

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

**MINUTES OF THE CURRICULUM & SCHOOL
STANDARDS ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING**

Embassy Suites by Hilton - Rockford Riverfront,
416 S Main Street, Rockford, Illinois 61101

**June 11, 2025
10:30 a.m.**

I. CALL TO ORDER

The June 11, 2025 Curriculum Committee meeting was called to order by Chair Ghida Neukirch at 10:32 a.m.

II. ROLL CALL ~ ESTABLISHMENT OF QUORUM

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

Members in Attendance:

Ghida Neukirch

Members Absent:

Mitchell R. Davis III

Designees in Attendance:

Michael Schassburger for Thomas Dart

Steven Ryan for Latoya Hughes

Migdalia Bulnes for Larry Snelling

III. APPLICATION FOR SCHOOL/COURSE CERTIFICATION

None at this time.

**IV. IN-SERVICE, ADVANCED AND SPECIALIZED COURSES for
CERTIFICATION/RECERTIFICATION ~ *Paul Petty***

Petty asked for approval of the in-service, advanced and specialized certified courses submitted through the Mobile Team Units and the Executive Institute for January 1, 2025 through May 25, 2025. This report is located under Tab K in the Board book.

Motion was made by Ryan, seconded by Schassburger, and carried by all members present to approve the In-Service, Advanced and Specialized

training courses submitted through the Mobile Team Units and Executive Institute from January 1, 2025 through May 25, 2025.

V. LEAD HOMICIDE INVESTIGATORS 32-HOURS APPROVED CONTINUING EDUCATION COURSES for CERTIFICATION/ RECERTIFICATION ~ Paul Petty for Barb Wood

Petty asked for approval of the Lead Homicide Investigator 32-Hour Continuing Education certified courses submitted for January 1, 2025 through May 25, 2025. This report is located under Tab M in the Board book.

Motion was made by Bulnes, seconded by Ryan, and carried by all members present to approve the Lead Homicide Investigator 32-Hour Continuing Education courses submitted for January 1, 2025 through May 25, 2025.

VI. CIT/OFFICER WELLNESS COURSE UPDATES ~ Jennifer Wooldridge & John Keigher

A. 40-Hour CIT Training Program - Pilot Update to Medical Conditions and Psychotropic Medications Section

Wooldridge reported a pilot adjustment made to the Medical Conditions and Psychotropic Medications Section of the CIT 40-Hour training curriculum. The CIT Illinois model is a leader in statewide standardized curriculum. Recently there has been a recognized curriculum that CIT International has stated 'may be used as your CIT curriculum or can be used for in-service or refresher training or may even be used to enhance your training curriculum'. Wooldridge stated her team has reviewed the content and is making a small adjustment to the Medical Conditions and Psychotropic Medications two-hour block of instruction. The new CIT curriculum model has eliminated this as a stand-alone section and incorporated the core concept within other areas of the 40-hour course. The team believes this adjustment will be well received as it will still cover the core content while allocating time for additional role play.

B. Redirecting the Abyss (formerly known as Moral Injury)

Wooldridge stated this course was previously brought before the Board in December 2023 entitled Moral Injury. Recently, the instructors (who are part of the statewide CIT Team) have reviewed the content of this course and made a few minor adjustments for more impact. Even though these changes total a less than 10% change, Wooldridge is requesting approval for the changes. Wooldridge stated the updates can be found under Tab L in the Board book. This course, even though it has been renamed, will still address officer wellness, PTSD and moral injury. There will eventually be a retreat option added to this course as a booster. This is an 8-hour training for individuals and self-care, it will be offered beginning in July.

Motion was made by Ryan, seconded by Bulnes, and carried by all members present to approve the changes to the mental health course Redirecting the Abyss (formerly known as Moral Injury).

C. Advanced Petition Writing & Peer Support Strategies

In response to feedback from the 40-hour CIT training course, two CIT instructors have created an eight-hour class titled Advanced Petition Writing and Peer Support. The eight-hour class is split into two sessions: the morning will focus on advanced petition writing, emphasizing detailed content and articulation and the afternoon will focus on peer support, centered around the principle of "see something – say something." If approved, this training will be available to all MTU's beginning in July.

Motion was made by Bulnes, seconded by Ryan, and carried by all members present to approve the CIT course Advanced Petition Writing & Peer Support Strategies.

D. Law Enforcement K-9 Therapy Dog Certification Policy

As a follow up to the Curriculum Committee and the Board's approval of the law enforcement K-9 therapy dog certification program Wooldridge presented the Board members with a detailed draft policy. She stated the purpose of this volunteer certification program is to evaluate prospective teams for suitability and to demonstrate that the K-9 and handler have a rapport and the ability to work together effectively. This certification is an important step in ensuring K-9 therapy dog teams used throughout the state have proper temperament and behavioral characteristics to be successful. Wooldridge also noted that Senate Bill 1491, which requires ILETSB to develop a course and certification program for certified therapy dog teams, has passed both chambers and is now awaiting the Governor's signature.

Keigher stated the proposed draft, found under Tab L in the Board book, follows the format of other specialized training programs and will likely become administrative rules via the JCAR process. He stated the proposed Therapy Canine Certification program outlines a new specialized certification for canines that have already completed general obedience and therapy dog training recognized by the American Kennel Club. The program focuses on additional training for crisis response, assessing both the canine and handler for effectiveness in these situations. This standard is based on the Cook County Sheriff's Tails of Redemption program, modeled after Brevard County Sheriff's "Paws & Stripes College," a recognized leader in the field. Brevard County certified the Cook County team to conduct training and assessments. The certification is valid for two years, with optional annual refresher courses to maintain credentials and serve as part of the deployment program. These certified teams can opt into a registry for crisis deployment as mutual aid. The primary purpose is to ensure continued proficiency, updated best practices, and readiness for crisis response. Keigher asked the committee to approve the policy guidelines as presented so staff can move forward as soon as SB 1491 becomes law.

Before the motion was finalized Wooldridge spoke briefly about the recent incident at YNOT daycare in Chatham, IL. Teams were called and those who could come came. Eventually there will be a Team registry posted on the Board's website for those who want to participate.

Motion was made by Bulnes, seconded by Ryan, and carried by all members present to approve the Draft of the Law Enforcement K-9 Therapy Dog Certification Policy.

VII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

METRA: BLE Reimbursement Request ~ *John Keigher*

Keigher advised the Committee that METRA, the regional rail corporation which serves about seven counties in the state, has requested BLE reimbursement for their officers. Historically, METRA was grouped with a handful of other entities that received external grant funds. In recent years, the Board's funding has changed, and METRA is now eligible for funding from the Board. Due to METRA's external funds being dried up they have come to us for assistance. Keigher plans to bring this matter to the full Board, he just wanted to make this Committee aware of the situation.

IX. NEXT BOARD MEETING DATE AND LOCATION

Neukirch noted the next Board meeting will be held later today.

X. NEXT CURRICULUM AND SCHOOL STANDARDS ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING DATE AND LOCATION

Neukirch announced the next Curriculum & School Standards Advisory meeting will be held on September 10, 2025. Location still to be determined.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

Motion was made by Bulnes, seconded by Ryan, and carried by all members present to adjourn the meeting at 10:45 a.m.

