

MARYLAND CORRECTIONAL TRAINING COMMISSION

Minutes – 219th Meeting – July 31, 2024

6852 4th Street
Sykesville, MD 21784

MEMBERS PRESENT

Carolyn J. Scruggs, Secretary, Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services (Chair)
Ryan Ross, Director, Charles County Detention Center, President, Maryland Correctional Administrators Association (Vice Chair)
Vinny Schiraldi, Secretary, Department of Juvenile Services (virtual)
Anthony Gaskins, Chief of Staff, Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services
Adina Levi, Deputy Secretary of Residential Services, Department of Juvenile Services
Annie Harvey, Deputy Secretary of Operations, Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services
Joseph Thomas, Assistant Attorney General representing Anthony G. Brown, Attorney General
Dr. Beverly O'Bryant, representing the President, Coppin State University
Ayodele Okunoren, Sergeant, Correctional Officer of the State
Fateema Mobley, Lieutenant, Regional Representative
Hyanna Barnett, Lieutenant, Regional Representative

MEMBERS ABSENT

Kevin Bianca, President, Maryland Criminal Justice Association
Sheriff Ricky Cox, representing Sheriff Joe Gamble, President, Maryland Sheriff's Association
Rhonda Johnson, Sergeant, Regional Representative

STAFF PRESENT

Jennifer Beskid, Correctional Training Commission, Executive Director
Chaka Cross, Executive Assistant (Recorder)
Katie Johnson, Registrar (Recorder)
Kate Gossard, Executive Director, Public Safety Education & Training Center
Paul Mayhew, Assistant Attorney General
Royal Bacote, Certification Unit
Kelly Brauning, Certification Administrator
Captain Chennada Burns, Corrections Certification and Compliance Manager
Stephanie Cain, Compliance Administrator
Gina Clay, Compliance Unit
Captain Kellar Covington, Correctional Training Unit
Ben Giroux, Media Specialist
Gary Gardner, Director of Policy & Processes
Joan Henard, Certification Unit
Violet Jackson, Correctional Training Unit, Assistant Director
Kate Paul-Kershesky, Administrator, Parole and Probation Training
Brittany Rohe, Certification Unit
Kelly Spurgeon, Certification Unit

GUESTS

Frederick J. Abello, Montgomery County Department of Correctional Rehabilitation

Nicole Amedori, Department of Juvenile Services

Latoya Gray, Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services

Chris Klein, Anne Arundel County Department of Detention Facilities

Letitia McMillion, Department of Juvenile Services

Kristal Ostrander, Department of Juvenile Services

ShaKeara Pinkney, Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services

Bryan Rouzee, Montgomery County Department of Correctional Rehabilitation

Ben Stevenson, Montgomery County Department of Correctional Rehabilitation

Denise Victory, Department of Juvenile Services

The 219th meeting of the Correctional Training Commission (CTC) was called to order by the Chair, Secretary Scruggs, at 10:03 a.m. at the Public Safety Education and Training Center (Center), Sykesville, Maryland.

Secretary Scruggs called the meeting to order and 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 April 11, 2024 Commission meeting.

Secretary Scruggs asked the members to review the minutes.

**A MOTION to approve the minutes from the April 11, 2024 meeting was made by Mr. Thomas:
SECONDED: Deputy Secretary Harvey**

2. Training and Standards Report

Dr. Beskid directed Members to the Training and Standards report for the period of January 1, 2024 to June 30, 2024. There were 261 applications for certification submitted to the Certification Unit. There were 10,843 certified correctional officers. This number includes the Department of Juvenile Services and county parole and probation agents, as well as State. There were 697 provisional certifications issued, 264 officers were placed on non-officer status, 157 retired, and 334 have resigned or been terminated. There was an audit of selection standards conducted for DPSCS Division of Parole and Probation, which a mitigation plan is being reviewed. There are 7 in-service audits in process and one completed with nothing to report.

Recorders Note: Dr. O'Bryant arrives at 10:10 a.m.

3. Legal Issues

Assistant Attorney General Mayhew provides an update on the Revocation hearing is scheduled for September 10-12, 2024. Attendance is required for all three days.

4. Old Business

- a. COMAR 12.10.01.22 Discussion (Cannabis)

The changes to the regulation as proposed by the Commission at the April meeting was published in the June 14th Maryland register. There were no comments received within the required 30 days. The changes will become effective September 2, 2024. If the Commission would like the effective date to be after

September 2, 2024, then an effective date should be discussed and voted on. There were no challenges to the stated effective date.

A MOTION to adopt the proposed effective date of September 2, 2024 was made by Secretary Schiraldi: SECONDED: Mr. Gaskins.

b. Contraband Summit

Dr. Beskid announced that the Contraband Summit will take place on November 7, 2024 from 9am – 1pm. The agenda will address different modes that contraband is being introduced to facilities.

c. Standardization of Academy Training for College Credits

Dr. Beskid informed the Commission that after meeting with Maryland Higher Education Commission and reviewing current Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) agreements with colleges, it has been determined that there is a lack of consistency in which the way credits are awarded by each college in regard to correctional training academies, even though the academies are teaching standardized content. There will be further discussion to discuss the possibility standardizing the way credits are awarded across colleges.

Recorders Note: Sgt. Okunoren arrives at 10:21 a.m.

d. Institutional Support Staff (ISS) FAQs

Dr. Beskid identified ISS as employees that work in correctional facilities and are not responsible for the care and custody of Incarcerated Individuals. It is proposed that a Frequently Asked Questions be posted on the DPSCS website, the MPCTC website, and distributed to training directors, and Maryland Correctional Administrators Association (MCAA) and Maryland Criminal Justice Association (MCJA) for distribution to its members.

e. Correctional Services Article

Dr. Beskid requested that agenda item 4e be moved to the end of the agenda out of respect for visiting agencies' time. The members agreed.

5. New Business

a. Montgomery County Department of Correction & Rehabilitation (MCDOCR) - Academy

Dr. Beskid invited Warden Frederick J. Abello, Director Ben Stevenson, and Training Manager Bryan Rouzee to address the Commission. Warden Abello requested the opportunity to develop a training academy to enhance the ability of MCDOCR to be able to expand their training, but also to change the culture of their agency. Secretary Scruggs commended Warden Abello on the great work they do in Montgomery County and invited him to let the Commission know when they were ready to be audited.

b. e-Learning (other than in-service)

Dr. Beskid familiarized the Commission with past Commission activity pertaining to e-Learning. The Commission discussed the potential expansion of e-learning in correctional training, particularly for

comparative compliance academies. The current policy limits e-learning to 3 hours per course for in-service training. However, an academy has proposed using 21 hours of self-paced e-learning for a 90-hour comparative compliance program. Concerns were raised about the effectiveness of self-paced learning, the need for certified instructors, and potential legal implications. The Commission will review the current policy, consider the potential benefits and drawbacks of expanded e-learning, and discuss the appropriate use of e-learning for different training topics and modalities.

c. First Line Objectives

Dr. Beskid introduced Teresa Bean, Director of the Leadership Development Institute (LDI), to familiarize the Commission of the initiatives being reviewed. LDI has undertaken a comprehensive review of the First Line Supervisor (FLS) and First Line Administrator (FLA) objectives. This review includes surveying instructors and participants, analyzing past evaluations, comparing objectives with other large agencies and national standards, and attending relevant training programs. The goal is to create updated objectives that are more inclusive and relevant to both police and corrections, incorporating elements like human performance and resilience. The Institute aims to present the revised objectives to the Commission before the October meeting for review and approval.

d. New mdle.net – <https://mpctc.dpscs.maryland.gov/>

Dr. Beskid informed the members that mdle.net has been replaced by <https://mpctc.dpscs.maryland.gov/>.

It was noted that the October meeting will now be held on Wednesday, October 30th.

Recorders Note: Members took a break from 11:00am until reconvening at 11:10am.

Return to Old Business

e. Correctional Services Article

Dr. Beskid directed members to the documents showing the proposed changes to the Correctional Services Article, including updated definitions for correctional professionals and administrators. Members emphasized the importance of clarity and consistency in these definitions to ensure proper training and accountability. Concerns were raised about the lack of standardized field training programs and the need for more comprehensive self-protection training for correctional staff. The Commission plans to review the proposed changes and incorporate feedback from members before submitting them for legislative approval.

It was also noted that tablets would be piloted at the October meeting as replacement for printed binders.

A MOTION to adjourn was made by Lt. Barnett: SECONDED: Mr. Gaskins. The MOTION carried.

Recorders Note: The meeting adjourned at 11:47 a.m.

These “minutes” are a synopsis of the Commission’s discussion and decisions and <u>not</u> a verbatim rendering of the proceedings.
