

# **MARYLAND CORRECTIONAL TRAINING COMMISSION**

## **Minutes – 216th Meeting – October 12, 2023**

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

### **MEMBERS PRESENT**

Carolyn J. Scruggs, Secretary, Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services (Chair)  
Vinny Schiraldi, Secretary, Department of Juvenile Services  
Anthony Gaskins, Chief of Staff, Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services  
David Brown, Deputy Secretary of Support Services, Department of Juvenile Services  
Annie Harvey, Deputy Secretary of Operations, Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services  
Sheriff Joe Gamble, President, Maryland Sheriff's Association  
Joseph Thomas, Assistant Attorney General representing Anthony G. Brown, Attorney General  
Ayodele Okunoren, Correctional Officer of the State, MCI-W  
Hyanna Barnett, Regional Representative, DPSCS  
Fateema Mobley, Regional Representative, MCI-J  
Rhonda Johnson, Regional Representative, BCBIC

### **MEMBERS ABSENT**

Ryan Ross, Deputy Director, Charles County Detention Center (Vice Chair) <sup>1</sup>  
Melinda Grenier, 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**

Kate Gossard Acting Executive Director, Police & Correctional Training Commissions  
Jennifer Beskid, CTC Executive Director  
Wayne Silver, PTSC Executive Director  
Kelly Brauning, Certification Administrator  
Chennada Burns, Corrections Certification & Compliance Manager  
Stephanie Cain, Compliance Administrator  
Sarah Chatfield, Media Specialist  
Chaka Cross, Recorder  
Joan Henard, Certification Unit  
Elise Ice, Office of the Attorney General-DPSCS  
Violet Jackson, Assistant Director of Correctional Training  
Katie Johnson, Recorder  
Tom Martin, Director of Correctional Training  
Brittany Rohe, Certification Unit  
Bob Wagner, Director of Police Training  
Kia Webb, Program Coordinator

### **GUESTS**

Sha-Keara Pinkney, DPSCS/Office of the Secretary  
Nicole Amedori, Department of Juvenile Services  
Kristal Ostrander, Department of Juvenile Services  
Chris Klein, Anne Arundel County Detention  
Tina Barnes, Montgomery County Department of Correction and Rehabilitation

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<sup>1</sup> Vice Chair Ross was not present due time start time confusion and traffic.

Ivonne Gutierrez, Montgomery County Department of Correction and Rehabilitation  
Vlatka Tomazk, Montgomery County Department of Correction and Rehabilitation  
Brian Rouzer, Montgomery County Department of Correction and Rehabilitation  
Lloyd Kissoon, Montgomery County Department of Correction and Rehabilitation

The 216th meeting of the Correctional Training Commission (CTC) was called to order by the Chair, Secretary Carolyn J. Scruggs, at 11:02 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, Introductions

Secretary Scruggs called the meeting to order and asked all members, staff, and guests to introduce themselves.

2. Approval of Minutes – July 13, 2023

Secretary Scruggs asked the members to review the minutes.

**A MOTION to approve the minutes from the July 13, 2023 meeting was made by Secretary Schiraldi: SECONDED: Chief Gaskins. The MOTION carried.**

3. Facility Report

Acting Executive Director Kate Gossard, MD Police & Correctional Training Commissions (MPCTC), directed members to the report, which reviewed the activities at the Center during the past quarter. Director Gossard shared that the occupancy rate has been very high over the last quarter, about 70% classroom usage and 83% dormitory usage, incorporating all users at the center. Two Correctional Entrance Level Academy classes were held in Sykesville with a total of 65 graduates. Hagerstown had 1 Entrance Level Academy that produced 19 graduates. DPP had 2 academies, with a total of 44 graduates. The Certification Unit is conducting annual in-service reports and fire arms reporting and will be sending out reminder notices. The Compliance Unit conducted 24 audits during the quarter, 17 Correctional Hiring Standards Academies and In-Service reports, all are in compliance.

4. Legal Issues

Assistant Attorney General Ice, stated that there were no legal issues to report.

5. Old Business

a. COMAR 12.10.01.22 Discussion (Marijuana)

Dr. Jennifer Beskid presented research to discuss potential changes to the current selection standards for applicant prior use of marijuana. Secretary Schiraldi suggested to look at race, arrests, and recommendations from the Department of Health & Human Services to change the Schedule of the drug classification at the federal level. A subcommittee including Lt. Barnett, Deputy Director Mellady, and Deputy Secretary Brown will convene and recommendations will be made at the January meeting.

b. Learning Management System Procurement

Ms. Brauning, Certification Administrator, presented to the Commission the current progress in the procurement of a new LMS. Ms. Brauning stated that on October 4, 2023, the Board of Public Works

approved the purchase of a new LMS from Benchmark Solutions and Analytics. The new system will use a decentralized database which will allow agencies and PCTC to share information. The new system will carry over current information and will capture information entered by agencies. Reporting capabilities allow filters for every field, allowing for efficient reporting capabilities. The target timeframe to be fully implemented is by the end of 2024.

6. New Business

a. Selection of 2024 Meeting Dates<sup>2</sup>

- i. January 18, 2024
- ii. April 11, 2024
- iii. July 18, 2024
- iv. October 10, 2024

Secretary Scruggs asked the Commission members to review the dates that have been provided for the 2024 meetings.

**A MOTION to approve the suggested 2024 Commission Meeting dates was made by Lt. Barnett: SECONDED by Deputy Secretary of Operations Harvey. The MOTION carried.**

b. In-Service Schedule (establish topics) – Discussion

Dr. Beskid advised the CTC members that there is an after action report that is released by the Department's Office of Government and Legislative Services identifying "hot topics." She asked the members to consider establishing training topics for the following year based on hot topics from the Maryland General Assembly Session. Lt. Barnett offered that Department does have mandated in-service that is regulated by the American Correctional Association, Prison Rape Elimination Act, and Maryland Commission on Correctional Standards.

c. Review of Waiver Hearings for Selection Standards (October 2017 - July 2023)

Dr. Beskid presented data on requests for waivers of selection standards that covered the period of time between October 2017 - July 2023. Of the 10 applicants requesting a waiver, two agencies withdrew the requests and eight waivers were granted. Only four individuals who were granted waivers continued to be employed seven months after the requests were granted. This data is concerning given the economic impact on agencies requesting a waiver. This discussion led into the next topic, background investigator training.

d. Background Investigator Training

Dr. Beskid recommended that all background investigators in the State should go through a standard training that will enable them to identify issues in a candidate's background that may limit the number of candidates that will require waivers. A workgroup will be convened and an update provided at the January meeting.

Secretary Scruggs announced that the Commission would hear the next item in Closed Session.

*Recorder's Note: Secretary Schiraldi and Deputy Secretary Brown left the meeting at 11:59 a.m.*

*Adjourn to Closed Session*

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<sup>2</sup> All meetings will be held between 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

7. Request for Certification - Montgomery County Detention Center

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

*Recorder's Note: Sgt. Johnson enters meeting at 12:02 p.m.*

**A MOTION was made by Sheriff Gamble to adjourn to a Closed Session: SECONDED: Lt. Mobley. The MOTION carried.**

*The meeting adjourned to a Closed Session at 11:59 a.m.*

**Members who voted to meet in closed session:** Annie Harvey, Anthony Gaskins, Joseph Thomas, Joe Gamble, Ayodele Okunorren, Rhonda Johnson, Hyanna Barnett, Fateema Mobley, and Carolyn Scruggs

**Persons attending closed session:** In addition to voting Commission Members, Dr. Jennifer Beskid; Matthew Mellady, Deputy Director; Ivonne Gutierrez; Vlatka Tomazk; Brian Rouzer; Tina Barnes; Lloyd Kissoon; Chaka Cross; Katie Johnson; and Sarah Chatfield

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

**Topics actually discussed:** Certification granted for an applicant of the Montgomery County Detention Center

*Recorder's Note: This concluded the closed session. The meeting adjourned to an open session at 12:19 p.m.*

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

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

*The meeting adjourned at 12:20 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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