June 15, 2022

10:00 AM

Teams Meeting

**Members in Attendance:**

William Sorrell, Chair – Governor Appointed

Brian Searles – Governor Appointed

Christopher Louras – Governor Appointed

Shawn Pratt – Governor Appointed

Michael Schirling – Commissioner, Public Safety

Major Kevin Lane – Proxy for Commissioner Michael Schirling, Public Safety

Glen Boyde – Proxy for Nicholas Deml, Dept of Corrections

Anthony Facos – Proxy for Commissioner Wanda Minoli, Public Motor Vehicles

Chris Herrick – Commissioner for VT Fish and Wildlife

Justin Stedman - Proxy for Commissioner Chris Herrick, VT Fish & Wildlife

Jason Batchelder - Proxy for Commissioner Chris Herrick, VT Fish & Wildlife

Evan Meenan - Proxy for John Campbell, Executive Director, States Attorney & Sheriff’s

Xusana Davis, Vice-Chair – E.D. Racial Equity

Erin Hodges – VT Trooper’s Association

Michael Major – VT Police Association

Jennifer Frank – VT Chief’s Association

Mark Anderson – VT Sheriff’s Association

John Federico – VT State Employee Association

Trevor Whipple – Vermont Leagues of Cities and Towns

Sadie Donovan – Proxy for Jennifer Poehlmann, Center for Crime Victim Services

Cassandra Burdyshaw – VT Human Rights Commission

Karen Tronsgard Scott – E.D. VT Network DOMV/Sexual Violence

**Other Attendees:**

Heather Simons – Vermont Police Academy

Christopher Brickell – Vermont Police Academy

Lindsay Thivierge – Vermont Police Academy

Kenneth Hawkins – Vermont Police Academy

Andrew Graham – Vermont Police Academy

Jamielee Bedard – Vermont Police Academy

Jennifer Firpo – Vermont Police Academy

Michael Donoghue – VT Digger

Jason Covey – Sergeant, Middlebury Police Department

Megan Campbell – Assistant Attorney General

James Pontbriand – Chief, Berlin Police Department

Kevin Mclaughlin – Sheriff, Chittenden County Sherriff Department

**Call to Order:**  Vermont Criminal Justice Council Chair, William Sorrell 10:02

**Changes to Agenda:**  Add agenda item for recognition of Commissioner Schirling after approval of the meeting minutes.

**Approval of prior minutes**: Motion to approve minutes from 5.18.22 meeting, Karen Tronsgard Scott, second by Cassandra Burdyshaw. All in favor.

**Recognition of Commissioner Schirling:** Introduction of Michael Schirling from Chair Sorrell- Outlined the magnitude of the contributions that Schirling has made for law enforcement, and will continue to make, going forward in his new role. Many thanks and praise were expressed from Council members as well as Directors Simons and Brickell.

Schirling expressed his gratitude and the honor he has had working with trusted partners within the profession, as well as the new possibilities moving forward in his new role.

**Vermont Criminal Justice Council Chair Updates:** *Vermont Criminal Justice Council Chair, William Sorrell*

* Joint Criminal Justice Oversight - focused on the law enforcement issue of police interviewing suspects and victims, especially juveniles. The statute that was enacted, mandates consideration of interview issues and says that the VCJC is to assist the oversight committee.
  + A request up for consideration to the full legislature from the Oversight Committee is a look at the VT statute to see if it needs to change in the case of police interviews of juveniles. Response by September for legislative review.
* Legislature has called upon us to advise on the issue of the Council having an expanded role in the training and professional regulation of Corrections officers. The Council needs to be prepared to respond to the legislature.
* We may be on the agenda in July for Joint Justice Oversight, we will know in the next couple of days.

**Co-Vice Chair Nominations:** *Vermont Criminal Justice Council Chair, William Sorrell*

Members of different Council subcommittees were solicited to see if there is any desire to change committees or change leadership positions. The responses have been that everyone is content where they are.

*Co Vice-Chairs:* There are two co-vice chairs on the Council. One represents law enforcement and the other non-law enforcement. The law enforcement vice-chair role will change hands and the term will start July 1st. Major Lane has expressed interest in assuming the role of law enforcement vice-chair. Sheriff Anderson will continue to remain on the Council.

Brian Searles made a motion to retain Xusanna Davis as co Vice-Chair and Major Lane to become the new law enforcement co-vice chair, second by Mark Anderson, all in favor.

**Website Supervision:** *Governor Appointee, Christopher Louras*

* Information on the VCJC website is owned by the Council and may be perceived as representative of our beliefs or mission.
* There are trainings hosted by outside agencies or companies that are posted on the VCJC website as opportunities.
* There should be a level of oversight, especially for training opportunities that have not been fully vetted through the state RFP process.
* One specific example: sniper training that was a link on the Council training website. The tenor of the website and the things they are selling in their shop, it was militaristic and a non-guardian model.
* Both the warrior model on the website and the unfortunate tragedy in Woodstock yesterday present an opportunity to talk about the tactical issues and how responses should be tied to de-escalation such as the VSP tactical team. These training examples should be part of a broader conversation to make sure training is going in a direction that reflects the mission of the Council.
* Staff did the right thing by removing the training, but it gives an opportunity to discuss and make informed decisions around what our public face should be.
* *Discussion and questions ensued:* Agreement was expressed, and conversation brought up another issue that was identified in the legislature around police interviews.
  + The Reid Technique being discussed is not taught in the Academy, but it is a training link on the website, does that mean the Council endorses it?
  + Do we mandate a specific training, or should opportunities fit the needs of the departments and agencies?
  + We should be less reliant on vendors and these trainings and techniques referenced should be our own. If a vendor has the training that is needed in the meantime, then we will post it, an internal process should take care of this issue.
  + Larger conversation around the thin blue line, logos, emblems, seals, marketing, recruiting, and what represents the job.

**Executive Director Updates:** *Vermont Criminal Justice Council Executive Director, Heather Simons*

* Jamie Lee Bedard is the new Impaired Driver Program Training Coordinator; this is a federally funded limited-service position. Jamie comes from the office of Child Support with a very diverse background in law enforcement, casework, and investigations.
* Arthur Smith will be our staff Attorney and Jennifer Hier will be our new Administrative Services Coordinator, they will be introduced at the next meeting.
* Director of Training candidate Grainne Perkins we had a lot of fun getting to know but some things didn’t line up in terms of the job description, scheduling, and needs. We re-evaluated the position and reposted it with some changes. The position closes on the 19th of June.
* Graduation for the 113th will be July 15th, invitations will go out soon.
* The Law Enforcement memorial ceremony will be on September 9th although it will be held at the Academy it is organized by a group of law enforcement representatives, fire, and rescue.
* Continuing discussions with IADLEST on certification and accreditation.
* Legislative Governance Committee meets quarterly and is chaired by Director Derosier from Fire Safety at the Department of Public Safety.
  + Annually there is a safety report on the safety committee associated with Governance Committee and it is part of Risk Management, we will be including Covid in the report.
  + The Governance Committee will also be a part of the $50,000 for the feasibility study to look at the firing range and the main building.
    - The Governance Committee came up at Joint Justice Oversight and we will likely have to report out where we are with that and the feasibility.
* National Police Institute, formerly National Police Foundation, is doing work about efficacy and traffic stop data. They have identified 13 agencies to have more conversations with about how data is collected. Their contract is through federal funds and their contract is up in September.
* Thanks and praise were given to Co-Vice Chairs Xusanna Davis and Mark Anderson. Sheriff Anderson was also recognized for his continued presence on the Council after 7/1.
  + Director Davis expressed that she would like more interaction between members of the Council and hopes that more people will utilize the co-vice-chairs as resources.
  + Sheriff Anderson has appreciated working with everyone and is looking forward to the torch being handed off.
  + Major Lane is excited for the important work to come in the days ahead.

**Joint Chiefs and Sheriff’s Meeting:** *Vermont Criminal Justice Council Co Vice-Chair and Sheriff Mark Anderson and Chief Jennifer Frank*

* Vermont Chiefs and Sheriffs annually collaborate on various things that effect law enforcement.
  + Desire to have a future meeting with the Council and the Academy around tangible solutions going forward.
  + Wonderful collaborative ideas came out of the event to address issues in recruitment, training practices, and retention. Survey results and a summary will be available by end of next month.

**Rules Committee Presentation:** *State’s Attorney and Sheriffs, Deputy State’s Attorney, and Rules Subcommittee Chair Evan Meenan*

* January 2021 the Rules committee began work to align the Council Rules with the newly created Council.
* There are changes proposed today that are organizational changes to the Rules as a whole and some very specific changes to individual rules.
* A couple of big topics were not addressed due to members of committees not having subject matter experts that could unilaterally make decisions in certain topic areas.
* There is placeholder language regarding regional training and alternative routes to certification, and other outstanding topics, the Council hasn’t made decisions on yet.
* Members of the Committee: Evan Meenan, Bill Sorrell, Mark Anderson, Cassandra Burdyshaw, and Brian Searles. The committee met 25 times since 6/24/21, all materials are available if anyone wants to review the discussions.
  + Organizational Structure changed. The current structure includes a list of 21 rules, the new organization includes 29 rules organized differently and made consistent throughout.

*Presentation of Re-organization of Rules and adjustments to Rules:*

* Reorganization and placement of all rules
* Rule for waivers – Affects Rule 8, 18, 25
* Rule for Council Appeals – Rule 9

*Rules Presentation will continue in July meeting due to time constraints.*

Motion to adjourn Evan Meenan, second Kevin Lane – all in favor.

Meeting Adjourned 12:00