

# **MARYLAND CORRECTIONAL TRAINING COMMISSION**

## **Minutes – 222nd Meeting – January 15, 2025**

**6852 4<sup>th</sup> Street, Sykesville, MD 21784**

### **MEMBERS PRESENT**

Robin Brady-Slifer, representing the Secretary, Department of Juvenile Services  
Anthony Gaskins, Chief of Staff, Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services  
Rainier Harvey, representing the Deputy Secretary of Operations, Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services  
Annie Harvey, Deputy Secretary of Operations, Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services  
Ryan Ross, Director, Charles County Detention Center, President, Maryland Correctional Administrators Association  
(Vice Chair/Acting Chair)  
Major Dennis Harmon, representing, President, Maryland Sheriffs' Association  
Joseph Thomas, Assistant Attorney General representing Anthony G. Brown, Attorney General  
Ayodele Okunoren, Sergeant, Correctional Officer of the State  
Margaret Chippendale, Director, Howard County Corrections, Central Region Representative  
Hyanna Barnett, Lieutenant, Regional Representative  
Fateema Mobley, Captain, Regional Representative (virtual)

### **MEMBERS ABSENT**

Carolyn J. Scruggs, Secretary, Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services (Chair)  
Vincent Schiraldi, Secretary, Department of Juvenile Services  
Adina Levi, Deputy Secretary of Residential Services, Department of Juvenile Services  
Nicole Ebb, President, Maryland Criminal Justice Association  
Major Dennis Harmon, representing the President, Maryland Sheriffs' Association  
Dr. Beverly O'Bryant, representing the President, Coppin State University  
Daryl Washington, Assistant Superintendent, Department of Juveniles Services

### **STAFF PRESENT**

Matthew Mellady, Correctional Training Commission, Deputy Director  
Elise Ice, Office of the Attorney General  
Chaka Cross, Executive Assistant (Recorder)  
Katie Johnson, Registrar (Media)  
Carrie Layman, Executive Assistant (Recorder)  
Kate Gossard, Executive Director, Public Safety Education & Training Center  
Royal Bacote, Certification Unit  
Teresa Bean, Director, Leadership Development Institute  
Stephanie Cain, Compliance Administrator  
Kevin Duerling, Policy & Processes  
Gary Gardner, Director, Policy & Processes  
Joan Henard, Certification Unit  
Emily Kepple, Leadership Development Institute  
Jimmie Kesler, Correctional Training Unit  
Jessica Khosravi, Leadership Development Institute  
Lucy Lyles, Director, Certification & Compliance  
Brittany Rohe, Certification Unit  
Kellar Covington, Correctional Training Unit

### **GUESTS**

Nicole Amedori, Department of Juvenile Services  
Cleveland Friday, Commissioner, Pretrial Release, Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services  
Daniel Lasher, Allegany County Detention Center  
Betsy Shoemake, Allegany County Detention Center  
Denise Victory, Department of Juvenile Services

The 222nd meeting of the Correctional Training Commission (CTC) was called to order by the Vice Chair Director Ross, at 10:01 a.m. at the Public Safety Education and Training Center (Center), Sykesville, Maryland. Director Ross asked all members, staff, and guests to introduce themselves. A quorum was present.

The agenda and subsequent action(s) follow:

**1. Approval of Minutes from the October 30, 2024 Commission meeting.**

Director Ross asked the members to review the minutes.

**A MOTION to approve the minutes from the October 30, 2024 meeting was made by Chief Gaskins: SECONDED: Lt. Barnett. The MOTION carried.**

**2. Training and Standards Report Discussion**

Deputy Director Mellady stated that the training standards report highlighted that as of December 31, 2024, there were 10,944 mandated officers, including 662 probationary officers and 10,282 fully certified officers. Additionally, 205 officers were in non-officer status, 349 retired, and 692 resigned or were terminated in 2024. Out of 31 agencies, 21 were compliant with training standards, while 10 were not, with one agency at 92% compliance and the remaining nine below 90%. Six in-service audits were completed in the fourth quarter of 2024, including the academy request for the Allegany County Detention Center.

**3. Legal Issues**

Assistant Attorney General Ice provided an update regarding the revocation hearing in December 2024, stating that the employee that was decertified is separated from employment and is appealing the decision in the Carroll County Circuit Court.

**4. Old Business**

*Recorder's Note: Skipped to New Business.*

**a. Correctional Services Article Discussion**

Discussions surrounding revisions to the Correctional Services Article, with several sections approved and others tabled for further review. Approved revisions included updates to Section 8-201, refining the language around "correctional officer" and adding "correctional professional," and Section 8-207, clarifying the roles of the chair and acting chair. Section 8-209.1 (renamed 8-210) was approved after simplifying certification language. Tabled sections included 8-202, 8-203, 8-204-8-206, and 8-208, as they required further discussion on issues like the independence of the Correctional Training Commission and the designation of the Chair. Section 8-209 (now 8-211) was tabled due to concerns about the decertification process, specifically the involvement of the Office of Administrative Hearings and the need for clarifying language around certification decisions. Discussions will resume regarding the tabled sections at a later date.

**5. New Business**

**a. Correctional Training Commission Executive Director Interviews**

Executive Director Gossard provided an update for the Executive Director of the Correctional Training Commission position, stating that DPSCS conducted a recruitment for the position, which is now a part-time role assigned to the agency. Qualified candidates are scheduled for interviews and a special meeting may be called to approve the recommendation once the interviews are completed. The anticipated length of the process is approximately one month.

**b. Allegany County Academy Request**

Ms. Cain presented the findings of a compliance audit conducted at the Allegany County Detention Center, assessing its eligibility to become an approved academy for providing Commission-approved mandated employee training under

COMAR guidelines. The audit reviewed the Center's training program, facility, instructional staff, and administrative processes to ensure compliance. The academy, located in Cumberland, Maryland, offers a six-week, 217-hour curriculum designed for entrance-level correctional officers. It provides classroom learning, practical exercises, and physical fitness activities, meeting COMAR standards. The facility's training setup, including lesson plans and instructional materials, was found to be well-organized and easily navigable, with all but one instructor certified. The audit revealed no deficiencies, and based on these findings, the recommendation is to approve the Allegany County Detention Center academy. If approved, a class is tentatively scheduled to begin in April, with a full audit planned after the completion of the first class. The facility's operation is expected to significantly improve staff morale and reduce travel costs for training.

**A MOTION to approve the Allegany Correctional Academy was made by Lt. Barnett: SECONDED: Deputy Secretary Harvey. The MOTION carried unanimously.**

**A MOTION was made by Lt. Barnett to adjourn to a closed session: SECONDED: Deputy Secretary Harvey. The MOTION carried unanimously.**

*Recorder's Note: The meeting adjourned to a closed session at 11:57 a.m.*

Members voting in closed session: Lt. Barnett; Ms. Brady-Slifer; Director Chippendale; Chief Gaskins; Major Harmon; Mr. R. Harvey, Deputy Secretary A. Harvey; Capt. Mobley; Sgt. Okunoren; Vice Chair Ross; Mr. Thomas

Persons attending closed session: In addition to voting Commission Members: EDirector Kate Gossard; Deputy Director Mellady; Director Lyles; AAG Elice Ice; Chaka Cross; Carrie Layman; Katie Johnson.

Authority under § 3-305 for the closed session: Personnel matters

Topic discussed: Request for Revocation was granted to the Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services.

**A MOTION was made by Chief Gaskins to adjourn to an open session: SECONDED: Mr. Harvey. The MOTION carried unanimously.**

*Recorder's Note: This concluded the closed session. The meeting adjourned to an open session at 12:23 p.m.*

Ms. Cross announced the outcome of the items heard in closed session.

**A MOTION to adjourn was made by Chief Gaskins: SECONDED: Deputy Secretary Harvey. The MOTION carried. The meeting adjourned at 12:24 p.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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