

MARYLAND CORRECTIONAL TRAINING COMMISSION

Redacted Minutes – 208th Meeting –April 7, 2022

MEMBERS PRESENT

Secretary Robert L. Green, Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services (Chair)
LaMonte E. Cooke, Director of Correctional Services, Queen Anne’s County
Department of Corrections (Vice-Chair)
Lieutenant Christopher Duffy, Correctional Officer of the State of Maryland
Annie Harvey, Acting Commissioner of Corrections, Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services
Lynette Holmes, Deputy Director, Department of Juvenile Services
Wayne Hill, Deputy Secretary of Operations, Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services
Zenita Hurley, Assistant Attorney General representing Brian E. Frosh, Attorney General
Captain Daniel Lasher, Allegany County Detention Center
Wallis Q. Norman, Deputy Secretary of Operations, Department of Juvenile Services

MEMBERS ABSENT

Secretary Sam Abed, Department of Juvenile Services
Symphar R. Charles, Chief, Learning and Career Development, Federal Bureau of Prisons
Melinda Grenier, President, Maryland Criminal Justice Association
Sheriff Michael Lewis, President, Maryland Sheriff’s Association
Dr. Beverly O’Bryant, representing Dr. Maria Thompson, President, Coppin State University
Demetrius Page, Division of Parole and Probation
Mary Ann Thompson, President, Maryland Correctional Administrators Association

STAFF PRESENT

H. Allen Beard, Jr., Executive Director, Correctional Training Commission
Albert L. Liebno, Jr., Executive Director, Police & Correctional Training Commissions
Kelly Brauning, Certification Unit Administrator
Stephanie Cain, Compliance Administrator
Sarah Chatfield, Media Specialist
Jeanne Chenoweth, Recorder
Gary Gardner, Director of Grants and Special Projects
Nicholas Hill, Statewide Correctional Academy Director
Katie Johnson, Recorder
Katie Paul, Assistant Director of Correctional Training

GUESTS

Denise Victory, Department of Juvenile Services

The 208th meeting of the Correctional Training Commission (CTC) was called to order by the Chair, Secretary Robert Green, at 10:09 a.m. at the Public Safety Education and Training Center (PSETC), Sykesville, Maryland. A quorum was present.

The agenda was as follows:

1. Approval of Minutes – January 13, 2022
2. Facility Report
3. Legal Issues
4. Old Business
 - a) Update on Job Task Analysis/Training Objectives
5. New Business
6. Consideration on Holding a Decertification Hearing

Secretary Green asked all members, staff and guests to introduce themselves.

1. Approval of Minutes – January 13, 2022

Secretary Green asked the members to review the minutes.

A MOTION to approve the minutes from the January 13, 2022 meeting was made by Capt. Daniel Lasher: SECONDED: Lt. Christopher Duffy. The MOTION carried.

2. Facility Report

Mr. Albert Liebno, Executive Director of the MD Police & Correctional Training Commissions (MPCTC), directed members to the report, which reviewed the activities at the Center during the past quarter. He noted a new program being coordinated by the Leadership Development Institute on lessons from Antietam.

Mr. Liebno also stated that the majority of correctional agencies are already at 100% compliance or very close. He applauded the Certification unit for their efforts; the five employees processed 1,700 initial certifications and almost 500 recertification applications in 2021.

3. Legal Issues

Assistant Attorney General Zenita Hurley relayed the updates provided by Assistant Attorney General Matthew Mellady. She stated that the Nwaeke decision was upheld the Court of Special Appeals, after also being upheld in the Circuit Court. Ms. Hurley noted the three key takeaways from this decision are that the CTC can revoke certification any time, that COBR is employer based and that hearing board decisions are not binding for the CTC. She also mentioned the possibility of this information being published for colleagues to reference.

4. Old Business

a) Update on Job Task Analysis

Mr. Allen Beard, Executive Director of the Correctional Training Commission, stated that the new objectives were being finalized and combined with current objectives. He applauded Ms. Paul and Capt. Hill for their efforts. Mr. Beard said that the full list of objectives was sent to training directors for review, and that he received many very helpful comments that will be incorporated. The group is working on enabling objectives, and hopes to present a final product for review and approval at the July meeting.

5. New Business

Secretary Green asked Mr. Liebno to provide the history of the executive director positions for MPCTC, CTC and the Police Training and Standards Commission (PTSC). It was requested that an organizational chart be sent to CTC members. It was noted that Mr. Beard's position will focus on the future of corrections and community supervision.

Secretary Green discussed his involvement in the National Correctional Leadership Association, and stated that Maryland facilities were in the top three in the country when it came to COVID outcomes due to critical decision points at the right times. He said the Department is developing a strategy to publish the data appropriately. Secretary Green also stated that several items are still pending in the legislature, such as the Death Benefit bill, and requested an update be provided to CTC members at the next meeting.

Secretary Green expressed the need to continually adapt video and virtual training capabilities, noting that advancing adaptive training efforts needs to remain a priority for the Commission. He tasked Mr. Beard with building a strategy for the CTC to continue to achieve this goal. Mr. Liebno noted that the MPCTC building has three rooms equipped for virtual and hybrid use, and that the areas are open to state and local agencies to reserve. Secretary Green noted that all future Commission meetings should be hybrid so members have the option to attend virtually or in-person.

Secretary Green mentioned the Bureau of Justice National Recognition for exceptional training practices during the pandemic. He asked Mr. Liebno to forward the information to CTC members so they can submit nominations for the recognition.

Secretary Green next suggested a contraband summit where experts in the field could gather to discuss enhanced practices of contraband detection. He asked Mr. Beard to coordinate the summit, and have it approved for in-service credit so correctional officers attending the summit can receive hours.

The next item of new business was the standardization of awarding community college credits or continuing education units (CEUs) for correctional officer academy graduates in the state. At this time, each academy location collaborates with its own community college for credits or CEUs. Members noted this should be standardized since the academy objectives and curriculum are the same throughout the state, and all community colleges must also meet set standards. Members noted this is a good time to standardize as the CTC moves forward with the new training academy objectives as a result of the job task analysis. It was suggested that Mr. Beard contact the Association of Community Colleges to present on this topic at the next Commission meeting.

Capt. Lasher asked for clarification of the Commission's newly adopted drug screening regulations as they pertain to COMAR Title 17 and conditions for drug testing employees. Mr. Liebno noted that Mr. Mellady would bring recommended revisions to the language to the next meeting.

Recorder's Note: Ms. Chenoweth read the closed session written statement into the record.

A MOTION was made by Mr. LaMonte Cooke to adjourn to a Closed Session: SECONDED: Capt. Daniel Lasher. The MOTION carried unanimously.

The meeting adjourned to a Closed Session at 11:13 a.m.

6. Consideration on Holding a Decertification Hearing

A MOTION to proceed with a decertification hearing was made and SECONDED: The Members were polled and the MOTION carried.

It was noted that the decertification hearing should be scheduled without delay. Mr. Beard said he will ask Mr. Mellady to contact the Attorney General's office as soon as possible.

A MOTION was made by Mr. LaMonte Cooke to adjourn to an open session: SECONDED: Lt. Christopher Duffy. The MOTION carried.

Recorder's Note: This concluded closed session. The meeting adjourned to an open session at 11:18 a.m.

Secretary Green announced the outcome of the issue discussed during the closed session.

A MOTION to adjourn was made by Lt. Christopher Duffy: SECONDED: Mr. LaMonte Cooke. The MOTION carried.

The meeting adjourned at 11:19 a.m.

<p>These "minutes" are a synopsis of the Commission's discussion and decisions and <u>not</u> a verbatim rendering of the proceedings.</p>
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