

# MARYLAND CORRECTIONAL TRAINING COMMISSION

## Minutes – 218th Meeting – April 11, 2024

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

### **MEMBERS PRESENT**

Ryan Ross, Director, Charles County Detention Center, President, Maryland Correctional Administrators Association (Vice Chair)

Anthony Gaskins, Chief of Staff, Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services (Virtual)

David Brown, Deputy Secretary of Support 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

Sheriff Ricky Cox, representing Sheriff Joe Gamble, President, Maryland Sheriff's Association (Virtual)

Ayodele Okunoren, Sergeant, Correctional Officer of the State

Hyanna Barnett, Lieutenant, Regional Representative

Fateema Mobley, Lieutenant, Regional Representative

Rhonda Johnson, Sergeant, Regional Representative

### **MEMBERS ABSENT**

Carolyn J. Scruggs, Secretary, Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services (Chair)

Vinny Schiraldi, Secretary, Department of Juvenile Services

Kevin Bianca, President, Maryland Criminal Justice Association

Chief John Philips, Chief of Learning and Career Development, Federal Bureau of Prisons

Dr. Beverly O'Bryant, representing Dr. Maria Thompson, President, Coppin State University

### **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

Matthew Mellady, Deputy Director, Public Safety Education & Training Center

Paul Mayhew, Assistant Attorney General

Kelly Brauning, Certification Administrator

Captain Chennada Burns, Corrections Certification and Compliance Manager

Stephanie Cain, Compliance Administrator

Sarah Chatfield, Media Specialist

Gary Gardner, Director of Policy & Processes

Joan Henard, Certification Unit

Violet Jackson, Correctional Training Unit, Assistant Director

Kate Kershesky, Administrator, Parole and Probation Training

Thomas Martin, Correctional Training Unit Director

Brittany Rohe, Certification Unit

Kelly Spurgeon, Certification Unit

### **GUESTS**

Nicole Amedori, Department of Juvenile Services

Richard Gibson, Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services

Major Marty Green, Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services, MCIW  
Kurt McDonald, Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services, MCIW  
Kristal Ostrander, Department of Juvenile Services  
Nicholas Pindale, Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services  
Denise Victory, Department of Juvenile Services

The 218th meeting of the Correctional Training Commission (CTC) was called to order by the Vice Chair, Director Ryan V. Ross, at 10:03 a.m. at the Public Safety Education and Training Center (Center), Sykesville, Maryland. A quorum was present.

The agenda and subsequent action(s) follow:

1. Call Meeting to Order

Director Ross called the meeting to order and asked all members, staff, and guests to introduce themselves.

2. Approval of Minutes from the January 18, 2024 Commission meeting.

Director Ross asked the members to review the minutes.

**A MOTION to approve the minutes from the January 18, 2024 meeting was made by Deputy Secretary Harvey: SECONDED: Lt. Mobley**

3. Training and Standards Report

Dr. Beskid directed Members to the new layout of the Training and Standards report. Ms. Brauning congratulated the agencies because the Certification Unit was able to send out compliance letters and cards for all agencies in the state except for 430 officers that are up for renewal in June. Dr. Beskid invited Ms. Cain, Mr. Martin, and Ms. Kershesky to include additional information about the report, they were no additional comments. The report was accepted with a unanimous vote of quorum.

4. Legal Issues

Assistant Attorney General Mayhew had no legal issues to present.

*Recorder's Note: Break from 10:22 am -10:43 am as Sheriff Cox has left the meeting.*

5. Old Business

a. COMAR 12.10.01.22 Discussion (Cannabis)

Language change proposed to strike COMAR 12.10.01.21(B)(2)(a)(b) COMAR as it relates to good moral character, thereby making 3, 2 and so forth. It was proposed to strike "and" and change to "or" of COMAR 12.10.01.22 (C)(1)(a).

**A MOTION to adopt the proposed changes was made by Deputy Secretary Harvey: SECONDED: Lt. Barnett**

b. Training for Background Investigators

Dr. Beskid informed the Commission that the training for Background Investigators will be vetted on April 12, 2024 at the Public Safety Education & Training Center.

*Recorders Note: Sgt. Okunoren arrives at 11:00 a.m.*

c. Correctional Services Article

A subcommittee has been conducting a line by line review of the Correctional Services Article sections 8-209, 8-209.1, 8-209.2, and 8-210 as decided in the January meeting. The Commission was given a copy of the proposed revisions for review and comment. The subcommittee has met 6 times since the January meeting with no representation from the Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services due to non-participation from those that volunteered to be on the subcommittee. The importance of having representation from all agencies that will be affected by these changes was expressed by Dr. Beskid.

6. New Business

a. Mission Statement

Dr. Beskid proposed the idea of a mission statement for the Correctional Training Commission to have a mission statement that lets the public know what the Commission does. There was interest expressed to pursue a mission statement and Dr. Beskid will send an email to members ask follow up questions and an update will be provided at the next meeting.

b. Mandated employees and training requirements

i. Division of Parole and Probation (DPP) Specialized positions

Addictions Counselors are mandated employees based on job classification and required duties. This classification requires that they complete an academy, but it is not defined whether that is a Correctional Officer Academy or a Parole and Probation Agent Academy. DPP is requesting that these positions not have to go through an academy as COMAR 12.10.01.01.B.02 is unclear that Addictions Counselors for the Division of Parole and Probation are mandated according to the definition in COMAR and the belief is that DPP Addictions Counselors are exempt from being required to complete an academy. The Commission decided to table further discussion until a representative from DPP is present.

ii. Institutional Support Staff training objectives

The Commission agreed to table discussion for Commission staff to conduct further research in regards to COMAR addressing Institutional Support Staff training objectives.

c. Revisit Outstanding Projects

i. Contraband Summit

The idea of a Contraband Summit with state and local agencies to address contraband concerns was presented in April of 2022. Commission staff contacted Director Errol Etting, Intelligence and Investigative Division, DPSCS to discuss the plans from that meeting. Director Etting believes that the summit is still a good idea, but offered that having an annual contraband summit

to include state, local, and juvenile services. The commission would like to have both Director Etting and Commission staff to host an annual round table to address contraband concerns.

ii. Standardization of academy training for college credits

Discussion regarding whether the Commission is open to reigniting conversation with the Maryland Higher Education Commission (MHEC) about accreditation for correctional academies across the state to allow correctional professionals to earn college credit while in the academy.

*Informational topics that were presented to the Commission without discussion; will be added to future meeting agendas.*

- SB 402 passed which will affect the regional representation of the Commission membership.
- An audit revealed that private training providers were not meeting the training standards set forth by the Commission.
- Further review into all providers may be necessary to determine if others are not meeting the training standards.
- DPSCS through the Public Safety Education and Training Center (PSETC) has been approved by the National Institute of Corrections to be a host site for the Learning and Performance Coach, which is a 32 hybrid course open to state and local partners that are interested.

*Director Ross announced that the Commission would hear the next item in Closed Session.*

**A MOTION was made by Lt. Barnett to adjourn to a Closed Session: SECONDED: Deputy Secretary Harvey. The MOTION carried.**

*Adjourn to Closed Session*

*The meeting adjourned to a Closed Session at 11:08 a.m.*

*Recorder's Note: Ms. Cross read the closed session statement into the record.*

7. Request for Certification - Department of Public Safety & Correctional Services

Members who voted to meet in closed session: Vice Chair Ross, Deputy Secretary Harvey, Chief of Staff Gaskins, Mr. Thomas, Sheriff Cox, Sgt. Johnson, Deputy Secretary Brown, Lt. Barnett, Lt. Mobley. Sgt. Okunoren abstained from the vote.

Persons attending closed session: In addition to voting Commission Members, Director Beskid; Deputy Director Mellady, AAG Mayhew, Ms. Cross, Ms. Johnson, and Mrs. Chatfield

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

Topics actually discussed: Request for certification of an applicant from Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services; certification was granted.

**A MOTION was made by Deputy Secretary Harvey to adjourn to an Open Session: SECONDED: Sgt Okunoren. The MOTION carried.**

*Recorders Note: The meeting adjourned to open session at 11:46 a.m.*

**A MOTION to adjourn was made by Deputy Secretary Harvey: SECONDED: Lt. Barnett. 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 not a verbatim rendering of the proceedings.