



Vermont Criminal Justice Council

TRAINING ADVISORY COMMITTEE: Minutes

December 30, 2021

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

Committee Members Present:

Chair: Sgt. Jason Covey, Middlebury Police
Lt. Robert Giolito, Vermont Department of Motor Vehicles
Christopher Louras, Governor Appointee to the CJC
Major Justin Stedman, Vermont Department of Fish & Wildlife
Warden Jeremy Schmid, Vermont Department of Fish & Wildlife
Chief Derrick Tienken, Winhall Police
Sgt. Fred Whitcomb, Stowe Police
Sheriff Jennifer Harlow, Orleans CSD
Inspector John Federico, Vermont Department of Motor Vehicles/VSEA.
Chief Skyler Genest, Vermont Department of Liquor & Lottery
Sgt. Adam Murach, Brandon Police

Others Present:

Cindy Taylor-Patch, Director of Training
Ken Hawkins, Academy LECTC
Jake Hansell, Academy LECTC
Sgt. Michael Welch, Vermont Department of Liquor Control
Sgt. Michael Akerlind, Colchester Police

Absent:

Vice-Chair: Chief George Merkel, Vergennes Police
Brian Searles, Governor Appointee to the CJC
Commissioner Michael Schirling, Vermont Department of Public Safety
Sgt. Dan Delgado, Burlington Police
Sgt. Andrew Bent, Washington CSD
Maira Tungatarova, Governor Appointee to the CJC

Call to order at 12:35pm by Chair Sgt. Jason Covey.

Approval of Prior Minutes: A motion was made by Sheriff Harlow, seconded by Council Member Louras, to accept the meeting minutes of December 16, 2021; All in favor. Motion passed.

Level II Basic Training (Competencies discussion continued):

Firearms syllabus for Level II & III Basic Training

LECTC Hansell who coordinates this programming and Sgt. Welch, VCJC Firearms Instructor, discussed programming at each Level. They noted that the Level II course is shorter in classroom time, therefore limits discussion. As it occurs over the course of 3 days, no homework assignments are given. Level III students receive dry-fire drills and draw practice, low-light/night fire and multiple scenario-based training exercises. They also successfully complete both a set of performance standards as well as the required qualification course. When asked,



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the instructors noted they would recommend scenarios, night fire, building clearing exercises, simulator exercises, and additional time to offer deeper discussion on legal and procedural topics. Based on 2022 policy changes, additional time is required to cover this policy and the dynamics of the concept of “duty to intervene.”

Use of Force & Tactics syllabus for Level II & III Basic Training

LECTC Hansell who coordinates this programming and Sgt. Akerlind, VCJC UOF Instructor, discussed programming at each Level, highlighting the importance of practice time in the development of proficiency and confidence in the skills trained. Further, it was reported that Level II students do not complete any Use of Force & Tactics training scenarios which are designed to promote sound decision-making skills.

Level II & III Basic Training generally

LECTC Ken Hawkins reported that Level II officers receive 4 hours of classroom-based instruction on driving. Level III students receive 12 hours of classroom, plus 24+ hours of active training on the Academy driving pad (driving and observing). They also complete scenarios involving completing live mock traffic stops under close supervision. Chair Covey noted that most officers spend a bulk of their time at work in their cruiser, especially when first on the job. LECTC Hawkins noted that it is the highest area of liability within the profession.

Second review of stakeholder survey draft for final recommendations

Director Taylor-Patch asked for feedback on the draft. Council Member Louras provided his opinion that the survey is ideal in length for this current stage of inquiry. He suggested the addition of an additional question on the number of Level III officers employed by each agency, revision of the hours worked category options, and added clarity around full- and part-time statuses given the non-traditional work weeks found in policing (i.e. an officer might work 32 hours one week and 48 hours the next). In addition, he suggested adding if Level II officers employed are restricted in their duties (i.e. if an agency directed Level II officers to a specific role like Court Security but did not assign them to patrol duties). Sgt. Murach asked to add the word “hours” to item #4 for clarity. No other comments. Committee decided to review one more draft before calling a vote. No action taken.

Additional Comments:

Council Member Louras proposed discussion in the future regarding liability, training related liability, and proposed changes to “qualified immunity,” specifically identifying the complexity of officers who “double-badge.”

Motion made by Sgt. Murach to adjourn at 2:02; seconded by Council Member Louras. Motion passed.

Next meeting is scheduled for January 13, 2022, at 12:30.