim Director Richard Squires briefed the Committee on a request made by Chief Mike Yaniero with the Jacksonville Police Department. Chief Yaniero requested that the Criminal Justice Standards Division reconsider how they evaluate military police training and experience.

Mr. Richard Squires shared that, currently, the rule required staff to evaluate an applicant's training and experience to determine if there are substantial, equivalent, or any qualifications that exceed the current certification standards. These factors influence an individual's probationary certification. Like an out-of-state certification, the probationary certification requires an individual to complete the required legal unit and civil process training within a year. If the applicant's training and experience are not equivalent, and they have applied as a transfer, the individual would be required to enroll in a BLET program to complete the training and pass the state exam before becoming eligible for a probationary certification.

He also reported that in 2017, the Commission reviewed the certification requirements, and at the time, the BLET program was six hundred and sixteen (616) hours. A subcommittee was formed to compare military training to the state's BLET program, which at that time the Commission considered its findings and determined that the minimum required BLET program hours for military transfers should be four hundred and seventy-four (474) hours. The Legislation also passed a rule that required the Civil Unit, Legal Unit, and the Civil Process to be completed, which added additional hours to the course. The Commission also identified topics totally 180 hours that needed to be completed. A recommendation was made for a separate BLET course to consist of one hundred forty-two (142) hours. The Commission decided that individuals from the military, whether from road duty or security duty, their experience and training were not equivalent to that of law enforcement.

Deputy Chief Patrick Schroeder shared that Chief Yaniero asked that the Commission reconsider the evaluation of the training and experience for military and veterans to assist agencies with recruitments, certifications and to complete the training necessary for a probationary status once it is granted. He felt that the military and their veterans should be granted a probationary certification status similar to that of an out-of-state lateral transfer and be

allowed to complete state BLET training requirements for military transferees within a year during the probationary period as long as there were two (2) years of unbroken service. These individuals would perform duties that are similar to a law enforcement officer. He requested that the Commission consider aligning the military qualifications more in line with the out-of-state laterals, specifically in 17C-10.1 (c) Certification of military service members and veterans with law enforcement training and experience.

Mr. Squires shared the statistics from the past five (5) years regarding the requests for military certification. There were two hundred and three (203) requests received, one hundred and fifty-nine (159) were approved, thirty-eight (38) became certified, and twelve (12) passed the BLET course and didn't ask for a certification.

The Committee discussed how the request would affect the 17C-10.0 statute and the possible changes. Since the statute is unclear and left open for interpretation, a rule change or statute change would be needed. The Committee shared their concern for any change to be made and asked if readdressing this issue was necessary. Based on the statistics for military requests, should the issue be readdressed, what requirements would change and how and where would the required training would be completed. Another concern that was raised is that the statute stating during the probationary period, the applicant must complete twenty-four (24) hours of training with the Legal Unit and Civil Process, which may be a repeated training if an applicant completed the training prior to becoming certified. .

Mr. Squires suggested that the applicants be required to complete the Legal Unit and the Civil Process in a sitting BLET, and pass the state exam. He also suggested that the other required classes to be completed outside of the sitting BLET, at an agency level through a certified instructor for major courses in SCAT, Driver's Training, Firearms, Patrol Techniques, and Mental Illness.

Commissioner Stephanie Freeman shared her concern for BLET that's administered to single individuals at agencies which may create inconsistencies with the level of basic training that is taught. She wants to ensure that the training is equivalent to what's currently taught in BLET. The Committee is not concerned about In-service training since it teaches officers who have already completed basic training.

Mr. Squires shared that if the Committee interpreted the training to be conducted at the agency level, a rule change would be needed and that a statute change would be needed once they decided how to proceed and if they adjusted the certification requirements. He also suggested that the training guide identify the required training that must be completed during the one (1) year probationary period.

Commissioner Nathan Mizell reminded the Committee that a standard rule change could create additional areas of concern when dealing with out-of-state certifications based on how it's interpreted.

The Committee requested that the Criminal Justice Staff further research the issue and determine any potential language for either a rule change or statute change and return with an update so the Committee can reevaluate the matter.

Mr. Squires agreed to address the issue before the Commission to determine if further research is necessary. He acknowledged that the rule is long and it includes training for the Sheriffs', In-Service, and for Federal certifications.

BLET Revision Project Update (Job Task Analysis)

On behalf of the North Carolina Justice Academy, Alex Gazaway briefed the Committee on the status of the BLET Revision Project according to the Job Task Analysis. The Academy has progressed into Phase 5 of the BLET Project. The Research and Development Team continues to assess, develop, and revise the existing lesson plans and the new content. Mr. Gazaway reminded the Committee that all modules have topics being developed or that are at various stages of review. The Academy continues to receive input from various personnel and stakeholders throughout the state and has incorporated the recommendations in alignment with the job task analysis.

Mr. Alex Gazaway shared that there are six (6) lesson plans and training objectives under development. Currently, the Orientation lesson plan includes combined lessons in addition to changes in hours and topics. The Domestic Violence curriculum was forward to the North Carolina Victim's Assistance Network and to other stakeholders for their review and feedback. The Crowd Management lesson plan includes recent events and the best practices that should be implemented. The Techniques of Traffic Enforcement lesson plan has revisions, and a decision is currently being made whether field sobriety testing material should be included in the lesson. The Rapid Deployment lesson plan will include the best practice techniques. The course management guide being developed will assist school directors in scheduling and administrating the course. No changes are foreseen to the specialty instructor certifications. If field sobriety testing is included, that may require an instructor certification from an outside source that the Commission does not govern.

A pilot delivery is scheduled in the fall to prepare the Train-the-Trainer segments for a full delivery in 2022.

Commissioner Steve Johnson requested that a title change be made to the "Problem Solving" lesson plan and that it would be renamed "Ethics" and/or "Ethical Problem Solving." He shared that the first ten (10) to twelve (12) pages of the curriculum are about ethics and that his request will fulfill the recommendation from the General Assembly regarding the Senate Bill 3000.

The Committee approved the title change from the "Problem Solving" lesson plan to the "Ethics and Ethical Problem Solving." Commissioner Steve Johnson **motioned** to accept the proposed title change; Commissioner Nathan Mizell **seconded** the motion. **Motion carried.**

The Committee emphasized that the academy staff consider several issues: the importance of each skill set in the lesson, how they determine the specialty instructor, and the requirements for a First Aid Responder or an HHA instructor that could teach the First Aid and CPR course.

Commissioner Johnson suggested that the national program "Stop the Bleed" be included in the basic CPR curriculum because officers will encounter injuries at the scene before EMS arrives.

The Committee also discussed the different types of certifications the level of training for each, and what it required. They mentioned how different a specialty instructor is compared to an AHA instructor, the content that each certification allows to be taught, whether the training level should be lowered, and if an AHA instructor certification would allow additional individuals to become certified.

Commissioner Mizell recommended that the new curriculum be reviewed to determine what is needed to teach each course, what type of instructor and certification is needed, and what each skill set requires.

Mrs. Michelle Schilling emphasized that the appropriate instructors be selected and meet the requirements to teach in the CPR, the American Heart Association, and/or the American Red Cross course since those certification programs are government by outside entities.

The Committee understands that further discussions will be made on the new curriculum, its quality control, certifications, qualifications, and requested a matrix to assist with determining the skills and qualifications for delivering the training objectives.

Commissioner Johnson suggested that colleges will need the names of all training courses and their hours to determine the number of instructors and role players that are required for each training block. Colleges will need that information by November to allow them time to prepare an estimate for the next school year's budget for the early months in 2022. Colleges must finalize their budget by July 2022. He also suggested that administering the pilot until next May will not be enough time to receive feedback and adjustments made for the new curriculum.

Wake Technical Community College School Director Jon Gregory noted that certain logistics should be considered when they are preparing to administer the pilot, such as the course delivery time, increased instructor costs, locating and providing role players, adjustments to scheduling conflicts, and time to review the changes in the new curriculum. He also suggested that colleges may require at least six (6) months to prepare before the first delivery. He further shared his loss of experienced law enforcement instructors from the field and the effort to recruit new ones. Mr. Gregory prefers credible instructors that have firsthand knowledge of the curriculum that will be delivered, which takes time to recruit and hire. He shared that his students know when an instructor is knowledgeable or not.

The Committee expressed appreciation for Mr. Gregory's feedback as a practitioner since many logistics are to be considered before implementing the new BLET curriculum. Commissioner Freeman shared that a plan will be discussed with the Executive Committee to gather partners together to assist with the logistics. They will return and update the Committee with a possible solution.

NEW BUSINESS

BLET 2023 and NC Community College Alignment

On behalf of Commissioner Tracy McPherson, the Education and Training Committee Chair Stephanie Freeman distributed a document that was prepared by Commissioner McPherson from the Community College System Office. Her statement provided information on the steps that they are prepared to implement at the state level in support of the roll-out of the new BLET 2023 program.

Commissioner Stephanie Freeman informed the Committee about the community college's readiness with its partnership and involvement on the BLET project. The College System will work logistically within their college course library to align with the new BLET curriculum, and they pledge to support the BLET 2023 roll-out program with the following:

- Change the hours and content of the BLET course in the college course library to align with the Commission's new BLET program. This will ensure that students receive proper credits on their transcripts.
- Evaluate the new BLET curriculum to identify equivalent credit that might be awarded towards a related Associate's Degree for successful completion of BLET.
- Allocate identified grant funds in support of efforts such as school director and instructor professional development/curriculum update training to assist with the implementation of the new BLET course content.

Commissioner Freeman and Commissioner McPherson previously discussed possible options that would help the program. A Train-the-Trainer program could assist with distributing the new training material, and more individuals would be allowed to attend.

Commissioner Tracy McPherson could not attend the E&T meeting but wished to emphasize that the Community College System's Office is committed to supporting the new implementation of the BLET 2023.

Instructor Training 8-Minute Video Discussion Update

At the May meeting, the Committee discussed the 8-minute training video, how it's retained, whether it was considered a public record and if it should be removed. The Committee requested further input from the Department of Justice's legal staff for their opinion.

Commissioner Leslie Dismukes, a Legal Representative for the Department of Justice, updated the Committee on whether the 8-minute training video in the General Instructor Training course was considered a public record. After a legal review was conducted, the Legal Team decided that the video was a public record but that, subject to certain public records exceptions, did not have to be maintained.

Ms. Laurie Austen shared that in Instructor Training, the students present a series of presentations on the same topic, which is a part of the grading process and not the final presentation. The 8-minute video is the first presentation completed, and it's designed for students to critique themselves on habits and behaviors that may disrupt the flow of their presentation. She recommended that the state archives be consulted for their opinion to resolve this issue and to prevent having to readdress it in the future. The Committee agreed, and requested that DOJ legal obtain a definitive decision from State Archives as to the preservation of the video and present this information at the November meeting.

The Committee agreed that the videos are an excellent tool for teaching students how to improve on their lesson plan presentation. It was requested that, once confirmation regarding retention is received from State Archives, the Justice Academy staff return at the November meeting to propose including the 8-minute training video in the Instructor Training curriculum. They also requested that the appropriate language be added to the Instructor Training course management guide to ensure that all school directors know to delete the training videos at the end of each course.

OTHER BUSINESS:

Commissioner Steve Johnson requested that the course management guide include wording to state that the basic fundamentals are taught in basic training. He also requested that the in-

service firearms manual state that agencies have the discretion to teach anything beyond basic training. The same request was made with the Protective Services training, and he proposed the same measure be applied to the course management guide and the in-service firearms manual.

Commissioner Johnson shared that in the Private Protective Services training, the material is about the fundamentals, and that the basic training does not include training on red dot sites, lasers, and gun-mounted lights. The basic firearms program doesn't teach this as well. He requested language be written and inserted in the training materials to ensure that officers know the basics of shooting before they are taught beyond the basic training. He requested the Committee's approval to include the written statements to ensure the rules are known.

The Committee asked that he return to the November meeting and provide language to satisfy his request.

Mr. Alex Gazaway shared that during the BLET revision feedback, some agencies recommended using light mounts on their standard-issued weapons, and there were no recommendations for the use of lasers.

Commissioner Freeman advised that the next E&T Committee meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, November 17th, 2021.

Commissioner Nathan Mizell **motioned** to adjourn. Commissioner Lee Farnsworth **seconded** the motion; the meeting adjourned at 3:23 pm.