



Vermont Criminal Justice Council

TRAINING ADVISORY COMMITTEE: Minutes

December 2, 2021

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

Committee Members Present:

Chair: Sgt. Jason Covey, Middlebury Police
Commissioner Michael Schirling, Vermont Department of Public Safety
Sgt. Dan Delgado, Burlington Police
Lt. Robert Giolito, Vermont Department of Motor Vehicles
Christopher Louras, Governor Appointee to the CJC
Sgt. Adam Murach, Brandon Police
Brian Searles, Governor Appointee to the CJC
Major Justin Stedman, Vermont Department of Fish & Wildlife
Chief Derrick Tienken, Winhall Police
Sgt. Fred Whitcomb, Stowe Police

Others Present:

Cindy Taylor-Patch, Director of Training

Absent:

Vice-Chair: Chief George Merkel, Vergennes Police (Instructing Level III)
Sgt. Andrew Bent, Washington CSD
Inspector John Federico, Vermont Department of Motor Vehicles/VSEA.
Chief Skyler Genest, Vermont Department of Liquor & Lottery
Sheriff Jennifer Harlow, Orleans CSD
Commander Greg Sheldon, Rutland Police
Maira Tungatarova, Governor Appointee to the CJC

Call to order: Due to difficulty securing a quorum, meeting was called to order at 12:45pm (instead of 12:30) by Chair Sgt. Jason Covey.

Approval of Prior Minutes: A motion was made by Sgt. Delgado, seconded by Council Member Louras, to accept the meeting minutes of October 21, 2021; All in favor. Motion passed.

Level II Basic Training & Certification Process - discussion and planning:

Chair Covey opened the discussion with a call to assess the role and related competencies needed for Level II officers. Members discussed a desire to hear from subject matter experts/instructors regarding their perspective on what Level II officers may need for training. Sgt. Delgado identified Patrol Procedures as an area in critical need of expansion. Council Member Louras asked about values-focused training across the training levels. The concept of what is assessed through the hiring process and what is developed through training was deliberated. Commissioner Schirling highlighted a need to focus on 21st century policing priorities, as the depth and breadth of required training is explored.



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Members support significant change to the requirements and structure and discussed the need for creative thinking in terms of how training is delivered to accommodate the end-user and employers who are managing staffing shortages.

Members discussed creating a survey for stakeholders to identify how they are utilizing Level II officers, a needs assessment of sorts, to aid in the identification of current job-specific competencies. Sgt. Delgado, Sgt. Whitcomb, and Council Member Louras volunteered to work with Director Taylor-Patch to draft a survey to bring back to the larger group.

Motion made by Searles to adjourn at 1:18; seconded by Louras.

Next meeting is scheduled for December 16, 2021, at 12:30.