

ILLINOIS LAW ENFORCEMENT TRAINING AND STANDARDS BOARD
500 S. 9th Street, Springfield, Illinois 62701

MINUTES OF THE QUARTERLY BOARD MEETING

Crowne Plaza Hotel & Convention Center
3000 South Dirksen Parkway, Springfield, Illinois 62703

September 7, 2023
9:00 a.m.

I. CALL TO ORDER & PUBLIC MEETING ANNOUNCEMENT

The September 7, 2023 Quarterly Board meeting was called to order at 9:02 a.m. by Board Chairman Sean Smoot. The Public Meeting Announcement was read after the introduction of guests and visitors.

II. ROLL CALL – ESTABLISHMENT OF QUORUM

Roll was called by Michelle Mlinar, and a quorum of voting members was established.

Members in Attendance:

Sean Smoot
John Idleburg (9:52 a.m.)
Ghida Neukirch
Timothy Nugent
J. W. Price
Carla Redd
Timothy Tyler
Richard Watson

Members Absent:

Mitchell Davis

Designees in Attendance:

Marlon Parks for Thomas Dart
Steve Ryan for Latoya Hughes
Jason Lococo for Brendan Kelly
Anthony Escamilla for Iris Martinez
John Carroll for Kwame Raoul
Chris Papaioannou for Fred Waller

Staff in Attendance:

Keith Calloway
Jim Bianchi
Kent Bragg
James Buchanan
Jeffrey Chapman
Anthony Cobb
Kenley Cowgill
Hilary Davis
Pat Hahn
Chris Haubrich
John Keigher
Fred Kientzle
Denise Matthew
Allison Mesecher

Michelle Mlinar
Andrew Oldfield
Jan Noble
Ellen Petty
Paul Petty
Lee Ryker
Brent Shownes
Kristi Sorenson
Kortenay Templeton
Jill Wieland
Cheryllynn Williams
Jason Wolfe
Barbara Wood
Jennifer Wooldridge

Others in Attendance:

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| Heather Hotz, ILETSB-EI | Stella Oyer, MTU 13 |
| Cindi Bricker, ILETSB-EI | Scott Williams, MTU 14 |
| Barend Wurth, ILETSB-EI | Van Muschler, MTU 14 |
| JT Wooldridge, ILETSB-EI | David Hayes, MTU 14 |
| Brenda Swires, ILETSB-EI | Kevin Schmoll, MTU 14 |
| Kenton Manning, IROCC | David Rednour, MTU 15 |
| Beth Edwards, IROCC | Kim Cramer, MTU 15 |
| Ernie Ashby, IROCC | Bradley Hertzmann, MTU 16 |
| Jeanette Jones-Nall, IROCC | John Perona, MTU 16 |
| Doug Coppotelli, MTU 1 | Brad Clark, MCLETC (Sangamon) |
| Jeff Schelling, MTU 2 | Jason Walker, MCLETC |
| Joe Schweihs, MTU 3 | Jason LaMendola, Sauk Valley PA |
| John W. Reynolds, MTU 4 | Eric Danford, SWIC |
| Brian Fengel, MTU 7 | Karl Pannier, St. Clair County CA |
| Robert Siron, MTU 8 | Amy Pannier |
| Penny Abbott, MTU 9 | Michael Schassburger, Cook County SO |
| Jill Ward, MTU 9 | Michael Fields, CPD |
| Ken Yelliott, MTU 9 | Josh Ward, Illinois State Police |
| Bruce Liebe, MTU 10 | Marcus Beach, IL Innocence Project |
| Vernon Foli, MTU 10 | Stephanie Kamel, IL Innocence Project |
| Cara Dasher, MTU 10 | Randy Wilson, ILEAS |
| Kevin Koontz, MTU 12 | Jim Kaitschuk, IL Sheriffs' Association |
| Jeff Creel, MTU 12 | Nicholas Dale |
| Brad Oyer, MTU 13 | |

III. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**IV. MOMENT OF SILENCE FOR FALLEN OFFICERS****V. INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS & VISITORS****VI. DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARDS**

Cherylynn Williams introduced retired St. Clair Academy Director Karl Pannier. Williams spoke of his accomplishments, thanked him for his years of service to the Board, and the service award was presented.

VII. CHAIRMAN REMARKS

Chairman Smoot thanked everyone for attending the meeting. He then thanked the staff for their dedication to the Board especially in dealing with the recent weather events when grant funding was supposed to be wrapping up. Smoot stated damage was so severe that the office lost power for several days and then detailed some of the damage in other areas from the storm. He stated the staff persevered despite the technology problems that not having power causes. Smoot noted because of some of the delays, there was some grant money not allocated by the

deadline, so the Director is working to be able to expedite the release of those funds and to be able to carry them over to next fiscal year.

VIII. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- A. Curriculum and School Standards Advisory Committee Meeting
June 7, 2023
- B. Finance & Legislative Committee Meeting
June 7, 2023
- C. Quarterly Board Meeting
June 8, 2023

Motion was made by Nugent, seconded by Escamilla, and carried by all members present to approve the meeting minutes for the Curriculum and School Standards Advisory Committee Meeting from June 7, 2023, the Finance & Legislative Committee Meeting minutes from June 7, 2023, and the Quarterly Board Meeting from June 8, 2023.

IX. REPORT OF STANDING AND ADVISORY COMMITTEES

- A. *Curriculum and School Standards Advisory Committee ~ Ghida Neukirch*
Neukirch stated the Committee approved the In-Service training courses submitted through the MTU's and Executive Institute. The Committee also approved the Lead Homicide investigators 32 hour continuing education courses. All courses approved are for the period from April 1, 2023 through June 30, 2023. Paul Petty provided a comprehensive quarterly report on the ASSIST program. Neukirch stated the Committee also granted a six-month extension for special training for Supreme Court Court Security Officers. Then as part of the Executive Institute report, the Committee heard from Program Director JT Wooldridge. The Committee then approved five online courses to provide additional training through the Department of Justice COPS program. The courses approved were on the topics of community policing, crime reduction, changing perceptions, campus safety and an introduction to SRO [*School Resource Officer*], with additional courses being considered and vetted in the future.

Neukirch then asked to report on the Personnel Committee meeting held yesterday as well. She stated that Ellen Petty had provided a comprehensive personnel report. Neukirch noted the Board is approved for 66 employees for FY24. She also touched on the fact that the state hiring process has been updated to an online system resulting in turnaround time going from 6-9 months to 4-6 months for the hiring process. Neukirch urged all to review Petty's report as it is a wealth of information including agency DEIA initiatives. Neukirch also noted the onboarding process was discussed.

Motion was made by Redd, seconded by Papaioannou, and carried by all members present to approve the Curriculum and School Standards Advisory Committee report and the Personnel Committee report.

- B. Finance & Legislative Committee ~ John Keigher for John Idleburg
Sheriff Idleburg was involved in an urgent matter, John Keigher presented the Committee report. Keigher stated the Committee received a brief fiscal report, a personnel report, and a brief legislative and litigation report. They also discussed the SAFT-T Act and grants, all of which will be covered later in this meeting.

Motion was made by Nugent, seconded by Lococo, and carried by all members present to approve the Finance & Legislative Committee report and recommendation.

X. EXECUTIVE MATTERS

- A. Financial Items ~ John Keigher for Steven Pingolt
Keigher stated the fiscal report can be found under Tab 6. He noted we are fortunate this year in that there is more money coming in than going out, except for the Surcharge Fund, which we are using to pay some of the first quarter MTU costs. Note the numbers only represent the month of July as we are in a new fiscal year.

Motion was made by Redd, seconded by Neukirch, and carried by all members present to approve the Financial Report.

- B. Personnel Matters ~ Ellen Petty
Petty noted her report is under Tab 7 in the Board book and stated that Neukirch had summarized her report earlier. Petty stated the Governor signed the new union contract in Champaign, Illinois yesterday and staff is working on changes that need to be made, including moving to considerably more remote work which is a feature of the new contract.

Petty mentioned that part of the DEIA training this year not only includes training for state employees, but Board members as well. Petty asked that all members take the training as soon as possible on OneNet.

Petty stated eleven positions have been filled since the June Board meeting. There were 17 employees at the Board in March of 2021 which was the beginning of the SAFE-T Act. At this time last year, the Board had 28 employees, and as of today there are 39 employees, by the end of October there should be 42 employees, and by the end of FY24 it is anticipated there will be 66 employees on staff.

C. Legislative and Litigation Update ~ John Keigher

Keigher stated the Board has five pending lawsuits and one Human Rights matter consisting of several complaints from the same person and noted he will give a report later.

Regarding legislation, no bills of interest have been filed over the summer. The two bills mentioned at the June meeting have been signed by the Governor [SB 1543 and SB 1754] and they go into effect at the beginning of next year.

Looking ahead to 2024, Keigher noted staff is working on three technical proposals. The first issue is the SAFE-T Act trailer which covers a few items the Board has been asking for. Mainly for the Board to obtain full access to LEADS material to be able to make sure officers coming from other states are thoroughly checked for background issues. The dates of when the newly added misdemeanors become exercisable for decertification needs to be clarified. Keigher also wants to make sure that “termination” is still listed as a basis for requiring a professional conduct database report. The second issue would be the officer wellness clarification. Senate Bill 1543 created a new position within the Board for a Statewide PTSD Mental Health Coordinator. While the Board agrees with everything that is in this bill, there is already a CIT coordinator position that covers mental health. So, to avoid confusion, the title of that position needs to be changed to Statewide PTSD Officer Wellness Coordinator. The third and final issue is long term Police Training Act cleanup. Keigher suggests consolidating the in-service mandates into a single section, and to clarify that state agencies can attend trainings paid for with Surcharge Fund and take care of a few other housekeeping issues within the Police Training Act.

D. Department of Professional Standards ~ Anthony Cobb

1. Professional Conduct Database Quarterly Report

Cobb noted the Board has received 113 citizen complaints as of August 31, 2023, which is 45 additional complaints since the June Board meeting. The Board has received 178 professional conduct reports as of August 31, 2023, which is 52 additional reports since the June Board meeting. The Board has also received 583 requests this year from law enforcement agencies for information regarding professional conduct reports. This is 180 additional requests since the June Board meeting.

2. Law Enforcement/Corrections/Court Security Waiver Disposition Quarterly Report

Cobb stated there were 779 waivers processed from April 1, 2023 through July 31, 2023, with 708 being approved and 71 rejected. The full report is under Tab 8 in the Board book.

Cobb was then asked about the complaint review process and a brief explanation followed. Cobb stated staff reaches out to the agency once a complaint comes in because most of the time the agency has received the complaint and has already vetted the issue. If this is the case staff reviews the information. If the agency is not aware they are then asked to vet the issue and report back to staff every 30 days. The agency is required to send the Board the complaint in its entirety, including any digital evidence so staff can review. Once the case is reviewed, if there are any concerns or additional questions staff is sent to follow up. Once this is all complete a decision is then made.

Chairman Smoot then clarified that the Waiver Review Committee is now a stand-alone committee with Director Brendan Kelly as Chair. Since Director Kelly could not be at the meeting John Keigher gave a brief report from the August 31, 2023 meeting. Keigher told the Board that Zenna Ramos from Riverside Police Department is listed on the Waiver Report included in the Board book. Since that report was published, the Waiver Review Committee has met and recommends to the Board that her decertification be rescinded, and that a new waiver be issued with conditions that she take a few update courses. Keigher noted the report will be amended to accurately reflect this decision.

Motion was made by Neukirch, seconded by Carroll, and carried by all members present to approve the Personnel, Legislative and Litigation, and Professional Standards Reports.

XI. PROGRAM PROGRESS REPORTS AND CONCEPTS

A. Illinois Law Enforcement Executive Institute ~ Heather Hotz

Hotz highlighted the CIT conference which took place June 14-15 in East Peoria, Illinois. The conference consisted of three keynote speakers, one special guest, 15 breakout sessions, a roundtable on peer support, luncheon speakers and so much more.

This past Tuesday, the Executive Institute hosted a training with Kane County State's Attorney, Jamie Mosser and Montgomery Police Department Deputy Chief, Armando Sanders on Best Practices for the Implementation of the Pretrial Fairness Act. There were over 400 people in attendance.

Hotz noted this fall will be the Executive Institute's 30th year, and there are big things planned for trainings so please watch for information. Also, the Online Learning Network has experienced tremendous growth, compared to this time last year they are up 179% in training hours. Next week they will host the 27th New Chiefs of Police Orientation to be held in East Peoria.

B. A Statewide System of In-Service Training (ASSIST) Program ~ Paul Petty

Petty stated his report could be found under Tab 10 in the Board book. He noted there are nine attachments and asked members to pay special attention to attachment five, which is a new map providing the number of departments within each MTU throughout the state. Petty noted there 1,600 active departments in the state, since only 1,165 belong to the MTU's staff is attempting to identify and connect those agencies to their MTU's for training. Petty also asked members to look at attachment two to see the cost per training hour is below \$9 per hour.

C. CIT ~ Jennifer Wooldridge

Wooldridge announced the 20th Anniversary CIT Conference was a huge success. There were over 200 in attendance, including CIT officers, law enforcement administrators, dispatch, social workers, co-responder teams and many more. The conference focused on mental wellness, peer support and active listening. Keynote speakers were Ernie Stevens,

Mark Dibona, and Kevin Briggs with special guest Tom Farley. The conference included breakout sessions, roundtable discussions, peer support dogs, and a Chicago CIT officer on saxophone for music entertainment. Heather Lencioni was named the 2023 CIT Officer of the Year. The University of Illinois Police Department was named the CIT Agency of the Year, and the Aaron Landers award was presented to Tony Rigano. Next up for CIT is the Mental Health Training and Peer Support Resource Institute.

Wooldridge also touched on CIT International. She stated the Board submitted a proposal and was selected to present at the conference in Detroit, where staff offered an hour presentation titled *20 Years of Growth – Expanding CIT Trainings Under the Illinois Program*. The session was well-attended with many states asking questions and asking for the presentation slides after the presentation. Wooldridge stated upon her return, she had received another email this year from Massachusetts asking if the offer for them to take one of our refresher courses was still possible because they want to take our course back to Massachusetts.

The interest in FY24 CIT training is at an all-time high, requests are coming in from Mobile Teams and Chicago for training. Also, last week Board staff was asked to participate in the Commission on Government Forecasting & Accountability District Office Staff Training conference in Springfield. A few staff members had the opportunity to set up a table and share the function and programs of the Board. Information was shared on the Mobile Team systems, the SAFE-T Act as it pertains to the Board, the Executive Institute and CIT. For this event, and with the help of the Executive Institute, a short infomercial was created around CIT that was played on a loop at the event. Wooldridge then shared the presentation with all present.

D. *Specialty Training Update ~ Barbara Wood*

Wood had nothing new to add to her report which can be found under Tab 12 of the Board book.

E. *Information Technology Update ~ Andrew Oldfield for Kelly Ingram*

Oldfield had nothing new to add to Ingram's report and offered to answer any questions. Smoot asked if the office has everything needed due to the storm, and Oldfield responded that we do.

F. *IROCC ~ Kenton Manning*

Manning reported that FY23 increased 7% overall, and they have reached a milestone of 10,000 participants. There have been 1,800 new applicants, and 47 qualification shoots have been processed for FY24.

Motion was made by Redd, seconded by Tyler, and carried by all members present to approve the Program Progress Reports.

XII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. Mandated Annual Training for Board Members ~ Pat Hahn

Hahn reminded all Board members that they are required to take the 2023 Ethics and 2023 Harassment trainings before the end of the year. These trainings can be found on OneNet. Hahn spoke to the two new Board members to let them know they need to also take the Open Meetings training found on the Attorney General's website and thanked those who have already completed the required trainings. Smoot expressed the importance of completing these trainings to the Board members and explained there is an audit finding for the Board if these are not completed.

B. SAFE-T Act Update ~ John Keigher

Keigher stated staff is considering a possible trailer bill to the SAFE-T Act regarding the Boards duties and obligations. Keigher also informed the Board that the Certification Review Panel is currently sitting with 11 of the 13 members appointed. The members have completed their online training, and in-person training is scheduled for the end of this month. He also stated he hopes to have the working groups ready by this fall to start working on the Administrative Rules.

C. Grant Update ~ John Keigher

Keigher reported the FY23 grant period closed at the end of June and the Board awarded and distributed over \$10.4 million dollars in funding. Specifically, \$1.5 million for officer worn cameras (about 700) and dash cameras, \$300,000 for data storage costs associated with camera programs, \$60,000 for the operation of ballistics imaging equipment, \$3.4 million for Recruitment & Retention efforts, and \$5 million to the City of Chicago for Recruitment and Training. This total is more than three times higher than what the Board has issued in previous years. Several staff members worked overtime to ensure that awards were processed as quickly as possible despite the challenges of learning a new application system, personnel departures, and severe storms that knocked out power and cell service in the final days. Keigher stated several agencies were not able to secure an award, so staff has already started the process to open the FY 24 grant programs in the next few weeks. Revisions to the Notice of Funding Opportunity have just been approved, and once the Amplifund application process is updated, staff will work toward posting the open grants on our website. There will be an instructional video posted to the website soon explaining what to do for reporting when you are awarded grant funds.

Chair Smoot asked the roll to reflect that Sheriff Idleburg has joined the meeting (9:52 a.m.).

XIII. NEW BUSINESS

A. Project Innocence ~ Stephanie Kamel & Marc Beach

Kamel stated they are in their 22nd year, and are based at the University of Illinois, Springfield. Their office represents and advocates for innocent people, and they also educate throughout the State of Illinois. Approximately seven years ago they were invited, by Mike Schlosser at PTI, to train cadets on wrongful convictions. Last year, the Board mandated their training statewide. Kamel thanked the Board for their commitment and turned the

presentation over to Marc Beach. Beach thanked the Board and stated the work we allow them to do has an immeasurable impact on wrongful convictions. He stated that according to a report from 2022, Illinois leads the country in exonerations at 126, the next closest was Michigan with just 16. Beach commented that by the end of this year they will have taught at all eight of the academies, and they have reached almost 1,000 officers. Beach noted they bring at least two exonerees to every presentation, and through this program they are reducing the wrongful convictions in the state.

B. Waiver Review Committee ~ Brendan Kelly

Chairman Smoot noted that this item was previously covered and motioned through during an earlier report.

C. Reciprocity Rules & Corrections Standards ~ John Keigher

Keigher noted that under Tab 15, he included a memo discussing reciprocity for corrections officers and the fact that SB 1754 had been signed into law as PA 103-389. This bill requires the Board to create a transparent reciprocity process for out of state corrections officers to work toward certification. Since this bill warrants the reversal of the longstanding policy to not process waiver requests for correctional officers, Keigher asked the Board to begin to entertain waivers for correctional officers under the same guidelines as for law enforcement officers. Since there is a change in policy, it is brought to the Board for review.

Motion was made by Redd, seconded by Nugent, and carried by all members present to allow Board staff to Process Waiver Requests for Correctional Officers.

XIV. F.Y.I

Information can be found under Tab 16 in the Board book regarding the Commission on Government Forecasting & Accountability's 2023 District Office Staff Training Conference, this item was covered under the CIT report.

XV. PUBLIC INPUT

Nicholas Dale asked to discuss the laws applicable to law enforcement. Dale addressed the Board regarding his thoughts on official misconduct and law enforcement misconduct. He wondered if the complaints submitted to the Board are also submitted to the Office of the Executive Inspector General (OEIG). He also stated that the Ethics Officer "*is required to report ethics violations and the 720 ILCS 5 violations which encompasses everything on this shirt*". Dale continued to present his concerns to the Board regarding officer salaries, IRS tax law, decertifiable conduct and the state records act. He then closed with a quote from Jimmy Buffett to hold people accountable, "*some people claim that there's a woman to blame, but I know it's my own damn fault.*" The three minutes of allotted public input time expired and Chairman Smoot allowed Dale to complete his comments.

XVI. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chairman Smoot announced the next Curriculum and School Standards Advisory Committee meeting, and the next Finance & Legislative meeting will be held on December 6, 2023, and the Quarterly Board meeting will be held December 7, 2023 with the location to be determined.

XVII. CLOSED SESSION ~ LAWSUITS & LITIGATION

Motion was made by Redd, seconded by Idleburg, and carried by all members present to move into closed session at 10:05 a.m. to discuss litigation pursuant to 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(11) of the Open Meetings Act.

Motion was made by Papaioannou, seconded by Redd, and carried by all members present to move out of closed session at 10:35 a.m.

At this time the audience returned to the meeting room.

XVIII. ADJOURNMENT

Motion was made by Nugent, seconded by Redd, and carried by all members present to adjourn the meeting at 10:39 a.m.

