

**Vermont Criminal Justice Council
Traffic Safety Committee
September 10, 2021**

Members in Attendance

Lt. Kevin Geno, Chair, Rutland County Sheriff's Dept
Sgt. Jay Rigen, Vermont State Police
Lt. Camillo Grande, Bennington Police Dept
LEL Bill Jenkins, State Highway Safety Office Behavioral Safety Unit
Mandy White, Vermont Highway Safety Alliance
Anthony Facos, Vermont Dept of Motor Vehicles
Kenneth Hawkins, Vermont Police Academy

Other Attendees

John Flannigan, Vermont Police Academy DRE Consultant
Gail Williams, Vermont Police Academy
Cindy Taylor-Patch, Vermont Police Academy
Ken Hawkins, Vermont Police Academy

Call to order: Meeting was called to order at 10:01

Motion made by Bill Jenkins to accept the minutes from the May 14, 2021, meeting, second by John Flannigan. All in favor. Motion passed.

Old Business items:

- Discussion of a standardized drivers education curriculum for Police Officers: Unsure where Chris is with this. Geno said they are seeing an trend in 17 to 21-year old's without seatbelts in crashes.
- A.R.I.D.E. courses scheduled and posted on VCJC website: these courses are up on the website.
- Ideas to reaffirm the importance of Highway Safety during the basic recruit class: the Academy is doing an adequate job with the basic class and working on how to move reaffirm the importance to supervisors and agency heads.
- AFST/ARIDE Refresher: One/two ARIDE refreshers will be offered this year.



They are one day (eight hour) classes that include SFST refreshers in the morning. Currently there is one scheduled in Colchester. A suggest was made to change the geography of the trainings to spread it around the state.

New Business Items:

- New updates on impaired driving: John Flannigan informed the sub-committee the state is down to 48 DRE's and anticipates losing 3-4 in the coming weeks/months. The class that was scheduled for August only had 10 people sign up. One withdrew early on, two were not accepted, and another withdrew later into the process. Six students were not enough to hold the class which worked out as California closed its site for the field training portion. Rhode Island and Massachusetts both had classes scheduled. Rhode Island cancelled. Four of our applicants will be attending the Sep class in Massachusetts and the other two will attend the February class in Rhode Island. Applications will be opened for a school in VT next year to see how much interest there is. Out of the 208 evaluations submitted (down from 2020) there were 210 alerts and 68 no responses, most likely from staffing issues. Toxicology stuff we're seeing a significant increase in our number one drug category as narcotic analgesics, a lot of fentanyl coming back, followed by cannabis, and then depressants and stimulants are number 3. The question was asked about overtime for officers called in to cover for DRE officers called out and found out it is not approved.
- ARIDE Updates: noting from Chris
- Check Point Supervisors Course: (Geno) The past class only had 4 officers, so they were not able to stop traffic both ways. There has not been much interest in the Check Point Course.
- Crash Data: (Mandy) There was a double fatal this morning. Data is behind due to staff shortages. This year there have been 49 fatalities, 40% were impaired, 25% were motorcycles, 8 were ejections, and 70% of these were unbelted. 70% of the reports from officers are coming in say failed to maintain lane. These reports need to specify why, and the officers need to be aware of how to fill them out and why it is important to be specific. Crash narratives used to be pages long and are now only a couple paragraphs. Committee members discussed the possibility of an opportunity in the refresher trainings to bring up the importance or accurate information to address the root of the problems. Speed continues to be a huge problem.
- Field Training Officer Update: (Hawkins) – The update classes went live online as of Tuesday. It includes an update on the Academy's perspective of full-time and part-time classes and their schedules, making sure that they understand the importance of what it is that we're asking them to do. The good thing with this training is an officer can watch the training at times that are convenient for them, materials can be added to, and updated in the training. The downside is it is not in person, so officers do not have the ability to ask questions.

Motion to adjourn made by Anthony Facos, second by Jay Rigen. All in favor. Motion passed.

Meeting adjourned 10:50.