

Minutes of the meeting of the Maine Criminal Justice Academy Board of Trustees held at the Maine Criminal Justice Academy in the Brian MacMaster Board Room on **Friday, January 10, 2025.**

Board Members Attending:

Chief Charles Rumsey IV – Chair
Deputy Chief David Bushey – Vice Chair
Commissioner Michael Sauschuck
Colonel William Ross
Sheriff Scott Nichols
Mr. Mateo Mendoza
DA Kathryn Slattery
Ms. Francine Stark
Ms. Elizabeth Ward Saxl
Mr. Nathan Poore
Dr. Michael Kamorski
Officer Matthew Dana
Mr. Thomas Di Tomasso
Mr. Eric Dos Santos
Ms. Laura Rodas (for Commissioner Liberty)

Board Members Excused:

Director Anna Love
Major Jason King
Colonel Dan Scott

Participants:

Director Jack Peck
AAG Andrew Black
Karen Green, Board Clerk

Guests:

None

I. Item One on the Agenda: Call to Order

Chair Rumsey called the meeting to order at 9:07 a.m.

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

Chair Rumsey requested that the roll call be conducted, stated there was a quorum and then led in saying the Pledge of Allegiance.

Chair Rumsey requested that introductions be made as there were new members of the Board present.

Chair Rumsey requested that because some members had to leave early, the Complaint Review Committee Reports be taken out of order.

X. Item Ten on the Agenda: Complaint Review Committee

D. Complaint Review Committee Cases

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 Mr. Mendoza and seconded by Officer Dana.

Motion Carried Unanimously at 9:10 a.m. The meeting was reconvened at 10:38 a.m.

1. Board Case 2023-010

MOTION: To accept the recommendation of the Complaint Review Committee to revoke the Law Enforcement Officer's certification of eligibility.

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

2. Board Case 2024-006

MOTION: To accept the recommendation of the Complaint Review Committee to revoke the Correction Officer's certification of eligibility.

Motion made by Commissioner Sauschuck and seconded by Dep. Chief Bushey.

Motion Carried with Ms. Rodas and Mr. Mendoza recusing themselves.

For the discussion Ms. Rodas and Mr. Mendoza left the room at 9:15 a.m. and returned at 9:17 a.m.

3. Board Case 2024-011

MOTION: To accept the recommendation of the Complaint Review Committee to enter into a consent agreement with 3-years' probation.

Motion made by Mr. Mendoza and seconded by Sheriff Nichols. **Motion Carried.**

4. Board Case 2024-030

MOTION: To accept the recommendation of the Complaint Review Committee to take no further action due to insufficient evidence of disqualifying conduct.

Motion made by Sheriff Nichols and seconded by DA Slattery.

Motion Carried with Deputy Chief Bushey recusing himself. For the Discussion Deputy Chief Bushey left the room at 9:24 a.m. and returned at 9:28 a.m.

5. Board Case 2024-036

MOTION: To accept the recommendation of the Complaint Review Committee to take no further action due to insufficient evidence of disqualifying conduct.

Motion made by Sheriff Nichols and seconded by Officer Dana.

Motion Carried with Deputy Chief Bushey recusing himself. For the Discussion Deputy Chief Bushey left the room at 9:24 a.m. and returned at 9:28 a.m.

6. Board Case 2024-033

MOTION: To accept the recommendation of the Complaint Review Committee to revoke the Correction Officer's Certificate of eligibility.

Motion made by Colonel Ross and seconded by Mr. Mendoza. **Motion Carried.**

7. Board Case 2024-005

MOTION: To accept the recommendation of the Complaint Review Committee to enter into a consent agreement with 3-years' probation.

Motion made by Sheriff Nichols and seconded by Commissioner Sauschuck.

Motion Carried with DA Slattery recusing herself. During the discussion DA Slattery left the room at 9:35 and returned at 9:39 a.m.

8. Board Case 2024-042

MOTION: To accept the recommendation of the Complaint Review Committee to dismiss the case but to issue a letter of guidance.

Motion made by Sheriff Nichols and seconded by Colonel Ross.

Motion Carried with Mr. Mendoza and Ms. Rodas recusing themselves. During the discussion both left the room at 9:39 a.m. and returned at 9:41 a.m.

9. Board Case 2024-045

MOTION: To accept the recommendation of the Complaint Review Committee to take no further action due to the lack of evidence of disqualifying conduct.

Motion made by Mr. Di Tomasso and seconded by Sheriff Nichols. **Motion Carried.**

10. Board Case 2024-046

MOTION: To accept the recommendation of the Complaint Review Committee to take no further action due to the lack of evidence of disqualifying conduct.

Motion made by Colonel Ross and seconded by Sheriff Nichols. **Motion Carried.**

11. Board Case 2024-048

MOTION: To accept the recommendation of the Complaint Review Committee to grant the waiver with no conditions to attend the BLETP.

Motion made by Mr. Kamorski and seconded by Deputy Chief Bushey. **Motion Carried.**

12. Board Case 2024-049

MOTION: To accept the recommendation of the Complaint Review Committee to take no further action due to insufficient evidence of disqualifying conduct.

Motion made by Commissioner Sauschuck and seconded by Deputy Chief Bushey.

Motion Carried.

13. Board Case 2024-050

MOTION: To accept the recommendation of the Complaint Review Committee to take no further action due to insufficient evidence of disqualifying conduct.

Motion made by Deputy Chief Bushey and seconded by Commissioner Sauschuck.

Motion Carried.

14. Board Case 2024-051

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

Motion made by Sheriff Nichols and seconded by Commissioner Sauschuck.

Motion Carried.

15. Board Case 2024-052

MOTION: To accept the recommendation of the Complaint Review Committee to grant the waiver and issue a Consent agreement with 3-years' probation.

Motion made by Colonel Ross and seconded by Mr. Di Tomasso.

Motion Carried with Mr. Kamorski recusing himself. During the discussion Mr. Kamorski left the room at 10:06 a.m. and returned at 10:11 a.m.

16. Board Case 2024-057

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

Motion made by Commissioner Sauschuck and seconded by Deputy Chief Bushey.

Motion Carried with Mr. Mendoza and Ms. Rodas recusing themselves. For the discussion they both left the room at 10:11 a.m. and returned at 10:15 a.m.

17. Board Case 2024-058

MOTION: To accept the recommendation of the Complaint Review Committee to grant the waiver with no conditions.

Motion made by Deputy Chief Bushey and seconded by Mr. Kamorski. **Motion carried.**

18. Board Case 2024-061

MOTION: To accept the recommendation of the Complaint Review Committee to grant the Part Time waiver with no conditions.

Motion made by Deputy Chief Bushey and seconded by DA Slattery. **Motion carried.**

19. Board Case 2024-063

MOTION: To accept the recommendation of the Complaint Review Committee to take no further action due to the lack of evidence of disqualifying conduct.

Motion made by Colonel Ross and seconded by Mr. Di Tomasso. **Motion carried.**

20. Board Case 2024-066

MOTION: To accept the recommendation of the Complaint Review Committee to take no further action due to the lack of evidence of disqualifying conduct.

Motion made by Ms. Ward Saxl and seconded by Colonel Ross. **Motion carried.**

21. Board Case 2024-078

MOTION: To accept the recommendation of the Complaint Review Committee to take no further action due to the lack of evidence of disqualifying conduct.

Motion made by Sheriff Nichols and seconded by Colonel Ross. **Motion carried.**

22. Board Case 2024-073

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

Motion made by DA Slattery and seconded by Colonel Ross. **Motion carried.**

III. Item Three on the Agenda: Minutes of Previous Meetings

MOTION: To accept the minutes of the November 15, 2024 Board of Trustees meeting and to have it placed on file with the secretary.

Motion made by Ms. Ward Saxl and seconded by Commissioner Sauschuck. **Motion Carried**

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

A. Basic Law Enforcement Training Program Waiver Requests:

1. None at this time.

B. Basic Law Enforcement Training Program Extension Requests.

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

1. Michael Brainard – Winslow Police Department

MOTION: To approve the 180-day Basic Law Enforcement Training Program waiver extension.

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

2. Hannah Gower – Windham Police Department

MOTION: To approve the 180-day Basic Law Enforcement Training Program waiver extension so she can attend the August 2025 BLETP.

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

C. Basic Corrections Training Program Waiver Request:

1. None at this time.

D. Basic Corrections Training Program Extension Requests:

1. Brooklynn Brown – Penobscot County Sheriff's Office

MOTION: To approve the Corrections Training Program Extension Request to attend the 84th BCTP in July of 2025.

Moved by Mr. Mendoza and seconded by Deputy Chief Bushey. **Motion Carried.**

2. LaShawne Hammond – Androscoggin County Sheriff's Office

MOTION: To approve the Corrections Training Program Extension Request of 180 days.

Moved by Ms. Ward Saxl and seconded by Deputy Chief Bushey. **Motion Carried.**

3. Erik Flink – Long Creek Youth Development Center

MOTION: To approve the Corrections Training Program 180-day Extension Request so he can attend the JBCTP in May 2025.

Moved by Ms. Ward Saxl and seconded by Colonel Ross.

Motion Carried with Mr. Mendoza and Ms. Rodas recusing themselves.

E. Law Enforcement Pre-service Program Waiver Requests:

1. None at this time.

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

1. None at this time.

G. Course Certification Requests:

Director Peck presented the new Course Certification requests.

1. PROFESSIONALISM AND ETHICS – Basic Corrections Training Program

MOTION: To approve the Course Certification Request for Professionalism and Ethics Course for the Basic Corrections Training Program.

Motion made by Ms. Ward Saxl and seconded by Commissioner Sauschuck.
Motion Carried.

2. PHYSICAL EVIDENCE AND SEARCHES – Probation and Parole

MOTION: To approve the Course Certification Request for the Physical Evidence and Searches Course for the Basic Probation and Parole Training Program.

Motion made by Ms. Ward Saxl and seconded by Commissioner Sauschuck.
Motion Carried.

3. TRAUMA INFORMED PRACTICES – Law Enforcement Mandatory Training

MOTION: To approve the Course Certification Request for the Trauma Informed Practices for the Law Enforcement Mandatory Training.

Motion made by Ms. Ward Saxl and seconded by Commissioner Sauschuck.
Motion Carried.

4. 2024 LAW UPDATES (Mandatory Basic Corrections Training)

MOTION: To approve the Course Certification Request of Law Updates for the Basic Corrections Training Program retroactive to distribution to correction officers.

Motion made by Ms. Ward Saxl and seconded by Commissioner Sauschuck.
Motion Carried.

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

Director Peck presented the list of the one hundred and eighty-five certifications that were issued since the Board Meeting on November 15, 2024.

MOTION: To accept the 185 Certifications that were issued by Director Peck on behalf of the Board since the Board meeting held on November 15, 2024.

Motion made by Ms. Ward Saxl and seconded by Ms. Stark. **Motion Carried.**

V. Item Five on the Agenda: Committee Reports

A. Complaint Committee: Chief Charles Rumsey IV

Chair Rumsey thanked all the members that helped to get all of the cases out as there were 90 cases for 2024. He stated they would be presenting 22 cases today and there were about 30 left in the pipeline. He also announced that Major King would be taking his place as the Chair of the CRC.

B. Administrative Rules Committee: Colonel Dan Scott

1. No report at this time.

C. Law Enforcement Training Committee: Deputy Chief David Bushey

Deputy Chief Bushey told the members that Trauma Informed Training was approved, and that the committee was looking to update the EVOC Instructor Course as needed.

D. Corrections Training Committee: - Ms. Laura Rodas

Ms. Rodas said that the Corrections Training Committee meets regularly, and she plans to present 5 or 6 new lesson plans at the next Board meeting.

E. Policy Standards Committee:

No report at this time.

VI. Item Six on the Agenda: Report from the Chair – Chief Charles Rumsey IV

CRC report:

1. Thank you to **Francine**, Major King, Sheriff Nichols, Deputy Chief Bushey, and Mike Kamorski for all their help during our two long CRC dates and the short time between the CRC dates and today to prep cases.
2. Jack docketed 90 CRC cases in 2024, which is a record. 21 case presentations today is likely a record as well.
3. Jack, Andrew, and new CRC Chair Major King will be meeting on Monday to review the current case list and prep for the next CRC date

Board Chair Report:

1. On November 25th I represented the Board at BCTP graduation. It was a big class, the ceremony was well attended, and MCJA staff do an excellent job at putting these on to stress the importance of the corrections profession and to celebrate the achievements of the graduates.
2. On December 20th I represented the Board at BLETP graduation. As you know, it was our largest graduating class ever, and we believe the first time that two board members had children graduate – congratulations to Mike and Tom! As always, Jack and his team did a great job of pulling the event together and the TAC center was absolutely packed.
3. The new Board member orientation on Monday went very well, we are very excited to have Mike, Tom, and Eric on board and look forward to working with them.

4. There are several updates needed to our minimum standards, so I'll have news shortly regarding a new chair for that committee and some assistance may be needed in the short term to get our standards reviewed.
5. Thank you to the Board members who have volunteered to serve on our three-member panel for a BLETP cadet who was removed from the program. That hearing will take place on the 18th of February
6. Upcoming legislation

VII. Item Seven on the Agenda: Report from the Director – Director Jack Peck

Director Peck spoke on the following topics.

- The 46th Basic Law Enforcement Training Program (BLETP) graduated on December 20th. The class was the largest ever with seventy-one law enforcement professionals representing thirty-nine state, local and county agencies.
- This class also saw fifteen females graduate, which is also one of the largest groups ever.

The keynote speaker was Lt. Col. Tom DiTomasso (retired), whose son was in the graduating class as was Board member Michael Kamorski's son.

- The following Monday we invited all of the candidates for the 47th BLETP to Orientation, and to perform their physical fitness entrance exam. This consists of a timed mile and a half run. The candidates also have to complete a certain number of sit-ups and push-ups, which vary with age and gender.
- We will be accepting eighty candidates into the 47th BLETP which will start on January 21st. We have seventy-nine candidates who have passed all of the entrance requirements. We will be conducting one final PT test on December 10th for those who did not pass on their first or second attempt. The remaining thirteen candidates who have passed everything except the PT standard have been invited.

The Cadre staff have also been selected for the 47th BLETP. The seven Cadre will be assigned to the Academy to train, supervise and mentor the Cadets over the eighteen-week program.

Three of the Cadre staff are from the Maine State Police and the others are from the Maine Warden Service, Portland Police Department, Scarborough Police Department and the Franklin County Sheriff's Department.

- The MCJA Complaint Review Committee (CRC), a subset of the Board of Trustee's continues their task to evaluate reports of officer misconduct and waiver requests for entry into the BLETP.

These cases continue to surge, with 2023 at the time being a record-breaking year with seventy-two cases. At the close of 2024, we had received ninety cases for review.

The CRC met on December 30th and January 2nd for Informal Conferences with approximately twenty-five certificate holders or waiver candidates over those two days. The CRC will present and make recommendations on these cases to the full Board of Trustees at their meeting on January 10th.

On January 6th, new MCJA Board members, Michael Kamorski, Tom Di Tomasso and Eric Dos Santos attended an orientation, question and answer round table and tour of the Academy.

This was facilitated by Commissioner Sauschuck and Chairman of the Board of Trustees, Chip Rumsey.

We believe this orientation was the first of its kind and was very well received.

At 11:35 a.m. Chair Rumsey requested the Board break for Lunch. The meeting reconvened at 12:06 p.m.

VIII. Item Eight on the Agenda: Report from the Assistant Director-Lincoln Ryder

As Assistant Director Ryder was at a two-week class, Director Peck spoke on the following topics for him.

Additional course offerings completed since the November 2024 meeting:

| | |
|-------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Dec. 3 - 4, 2024 | ARIDE @ Dirigo Safety, Auburn |
| Dec. 3 - 4, 2024 | Crash Reconstruction Refresher |
| Dec. 9 - 20, 2024 | Methods of Instruction |
| Jan. 6 - 17, 2025 | Law Enforcement Pre-Service – Phase 2 |

Staff update:

OAI Debbie Dalzell retired at the end of December after 6 years of service with MCJA.

We are in the process now of hiring a new OAI and hope to have the process completed by the end of January

New incoming Cadre for the 47th BLEPT who will join returning Cadre Sgt Joseph Mills (Maine State Police) and Detective Jake Richards (Franklin County Sheriff's Office) are:

Warden Taylor Valente (Maine Wardens Service)

Officer Melissa DiClemente (Scarborough Police Department)

Lt Chris Mitchell (Portland Police Department)

Sgt Bethany Couturier (Maine State Police)

Trooper David Olmstead (Maine State Police)

Building Update:

We continue to work with staff and the Bureau of General Services to identify and correct issues with the building. We are currently experiencing issues in A-building with water intrusion during high wind/rain events in 3 rooms which are being worked on by BGS and will affect capacity for the building with the incoming BLETP class at 80 students.

Grants:

COPS grant for FY24 SAFER OUTCOMES: Enhancing De-Escalation and Crisis Response Training For Law Enforcement is still in beginning phases of implementation and we have completed a request for proposals for services:

1. Updated Job Task Analysis for BLETP
2. From JTA, Tasks identified to extrapolate Instructional Blocks. Instructional Goals / Performance Objective identified.
3. Blocks for de-escalation instruction integration would be identified and Lesson Plans written for them using new de-escalation curriculum.

4. Remaining blocks not integrated would need to be updated / written / re-written using alternative funding sources / existing SMEs and resources / etc.

The next phase will be to hire a project manager who will work up to 20 hours a week.

We will host Force Science Institute's Realistic De-escalation Instructor Course in April which will train 20 SMEs for the state to assist in curriculum development and delivery in the new BLETP format.

Rulemaking:

The revision to Chapter 3: Entrance Standards approved by the Board in November will be submitted in the next month to initiate the rulemaking process.

IX. Item Nine of the Agenda: Old Business

None at this time.

X. Item Ten of the Agenda: New Business

Chair Rumsey asked for a motion to amend the agenda to add an item under New Business that would be "E. Legislation".

MOTION: To amend the agenda to add Item E. Legislation under New Business.

Motion made by Ms. Ward Saxl and seconded by Commissioner Sauschuck.

Motion Carried

A. BLETP Reimbursement Rates –Director Peck

Director Peck explained the CPI-U (Consumer Price Index) for 2024 which would raise the BLETP rate by 3.5% (\$1646)

MOTION: To approve the proposed BLEPT reimbursement rate for 2024-2025.

Motion made by Commissioner Sauschuck and seconded by Colonel Ross.

Motion Carried

B. BCTP Reimbursement Rates – Director Peck

Director Peck explained the CPI-U (Consumer Price Index) for 2024 which would raise the BCTP rate by 3.5% (\$411)

MOTION: To approve the proposed BCTP reimbursement rate for 2024-2025.

Motion made by Deputy Chief Bushey and seconded by Commissioner Sauschuck.

Motion Carried

C. BLETP Legacy Gift Proposal

Director Peck told the Board that the 46th BLETP had gifted the Academy Sit-Up Bars

MOTION: To approve and except the 46th BLETP's legacy gift of Sit-Up Bars for the TAC Center.

Motion made by Ms. Ward Saxl and seconded by Officer Dana. **Motion Carried**

D. Civil Law Court Case – AAG Andrew Black

AAG Black spoke of a case in civil Law Court regarding a Constable who issued a ticket to someone, and the Constable had not gone through the LEPS course or the BLETP giving him the authority to issue that ticket. AAG Black stated that the Statue is somewhat vague and unclear regarding Constables and that he would, if the Board asked, look into this for clarification.

MOTION: To accept AAG Black’s offer to provide clarification on behalf of the Board of Trustees.

Motion made by Ms. Ward Saxl and seconded by Ms. Stark. **Motion Carried**

E. Legislation

Director Peck spoke on An Act to Direct the Maine Criminal Justice Academy to Develop a Non-residential Basic Law Enforcement Training Program. There was a lot of discussion regarding this bill, as it directs the Board to review and develop an alternate non-residential program to increase recruitment of candidates who may perceive a residential program as being a barrier to serving as a law enforcement officer.

MOTION: To accept the position that based on the current demand for training, the MCJA Board of Trustees opposes a mandate to offer a non-residential academy. However, the Board continues to closely monitor demand and will continue to consider alternatives to meet future needs, in line with our five-year strategic plan.

Motion made by Ms. Ward Saxl and seconded by Commissioner Sauschuck.
Motion Passed Unanimously.

Nathan Poore stated that because of personal reasons he has decided that he will have to step down as a member of the Board. He said that today was his last meeting and that he had learned so much being a part of the Board.

Commissioner Sauschuck told the Board that he was present at a function recently where acknowledgements for employees and managers of the year was being held. He said that AAG Andrew Black was there to receive the Manager of the Year award representing the Attorney General’s Office and wanted to congratulate AAG Black for that well deserved award.

XI. Item Eleven on the Agenda: Adjournment

Chair Rumsey called for a motion to adjourn the meeting.

MOTION: To adjourn the January 10, 2025 Maine Criminal Justice Academy Board of Trustees Meeting at 1:15 p.m.

Motion made by Commissioner Sauschuck and seconded by Mr. Poore. **Motion Carried.**


Mr. Mateo Mendoza