



Ohio Collaborative Community- Police Advisory Board

November 17, 2021 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 DeWine, including ex officio members, are identified below:

- Commissioner Lori Barreras— Chair of the Ohio Civil Rights Commission
- The Honorable Michael Bell – Former Mayor of Toledo
- Representative Juanita Brent – Ohio Representative
- 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
- Officer Anthony L. Johnson—Columbus Police Department and member, Fraternal Order of Police
- BCI Superintendent Joe Morbitzer— Ohio Attorney General's Office
- Reverend Walter S. Moss— Pastor and CIRV Project Director, Stark County Prosecutor's Office
- The Honorable Ronald J. O'Brien—Former Franklin County Prosecutor
- Chief Justin Páez—Dublin Police Department and member of the Ohio Association of Chiefs of Police
- Sheriff Rob Streck – Montgomery County Sheriff's Office and member of the Buckeye State Sheriff's Association

Ex officio members:

- Representative Phil Plummer – Ohio Representative
- 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
- Senator Sandra Williams – Ohio Senator

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

November 17, 2021 Meeting of the Ohio Collaborative Community-Police Advisory Board

The Ohio Collaborative meeting was held on November 17th in the Atrium of the Ohio Department of Public Safety. The following members attended:

- Assistant Director Karen Huey, Ohio Department of Public Safety
- Commissioner Lori Barreras, Ohio Civil Rights Commission
- The Honorable Michael Bell, former mayor of Toledo
- Dr. Ronnie Dunn, Cleveland State University (Attended Virtually)
- Dr. Robin Engel, University of Cincinnati
- Officer Anthony Johnson, Columbus Police Department
- Executive Director Karhlton Moore, Office of Criminal Justice Services
- BCI Superintendent Joe Morbitzer, Ohio Attorney General's Office
- Reverend Walter Moss (Attended Virtually)
- Chief Justin Páez, Dublin Police Department
- Meeting Presenter: Executive Director Dwight Holcomb, Ohio Peace Officer Training Academy

The meeting started at 10:05 A.M.

Assistant Director Huey welcomed all attendees. She opened the meeting by offering condolences for the family of Sheriff Gene Fischer, who passed away on Tuesday.

Assistant Director Huey described activities taking place at DPS, particularly with regard to American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding availability. DPS is working to identify ways to get ARPA money out to the public safety community.

Assistant Director Huey then introduced Ed Burkhammer, who gave board members an update about agency certification on the standards. He pointed out that OCJS works closely with law enforcement agencies, and the success of the certification program is due to these partnerships. In particular, he recognized OACP and BSSA for their involvement in the effort.

Mr. Burkhammer represented Ohio at the national accreditation meeting. He noted that 38 states have some type of certification/accreditation program. Most programs are not mandatory (Delaware is an exception). States do a good job of sharing information and identifying trends and issues that need addressed.

Ohio is unique in the way our certification process was created. Rather than starting with a large number of standards in which few agencies can become certified, we advance standards more slowly and allow agencies to become certified standard by standard (or group by group). As a result, we reach more agencies than others in the nation. We also are the only state in the nation that has a database that is free, and we continue to grow and improve the database. The next step is to create a policy management software to launch for free to agencies to help them with their certification.

Today's certification numbers:

- Use of force/deadly force and recruiting/hiring standards (Group 1): 572 agencies certified, which is 85% of the Ohio population and 85% of sworn patrol.
- 335 agencies have been recertified.

- Since Governor DeWine's June 2020 press conference in which he challenged agencies to get certified, 94 new agencies have become certified.
- 653 agencies have been certified on the federal executive order barring chokeholds.
- In 6 weeks, 96 agencies have become certified in the body worn camera standard in order to be eligible for the state body worn camera grant program.
- In the past five years, the team has completed over 4,400 certifications.
- As a reminder, all services the certification team provides are free.
- Dr. Engel pointed out that there are many smaller agencies that are not certified, and it is mission-critical that the Collaborative reach out to these small agencies. When you look at the national numbers at shootings/deaths, the majority involve these small agencies.
- Superintendent Morbitzer added that there is an organization specific to small city chiefs, and Mr. Burkhammer noted that they have been doing much outreach to small agencies. He stated that a lot of these agencies don't have funding or staffing, which results in the development of bad policies and training. Some of the criticism the certification team receives is that the standards don't fit a small agency, but Ed emphasized that his team really spends a great deal of time trying to work with these agencies.
- Dr. Engel noted that University of Cincinnati will be evaluating the impact of efforts in New Jersey, where all agencies have mandated certification now.
- Assistant Director Huey noted that there are likely differing adoption rates for standards, such as Use of Force and pursuit. Ed agreed. He also noted that some agencies already have policies in place that are in compliance.
- Superintendent Morbitzer commented that we need to look at verbiage and instead of using the word "program" we should use "philosophy". A program has a beginning and an end. Philosophy is part of the fabric of an organization and becomes part of the culture.
- Assistant Director Huey reminded the board that Continuing Professional Training (CPT) is only required if there is funding available. This year there is funding and so we will be able to train on all standards.
- The conversation then proceeded to a discussion on standards, and in particular, the juvenile standard.
- The pursuit standard is the one policy by law that an agency has to have. The law doesn't dictate what is in the policy though.
- Most years, crashes is the number one cause of death of police officers. Urge everyone to adopt the pursuit standard.

Juvenile standard

- Executive Director Moore pointed out that the board has talked about this standard for some time. Its two biggest proponents have been Senator Turner and Dr. Dunn.
- There are so many issues that a juvenile standard can touch on, the question is: how broad do we make it? A standard cannot address everything, so we need to draw the line somewhere.
- Everyone received a document containing concepts to be considered for the juvenile standard. Executive Director Moore noted that the board can discuss these concepts and other thoughts during the meeting or board members can send their thoughts later.

- Executive Director Moore stated that Sheriff Streck could not attend, but he passed along some feedback stating he believes this is a very important standard.
- Superintendent Morbitzer recommended that we need to consider the wording in concept 2.3 (special consideration for certain youth populations) that focuses on officers not engaging in disciplinary matters in schools. There are some mediation programs involving law enforcement in school settings that are doing good work, and we don't want to impact their efforts.
- Concept 4, which focuses on training, can be made part of Continuing Professional Training.
- Chief Páez stated that the concepts capture things well and are manageable. This is a great start.
- Dr. Engel noted that the wording for concept 3 on alternatives to arrest should be stronger. Maybe change from 'should be considered' to 'should be preferred' (Chief Páez wording)
- Dr. Dunn reminded everyone that the standard should be acted upon with urgency, especially due to mental health issues juveniles are experiencing, which can result in increased interaction with law enforcement. Pastor Moss concurred with Dr. Dunn.
- Assistant Director Huey wondered if concept 4 (training) should be expanded to include all officers, not just officers who regularly interact with juveniles.
- Dr. Engel appreciated concept 5, data collection. Currently there are 650 agencies participating in OIBRS.

Assistant Director Huey then introduced Dwight Holcomb, director of the Ohio Peace Officer Training Academy and the Ohio Peace Officer Training Commission, who gave an overview of recent OPOTA training efforts.

- OPOTA has a 40 hour new chief training, which includes a session on the collaborative.
- In 2021, the legislature passed HB110 to create a pilot program for state funding on training of officers. HB110 addresses long term funding for Continuing Professional Training (CPT). A committee has been created to work on this, and a report is due March 1, 2022.
- The first step of the process is to get salary information from every agency on their officers so that OPOTA can determine appropriate reimbursement for CPT. \$15M has been set aside for this effort, but it is unclear how far this money will go.
- 24 CPT hours are required. The topics identified for CPT are:
 - Original 7 (16 hours required). All are available online and are free. Agencies choose from the following (each is 4 hours):
 - Diversity, equity, inclusion—this is the only mandatory training
 - Responding to mental health
 - Use of force
 - Legal updates
 - Officer wellness
 - Responding to sexual assault
 - Domestic violence
 - Final 8 hours can be EITHER any remaining topics from the original 7 (above) OR trainings specific to the Collaborative standard topics. Such training is on the agency's policy for a specific standard.
- OPOTA will also be increasing their in-person course catalog.

- OPOTA will allow agencies to develop their own curriculum or use a 3rd party provider to develop a curriculum. The content has to be approved by the agency's legal counsel to assure it is current case law and it is substantive and responsive training.
- There is an evaluation component for the OPOTA-developed training, but none is required for the customized trainings.
- Officers who do not complete CPT by December 31, 2022 go into a 'cease function' status.
- Mr. Burkhammer asked how the reimbursement process works, and whether the agency gets reimbursed for the officer's time as well as for officer backfill.
 - Agencies will submit a salary and then based on a formula, they will be reimbursed 50% of the 24 hours of CPT.
 - Agencies will receive a check for a flat fee at the beginning of the year. OPOTA is calculating the reimbursement rates and the percentage of reimbursement may need to be lowered depending on the ratio of requests to funding.

Assistant Director Huey thanked Dwight for sharing OPOTA updates with the board.

Assistant Director Huey thanked everyone for attending. She remarked that we will be putting together some thoughts on what to work on in 2022 and we will be making some new appointments to the board.

Meeting dates for 2022 will be sent out.

Meeting ended at 11:19 A.M.