

# **MARYLAND CORRECTIONAL TRAINING COMMISSION**

## **\*TELECONFERENCE\* Minutes – 201st Meeting –January 14, 2021**

### **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)  
Secretary Sam Abed, Department of Juvenile Services  
Brandon Foster, representing Sheriff Troy Berry, President, Maryland Sheriff’s Association  
Melinda Grenier, President, Maryland Criminal Justice Association  
Wayne Hill, Commissioner of Corrections, Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services  
Lynette Holmes, Department of Juvenile Services  
Zenita Hurley, Assistant Attorney General representing Brian E. Frosh, Attorney General  
Captain Daniel Lasher, Allegany County Detention Center  
Thomas Reece, President, Maryland Correctional Administrators Association

### **MEMBERS ABSENT**

Symphar R. Charles, Chief, Learning and Career Development, Federal Bureau of Prisons  
Lieutenant Christopher Duffy, Correctional Officer of the State of Maryland  
Wallis Q. Norman, Deputy Secretary of Operations, Department of Juvenile Services  
Dr. Beverly O’Bryant, representing Dr. Maria Thompson, President, Coppin State University  
Demetrius Page, Division of Parole and Probation

### **STAFF PRESENT**

Albert L. Liebno, Jr., Executive Director, Police & Correctional Training Commissions  
Jennifer Beskid, Director of Policy, Process & Grants  
Kelly Brauning, Certification Administrator  
Stephanie Cain, Compliance Administrator  
Sarah Chatfield, Media Specialist  
Jeanne Chenoweth, Recorder  
Maryann Foxwell, Leadership Development Institute  
Katie Johnson, Registrar  
Matthew Mellady, Assistant Attorney General  
Lewis Pindell, Media Specialist  
Jane Sachs, Director of Correctional Training  
Robert Wagner, Director of Law Enforcement Training

### **GUESTS**

Nicole Amedori, Department of Juvenile Services  
Kristal Ostrander, Department of Juvenile Services  
Denise Victory, Department of Juvenile Services

The 201st meeting of the Correctional Training Commission (CTC) was held via teleconference, and called to order by the Chair, Secretary Robert Green, at 10:00 a.m. A quorum was present.

The agenda was as follows:

1. Approval of Minutes – October 15, 2020
2. Facility Report

3. Legal Issues
4. Annual Election of Vice-Chair
5. Old Business
  - a) Update on Job Task Analysis
  - b) Proposed Amendments to Prior Drug Use Standards
6. New Business

A roll call was taken of all members, staff and guests on the call.

**1. Approval of Minutes – October 15, 2020**

Secretary Green asked the members to review the minutes.

**A MOTION to approve the minutes from the October 15, 2020 meeting was made by Captain Daniel Lasher: SECONDED: Mr. LaMonte Cooke. 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 welcomed Stephanie Cain as the new MPCTC Compliance Administrator. Mr. Liebno stated the training data from 2020 for compliance is due by January 31, 2021.

**3. Legal Issues**

Assistant Attorney General Matthew Mellady stated there were no legal issues as this time.

**4. Annual Election of Vice-Chair**

Secretary Green asked the members to consider nominations for the position of vice-chair.

**A MOTION to nominate Mr. LaMonte Cooke was made by Captain Daniel Lasher: SECONDED: Secretary Sam Abed. The MOTION carried.**

Mr. Cooke thanked the Commission members for the nomination.

**5. Old Business**

**a) Update on Job Task Analysis**

Mr. Liebno stated that MPCTC staff forwarded a survey to law enforcement agencies on Tuesday of this week to understand the requirements for successful performance as an entry-level officer. Staff will send the same survey for correctional officer duties on Thursday. Mr. Liebno asked agency heads to forward the survey to their officers for completion.

**b) Proposed Amendments to Prior Drug Use Standards**

Secretary Green informed the members that since removal of this item from the agenda last year after three years of consideration, considerable scientific research has provided a better understanding of the issue. He directed members to review the proposed amendments as provided in the attachment. The entirety of the text was repealed and rewritten to provide for easier reading and accommodate revisions to the amendment. The new text also clarifies items such as synthetic marijuana and prior marijuana use.

Ms. Jennifer Beskid stated that staff met with the Medical Cannabis Commission, whose research shows normal human function after one year of abstinence from marijuana use. She also said that other agencies in the country have begun to reduce the usage requirement from three years to twelve months or less.

Assistant Attorney General Matthew Mellady expressed concern on the section regarding waiver requests, stating that the members should discuss whether the Commission would take a broad versus narrow approach to waivers. He also said that his office is reviewing the wording to make a few small edits for clarification that will not affect the meaning of the proposed amendment.

Secretary Green stated that the main changes in the amendment are to reduce the statute of limitations on marijuana use to twelve months, and add the provision of testing if marijuana use is within two years of initial certification. He added that agencies are still able to set their hiring standards above the minimum requirements established in the regulation. Secretary Green opened the floor for discussion among members.

Members expressed overall support for the amendments, as well as the desire to keep the waiver request definition broad in order to consider each case individually. Members raised questions regarding prescribed medical marijuana use prior to certification and after employment. Mr. Mellady noted that certification limitations do not supersede employment standards after hire. Mr. Liebno informed the members that the Correctional Training Commission handles certification while individual agencies set and enforce employment standards.

**A MOTION to approve initial publication of the proposed amendment was made by Mr. LaMonte Cooke: SECONDED: Mr. Wayne Hill. The MOTION carried.**

Mr. Liebno stated that staff would start the process for publication in the Maryland Register. Any comments will be presented at the April Commission meeting, and members can then vote on adoption.

#### **6. New Business**

Mr. Liebno stated there was no new business. Secretary Green asked members to voice issues or concerns regarding the pandemic, academy training and vaccinations. Members did not have any comments.

In response to an inquiry, Secretary Green stated he is defending a bill to reduce the hiring age of Departmental Correctional Officers from 21 to 19 years.

**A MOTION to adjourn was made by Mr. LaMonte Cooke: SECONDED: Mr. Wayne Hill. The MOTION carried.**

*The meeting adjourned at 10:38 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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