



Ohio Collaborative Community- Police Advisory Board

August 14, 2017 Meeting Summary

On December 12, 2014, Governor John Kasich signed Executive Order 2014-06K announcing the creation of the **Ohio Task Force on Community-Police Relations**. The charge of the Task Force is threefold: 1) To explore the cause of fractured relationships between communities and law enforcement, 2) To examine strategies to strengthen trust between the community and law enforcement in order to resolve the underlying causes of friction; and 3) To provide the Governor with a report with recommendations about best practices available to communities. As a result of the work of the Task Force, on April 30, 2015, Governor John Kasich signed Executive Order 2015-04K establishing the **Ohio Collaborative Community-Police Advisory Board**.

The Collaborative is chaired by Director John Born, Office of Public Safety, and The Honorable Nina Turner, former Ohio Senator. Members appointed by the Governor, including ex officio members, are identified below:

- Sergeant Brian S. Armstead—Akron Police Department, member of the Fraternal Order of Police
- Dr. Ronnie Dunn—Cleveland State University, Professor of Urban Studies and member of the NAACP Criminal Justice Committee
- The Reverend Damon Lynch III—senior pastor, New Prospect Baptist Church
- Chief Michael J. Navarre—Oregon Police Department, member of the Ohio Association of Chiefs of Police
- Honorable Ronald J. O'Brien—Franklin County Prosecutor
- Sheriff Tom Miller—Medina County Sheriff's Office, member of the Buckeye State Sheriff's Association
- Commissioner Lori Barreras—member of the Ohio Civil Rights Commission
- Councilman Michael H. Keenan—City of Dublin, local government representative
- Austin B. Harris—student at Central State University

Ex officio members:

- The late Honorable George V. Voinovich—former U.S. Senator, Governor of Ohio, and Mayor of Cleveland
- The late Honorable Louis Stokes, former member of Congress
- The Honorable Tom Roberts, former Ohio senator, life member of the NAACP
- Senator Sandra Williams, Ohio Senate
- The Honorable Tim Derickson, former Ohio Representative

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.

August 14, 2017, Toledo, OH Meeting of the Ohio Collaborative Community-Police Advisory Board

The Collaborative meeting was held on August 14, 2017 at the University of Toledo. The meeting began at 6:05 P.M. The following members were present at the meeting and introduced themselves.

- Director John Born
- The Honorable Nina Turner
- Executive Director Karhlton Moore
- Commissioner Lori Barreras
- Dr. Ronnie Dunn
- The Honorable Ron O'Brien
- Chief Michael Navarre
- Austin B. Harris

Director Born called the meeting to order and welcomed members of the Ohio Collaborative. Senator Turner provided remarks on the previous work of the Ohio Task Force conducted in 2015. She also noted that others, who may have wanted to attend this meeting, were likely attending the peaceful vigil in nearby Maumee, Ohio in honor of Heather Heyer. A moment of silence was held in memory of Heather Heyer and the other 19 victims during the Charlottesville rally and for the 2 Virginia State officers (Lt. H. Jay Cullen and Trooper-pilot Berke M.M. Bates) who were killed during a helicopter accident on August 12, 2017.

Director Born provided thanks to the Chief of the Toledo Police Department, the University of Toledo and Chief of Public Safety for their assistance in hosting the meeting. He also thanked Representative Michael Sheehy for attending the meeting as well.

Ohio Collaborative members introduced themselves to the audience.

Dr. Dunn detailed the progress of the Ohio Collaborative since the first set of public forums were held in 2015 across Ohio. Expert witnesses provided testimony and the public was encouraged to provide commentary and suggestions to the Ohio Task Force on their perspective of community and police relations in Ohio. Based on this feedback and testimony, the Ohio Collaborative was established and the current standards were created, which include:

- Use of Force including Use of Deadly Force
- Agency Employee Recruitment and Hiring
- Community Engagement
- Law Enforcement Telecommunicator Training
- Body Worn Cameras
- Bias Free Policing

Dr. Dunn discussed the law enforcement certification process conducted by the Office of Criminal Justice Services (OCJS). OCJS is actively working with local law enforcement agencies in Ohio to become certified in the standards created by the Ohio Collaborative. Before certifying an agency, OCJS first conducts an extensive internal review process of an agency's standards. Then, with the assistance of the Buckeye State Sheriffs Association and the Ohio Association of Chiefs of Police, an onsite review of each agency is also completed to ensure that the standards are being met for final certification. In March 2017, the first Law Enforcement Certification Public Report was released by OCJS, highlighting the agencies who are certified under the Use of Force including Use of Deadly Force and Agency Employee Recruitment and Hiring standards. It was noted that 57% of Ohio law enforcement agencies are actively in some stage of the certification process which results in 80% of law enforcement officers and 81% of the Ohio population being covered under the standards.

Director Moore followed-up with highlighting OCJS's process for certifying law enforcement agencies in each of the standards. He added that the goal was to create a legitimate process for law enforcement agencies to be comfortable and confident in meeting the standards and for the public to have faith in their local agencies as they become certified in the standards.

Director Born briefly discussed Governor Kasich approving funds for OCJS to administer to local law enforcement agencies and communities wanting to increase positive police and community relations.

The Honorable Ron O'Brien emphasized the importance of the work the Ohio Collaborative is doing and how the standards ensure the same level of public treatment and enforcement across the state. Austin Harris added how he hopes other states will be encouraged by the work being done in Ohio and implement similar standards.

Change Starts Here Awareness Campaign Update with Warhol and WALL ST.

Warhol & WALL ST. gave an update on the Public Awareness Campaign that they developed in partnership with OCJS to highlight the work of the Ohio Collaborative. They encouraged everyone to check out the website <http://changestartshere.ohio.gov/> and to share feedback on social media networks using the following hashtags: #changestartshereohio and #beheardohio. In order to build awareness, Warhol & WALL ST. also created campaign materials to pass out at events they are attending across the state. The campaign goals are to educate community members across the state and law enforcement agencies on various topics including appropriate interaction and the duties of law enforcement. Warhol & WALL ST.'s contact information and their list of scheduled events can be found on the change starts here website.

Public Testimony Summary

Director Moore called on retired Sergeant Anita Madison to provide updates on the various programs coming out of the Toledo Police Department. She detailed how the agency has created an advisory board with community members to gain feedback on the police department, as well as an online community survey. The department also created a 5 week summer program for youth called *Brain and Body*. During the program, youth interact with Officers, while they learn new languages and participate in various physical activities that include basketball and soccer. Toledo Police Department Chief George Kral added that as an agency they are working very hard to improve the relations with their community.

Other programming includes: Coffee with a Cop, Police in the Parks and requiring all patrol officers to leave their vehicles and walk through their communities at least one hour a week. His hope is that these efforts will increase connections between the agency and the community.

Director Moore called on Chief Paul Hartinger of the Blue Ash Police Department to provide updates on the programs and initiatives coming out of their community. Chief Hartinger shared that there was a need for a change in culture for their agency and the need to do it collectively as a group. They have adopted the policy of needing to be more involved with their community and this level of involvement is emphasized to new officers that come into the agency. This past weekend, they held a walkathon to help raise money for scholarships they provide to local youth and it was very successful.

Additional Commentary from Ohio Collaborative members

Director Born encouraged those in the audience that there are additional opportunities for their voices to be heard. Community members can utilize social media or email to communicate their comments or concerns to the board if they choose not to speak at this engagement.

Dr. Dunn encouraged community members to call their local law enforcement agencies to get certified in the standards to ensure that all citizens across the state are treated equally and fairly. He also made two suggestions for the Ohio Collaborative and they include:

- Adding an additional standard to include a citizen complaint process, this idea stems from recent events between law enforcement and the community in the Cleveland area.
- What additional resources can the Ohio Collaborative provide to help more agencies through the certification process?

Director Born suggested to the Ohio Collaborative that further discussion related to the addition of the new standard would be necessary. All agreed and he requested that Dr. Dunn and Director Moore discuss and submit language to be presented at the next meeting in Cincinnati on October 19, 2017.

In closing, Senator Turner reemphasized the importance of the work being done by the Ohio Collaborative and the work currently being done between law enforcement agencies and their communities. Examples were given of recent events happening in Ohio and how more is needed to be done to make sure engagement between law enforcement and the community is positive. She encouraged the community to participate in the efforts, especially with Ohio Collaborative members in addressing all issues surrounding police and community relations.

The meeting adjourned at 7:00 P.M.