

ILLINOIS LAW ENFORCEMENT TRAINING AND STANDARDS BOARD

500 S. 9th Street, Springfield, Illinois 62701

MINUTES OF THE QUARTERLY BOARD MEETING

Crowne Plaza Hotel & Conference Center
3000 S Dirksen Parkway, Springfield, IL 62703

September 26, 2024

9:00 a.m.

I. CALL TO ORDER

The September 26, 2024 Quarterly Board meeting was called to order at 9:02 a.m. by Chairman Sean Smoot

II. PUBLIC MEETING ANNOUNCEMENT

The Public Meeting Announcement was read by John Keigher.

III. ROLL CALL – ESTABLISHMENT OF QUORUM

Roll was called by Michelle Mlinar, and a quorum of voting members was established.

Members in Attendance:

Sean Smoot
John Idleburg
Jo Ann Armenta
Mitchell Davis
Nora Gomez
Brendan Kelly
Ghida Neukirch
Timothy Nugent
J. W. Price
Carla Redd
Timothy Tyler
Richard Watson

Designees in Attendance:

Marlon Parks for Thomas Dart
Steven Ryan for Latoya Hughes
Anthony Escamilla for Iris Martinez
John Carroll for Kwame Raoul
Migdalia Bulnes for Larry Snelling

IV. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

V. MOMENT OF SILENCE FOR FALLEN OFFICERS

VI. INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS & VISITORS

VII. DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARDS

Natalie Tsai – Training Division, Specialized Program Assistant, Retired.

VIII. CHAIRMAN REMARKS

Chairman Smoot spoke to the Sonya Massey incident and is looking for ways for the Board to play a larger role to see that this doesn't happen in the future. He expects much legislation to come out in the next year because of the incident. Smoot then mentioned the tragedy that recently happened in a Massachusetts academy where a recruit was killed during training and said to expect a deeper dive into the training in our academies.

IX. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion was made by Watson, seconded by Davis, and carried by all members present to approve the meeting minutes for the Curriculum and School Standards Advisory Committee meeting from June 12, 2024.

Motion was made by Davis, seconded by Watson, and carried by all members present to approve the meeting minutes for the Joint Finance & Legislative Committee and Executive Committee meeting from June 12, 2024.

Motion was made by Redd, seconded by Davis, and carried by all members present, with Gomez abstaining, to approve the meeting minutes for the Quarterly Board Meeting, Open Session only, from June 13, 2024.

X. REPORT OF STANDING AND ADVISORY COMMITTEES

- A. Curriculum and School Standards Advisory Committee ~ Ghida Neukirch
Neukirch stated the Committee met yesterday and approved a new DOJ course; *Vehicular Pursuit Management: Balancing Risks and Enhancing Safety* which is a web-based course. The Committee also approved the certification of In-Service training courses submitted through the Mobile Team Units & Executive Institute from May 15, 2024 – September 14, 2024. They also approved the Lead Homicide Investigators 32-Hour Continuing Education Courses submitted from May 15, 2024 – September 14, 2024. Neukirch stated the Committee received a thorough analysis of the Department of Defense's Basic Law Enforcement Curriculum. The Committee supported moving forward with this program and asked for a more formal policy to be created and brought back to the Board in December for formal consideration.
- B. Finance & Legislative Committee ~ John Idleburg
Idleburg stated the Committee met yesterday. A fiscal report was given by Steven Pingolt and the agency is financially stable. He noted that Ellen Petty discussed the personnel report, and John Keigher provided the legislation and litigation update, both reports will be

discussed again later in this meeting. Idleburg noted the items approved were the legislation and fiscal reports.

C. Waiver Review Committee ~ Brendan Kelly

Kelly stated the first Waiver Review Committee meeting was held last year regarding an appeal. The second Committee meeting was held yesterday to discuss another appeal, with Board staff presenting the denial material. The agency who appealed did not show, though the Committee did review the information provided by both parties and the Committee ruled unanimously with the waiver denial. Kelly noted some of the rules were updated, and noted a main update was the need to identify conflict [of interest], and that it should be a best practice for not just the Committee, but the Board as well.

Motion was made by Watson, seconded by Neukirch, and carried by all members present, with Mitchell Davis abstaining, to approve the Standing Advisory Committee Reports and their recommendations.

XI. EXECUTIVE MATTERS

A. Financial Items ~ Steven Pingolt

Pingolt stated the FY25 expenditures through September 24th, and cash flow analysis can be found under Tab F. Pingolt was asked if we actually have the \$60 million for the camera grants and Pingolt confirmed that is the case. Pingolt stated the Board is appropriated \$147 million for FY25, for FY 24 it was around \$129 million. He stated that the Board spent 50% to 60% of those funds, but noted when we finally get to a full headcount he anticipates we will spend close to 90% of the budgeted amount.

Motion was made by Nugent, seconded by Watson, and carried by all members present to approve the Financial Report.

B. Personnel Matters & DEIA Report ~ Ellen Petty

Petty noted her report can be found under Tab G in the Board book. Petty stated two new employees, both Field Investigators for McLean county, have been hired since the June meeting. Staff is still at a headcount of 40, and there are currently two employees on a leave of absence. Petty expects to have three new employees onboarded in October: a Receptionist/Secretary, the Specialized Training Assistant, and the Assistant Legal Counsel. Interviews will soon be conducted for the Chief Certification Counsel and the Web Designer position. The Assistant Fiscal and Chief Accountability Officer position has been approved and is expected to be posted soon. There will also be positions for two Certification Specialists and a Professional Standards Executive Secretary posted as well. There are several jobs that have been created and submitted to CMS for approval. Petty expects to be at a headcount of 66 by the end of this fiscal year. Petty reminded the Board members to please complete their DEIA and LGBTQIA trainings by the end of the calendar year.

C. Legislative and Litigation Update ~ John Keigher

Keigher stated he would give the litigation report later in the closed session. Currently no new bills of interest have been filed. Staff is watching a bill on Hate Crimes that has passed

in the Senate. Staff has also been working with the Governor's and Lt. Governor's office on seven proposals for the Spring session to cover some provisions of the SAFE-T Act. They are as follows; an experience requirement for training waivers, direct access for the Board to criminal history records, repercussions for failure of chiefs or sheriffs to report officer misconduct, enhance sheriff certification requirements, creating a statewide Brady List, Crisis Therapy Dog certification, and body cameras for auxiliary officers.

Kelly stated, regarding background information, ISP agrees that the Board should have direct NCIC access. He noted the previous denial was due to administrative/regulatory rules from several years ago, and that with the investigative responsibility given to the Board due to the SAFE-T Act a new argument should be made to the Department of Justice to overturn the previous denial. Kelly stated ISP will work with the Board on this issue.

Davis mentioned the statewide Commission on Hate Crimes, he said legislation with mandates was able to be pushed back at this time.

D. Department of Professional Standards

1. *Professional Conduct Database Quarterly Report ~ Anthony Cobb*

Cobb stated as of August 31st, his division has received 158 citizen complaints, which is 72 additional since the June Board meeting, and 212 professional conduct reports, which is 65 additional since the June Board meeting.

2. *Law Enforcement/Corrections/Court Security Waiver Disposition Quarterly Report ~ Anthony Cobb*

Cobb noted the report can be found under Tab H of the Board book. He stated for this reporting period, May 1st through July 31, 2024 his division has processed a total of 570 waiver requests. Cobb said 502 law enforcement waiver and reactivation requests were approved and 25 were denied, 27 correctional officer waiver requests were approved and two were denied, and 14 court security waiver requests were approved, and none were denied.

Cobb responded to a question and reported there seems to be an increase in Professional Conduct reports being filed because the awareness is now out there. He stated all complaints come to the Board in writing, by mail, and by the use of the online form. Cobb also stated staff has been presenting to the agencies about how to properly write and file a conduct report. A discussion followed around officers being out due to being under investigation, but still being on the payroll.

3. *Decertification ~ Pat Hahn*

Hahn reminded the Board that the automatic decertification procedure has recently changed due to a court ruling. The Board is now required to offer advance notice and the ability to respond to the decertification notification. Hahn then spoke about the four officers subject to automatic decertification, and also the four officers who are voluntarily surrendering their certification.

Smoot asked Hahn to list the departments where these officers are located so Board members could determine if there is a conflict of interest. Smoot then asked members

to identify where they have cases and abstain when taking the motions for both the decertifications and the waivers.

Motion was made by Neukirch and carried by all members present, with Watson, Kelly, Price, Tyler, Davis, Smoot, and Armenta, abstaining with respect to the officers affiliated with their current and former employers, to approve the identified automatic decertifications and voluntary surrenders of certification.

Motion was made by Watson, seconded by Kelly, and carried by all members present, with abstentions from Watson and Davis with respect to their employees, to approve the Law Enforcement/Corrections/Court Security Waiver Disposition Quarterly Report.

Members requested that the Waiver reports be sorted by city/department in the future. Neukirch asked for guidelines from legal as to when members should recuse themselves. Smoot then asked that on the day of the Committee meetings in December, to be scheduled prior to the Committee meetings, an hour seminar for legal counsel to address these issues.

XII. PROGRAM PROGRESS REPORTS AND CONCEPTS

A. Illinois Law Enforcement Executive Institute ~ Heather Hotz

Hotz stated they facilitated the 28th annual New Chiefs of Police Orientation in East Peoria with 57 chiefs in attendance. She noted this year the Online Learning Network surpassed 36,000 students, compared to this time last year numbers are up 10%. Hotz introduced Tracy Meredith as the new Program Coordinator of Business operations. Meredith will assist the Executive Institute team with grant management.

Davis asked to recognize Hotz and her team. He stated that COPS/Department of Justice (DOJ) did a presentation at the NOBLE National Conference, and they mentioned Illinois as a leading state offering DOJ courses.

B. A Statewide System of In-Service Training (ASSIST) Program ~ Paul Petty

Petty noted his ASSIST reports can be found under Tab K, and asked the Board to pay attention to attachment one and the hourly rate for training. He stated the goal is to keep instructional costs to under \$200 per hour and training costs to under \$10 per hour.

C. CIT and Mental Health Training Update ~ Jennifer Wooldridge

Wooldridge highlighted that the CIT therapy dog program is going well. She is looking forward to continuing the partnership with Cook County and their Tails of Redemption program to expand this initiative statewide. She noted at CIT International they met the team that went to Highland Park, and the hope is that our CIT teams will be able to do this for the state.

Plans are being made for the CIT state conference, and the Executive Institute has secured the East Peoria location for June 25 – 26, 2025.

Wooldridge also stated her team attended and presented at CIT International again this year. She noted the Seattle team approached them and said they never miss one of our presentations and will be taking ‘Coffee with Joe’ back to Seattle with them.

D. Information Technology Update ~ Kelly Ingram

Ingram stated his report is found under Tab N in the Board book. Ingram took a moment to recognize his team: Korteny keeps our servers online and our network secure, Andrew is our web developer and we also have Keith Wallace. Ingram then focused on Jason, stating he recently took on project management status to bring the training room and multipurpose room online in addition to his everyday responsibilities in network security and wireless.

E. Specialty Training Update ~ Barbara Wood

Wood stated her SRO report, and the six individuals needing Board approval to become Crash Reconstruction Specialists, can be found under Tab M in the Board book. She also thanked the Illinois State Police for inviting her to speak in front of the Ukraine Delegation at recent conference in Chicago.

Motion was made by Watson, seconded by Davis, and carried by all members present, with Smoot and Redd abstaining, to approve the six candidates as Crash Reconstruction Specialists.

Motion was made by Neukirch, seconded by Davis, and carried by all members present to approve the Program Progress Reports.

XIII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. SAFE-T Act Update ~ John Keigher

Keigher reported that 17 of 21 requirements are completed. Staff continues to work on the Administrative Rules for the discretionary decertification hearings. A draft for the ALJ [Administrative Law Judges] posting is ready to go. Staff continues to complete administrative tasks as they arise. The Administrative Rules draft has been filed with the Secretary of State, and public hearings on these rules are upcoming, with the first one in Springfield on October 11th. Once the rules are in place discretionary decertification hearings can begin.

Keigher also reported that the three-year recertification process is still being worked out. This begins in October of 2025, with deficiency notices being sent in March 2026.

B. Grant Update ~ John Keigher

Keigher stated with the requirement to use the state’s Amplifund system a few years ago the process to move forward was daunting, but it has paid off as this year ILETSB is the agency with the third highest amounts awarded in the state. Staff is working with the GATU team to make revisions for the FY25 offering as the camera grant program now requires an advance funding option. Keigher noted the appropriations for the FY25 grants are generous however the Recruitment and Retention fund only has \$7 million in it at this time. Keigher asked the Board to approve a request for \$2 million for NIBIN, \$7 million for Recruitment and Retention, and \$30 million for cameras with the option to ask for approval for more at a later date.

Motion was made by Davis, seconded by Redd, and carried by all members present to approve the request for \$2 million for NIBIN, \$7 million for Recruitment and Retention, and \$30 million for cameras, with the option to ask for approval for more at a later date.

C. Certification Review Committee ~ John Keigher

Keigher stated the Certification Review Panel will soon require a standing Committee. This Committee is designed to receive decertification appeals made to the Board.

XIV. NEW BUSINESS

A. Approval of updated “Basic Guidelines of Officer-Worn Cameras” ~ John Keigher

Keigher stated when Camera Grant Act was passed in 2016 it required the Board to create guidelines, which were passed in 2018, for any agency using body cameras. More recently there have been some changes to the Act and the guideline requirements, they are as follows: the removal of the detailed long form reporting requirement, changes as to when cameras must be on or off, additions allowing for instances for internal review of recorded footage, changes as to how erroneous deletions are to be reported, and a provision that allows for agency labeling of the recorded footage. A draft of the guideline changes was provided to Board members. Keigher asked the Board to review and send any comments to him. Keigher will present the guidelines at the December meeting for official approval and publishing on the website.

B. Officer Reimbursement Agreements ~ John Keigher

Keigher stated every few years the Board is made aware of an officer being pursued by a former agency for breaking a training agreement. The Board has always discouraged this type of agreement as trainees should be treated as employees, with full benefits, and not as contractors. Recently an officer was pursued by an agency for \$6,500 in small claims court for training and mileage. While researching, staff discovered the agency had already been reimbursed by the Board \$9,500 for this officer for those expenses. Staff researched the Grant Funds Recovery Act and put the agency on notice that the Board has an interest in any recovered funds. Staff has reached out to several offices to make sure this is being handled correctly and is now proposing an addition to the rule on the basic academy reimbursement, stating that the agency acknowledges they are not making their officers sign those agreements in order to receive Board funds. Keigher stated this is presented as a proposal, he is looking for feedback, and will present it for full approval in December.

C. Military Police and Department of Army Civilian Police – State Reciprocity

Chris Haubrich presented a PowerPoint presentation to the Curriculum Committee yesterday, and a condensed version to the full Board today. His presentation described revisions and enhancements to the general Military Police training curriculum enacted over the last few years that bring it into alignment with what most states are now offering to law enforcement officers. With these changes, many states now offer reciprocity waivers for military police officers and he explained it has been requested that the Board consider this as well. Haubrich identified a few areas that would need reinforcement and believes that the “Law for Police” course, combined with a few other short courses, could become the basis for offering reciprocity to this group of officers in near future. After discussion, it was

determined the next steps would be to deliver a copy of presentation to members. It was also determined that staff would need to draft a policy to identify all courses, training requirements, and competencies, and then determine how they compare to the current program. Once this is done, gaps will need to be identified, then the Board will determine how to fill those gaps using its training program. Members asked to see this laid out side by side, and so they could determine how to move forward.

On a different matter, Mitchell Davis interjected that the Illinois Chiefs have a concern about the availability of testing. It is their understanding that testing is only conducted in Springfield during certain months, and they would like for it to be more often and in additional locations. Cheryllynn Williams addressed the Board and stated that testing is currently done on the first Tuesday of every month at MTU 3 for retakes and the equivalency exam. On the second Wednesday of every month those same tests are given in the Springfield Main office. There are currently two opportunities, in two locations, every month to take exams.

XV. PUBLIC INPUT

Marcus Hargrett, Cook County Sheriff's Office, Retired Corrections Officer: Hargrett stated he was addressing the Board regarding his attempt gain an IROCC card. He stated prior to Sheriff Dart no one had issues gaining an IROCC card. Hargrett noted that Dart refuses to comply with the process and refuses to sign the applications. Hargrett mentioned that the Governor had signed a law that said if you are a retired corrections officer or a deputy sheriff you are a retired law enforcement officer, he then went on to accuse the Board of not being required to comply with the law. Hargrett then stated he wonders why the legislature has not stepped in and required this state Board to comply with the law. Hargrett's second issue with the Board is that back in 2023 he notified the Board that Chairman Smoot had previously been issued an IROCC card, and he asked that the Board remove the Chairman from office, so he has a fair chance at obtaining an IROCC card.

XVI. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Keigher announced the next Board meeting will be held on December 5, 2024 in the Chicago area. The next Curriculum and School Standards Advisory Committee meeting, and the Joint Finance & Legislative will be held on December 4, 2024.

XVII. CLOSED SESSION ~ LAWSUITS & LITIGATION

Motion was made by Watson, seconded by Price, and carried by all members present via roll call to move into closed session at 11:01 a.m. to discuss litigation and related closed session minutes from June 13, 2024 pursuant to 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(11) and 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(21) of the Open Meetings Act.

Motion was made by Watson, seconded by Price, and carried by all members present via roll call to move out of closed session at 12:06 p.m.

Meeting room doors were opened, and remaining attendees returned to the meeting.

XVIII. APPROVAL OF CLOSED MINUTES FROM JUNE 13, 2024

Motion was made by Price, seconded by Watson, and carried by all members present via roll call, to approve and keep closed, the closed session meeting minutes from June 13, 2024.

XIX. ADJOURNMENT

Motion was made by Watson, seconded by Redd, and carried by all members present to adjourn the meeting at 12:08 p.m.

