



Vermont Criminal Justice Council

TRAINING ADVISORY COMMITTEE: Minutes

January 27, 2022

Location: Physical Location – VT Police Academy, Pittsford, Vermont
and Online Meeting (via Teams)

Committee Members Present:

Chair: Sgt. Jason Covey, Middlebury Police
Vice-Chair: Chief George Merkel, Vergennes Police
Chief Derrick Tienken, Winhall Police
Sgt. Fred Whitcomb, Stowe Police
Sheriff Jennifer Harlow, Orleans CSD
Sgt. Dan Delgado, Burlington Police
Maira Tungatarova, Governor Appointee to the CJC
Christopher Louras, Governor Appointee to the CJC
Brian Searles, Governor Appointee to the CJC
Major Justin Stedman, Vermont Department of Fish & Wildlife

Others Present:

Deputy Director Chris Brickell, VCJC
Cindy Taylor-Patch, Director of Training
Ken Hawkins, Academy LECTC
Lt. Tom Mozzer, Vermont State Police
Det. Mike Beliveau, Burlington Police Department
Communications Operator Emily Leinoff, Rutland City Police

Absent:

Warden Jeremy Schmid, Vermont Department of Fish & Wildlife
Inspector John Federico, Vermont Department of Motor Vehicles/VSEA.
Sgt. Adam Murach, Brandon Police
Sgt. Andrew Bent, Washington CSD
Lt. Robert Giolito, Vermont Department of Motor Vehicles
Commissioner Michael Schirling, Vermont Department of Public Safety
Chief Skyler Genest, Vermont Department of Liquor & Lottery

Call to order at 12:33pm by Chair Sgt. Jason Covey.

Approval of Prior Minutes: A motion was made by Council Member Louras, seconded by Sgt. Delgado, to accept the meeting minutes of January 13, 2022; All in favor. Motion passed.

Review of De-escalation training – *Det. Michael Beliveau, Burlington PD*

Det. Beliveau described the 8-hour training used for Level III Basic Training in de-escalation. The curriculum was developed by subject matter experts under the direction of the Police Executive Research Forum (PERF) and is titled, “Integrating Communications, Assessment, and Tactics.” He noted the emphasis placed on communication skills, keeping your distance



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from an individual when you can, and intervening if you see an officer who is emotionally escalated. The training consists of lecture, classroom dialog, video-based scenario critique, and live mock scenarios. Burlington Police also offer this training to their personnel in-house and are participants in PERF's pilot program. Training of Trainers by PERF has been limited as of late but a session is expected in 2022.

Consult with a dispatching trainer regarding triaging mental health calls – *Communication Operator Emily Leinoff, Rutland City Police Department*

Council Member Louras presented the Committee with a question of the training needs of dispatchers, especially when triaging mental health calls. Communications Operator Leinoff stated that there is very little formal training for dispatchers outside of training specific to one's CAD system and NCIC. Further, she expressed interest in a certification for dispatchers as they may be named in lawsuits and have a position that comes with liability. In situations where a dispatcher suspects the call may have a mental health component, she notes that it can be difficult for a dispatcher to identify quickly as they can't see what is actually happening on the scene and may have no formal training in handling mental health calls. Council Member Louras suggested that the State should provide money to address this and that he will make this recommendation to the Executive Director and the Council Chair. Council Member Searles spoke about this same issue of formal training for dispatchers was identified decades ago and he supports pursuing a solution. Leinoff stated that some dispatchers are organizing on their own in an effort to create possibilities.

Instructor Development Discussion – *Sgt. Covey & Director Taylor-Patch*

Director Taylor-Patch described challenges faced during COVID when attempting to bring in vendor training. Committee members expressed interest in offering a course using statewide talent but recognize staffing challenges. Taylor-Patch will again investigate the possibility of programs offered remotely by FLETC.

Additional Comments:

Deputy Director and Council Member Searles had a brief exchange about out-of-state waiver applications and the possibility of TAC working with the Waiver Committee on an improved process.

Motion made by Sheriff Harlow, to adjourn at 1:45; seconded by Chief Merkel. All in favor. Motion passed.

Next meeting is scheduled for February 10, 2022, at 12:30.