

**ILLINOIS LAW ENFORCEMENT TRAINING AND STANDARDS BOARD**  
500 S. 9<sup>th</sup> Street, Springfield, Illinois 62701

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

Hilton Chicago/Oak Brook Hills Resort & Conference Center  
3500 Midwest Road, Oak Brook, IL 60523

**December 10, 2025**  
**2:00 p.m.**

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

The December 10, 2025 Curriculum Committee meeting was called to order by Chair Ghida Neukirch at 2:02 p.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  
Mitchell Davis  
Richard Ciganek  
DeShawn Williams

**Designees in Attendance:**

Michael Schassburger for Thomas Dart  
Steven Ryan for Latoya Hughes  
Migdalia Bulnes for Larry Snelling

**III. RECERTIFICATION OF ACADEMY COURSES ~ Cheryllynn Williams**

Williams read the following statement: *Academy Directors must receive the Board's Executive Director's approval prior to making any changes to the 2026 schedule once it is approved.*

Williams then asked the Board for approval for the following Basic Law Enforcement academy courses for 2026:

- Chicago Metro Police Academy  
January 5, 2026 - June 26, 2026  
May 4, 2026 - October 23, 2026  
September 8, 2026 - February 26, 2027
- Chicago Police Academy  
January 16, 2026 – August 27, 2026  
February 16, 2026 - September 25, 2026  
March 16, 2026 - October 23, 2026  
April 16, 2026 - November 27, 2026  
May 15, 2026 - December 18, 2026  
August 14, 2026 - March 26, 2027

September 16, 2026 - April 23, 2027  
October 16, 2026 - May 28, 2027  
November 16, 2026 - June 25, 2027

- *Cook County Sheriff's Bureau of Training & Education Police Academy*  
January 5, 2026 - April 24, 2026  
May 4, 2026 - August 21, 2026  
August 31, 2026 - December 18, 2026
- *Illinois State Police Academy*  
March 8, 2026 - June 26, 2026  
July 19, 2026 – November 6, 2026 (Tentative)  
November 29, 2026 – March 19, 2027 (Tentative)
- *Macon County Law Enforcement Training Center Academy*  
January 4, 2026 - April 24, 2026  
May 3, 2026 - August 21, 2026  
August 30, 2026 - December 18, 2026
- *Police Training Institute*  
January 4, 2026 - April 23, 2026  
May 3, 2026 - August 20, 2026  
August 30, 2026 - December 17, 2026
- *Sauk Valley Police Academy*  
January 5, 2026 - April 23, 2026  
May 5, 2026 - August 20, 2026  
August 31, 2026 - December 17, 2026
- *Southwestern Illinois College Academy*  
January 5, 2026 - April 24, 2026  
May 18, 2026 - September 4, 2026  
August 17, 2026 - December 4, 2026
- *Suburban Law Enforcement Academy*  
January 5, 2026 - April 24, 2026  
April 27, 2026 - August 14, 2026  
August 24, 2026 - December 11, 2026

**Motion was made by Davis, seconded by Bulnes, and carried by all members present to approve the list of Basic Law Enforcement Academy Courses to be certified for 2026.**

Williams asked the Board for approval for the following Basic Corrections academy courses for 2026:

- *Cook County Sheriff's Bureau of Training & Education, Corrections Academy*  
January 12, 2026 - May 4, 2026  
March 23, 2026 - July 14, 2026

May 4, 2026 - August 25, 2026  
July 13, 2026 - November 3, 2026  
September 21, 2026 - January 8, 2027  
November 16, 2026 - March 9, 2027

- *Macon County Law Enforcement Training Center Academy (Sangamon)*  
January 11, 2026 - March 6, 2026  
March 22, 2026 - May 15, 2026  
July 5, 2026 - August 28, 2026  
September 13, 2026 - November 6, 2026
- *Police Training Institute (DuPage County)*  
January 26, 2026 - March 20, 2026  
July 20, 2026 - September 11, 2026  
September 28, 2026 - November 20, 2026
- *Southwestern Illinois College Correctional Officer Academy*  
January 5, 2026 - February 27, 2026  
March 23, 2026 - May 15, 2026  
June 15, 2026 - August 7, 2026  
September 28, 2026 - November 20, 2026

**Motion was made by Davis, seconded by Bulnes, and carried by all members present to approve the list of Basic Corrections Academy Courses to be certified for 2026.**

Williams asked the Board for approval for the following Part-Time Basic Law Enforcement academy courses for 2026:

- *Northeast Multi-Regional Training, MTU 3*  
April 18, 2026 – February 28, 2027
- *Southwestern Illinois Law Enforcement Commission, MTU 14*  
August 22, 2026 – July 10, 2027

**Motion was made by Davis, seconded by Bulnes, and carried by all members present to approve the list of Part-Time Basic Law Enforcement Academy Courses to be certified for 2026.**

Williams asked the Board for approval for the following Other Board Courses for 2026:

- *120-hour Transition Course – SWIC Academy*  
March 2, 2026 - March 1, 2026  
June 1, 2026 - June 13, 2026  
September 14, 2026 - September 25, 2026  
November 30, 2026 - December 11, 2026
- *200-hour Basic Arson Investigator Course – SWIC Academy*  
ON HOLD - If reinstated, session dates would be scheduled fall of 2026.

- *Courtroom Security Course – SWIC Academy*  
February 2, 2026 - February 27, 2026  
April 27, 2026 - May 22, 2026  
September 28, 2026 - October 23, 2026

Questions arose around the Basic Arson investigator course and why it has been on hold for two years. Eric Danford, Director of SWIC approached the podium and explained it is mostly a tracking issue between the State Fire Marshall's office and police agencies. Paul Petty added that the tracking issue is outside the scope of ILETSB, all the Board is required to do is approve the training, which the Board has done.

***Motion was made by Davis, seconded by Bulnes, and carried by all members present to approve the list of Other Board Academy Courses to be certified for 2026.***

IV. **MANDATORY FIREARMS TRAINING** ~ *Cheryllynn Williams*

Williams read the following statement: *Mandatory Firearms Training (MFT) Policy Re-Affirmation: Board approved Basic Law Enforcement, Correctional Training Academies and the Mobile Team Units are the only entities authorized to conduct the Mandatory Firearms Training Course and the Mandatory Firearms Training Waiver Course at a Board approved range.*

Paul Petty briefly defined the MFT course and noted that this course is designed to avoid any conflict of interest.

***Motion was made by Bulnes, seconded by Williams, and carried by all members present to approve Mandatory Firearms Training Policy Re-Affirmation.***

V. **APPLICATION FOR SCHOOL/COURSE CERTIFICATION** ~ *Paul Petty*

Petty explained there are currently 4,485 certified courses with the Board. These include in-service and in-house trainings through the MTU's, the Executive Institute, Cook County and the Chicago Police Department that have been certified through the Board. Petty noted that courses brought before the Committee are usually the most high-risk high liability courses, including any statutorily recommended courses. Petty then asked Danielle Butts, lead instructor for the SRO certification program, to approach the podium and present the School Resource Officer (SRO) – 8-Hour Update course. She stated this course is not the 16-hour recertification course which includes class time and active scenario training. It has been determined that most already have their active scenario training hours, but they are lacking in Officer Youth Interaction and Juvenile Law. This course is to be treated as an additional option.

***Motion was made by Davis, seconded by Bulnes, and carried by all members present to approve the School Resource Officer (SRO) – 8-Hour Update course.***

Petty went on to discuss the Universal High Risk Traffic Stop (HRTS) Course and the Universal High Risk Traffic Stop (HRTS) Refresher Course. He asked Justin Spencer,

police training specialist with MTU 15, to review the courses for the Board. Spencer reported the two courses are mandated courses, and these courses create continuity across departments. He stated that MTU 15 will share lesson plans with all MTU's. Keigher noted the hope is to have standard minimum requirements to meet the law and provide more guidance for the MTU's. Spencer stated officers are mandated to take six hours of high risk traffic stop every three years and the 4.5-Hour Refresher was designed to be used in between.

**Motion was made by Davis, seconded by Bulnes, and carried by all members present to approve the Universal High Risk Traffic Stop (HRTS) 8.5 Hour Course.**

**Motion was made by Davis, seconded by Williams, and carried by all members present to approve the Universal High Risk Traffic Stop (HRTS) 4.5 Hour Refresher Course.**

Dave Rednour, MTU 15, addressed the Board regarding the *Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) course for Corrections*. He stated the 4-Hour course covers an overview of ASD, the signs and symptoms and the challenges of incarcerated inmates with ASD, and techniques to minimize these challenges.

**Motion was made by Ciganek, seconded by Davis, and carried by all members present to approve Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) for Corrections.**

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

A. Petty read the following statement: *Certification/Recertification Disclaimer: If the Mobile Team declines the delivery of any course within its region for reasons other than duplication, the Board may determine whether the course is otherwise certifiable and/or reimbursable based upon the best interests of law enforcement.*

*Courses are only certified for the calendar year they are submitted, except at the Board's December quarterly meeting, courses are reviewed and certified for the following calendar year.*

*If modifications are made to a certified course that exceed 10% of course content as originally presented for approval; that course must be resubmitted for certification through LETM. Please consult Board Staff whenever course revisions are made to determine if this provision is applicable.*

**Motion was made by Davis, seconded by Bulnes, and carried by all members present to approve the Course Certification/Recertification Disclaimer.**

B. Petty asked for the Certification of In-Service training courses submitted through the Mobile Team Units & Executive Institute from January 1, 2026 – December 31, 2026. These courses can be found under Tab K in the Board book.

**Motion was made by Williams, seconded by Ciganek, 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, 2026 through December 31, 2026.**

**VII. LEAD HOMICIDE INVESTIGATORS 32-HOURS APPROVED CONTINUING EDUCATION COURSES for CERTIFICATION/ RECERTIFICATION ~ Barbara Wood**

Wood asked the Committee for the approval of the Lead Homicide Investigators 32-Hour Continuing Education Courses submitted from January 1, 2026 – December 31, 2026.

**Motion was made by Davis, seconded by Bulnes, and carried by all members present to approve the Lead Homicide Investigators 32-Hour Continuing Education Courses submitted from January 1, 2026 – December 31, 2026.**

**VIII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

None.

**IX. NEW BUSINESS**

**A. Updates to BLE & BCO Curriculum ~ Van Muschler**

Muschler presented the updates as recommended by Dr. Cindy Jones and University of Illinois Springfield. Muschler stated there are two course additions that have been updated and standardized in both the BLE and BCO programs. The first is a new two-hour course titled *Safeguarding Children of Arrested Parents*. The second two-hour course is *Individuals with Autism Spectrum Disorders Awareness and Response*, with course objectives that have been revised to meet the new standards. The autism course matches the Executive Institute's online course. The curriculum will be sent to ILETSB and the academies in January. In addition, the BCO program has added the 11.5-hour PREA course, with specific objectives and the outline to the curriculum, and has reduced gender awareness down to 4.5 hours which allows the mandate to be met in the academy. Muschler provided members with copies of the curriculum, and the outline pages and objectives.

**Motion was made by Schassburger, seconded by Williams, and carried by all members present to approve the updates to the BLE & BCO Curriculum.**

**B. CIT Updates ~ Jennifer Wooldridge**

Wooldridge presented two courses for approval and certification. The first is a statewide *Collaborative Crisis Co-Response* course. In response to the growing number of co-response teams across the state, Board staff worked with subject-matter experts to develop this two-day course for sworn law enforcement and

behavioral health professionals. The training is designed to provide a comprehensive understanding of modern co-response roles, responsibilities, and operations, while building practical skills in safety planning, crisis assessment, scene management, non-escalation and de-escalation strategies, mental health law, privacy constraints, and interagency collaboration. Instruction will include lectures, discussions, demonstrations, resource materials, video analysis, and scenario-based training, with implementation through the MTU system planned for the start of the calendar year if approved. Chair Neukirch asked if the criteria which referenced character could be reviewed as it is very subjective.

**Motion was made by Ciganek, seconded by Davis, and carried by all members present to approve the statewide Collaborative Crisis Co-Response Course.**

The second course Wooldridge presented was the *Law Enforcement Crisis Response Therapy Dog Certification Initiative*. She is seeking approval of the specialty certification parameters, including eligibility, training matrix, and course outline developed with consultants and Tails of Redemption (TOR) partners. The proposed three-day training includes classroom components on therapy canine techniques, a CIT refresher, co-response overview, peer support, advanced handling skills, and specialized response to community members or victims. The program also incorporates field training appraisals, role-play scenarios, and a final team assessment.

Eligible participants include law enforcement officers, behavioral health co-responders who respond with law enforcement, and law enforcement crisis response support personnel, all of whom must be affiliated with a law enforcement agency. Prerequisite training varies by role, and additional requirements include veterinary record verification for the therapy dog and a background check for the handler. Upon preliminary approval, handler and therapy dog teams will attend the three day in-person training and assessment conducted by TOR-approved instructors, with the formal MOU with Cook County and TOR being finalized. Successful participants will be entered into the PTB database, receive a numbered certificate and CIT therapy dog patch, and become eligible for monthly continuing training and participation in the statewide call-out team. Annual training will be required to maintain certification.

Illinois will be the first state to establish a standardized statewide law enforcement crisis response therapy dog certification program, setting a potential model for national standards. Davis asked for clarification, Wooldridge stated teams coming into the program must already have a therapy dog, this program is not training a dog to be a therapy dog. TOR can pair a dog with a handler and train the team for certification. Schassburger commended Wooldridge and Cook County's Tails of Redemption Director, Jerry Roman for the work they have accomplished with this program.

**Motion was made by Schassburger, seconded by Davis, and carried by all members present to approve the Law Enforcement Crisis Response Therapy Dog Certification Initiative.**

C. In-Service Updated Guidelines for Mandated Training ~ Pat Hahn

Hahn reported that the new in-service guidelines are located under Tab I in the Board book. He explained that in 2016, the legislature passed the Police in Community Improvement Act, marking the first time specific training topics were mandated for every officer statewide. The Board was already training on the seven specified topics, the challenge was to pull out the now mandated topics. The Board adopted the [in-service] guidelines in relation to those mandates. Hahn noted when the SAFE-T Act passed [2021] it significantly revised in-service training requirements, leading to continued updates to the guidelines.

Additionally, three new recently passed statutes have introduced further mandates:

- **P.A. 103-0949** (Autism): Establishes a three-year in-service training requirement for all officers (page 4).
- **P.A. 104-0159** (Human Trafficking): Adds human trafficking as a required topic for investigators of sexual assault and sexual abuse (page 18) and expands sensitivity training requirements for all officers (page 19).
- **P.A. 104-0084** (Anna’s Law): Addresses conflicts of interest and aims to reduce victim trauma by creating a new three-year mandated in-service training requirement tied to trauma-informed response (page 20), which is currently being taught.

Hahn stated the highlighted sections of the Guidelines Manual reflect these statutory changes, with updated language taken directly from the statutes. Chair Neukirch inquired whether the team could review the remaining guidelines within the policy over the next one to three years.

**Motion was made by Davis, seconded by Ciganek, and carried by all members present to approve the In-Service Updated Guidelines for Mandated Training.**

**X. NEXT BOARD MEETING DATE AND LOCATION**

Neukirch noted the next Board meeting will be held December 11, 2025 in Oak Brook, Illinois.

**XI. NEXT CURRICULUM AND SCHOOL STANDARDS ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING DATE AND LOCATION**

Neukirch announced the next Curriculum & School Standards Advisory meeting will be held on March 4, 2026 in Springfield, Illinois.

**XII. ADJOURNMENT**

**Motion was made by Davis, seconded by Ciganek, and carried by all members present to adjourn the meeting at 2:55 p.m.**

