

ILLINOIS LAW ENFORCEMENT TRAINING AND STANDARDS BOARD

500 S. 9th Street, Springfield, Illinois 62701

MINUTES OF THE QUARTERLY BOARD MEETING

Crowne Plaza Hotel, 3000 S. Dirksen Parkway, Springfield, Illinois 62703

March 7, 2024

9:00 a.m.

I. CALL TO ORDER

The March 7, 2024 Quarterly Board meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m. by Ghida Neukirch.

II. PUBLIC MEETING ANNOUNCEMENT

The Public Meeting Announcement was read by John Keigher.

III. ROLL CALL – ESTABLISHMENT OF QUORUM

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

Members in Attendance:

Ghida Neukirch
Timothy Nugent
Carla Redd
Timothy Tyler
Richard Watson

Members Absent:

Sean Smoot
John Idleburg
Thomas Dart
Mitchell Davis
J. W. Price
Kwame Raoul
Gary Williams

Designees in Attendance:

Steven Ryan for Latoya Hughes
Jason Lococo for Brendan Kelly
Anthony Escamilla for Iris Martinez
Chris Papaioannou for Larry Snelling

Staff in Attendance:

Cassandra Beverly
Jim Bianchi
Jojo Blackburn
Kent Bragg
James Buchanan
Keith Calloway
Jeffrey Chapman
Anthony Cobb
Kenley Cowgill
Hilary Davis
Stormie DeJaynes
Sara Follis

Pat Hahn
Chris Haubrich
Scott Heston
Kelton Ingram
John Keigher
Fred Kientzle
Sheryl Lloyd
Chaney Lovellette
Allison Mesecher
Michelle Mlinar
Jan Noble
Andrew Oldfield

Ellen Petty
Paul Petty
Brent Shownes
Porcia Sledge
Kristi Sorenson
Kortenay Templeton
Jill Wieland
Cherylynn Williams
Jason Wolfe
Barbara Wood
Jennifer Wooldridge

Others in Attendance:

Heather Hotz, ILETSB-EI	Van Muschler, MTU 14
JT Wooldridge, ILETSB-EI	Kevin Schmoll, MTU 14
Brenda Swires, ILETSB-EI	David Hayes, MTU 14
Doug Coppotelli, MTU 1	David Rednour, MTU 15
Jeff Schelling, MTU 2	Kim Cramer, MTU 15
John W. Reynolds, MTU 4	Doug Wilson, MTU 15
Brian Fengel, MTU 7	Bradley Hertzmann, MTU 16
Jean Swan, MTU 7	John Perona, MTU 16
Robert Siron, MTU 8	Michael Schassburger, Cook County SO
Penny Abbott, MTU 9	Josh Ward, ISP Academy
Kenny Yelliott, MTU 9	Jason Walker, MCLETC
Bruce Liebe, MTU 10	Jason LaMendola, Sauk Valley PA
Cara Dasher, MTU 10	Eric Danford, SWIC PA
Vernon Foli, MTU 10	Erik Roedel, Cook County Sheriff's Police
Dan Ryan, MTU 10	Jerry Roman, Cook County Sheriff's Police
Kevin Koontz, MTU 12	Michael Fields, CPD
Jeff Creel, MTU 12	Sam Thomas, ISP
Brad Oyer, MTU 13	Travis Hall, IL SOS PD
Kelsey Jacobson MTU 13	William Lyons, IL SOS PD
Scott Williams, MTU 14	

IV. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

V. MOMENT OF SILENCE FOR FALLEN OFFICERS

VI. INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS & VISITORS

VII. CHAIRMAN REMARKS

Neukirch, on behalf of the Board, thanked the Executive Director, staff, MTU's and everyone for their hard work and dedication.

VIII. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- A. Curriculum and School Standards Advisory Committee Meeting
December 6, 2023
- B. Joint Meeting of the Finance & Legislative Committee and Executive Committee Meeting
December 6, 2023
- C. Quarterly Board Meeting
December 7, 2023

Motion was made by Nugent, seconded by Watson, and carried by all members present to approve the meeting minutes for the Curriculum and School Standards Advisory Committee Meeting from December 6, 2023, the Joint Finance & Legislative Committee and Executive Committee meeting

minutes from December 6, 2023, and the Quarterly Board Meeting minutes from December 7, 2023.

IX. REPORT OF STANDING AND ADVISORY COMMITTEES

A. **Curriculum and School Standards Advisory Committee ~ Ghida Neukirch**

Neukirch noted the Committee met yesterday and approved the In-Service training courses submitted by the MTU's and the Executive Institute, and the Lead Homicide Investigator 32-Hour courses for October 1, 2023 – December 31, 2023. She also stated that Jennifer Wooldridge presented the Crisis Intervention Team training report, and the Committee approved the recommended updates to the 40-Hour CIT Training, the 8-Hour CIT Refresher Advanced Training, and Mental Health Awareness and Response – Introduction to CIT. The Committee also approved to modify the [CIT service] requirement and reduce it from two years to one year to enroll in CIT Training, to help ensure that each agency has at least one CIT trained officer on every shift.

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

B. **Finance & Legislative Committee ~ Richard Watson for John Idleburg**

Watson stated the Committee listened to reports presented and no action was taken.

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

X. EXECUTIVE MATTERS

A. **Financial Items ~ Stormie DeJaynes for Steven Pingolt**

DeJaynes stated the financial report can be found under Tab F. She noted the FY25 Budget appropriations have been submitted, and the amount being requested is the same as last year. Neukirch confirmed with DeJaynes that the grant money in the accounts will be distributed soon.

Motion was made by Watson, seconded by Papaioannou, and carried by all members present to approve the Financial Report and the FY25 Governor Proposed Budget.

B. **Personnel Matters ~ Ellen Petty**

Petty stated her report can be found under Tab G. She noted the Board has a current staff count of 40 and introduced the four new employees hired since the September 2023 Board meeting. Petty commented there are four new positions currently being processed: Web Developer, two McLean County area Field Reps, and a Receptionist/ General Secretary position. There are also five positions waiting for CMS review to see if they qualify to be bargaining unit positions. Petty then discussed the issues the state is having with their new HCM (Human Capital Management) system that went live in February, and due to these issues, staff will not be able to meet the hiring goals set for this year.

C. Legislative and Litigation Update ~ John Keigher

Keigher noted the spring legislative session is currently underway, and staff is watching several bills with some of the main ones being:

- HB 5368 (Figenholtz) companion bill is SB 3552 (Morgan): Hate Crimes
This bill adds hate crimes/crimes motivated by bias to the BLE academy and created an in-service course to be made available. As drafted, the bill also requires the Board to create and distribute training materials and conduct conferences to address hate crime issues. Staff is looking to prepare an amendment to this bill.
- HB 4497 (Tarver): Two Year Mandates
This bill would change the three-year mandates to a two-year cycle. This would increase the amount of training for each officer per year and place a strain on the agencies, the MTU's, and the Executive Institute. This bill fails to account for the 3-year verification cycle that has not yet run its first full course.
- HB 4216 (Spain): School Resource Officers
This bill would allow school districts to employ retired police officers to serve in a position similar to an SRO. Staff has several concerns regarding the employment and authority structure, and they are watching this bill for a possible amendment.
- HB 5123 (Cabello): Staggered Academies
This bill would require the Board to ensure new academy courses are starting each month, which would require the academy start dates to be staggered throughout the year. Staff has explained that this would cause significant problems with the universities and colleges.
- SB 3201 (Toro): Autism Courses
This bill requires the Board to add special courses on autism awareness and related issues and would require all officers to complete this course within two years though staff would prefer that it follow the three-year cycle.
- SB 3370 (Cunningham) companion bill is HB 5217 (Vella): Decertification Reform
This is a complicated bill that undoes some of the decertification components of the SAFE-T Act regarding guilty pleas in lieu of convictions and restricts the sharing of officer information until after any related proceedings are finalized. It creates an appellate commission within the Illinois State Police to review decisions made by ILETSB. It removes all civilian positions within the Board's composition and replaces them specifically with union representatives. Finally, it requires the Board to issue IROCC cards to Correctional officers covered under HB 4667 – which remains the subject of litigation. Staff have discussed this bill with the Governor's office and plan to have a meeting with the sponsor soon.

D. Department of Professional Standards ~ Anthony Cobb

1. Professional Conduct Database Quarterly Report

Cobb reported the Officer Professional Conduct Database Annual Report was delivered to the Governor's office on February 29th as required by statute. He stated that all Board members were sent an electronic copy last week and members have a printed copy in front of them today. In total, the Board received 496 complaints for calendar year 2023,

with 109 of these complaints coming from citizens, and the remaining 306 from agencies.

Since January 1, 2024, the Board has received 25 citizen complaints and 66 reports from agencies. Last week, staff launched access to the Professional Conduct Database through LEDI.

2. *Law Enforcement/Corrections/Court Security Waiver Disposition Quarterly Report*
The Certification Division has processed a total of 605 waiver requests from November 1, 2023 through January 31, 2024 with 506 requests being approved and 45 being rejected. [This report is found under Tab H in the Board Book.]

Motion was made by Watson, seconded by Redd, and carried by all members present to approve the Law Enforcement/Corrections/ Court Security Waiver Disposition Quarterly Report.

XI. PROGRAM PROGRESS REPORTS AND CONCEPTS

A. Illinois Law Enforcement Executive Institute ~ Heather Hotz

Hotz stated the live command level trainings are up 266% from the same quarter last year. Hotz, reporting for Derek Carle, noted ILETSB has been a recipient of the Homeland Security funds since 2002, these funds have been secured through 2026. They have federal fiscal years 2020, 2021, 2022, and 2023 currently active. Submissions are due for 2024 by March 20th and this is currently in process. The same level of funding is anticipated, but this year will include an ask for additional funds to accommodate opioid and human trafficking training. Hotz then reminded the Board that the Women in Criminal Justice conference is next month, with two keynotes focusing on leadership and officer wellness. This year there are over 20 breakout sessions, four highlighted speaker sessions, and an awards banquet.

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

Petty stated the quarterly report is found under Tab J of the Board book. He noted there is a repeat of some of the information as it pertains to the Governors Report from February. There are also some new documents to help better explain how mandates are being assigned.

C. CIT ~ Jennifer Wooldridge

Wooldridge stated the SPO's [Student Performance Objectives] for the CIT curriculum are being reviewed and minor technical updates have been made including best practices, terminology, inclusion of 988 CESSA, and additional role play within the CIT 40 Hour program, the CIT 8 Hour Refresher and the Mental Health Awareness and Response. She noted these updates were brought before the Curriculum Committee for approval and that once the Board has approved these changes entities will update their curriculums to adhere to the approved standards set by the Board to maintain their certification.

Wooldridge then discussed a monthly peer support group called Neighborhood Coffee with Joe Carlson, a CIT Instructor. This is a two-hour call with the first hour being police officers only. Social service agencies and specialized private practices are invited to participate in the second hour. This will become a regular offering with possible credit for training.

Wooldridge then discussed therapy dogs - acquisition, training, and Operation TT. She became familiar with the Cook County Sheriff's Office initiative of training shelter dogs to become therapy support dogs and met with them to discuss the Boards options. Wooldridge then invited Eric Roedel and Jerry Roman to speak to the Board about their process. Their program, Tails of Redemption, started in 2018. This program rescues dogs from local shelters and gives them a second chance. They are trained in obedience by detainees, and then the dogs are adopted out to the public. Recently, the program has started training these dogs to be therapy dogs. The program started with five dogs and five individuals in custody, and currently has 19 large and 6 small dog cages. While working and training these dogs, it was realized that a few of these dogs had the potential to move on to be therapy dogs, and they are now working with agencies to certify therapy dogs. Wooldridge shared information regarding Operation TT, which was created in memory of Teresa Smoot and is a non-profit fund operated by PBPA of Illinois. Teresa, who passed away last month, served as a law enforcement administrator, and learned the value of therapy dogs by helping others with PTSD and similar challenges. All donations to the organization go to the provisions of therapy dogs, and the first dogs will be donated to the ILETSB CIT and Mental Health Team for deployment to departments in and around central Illinois. Through Operation TT the Board will be able to procure additional dogs which will be available for placement throughout the state.

D. Specialty Training Update ~ Barbara Wood

Wood stated the SRO report, and the 14 individuals requesting Board approval as Crash Reconstruction Specialists is listed under Tab L in the Board book.

E. Information Technology Update ~ Kelly Ingram

Ingram noted his report is under Tab M in the Board book. He stated there are currently 17,496 officers registered in the officer portal out of 36,269, which means almost half of the officers in the state are using the portal. He also noted the EvaExam was rolled out in February in Springfield. All went well, and users were comfortable with the online format, but this will not be rolled out statewide until the comfort level increases.

Ingram then acknowledged Korteny Templeton. The state Department of Innovation and Technology (DoIT) does penetration testing (pen testing) on a weekly basis to see if the agency network is secure. The agency is then given what is called an Ivanti score, which is like a credit score, and the highest score an agency can receive is 850. Since July 2021 Korteny has taken the agency from a score of 487 with 254 findings to a score of 796 with only 38 findings and our rating is excellent as of today.

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

XII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. SAFE-T Act & Administrative Rules Update ~ John Keigher

Keigher reported that the P.O.W.E.R. Test Committee has plans to meet by the end of the month to begin revising the P.O.W.E.R. Test standards, and to then incorporate them into the Administrative Rules. Other working committees will address the decertification process, part-time updates, grant programs, and the civilian complaint process. Keigher went on to state the reciprocity rules will need to be updated as well, due to a law that was passed last year. These rules have been mostly in house for the last 30 years. New

Administrative Rules have been drafted and distributed, and include the addition of corrections officers as required by law now that the corrections program is a full eight weeks. This means there is now a reciprocity process in place for both law enforcement and corrections. This bill allowed the Board to specify courses for reciprocity, and to now allow certification for reciprocity unlike in the past when officers were only granted a waiver.

Keigher then described the reciprocity requirements under this law. Any law enforcement officer with more than 2 years' experience will take Law for Police, then the equivalency exam, and possibly a firearms course. If less than 2 years, then staff will review the courses received at the officer's academy and compare to our courses offered at the time the officer was trained. A corrections officer would need one year experience for reciprocity.

Motion was made by Tyler, seconded by Redd, and carried by all members present to approve the Administrative Rules as drafted.

B. Grant Update ~ John Keigher

1. Recruitment & Retention Grant:

The Board received applications from 98 agencies, seeking \$20 million in funds with only \$10 million appropriated for this grant. Staff started sending out awards yesterday, they made 75 awards coming in just a few dollars below the \$10 million appropriation.

2. Camera Grant:

The Board received 159 applications for camera grants. Staff is hopeful the awards will be made by the end of next week, they are expecting to award about 75-80% of the requests and the total is coming in around \$10 million. There is \$30 million appropriated so hopefully there will be another round opened in April or May.

3. NIBIN Grant:

The Board received 16 applications seeking \$1.5 million in awards, and with \$4 million appropriated this was not a competitive award. Staff hopes to make awards by the end of the week.

XIII. NEW BUSINESS

None

XIV. PUBLIC INPUT

None

XV. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Neukirch announced the next Committee meetings will be held on June 12, 2024, and the next Quarterly Board meeting will be held June 13, 2024 with a location still to be determined.

XVI. CLOSED SESSION ~ LAWSUITS & LITIGATION

Motion was made by Watson, seconded by Redd, and carried by all members present via roll call to move into closed session at 9:49 a.m. to discuss litigation and related closed session minutes from December 7, 2023 pursuant to 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(11) and 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(21) of the Open Meetings Act.

Motion was made by Watson, seconded by Escamilla, and carried by all members present via roll call to move out of closed session at 10:18 a.m.

Meeting room doors were opened, and attendees returned to the meeting.

Motion was made by Watson, seconded by Lococo, and carried by all members present to approve, and keep closed, the closed session meeting minutes from December 7, 2023.

XVII. ADJOURNMENT

Motion was made by Lococo, seconded by Redd, and carried by all members present to adjourn the meeting at 10:19 a.m.

