



Vermont Criminal Justice Council

Council Meeting Minutes

September 15, 2021

10:00 AM

Teams Meeting

Members in Attendance:

William Sorrell, Chair – Governor Appointed
Sheriff Mark Anderson, Vice-Chair – VT Sheriff's Association
Xusana Davis, Vice-Chair – E.D. Racial Equity
Anthony Facos – Proxy for Wanda Minoli, Dept of Motor Vehicles
Chief Christopher Brickell – Vermont Chiefs' Association
Christopher Louras – Governor Appointed
Shawn Pratt – Governor Appointed
John Federico – VT State Employees Association
Glen Boyde – Proxy for James Baker, Dept of Corrections
Sadie Donovan – Proxy for Carol Brochu, Center for Crime Victim Services
Evan Meenan – Proxy for John Campbell, States Attorney & Sheriff's
Erin Hodges - Vermont Troopers Association
Maria Tungatarova – Governor Appointed
Trevor Whipple – Vermont Leagues of Cities and Towns
James Baker – Commissioner of Corrections
Col. Jason Batchelder - Proxy for Commissioner Louis Porter, VT Fish & Wildlife
Karim Chapman – Governor Appointed
Michael Schirling – Commissioner of Public Safety
Brian Searles – Governor Appointed

Other Attendees:

Heather Simons – Executive Director Vermont Police Academy
Lindsay Thivierge – Vermont Police Academy
Major Justin Stedman - Proxy for Commissioner Louis Porter, VT Fish & Wildlife
Andrew Graham – Vermont Police Academy
Kenneth Hawkins – Vermont Police Academy
Gail Williams – Vermont Police Academy
Jon Murad – Burlington Police Dept
Steven Coote – Vermont State Police
Julie Scribner – Vermont State Police
Jacob Humbert – Assistant Attorney General
Keith Baranow - Guest
Kevin Lane – Vermont State Police
Jennifer Firpo – Vermont Police Academy
Julio Thompson – Attorney General's Office



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Ann Schroeder – Guest
Two unidentified people called in.

Call to Order: VCJC Chair Bill Sorrell 10:03

Changes to Agenda: Addition to H435/Act56 section to include an introduction of Keith Baranow. An addition to the Executive Director Update section to include Julie Scribner. Addition to the Director of Administration Updates to include FIP Data Collection waiver.

Approval of prior minutes: Trevor Whipple made a motion to accept the minutes from September 1st. Second by Mark Anderson. All in favor. Motion passed.

H435/Act56 (Commissioner Baker) Announced Army Lt. Col. Keith Baranow who will be working with Corrections on the joint report due to legislature regarding H 435 which became Act 56. The report will outline the feasibility of the Council taking on certification, decertification, and training of corrections personnel. The report is due on December 1st. The Council members will see a draft report by the end of October, which will give them 30 days to review. The joint committee will have 30 days after the review to make any adjustments and finalize the report by the deadline. Chair Sorrell asked if the draft could be sent mid-October to give the Council members time to review and discuss it.

Committees:

Entrance Testing update: (Murad) At the most recent meeting the working group members voted and approved the RFI that will gain information from vendors on an academic test that will measure and evaluate an applicant's ability to successfully make it through the Academy. The group discussed the MMPI as it pertains to Rule 16 and what the psychological test should measure. The group is also discussing the parameters and accessibility for the PT test.

FIP Committee update: (Stedman) The committee was hopeful that they would have a proposal for this council meeting, but the subcommittee members needed more background and clarity on where it is coming from and where it is going. Stedman asked for the next committee meeting to be four hours to give time for them to dive into the suggestions from migrant justice and has asked for time at the next Council meeting to talk about the recommended policy which is due by January 1, 2022.

Professional Regulation Subcommittee: (Brickell) There have been 22 cases reviewed and sent back for more information or clarification, 52 cases have been completed, and six (6) cases are left to review. The committee will be going back and reviewing prior cases as needed. Karen Trongsard-Scott has been asked to join the committee and has accepted.



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- Christopher Louras made a motion to approve the procedure for the Professional Regulation subcommittee presented by Jacob Humbert at the last Council Meeting. Second by Glenn Boyde. No further discussion. All in favor. Motion passed.

Training Advisory Committee: (Coote) Last meeting was on September 9th, this is the biggest subcommittee with 22 members and has decided to meet biweekly to catch up. The TAC discussed the FTO process and minimum requirements for Level II and Level III officers. They are ready to make a recommendation for Level II officers and will be looking at the training. Currently, Level II officers are required to get 60 hours of field training which is too little to be exposed to situations while working with a Level III experienced officer. The subcommittee is recommending increasing the required hours to 120 hours beginning in 2022. There was not an action item on the agenda for this meeting. Sorrell asked for it to be an action item on the next agenda. Brian Searles asked to what extent do agencies lean on Level II officers. Sheriff Anderson asked if the Professional Regulations committee would track Act 56 violations by category and Levels for a data approach.

Executive Director update: (Heather Simons)

Covid: Has an impact on how we do business and affects morale and stamina. Each week we revisit protocol. VTHR Covid Attestation form is up and ready for employees to fill out. The Academy could be a test site.

Risk Assessment: Heather, Cindy, Lindsay, Linda Lambert, and Andrew Keegan are working together to determine if there will need to be an audit on how we track, keep data and records, how the Academy runs, and policies. This topic will be on the agenda monthly to keep the Council updated.

Julie Scribner: Today is Captain Scribner's last Council meeting. She was thanked for all that she has done in every aspect of her career and service to law enforcement, the Academy, and the Council.

Director of Administration updates: (Lindsay Thivierge) Each year law enforcement agencies have to report on race data collection. VALCOUR is a company working on the collection and ability to extract the information in a reportable format. There had been a software issue that has been corrected but may affect the deadline. The Council has been asked to grant a 60-day waiver of the deadline in case any other issues occur. After discussions, Louras made a motion to accept a provisional blanker waiver for all agencies to be granted a retroactive 60-day waiver with a deadline of November 1st. This waiver is necessary to get the race data collection data in a reportable form compliant with VSA 2359. Second by Brickell. No further discussion. All in favor. Motion passed.

No further questions, comments, or suggestions.



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Motion to adjourn: Christopher Louras moved, second by_____. All in favor.

Meeting adjourned: 11:44

DRAFT