



Ohio Collaborative Community- Police Advisory Board

May 13, 2019 Meeting Summary

The Ohio Collaborative Community Police Advisory Board (Collaborative) is a multidisciplinary group consisting of a diverse group of Ohioans including, law enforcement, community members, elected officials, academia and the faith based community. The Collaborative was created by executive order 2015-04k on April 29, 2015 after the Governor's Task Force on Community Police Relations completed its work and produced a report with recommendations on how to improve the important relationship between law enforcement and the communities they serve.

The Collaborative is chaired by Assistant Director Karen Huey, Department of Public Safety. Members appointed by the Governor, including ex officio members, are identified below:

- Commissioner Lori Barreras— Chair of the Ohio Civil Rights Commission
- Representative Juanita Brent – Ohio House
- Dr. Ronnie Dunn—Cleveland State University, Associate Professor of Urban Studies and Interim Chief Diversity and Inclusion Officer
- Dr. Robin S. Engel—University of Cincinnati, Professor of Criminal Justice and Director of IACP/UC Center of Police Research and Policy
- Austin B. Harris—former Student Trustee, Central State University
- Officer Anthony L. Johnson—Columbus Police Department and member, Fraternal Order of Police
- Sheriff Tom Miller—Medina County Sheriff's Office and member of the Buckeye State Sheriff's Association
- BCI Superintendent Joe Morbitzer— Ohio Attorney General's Office
- The Reverend Walter S. Moss— Pastor and CIRV Project Director, Stark County Prosecutor's Office
- Chief Michael J. Navarre—Oregon Police Department and member of the Ohio Association of Chiefs of Police
- Honorable Ronald J. O'Brien—Franklin County Prosecutor

Ex officio members:

- Senator Sandra Williams, Ohio Senate
- Representative Phil Plummer, Ohio House
- The Honorable Tom Roberts, former Ohio Senator and President, Ohio Conference of Units of NAACP
- The late Honorable Louis Stokes, former member of Congress
- The late Honorable George V. Voinovich—former U.S. Senator, Governor of Ohio, and Mayor of Cleveland

The purpose of the Collaborative is to advise and work with the Office of Criminal Justice Services (OCJS) in the Ohio Department of Public Safety to implement the Task Force's recommendations, as identified in the Executive Order.

May 13, 2019, Columbus, OH Meeting of the Ohio Collaborative Community-Police Advisory Board

The Collaborative meeting was held on May 13, 2019 at the Ohio Department of Public Safety. The meeting began at 10:08 AM. The following members were present at the meeting.

- Assistant Director Karen Huey
- OCJS Executive Director Karhlton Moore
- Commissioner Lori Barreras
- Dr. Ronnie Dunn
- Dr. Robin Engel
- Sheriff Tom Miller
- The Rev. Walter S. Moss
- Chief Michael Navarre
- The Honorable Ronald J. O'Brien
- Rep. Phil Plummer
- Honorable Tom Roberts
- Senator Sandra Williams

Public Safety Director Tom Stickrath provided welcoming remarks and introduced Governor Mike DeWine.

Governor DeWine addressed members of the Ohio Collaborative. He thanked everyone for their participation in the Collaborative. He then introduced four new members: DPS Assistant Director and Ohio Collaborative Chair Karen Huey, BCI Superintendent Joe Morbitzer, Representative Juanita Brent and Representative Phil Plummer. Governor DeWine talked about the value of adopting law enforcement standards. He recognized the agencies that have voluntarily become certified.

Governor DeWine asked the members to take on another responsibility: vehicular pursuits. He would like a pursuit standard developed, and he discussed the reasons for its importance. While current law states that every agency must have a policy, the law does not dictate what is in the policy. He noted that in 2016, while he was Attorney General, he formed an advisory group regarding the development of pursuit policies, and a report was created that could serve as a starting point for the development of a statewide standard. It is important that the standard is backed by research. Uniformity across jurisdictional lines is also very important and will help save lives.

Chief Navarre agreed that the development of a pursuit standard is necessary. He added that training is also an important component that should be included. Chief Navarre then provided his thoughts on the elimination of the front license plate requirement, to which Governor DeWine provided feedback.

Governor DeWine concluded his remarks at 10:20.

DPS Assistant Director and newly appointed Ohio Collaborative Chairperson Karen Huey introduced herself and described her perception of the history of the Ohio Collaborative. She noted that the members now have guidance and direction from the Governor on what the next standard should be.

Members of the Collaborative took turns introducing themselves.

Update on certifications

Executive Director Karhlton Moore discussed the components of the Collaborative report, which was released at the end of March. He noted a significant difference from the previous report regarding the definition of 'in process'. The new definition is stricter, and it resulted in a smaller, but more accurate reflection of the actual number of certified and to-be-certified agencies.

Dr. Robin Engel had questions about the characteristics of the agencies that are not becoming certified, and what can be done to reach to them. Mr. Moore reported that many are small agencies (25 or fewer officers), and described the types of outreach OCJS has done to inform them of the certification process, including attendance at meetings of the Small Chiefs Association and collaboration with BSSA and OACP. Much work has been done to dispel incorrect information that was circulating amongst some agencies. Chairperson Huey noted that certain regions of Ohio are not represented, particularly in the eastern quadrant of the state, and she and Mr. Moore encouraged Collaborative members and representatives of certified agencies to conduct peer-to-peer outreach.

Ed Burkhammer, Program Manager of the Ohio Collaborative, then spoke to the group about the certification database. Agencies have the ability to simply adopt an existing best practice policy or adjust the policy to fit the needs of their respective agency, assuming the policy meets minimum standards. The database is completely free for agencies, and it allows up to three individuals from an agency to have access.

Mr. Burkhammer also mentioned that agencies have the ability to use the database to upload all their policies. This, too, is completely free. It includes a 'read and sign' component in the portal. This can save agencies anywhere from \$2,000-\$5,000 a year when compared to similar commercial products. Dr. Engel asked whether the new system would allow tracking by a specific officer. Mr. Burkhammer responded that it would not, but explained that our intention is to provide the service to the agencies and have them assign each individual officer policies.

Honorable Tom Roberts asked how we can know that an agency is living up to the certification. Mr. Moore explained that it is a two-part process that involves an initial certification followed by a final certification. He noted that being certified is not a panacea—it will not prevent an officer from doing something bad. If an officer has acted outside the policy, it is up to the agency to make sure that he or she is held responsible.

A copy of the Law Enforcement Certification 2019 Public Report can be found on the OCJS website at www.ocjs.ohio.gov/ohiocollaborative

Standard on Police Pursuits

Chairperson Huey and Mr. Moore turned to the Collaborative members for their feedback. Mr. Moore reiterated that state law dictates you have to have a policy on pursuits, but does not dictate what is in the policy. Key ideas that were mentioned include consistency between adjoining jurisdictions, supervisory oversight and accountability when a pursuit takes place, development of a data collection component, and a no-pursuit policy when the identity of the individual is known.

Chief Navarre recounted statistics showing the seriousness of police pursuits: one percent of all pursuits result in a fatality. While officers 'live' for pursuits, they can have serious consequences. We need a restrictive policy that ensures that everything must be document, must contain several key elements, and has to consider a variety of factors. We do not, however, want to completely ban pursuits, which is what Florida did. Representative Plummer pointed out that chases are the second most dangerous thing an officer does, following discharge of a firearm.

Dr. Robin Engel pointed out that much research was conducted on officer pursuits, and it showed that most effective is a restrictive pursuit policy. Model policies are currently being reviewed and a report will become available in the next month or two. This report will take the reader point-by-point through the things that must be considered when creating a pursuit policy.

Senator Williams asked whether we can get examples of existing policies, noting that Cleveland Police Department would likely have a policy in place due to the Consent Decree. She also wondered whether

it would be possible for the Governor to create an Executive Order for the creation of a statewide policy on pursuits. She stated that we should go to the communities and talk with their officers about their current pursuit policies. If we are considering putting a statewide policy in place, we need to hear from them.

Dr. Engel pointed out that it would be informative to know why people are fleeing from police. This information could be part of a deterrence campaign. Chief Navarre's experience is that the individuals do not want to go to jail, and because they do not know an agency's pursuit policy, they simply run. Mr. Moore noted that if individuals are fleeing due to outstanding warrants, this is something the Warrants Task Force would be interested in hearing.

Chairperson Huey stated that we will pull information together on pursuits and get this information to all the members.

Proposal: Officer Wellness standard

Mr. Moore discussed a standard that looks at officer wellness. The COPS office released a case study report looking at officer mental health wellness. Representative Plummer acknowledged that as a state, we have dropped the ball on officer wellness. He noted that CIT training has been a priority, and hopefully this has raised awareness of the need for mental health wellness in general.

Dr. Engel pointed out that officer wellness is one of the four priorities for the International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP) this year. They have put together a wellness campaign, but the problem is that very little of the programs are evidence-based. They are all ideas that seem to make sense, but none are research-based. Chiefs need to have access to the resources that are available. She also pointed out that a lot of officer increase in stress comes from within the agency.

During this discussion, Senator Williams referenced the need to train citizens on what to do when stopped by a police officer. This is an issue of officer and citizen safety. Mr. Roberts noted that ACLU and NAACP have brochures on this topic, and Dr. Ronnie Dunn stated that Randell McShepard has training on this issue and would be happy to speak to the Collaborative members.

Proposal: Juvenile standard

Dr. Ronnie Dunn asked where we stand with developing a juvenile procedure standard. Mr. Moore noted that it was introduced to the members and considered as either a standard or a model policy. The discussion was controversial in that much of what was being proposed was already in state law, and several policy elements of interest applied to corrections, not law enforcement.

Dr. Engel asked for clarification: What is the 'ask' with regard to juveniles? Do you want different policies and procedures for juveniles? Dr. Dunn responded that Dr. Gabrielle Celeste, an expert on juvenile brain development, felt there needed to be training for officers on juveniles.

The suggestion of officer training led to a discussion about the need for funding for training and the difficulties that agencies and officers have devoting time for training. Sheriff Miller suggested we have a meeting with OPOTA to make sure that OPOTA and the Ohio Collaborative are on the same page with regard to training.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:39 A.M.