

Minutes of the meeting of the Maine Criminal Justice Academy Board of Trustees held at the Maine Correctional Center, Windham, ME on Friday, July 15, 2022.

**Board Members Attending:**

Special Agent Brian Pellerin, Board Chair  
Commissioner Michael Sauschuck  
Commissioner Randall Liberty  
Chief Charles Rumsey IV  
Deputy Chief David Bushey  
Mr. Nathan Poore  
Sheriff Scott Nichols  
Detective Seth Blodgett  
Colonel John Cote  
Colonel Dan Scott  
Mr. Mateo Mendoza  
DA Kathryn Slattery  
Ms. Francine Stark  
Ms. Elizabeth Ward Saxl  
Ms. Kimberly Russell

**Board Members Excused:**

Chief Matthew Dana  
Ms. Marie Hansen  
Detective Sgt. Lincoln Ryder – Vice Chair

**Participants:**

Director Rick Desjardins  
Attorney Andrew Black  
Karen Green, Board Clerk

**Guests - Visitors:**

Kevin Kidd – Department of Corrections  
Laura Rodas – Department of Corrections  
Scott Landry – Department of Corrections

**I. Item One on the Agenda: Call to Order**

As there was a quorum, Chair Pellerin called the meeting to order at 10:04 a.m.

**II. Item Two on the Agenda: Roll Call and Introduction of Board Members**

Chair Pellerin requested that Secretary Green conduct a roll call and had the members and visitors introduce themselves. He then led in saying the Pledge of Allegiance.

**III. Item Three on the Agenda: Minutes of the Previous Meeting**

**MOTION: To accept the minutes of the May 13, 2022 Board of Trustees meeting and to be placed on file with the secretary.**

Moved by Commissioner Sauschuck and seconded by Colonel Scott. **Motion Carried.**

**IV. Item Four on the Agenda: Certifications, Waivers and Extensions**

**A. Basic Law Enforcement Training Program Waiver Requests:**

Director Desjardins presented the following Basic Law Enforcement Training Program Waiver Requests.

1. Officer Andrew J. Chapman – Belfast Police Department

**MOTION: To approve the Basic Law Enforcement Training Program Waiver, pending successful completion of the Maine Law Enforcement Officer’s Certification Examination by 2/8/2023.**

Moved by Chief Rumsey and seconded by Colonel Scott. **Motion Carried.**

**B. Basic Law Enforcement Training Program Extension Requests.**

Director Desjardins presented the following Basic Law Enforcement Training Program Extension Request.

1. Officer Caleb H. Nicholas – Passamaquoddy Warden Service

**MOTION: To approve the Basic Law Enforcement Training Program Waiver Extension for 180-days so he can attend the Federal IPA at FLETC in New Mexico in January 2023**

Moved by Colonel Cote and seconded by Commissioner Liberty. **Motion Carried.**

2. Officer Jacob Goodman – Houlton Police Department

**MOTION: To approve the 180-day Basic Law Enforcement Training Program Waiver Extension so he can attend the 43<sup>rd</sup> BLETP in January 2023.**

Moved by Commissioner Sauschuck and seconded by Chief Rumsey. **Motion Carried.**

3. Officer Trevor Bellefleur – Fort Kent Police Department

**MOTION: To approve the 180-day Basic Law Enforcement Training Program Waiver Extension so he can attend the 43<sup>rd</sup> BLETP in January 2023.**

Moved by Commissioner Sauschuck and seconded by Dept. Chief Bushey. **Motion Carried.**

4. Officer Nicholas Bagley – Ellsworth Police Department

**MOTION: To approve the 180-day Basic Law Enforcement Training Program Waiver Extension so he can attend the 43<sup>rd</sup> BLETP in January 2023.**

Moved by Chief Rumsey and seconded by Dep. Chief Bushey. **Motion Carried.**

5. Officer Michael Grady – Skowhegan Police Department

**MOTION: To approve the 180-day Basic Law Enforcement Training Program Waiver Extension so he can attend the 43<sup>rd</sup> BLETP in January 2023.**

Moved by Chief Rumsey and seconded by Commissioner Sauschuck. **Motion Carried.**

**C. Basic Corrections Training Program Waiver Request:**

None at this time.

**D. Basic Corrections Training Program Extension Requests:**

Director Desjardins outlined the following BCCTP extension Requests.

1. C.O. Trevor Gagnon – Androscoggin County Jail

**MOTION: To approve a Basic Corrections Training Program 180-day Waiver Extension so he can attend the BCTP upon his return to duty.**

Moved by Dep. Chief Bushey and seconded by Chief Rumsey. **Motion Carried.**

2. C.O. Stephen Charles II – Franklin County Detention Center.

**MOTION: To approve a Basic Corrections Training Program Waiver 6-month Extension.**

Moved by Commissioner Liberty and seconded by Commissioner Sauschuck.  
**Motion Carried with Sheriff Nichols recusing himself.**

3. C.O. Jonathan Chasse – Kennebec County Jail

**MOTION: To approve an 180-day Basic Corrections Training Program Extension retroactive from 6/7/2022.**

Moved by Chief Rumsey and seconded by Colonel Cote. **Motion Failed Unanimously.**

**E. Law Enforcement Pre-service Program Waiver Requests:**

None at this time.

**F. Part-time Law Enforcement Officer 1040 Hour Extension Requests:**

None at this time.

**G. Course Certification Requests:**

**1. Law Enforcement Response to Mental Health Calls**

Director Desjardins explained to the Board the process of getting these two training topics written up and ready for the Board's approval. Ms. Stark commented that, although she thought the content of this class was very well put together and went into detail regarding different mental illnesses, she wished it gave better instruction of the best practices when dealing with someone in crisis. For instance, what do you do when encountering an individual in crisis who cannot take part in a rational conversation? Does that officer's department have local recourses to call upon in instances like these? Ms. Saxl agreed and stated that it would be helpful for an officer to know how to respond to certain types of behavior and building a relationship with their community service providers. Chair Pellerin said he also noticed there was a lot written within this topic on the diagnosis of certain illnesses, but that a practical breakdown of the symptoms of an illness would be more useful. Such as the difference between aggression, schizophrenia and bi-polar?

**MOTION: To approve the goals and objectives of Law Enforcement Response to Mental Health Calls, but to make changes, as recommended, in the lesson plan by August 1, 2022.**

Moved by Ms. Ward Saxl and seconded by Commissioner Liberty. **Motion Carried.**

**2. Mental Health Response to Law Enforcement (2022 mandatory training)**

Chief Rumsey requested a name change for this course as it would be easy to confuse it with Law Enforcement Response to Mental Health Calls. He suggested the name be changed to Wellness and Resilience for Law Enforcement.

**MOTION: To approve the block of instruction for the 2022 mandatory training with the name changed to "Wellness and Resilience for Law Enforcement".**

Moved by Chief Rumsey and seconded by Ms. Russell. **Motion Carried.**

**H. Course/Program completion Certifications issued by the Director.**

Director Desjardins presented the list of the 189 certifications that were issued since the last Board Meeting on May 13, 2022.

**MOTION: To accept the Certifications that were issued by Director Desjardins on behalf of the Board since the Board meeting held on May 13, 2022.**

Motion made by Commissioner Liberty and seconded by Commissioner Sauschuck.

**Motion Carried.**

**V. Item Five on the agenda: Committee Reports**

**A. Complaint Committee: Chief Charles Rumsey**

Chief Rumsey told the Board that the committee last met on June 21<sup>st</sup> and that it has 29 cases currently. He stated 19 cases were still pending in court and that they would be presenting 10 cases today.

**B. Administrative Rules Committee: Deputy Chief David Bushey**

None at this time.

**C. Law Enforcement Training Committee: Sergeant Lincoln Ryder**

Director Desjardins presented a proposal that was submitted by Training Coordinator, Jim Lyman regarding updates of Specification S-26, Breath Testing Device Operator Certification and explained that some changes made were correcting typos and wording that is no longer used.

**MOTION: To accept the updates made to Specification S-26, Breath Testing Device Operator Certification.**

Motion made by Ms. Ward Saxl and seconded by Det. Blodgett.

**Motion Carried.**

**D. Corrections Training Committee: Commissioner Randall A. Liberty**

Commissioner Liberty told the Board that the Corrections Training Committee has been actively reviewing and rewriting the BCTP curriculum to make it more up to date and eliminating modules that that no longer worked for today's COs. He asked Kevin Kidd, DOC Training Coordinator, to explain the changes ready to be voted on by the Board.

Kevin told the Board that the committee had 2 modules that he would like to talk about. 1. "Radio Communication" a 1-hour module. He explained that as of right now the State DOC facilities and the County Jails used different 10 Codes and Alpha Codes. Radios in the facilities are in some cases very different. Because of these differences, and the confusion it will cause students the Committee requests that this module be eliminated from the curriculum.

2. "Presentation of Testimony" a 3 ½ hour module. Mr. Kidd explained that it is very rare that COs taking that class will ever be called to testify in Court. Because of the man hours used to teach this module to students who most likely will never use it, the Committee proposes eliminating this module. Instead, the Committee would suggest to any facility that if they should have an officer who will need to go to testify in court, they should have a State's Attorney go to that facility to prep the officer.

Mr. Desjardins said he felt changes were necessary but making different small changes to the curriculum over the course of a year or two, would make it very difficult to track which students and learned what material. He said it's possible to have 5 or 6 classes being taught different things in one year which could possibly create problems with record keeping and FOAAs. Laura Rodas, of the DOC, assured the Director that they had a spreadsheet system that would keep all that information straight.

DOC Assoc. Commissioner, Scott Landry told the Board that they were working on a module on "Professional Oral Communication" which would touch on subjects such as speaking on the radio and phone, filling out logbooks, writing reports and record keeping. Ms. Rodas stated that each facility whether DOC or County have their own in-service post training which covers the way that facility does business. Eliminating these two modules make it so the student doesn't have to be untrained of what is taught in the BCTP if it's not the way they do things at their facility. In short, it will same time and confusion.

**MOTION: To approve the recommendation of the Corrections Training Committee to remove two modules (Radio Communication and Presentation of Testimony) from the class curriculum of Basic Corrections Training Program.**

Motion made by Ms. Saxl and seconded by Mr. Mendoza. **Motion Carried.**

Commissioner Liberty then brought up the committee's proposal to have new hires attend the full-time BCTP over a period of time. Students could take modules at one facility and as time allowed, take modules at other facilities hosting the BCTP until they had completed the full 5-weeks. Sheriff Nichols said that because staffing is so tight, this would help smaller jails that have a hard time staffing their facility when a CO is going to the 5-week BCTP. It would also help college students who are looking at working for corrections to take modules at times they were on college break.

Chair Pellerin thought it would be better if the students could stay with the same class, at the same facility but have the program stretched out over a longer period of time which would allow the students to go back and fill shifts, if need be.

Ms. Stark stated that, although these ideas sounded good, she would like to see the Committee put a plan together on paper and submit it to the Board for evaluation.

**E. Policy Standards Committee: Chief Charles Rumsey IV**

None at this time.

**VI. Item Six on the Agenda: Report from the Chair – Special Agent Brian Pellerin - Chair**

- Chair Pellerin thanked Vice President Ryder for sitting in for chairing the May meeting in his absence. He also thanked the Board's membership for their support in re-electing him as the Board's Chair for the upcoming year.
- The 41<sup>st</sup> BLETP completed their program and celebrated a graduation ceremony on the parade deck At the Academy. For the first time a female cadet was elected as the class President and spoke during the graduation exercises.
- Chair Pellerin wanted to make the Board aware that Training Coordinator David Tyrol had recently resigned from the Academy. David had served at the Academy in this role for several years and oversaw the BLETP program among many other assignments. David was a consummate professional and will certainly, be missed.
- Chair Pellerin had the opportunity to stop in during the 2<sup>nd</sup> iteration of the MCJA SRO certification training class that was recently held at the Academy this past June. There were 25 officers in attendance with a mixed class of about half consisting of experienced SRO's with the other half being newly assigned SRO's. The student feedback was extremely positive and the training staff providing the training was exceptional. This seems to be a very well received program with plans for future expansion and development.

**At this time Chair Pellerin suggested they break for lunch at 12:04 p.m. Meeting resumed at 12:41 p.m.**

**VII. Item Seven on the Agenda: Report from the Director - Director Richard Desjardins.**

- Graduation of the 41<sup>st</sup> BLETP graduation was held on May 20, 2022. We had an in-person graduation on the parade deck that starting at 10:00. The key-note speaker was Chief Jared Mills. Chief Mills who is the chief of the Augusta Police Department and the current president of the Maine Chiefs of Police Association. The class did very well, and all 68 cadets graduated on the 20<sup>th</sup>, making this the largest class to graduate our program.

The 42<sup>nd</sup> BLETP will begin in-person training on August 15, 2022. We did an orientation with the prospective cadets on July 13<sup>th</sup> using the Zoom platform, we will take the maximum number of cadets and will be working over the next few weeks to confirm the eligible applicants and work with agencies to complete all the necessary entrance standards, paperwork, and other related materials.

- Discussion on how we are currently select the classes continue, and we have also met with representatives of the Maine Chiefs and Sheriff's Associations to review the changes in selection.
  - Cadre assignments have been set and representatives from, South Portland, Portland, Androscoggin S.O, Maine Wardens and MSP will lead this class.
  - The class selection will be primarily on date of hire (oldest to newest) first, cadre assignments and volunteer hours will also be considered.
- Building issues
  - Simmons group continue to conduct facilities assessment
    - The physical plant study has identified a list of priorities and we will begin to see work on the building envelope sometime in the late summer or fall. We currently have 2.6 million allocated for the first phase of the project, with additional money coming over the next few years.
    - Operations assessment is also progressing and should accompany the completed facility study.
- Staffing
  - Staff are incredibly busy with the loss of David Tyrol after 13 years with the Academy is adding to the workload. We continue to adjust staff assignments and the remaining staff are doing a terrific job leaning into the challenges and continue to make us all very proud.
  - We are in the process of scheduling interviews for the applicants to fill David Tyrol's position and hope to have a new training coordinator in place over the next several weeks.
  - Josh Daley has stepped into the role of BLETP coordinator and we're all excited to see how Josh adds his own adjustments to this important program.
  - Addition of DOC's Training Specialist has been a big help to the corrections training programs and Kevin Kidd is doing a great job. His assignment through DOC to provide some relief for the corrections programs is much appreciated.

### **Initiatives**

- Conversion of the Alert test to electronic version
  - Work is complete in our RMS platform with Informa, and the testing is going currently available and appears to be going well.
- Working to combine MERC, MARC into a single "Defensive Tactics" training.
  - Hope to combine these disciplines and streamline the training and merge the instructors and training material.
- With work with our Purchases division, we procured a new simulation training simulator
  - The 10 plus year old FATS machine has become inoperable and needed to be replaced
  - We have also taken possession of an additional portable firearms simulator donated to the Academy by the US Attorney, Darcy McElwee. This additional equipment will further augment our training options and allow us to use this system in a much more flexible situation.

## **VIII. Item Eight on the Agenda: Old Business**

### **A. Legal opinion regarding juvenile correction officer certification – AAG Black**

As Chair Pellerin was not able to attend the May 2022 meeting, he asked Director Desjardins to speak regarding this legal opinion. Director Desjardins told the Board that this report submitted by AAG Black was a clarification of discussions at the May 2022 meeting regarding Corrections Certification. Attorney Black followed up by saying that the Board does not have the authority to authorize two types of corrections certifications and the document that he provided explains the law. Commissioner Liberty said that the next step would be to propose legislation to change the law so the Board could create a Juvenile Corrections Certification.

Director Desjardins suggested that for now, all JV officers at Long Creek who would be attending the 80-hour Post BCTP training be taught the Juvenile Correction blocks of instruction. He also asked that Long Creek's administration notify the Academy that those specific modules had been done when sending in the Correction Phase III forms to the Academy so the students would get credit for this specialized training.

**IX. Item Nine of the Agenda: New Business**

At this time Chair Pellerin requested that the Board go into executive session.

**MOTION: To move the Maine Criminal Justice Academy Board of Trustees into Executive Session pursuant to Title 25 MRS§ 2806-A (10) to discuss confidential business matters.**

Motion made by Chief Rumsey and seconded by Colonel Cote.

**Motion Carried Unanimously at 1:19 p.m.** The meeting reconvened at 1:52 p.m.

**A. Complaint Committee Cases**

1. Board Case 2022- 011

**MOTION: To accept the recommendation of the Complaint Review Committee to grant the waiver.**

Motion made by Commissioner Liberty and seconded by commissioner Sauschuck

**Motion Carried (9 for – 3 against)**

2. Board Case 2022-013

**MOTION: To accept the recommendation of the Complaint Review Committee to take no further action in this matter.**

Motion made by D.A. Slattery and seconded Commissioner Liberty. **Motion Carried.**

3. Board Case 2022-014



**MOTION: To accept the recommendation of the Complaint Review Committee to take no further action.**

Motion made by Commissioner Liberty and seconded Commissioner Sauschuck.  
**Motion Carried.**

4. Board Case 2022-015

**MOTION: To accept the recommendation of the Complaint Review Committee to enter into a Consent Agreement and issue a warning.**

Motion made by Commissioner Liberty and seconded by Colonel Scott.  
**Motion carried.**

5. Board Case 2022-016

**MOTION: To accept the recommendation of the Complaint Review Committee to take no further action.**

Motion made by Commissioner Liberty and seconded by Colonel Cote.  
**Motion carried.**

6. Board Case 2022-017

**MOTION: To accept the recommendation of the Complaint Review Committee to take no further action.**

Motion made by Colonel Cote and seconded by Commissioner Liberty. **Motion carried.**

7. Board Case 2022-018

**MOTION: To accept the recommendation of the Complaint Review Committee to issue a Letter of Guidance.**

Motion made by Chief Rumsey and seconded by Commissioner Liberty.  
**Motion Carried.**

8. Board Case 2021-019

**MOTION: To accept the recommendation of the Complaint Review Committee to issue a Letter of Guidance.**

Motion made by Commissioner Liberty and seconded by Chief Rumsey.

**Motion Carried.**

9. Board Case 2022-020

**MOTION: To accept the recommendation of the Complaint Review Committee to issue a Letter of Guidance.**

Motion made by Commissioner Liberty and seconded by Mr. Mendoza

**Motion Carried.**

10. Board Case 2022-021

**MOTION: To accept the recommendation of the Complaint Review Committee to Grant the Waiver and to issue a Letter of Guidance.**

Motion made by Commissioner Liberty and seconded by Chief Rumsey.

**Motion Carried.**


**X. Item Ten on the Agenda: Adjournment**

Vice Chair Ryder called for a motion to adjourn.

**MOTION: To adjourn the 5/13/2022 Maine Criminal Justice Academy Board of Trustees Meeting at 1:10 p.m.**

Motion made by Commissioner Liberty and seconded by Colonel Cote.

**Motion Carried.**

  
Charles J. Rumsey, IV