



Vermont Criminal Justice Council

TRAINING ADVISORY COMMITTEE: Minutes

February 10, 2022

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

Committee Members Present:

Chair: Sgt. Jason Covey, Middlebury Police
Sgt. Adam Murach, Brandon Police
Maira Tungatarova, Governor Appointee to the CJC
Brian Searles, Governor Appointee to the CJC
Warden Jeremy Schmid, Vermont Department of Fish & Wildlife
Inspector John Federico, Vermont Department of Motor Vehicles/VSEA.
Chief Skyler Genest, Vermont Department of Liquor & Lottery
Lt. Robert Giolito, Vermont Department of Motor Vehicles
Sgt. Andrew Bent, Washington CSD

Others Present:

Cindy Taylor-Patch, Director of Training
Ken Hawkins, Academy LECTC
Lt. Tom Mozzer, Vermont State Police

Absent:

Vice-Chair: Chief George Merkel, Vergennes Police
Chief Derrick Tienken, Winhall Police
Sheriff Jennifer Harlow, Orleans CSD
Sgt. Fred Whitcomb, Stowe Police
Sgt. Dan Delgado, Burlington Police
Christopher Louras, Governor Appointee to the CJC
Commissioner Michael Schirling, Vermont Department of Public Safety

Call to order at 12:39pm by Chair Sgt. Jason Covey.

Approval of Prior Minutes: A motion was made by Council Member Searles, seconded by Chief Genest, to accept the meeting minutes of January 27, 2022; All in favor. Motion passed.

Death Investigation Training - Exploratory Discussion – Sgt. Covey & Director Taylor-Patch.

Sgt. Covey presented information about the process of “death investigator” training in Vermont, highlighting that each county’s State’s Attorney maintains a list of approved investigators. Director Taylor-Patch noted that scheduling classes has been difficult, presenting a challenge for some agencies. Sgt. Covey expressed interest in a more formalized certification process and expanded instructor pool to ease the scheduling strain. Sgt. Covey also supports a more rigorous certification process. Director Taylor-Patch advised she will reach out to the State’s Attorneys’ and Sheriffs’ Office, as well as the Vermont State Police to find who may be available to work with Sgt. Covey and others on this project/revision. Inspector Federico suggested certification include a visit to the Vermont Medical Examiner’s Office.



Vermont Criminal Justice Council

TRAINING ADVISORY COMMITTEE: Minutes

February 10, 2022

Level II optimization – discussion continued – *Sgt. Covey & Director Taylor-Patch*

Director Taylor-Patch reported the survey return rate was in the low 30s. Reminder will be sent in hopes of increasing the response rate. Sgt. Covey reported a goal of April for recommendation to be submitted to the Criminal Justice Council. Council Member Searles discussed presentation of scope of authority and function to the Council, outlining training differences. He suggested further discussion of scope/limitations. Sgt. Covey posed a question regarding some level of fitness test for Level II officers; Sgt. Murach and Lt. Giolito concurred that the issue should be reviewed in the context of personal and public safety. Inspector Federico offered the importance of fitness testing in terms of safe participation in scenario-based training.

Sgt. Covey also posed the question of how changes to Level II certification processes may impact constables with law enforcement certification. Discussion ensued. Council Member Searles reported that the Waiver Subcommittee is still considering the issue of “administrative chief.” No action taken.

Motion made by Council Member Searles, to adjourn at 1:37; seconded by Sgt. Murach. All in favor. Motion passed.

Next meeting is scheduled for February 24, 2022, at 12:30.