

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, July 14, 2023.

**Board Members Attending:**

Special Agent Brian Pellerin – Chair  
Commissioner Michael Sauschuck  
Commissioner Randall Liberty  
Detective Seth Blodgett  
Director Anna Love  
Chief Charles Rumsey IV  
Deputy Chief David Bushey  
Colonel William Ross  
Colonel Dan Scott  
DA Kathryn Slattery  
Ms. Francine Stark  
Mr. Nathan Poore  
Mr. Mateo Mendoza  
Ms. Marie Hansen

**Board Members Excused:**

Officer Matthew Dana  
Ms. Elizabeth Ward Saxl  
Ms. Kimberly Russell

**Participants:**

Director Jack Peck  
AG Andrew Black  
Karen Green, Board Clerk

**Guests:**

Scott Landry - DOC  
Laura Rodas – DOC  
Richard Desjardins – MDEA  
Lincoln Ryder  
Sgt. Ryan Close – Franklin S.O.  
Jamie Wren – University of Maine-Orono

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

Chair Pellerin called the meeting to order at 9:03 a.m.

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

Chair Pellerin requested that roll call be conducted and after, led in saying the Pledge of Allegiance.

He asked Rick Desjardins to come the head of the table where he gave him a plaque and rocking chair as gifts of recognition for being the past director of the Academy.

Director Peck announced that Lincoln Ryder had been chosen as the new Assistant Director and would start at the Academy on July 31<sup>st</sup>. Lincoln was also given a plaque in recognition and appreciation of the years he was a member of the Board and the committees with which he was involved. Chair Pellerin ask Mr. Ryder to sit at the Assistant Director's spot at the table.

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

**MOTION: To accept the minutes of the May 12, 2023 Board of Trustees meeting and to have it be placed on file with the secretary.**

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

Chair Pellerin then requested that the presentation under New Business be taken out of order as the presenters were in attendance. He asked Sheriff Nichols to introduce Sgt. Ryan Close and Jamie Wren who would be providing a presentation regarding officer suicides.

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

**1. Presentation: Officer Suicides – Sgt. Ryan Close - Franklin County S.O. and Jamie Wren – UMO**

Sgt. Close and Jamie Wren delivered a presentation with a PowerPoint display regarding statistics of officer suicides in Maine from 2015 to 2020 that was collected by the Maine Violent Death Reporting system that was extremely informative. They provided examples on why and the statistics surrounding each reason, such as health, retirement and family issues. Sgt. Close recounted his personal experience and emphasized the need for officers experiencing depression or other mental health issues to ask for and receive professional help. He also recommended that departments throughout Maine should be better prepared and have resources readily available for officers in need.

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

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

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

**1. Trooper Bradford Conlon – Maine State Police**

**MOTION: To approve the Basic Law Enforcement Training Program Waiver, pending successful completion of Maine Crash Reporting Training and the Maine Law Enforcement Officer's Certification Examination by 6/1/2024.**

Moved by Chief Rumsey and seconded by Colonel Scott.  
**Motion Carried with Colonel Ross recusing himself.**

**2. Trooper John Doyle – Maine State Police**

**MOTION: To approve the Basic Law Enforcement Training Program Waiver, pending successful completion of Maine Crash Reporting and the Maine Law Enforcement Officer's Certification Examination by 6/1/2024.**

Moved by Chief Rumsey and seconded by Colonel Scott.

**Motion Carried with Colonel Ross recusing himself.**

3. Officer Nicholas Ely – Bangor Police Department

**MOTION: To approve the Basic Law Enforcement Training Program Waiver, pending successful completion of Maine Crash Training, and the Maine Law Enforcement Officer's Certification Examination by 4/10/2024.**

Moved by Colonel Scott and seconded by Chief Rumsey.

**Motion Carried with Dep. Chief Bushey recusing himself.**

4. Major Kathryn Mone – York County Sheriff's Office

**MOTION: To approve the Basic Law Enforcement Training Program Waiver, pending successful completion of Maine Crash Training and the Maine Law Enforcement Officer's Certification Examination by 4/10/2024**

Moved by Chief Rumsey and seconded by Col. Ross. **Motion Carried.**

5. Officer George Monteith - Auburn Police Department

**MOTION: To approve the Basic Law Enforcement Training Program Waiver, pending successful completion of Maine Crash Reporting Training and the Maine Law Enforcement Officer's Certification Examination by 4/18/2024.**

Moved by Commissioner Sauschuck and seconded by Chief Rumsey.

**Motion Carried.**

6. Officer Andrew St. Pierre – Auburn Police Department

**MOTION: To approve the Basic Law Enforcement Training Program Waiver, pending successful completion of the Maine Crash Reporting Training, the Emergency Vehicle Operations Course and the Maine Law Enforcement Officer's Certification Examination by 3/14/2024.**

Moved by Chief Rumsey and seconded by Mr. Mendoza. **Motion Carried.**

7. Trooper Steven Van Deusen – Maine State Police

**MOTION: To approve the Basic Law Enforcement Training Program Waiver, pending successful completion of the Maine Crash Report Training and the Maine Law Enforcement Officer's Certification Examination by 5/31/2024.**

Moved by Dep. Chief Bushey and seconded by Commissioner Sauschuck.

**Motion Carried with Col. Ross recusing himself.**

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

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

1. Officer Michael Beal – Holden Police Department

**MOTION: To approve the 180-day Basic Law Enforcement Training Program Waiver Extension so that he can attend the 45th BLETP in January 2024.**

Moved by Dep. Chief Bushey and seconded by Director Love. **Motion Carried.**

2. Officer Daniel Borden – Baileyville Police Department

**MOTION: To approve the 180-day Basic Law Enforcement Training Program Waiver Extension so that he can attend the 44<sup>th</sup> BLETP.**

Moved by Col. Ross and seconded by Dep. Chief Bushey.  
**Motion Carried.**

3. Officer Jerico Champagne – Fairfield Police Department

**MOTION: To approve the 180-day Basic Law Enforcement Training Program Waiver Extension so that he can attend the January 2024 BLETP.**

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

4. Officer Zachary Reynolds – Gardiner Police Department

**MOTION: To approve the 180-day Basic Law Enforcement Training Program Waiver Extension so that he can attend the August 2023 BLETP.**

Moved by Chief Rumsey and seconded by Director Love. **Motion Carried.**

5. Officer Russell Socoby – Houlton Police Department

**MOTION: To approve the 180-day Basic Law Enforcement Training Program Waiver Extension so that he can attend the January 2024 BLETP.**

Moved by Director Love and seconded by Col. Ross. **Motion Carried.**

6. Officer Miranda Varnum – Presque Isle Police Department

**MOTION: To approve the 180-day Basic Law Enforcement Training Program Waiver Extension so that he can attend the January 2024 BLETP.**

Moved by Director Love and seconded by Mr. Mendoza. **Motion Carried.**

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

None at this time.

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

None at the time.

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

1. Officer John Houghton – Newport Police Department

**MOTION: To approve the Law Enforcement Pre-Service Waiver, pending successful completion of the Law Enforcement Pre-Service Phase III by 6/1/2024.**

Moved by Director Love and seconded by Col. Ross. **Motion Carried.**

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

None at this time.

**G. Course Certification Requests:**

1. **New Law/Case Law Update**

Director Peck advised the Board that he had spoken with Brain MacMaster and Shawn O’Leary of Dirigo Safety LLC, and they have prepared a 2-hour class that would be part of the Mandatory Training each year providing the new law updates.

**MOTION: To approve the 2-hour block of New Law/Case Law Updates for the Mandatory Training Schedule.**

Moved by Chief Rumsey and seconded Col. Ross. **Motion Carried.**

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

Director Peck presented the list of the 244 certifications that were issued since the last Board Meeting on May 12, 2023.

**MOTION: To accept the Certifications that were issued by Director Peck on behalf of the Board since the Board meeting held on May 12, 2023.**

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

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

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

Chief Rumsey told the Board that the CRC met on July 10, 2023 and they had invited eight people to Informal Conferences. Four of the eight actually attended. He stated that they would present 10 cases today and that after today's meeting there would be about a dozen cases pending plus any that have been submitted to the Director in the past few weeks.

**B. Administrative Rules Committee: Colonel Dan Scott**

Col. Scott told the Board that he continued working with Attorney Black and was provided a template on how to proceed with rule proposals. As a group they have identified some of the unprofessional conduct that they had discussed in previous meetings such as harassment and misrepresenting information in official proceedings while being certified. Between now and the next meeting they will get together, identify and prioritize professional conduct standards into a rule draft. They will reach out to Academy partners and stakeholders who would have an interest in rulemaking to provide them notice that the Board will be entering into the rulemaking process. Director Peck mentioned that a union had already reached out to him with general questions regarding rule making and standards of conduct. Col. Scott stated that unions would be included in those interested parties.

**C. Law Enforcement Training Committee: Sergeant Lincoln Ryder (Ret.)**

No report at this time.

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

Commissioner Liberty advised the Board that the Corrections Training Committee has again been very busy, and he was pleased with the overall participation. He reminded the Board members that at the last meeting he distributed and discussed the Basic Corrections Training Program Regional Training Center Standards that outline the general requirements and the facility and staffing criteria for hosting a BCTP. He stated that he would be looking for a vote to approve this standard ensuring that the host facilities met the standards of the Academy. In addition to that, he said they had produced a policy for an agency to become approved.

**MOTION: To approve the Basic Corrections Training Program Regional Training Center Standards Policy.**

Motion made by Commissioner Liberty and seconded by Commissioner Sauschuck.

**Motion Carried.**

Mr. Landry thanked the Board and told them that the hosting facilities were in the process of updating technology to enhance the quality of the BCTP. Commissioner Liberty told the Board that they were working on two new. The first being a hybrid training model Instructors Course that will enable trainers to enhance their abilities to train and the second was a BCTP Cadre Development Course that mirrored the one given to law enforcement cadres. He said that the technology upgrades at MCC had been approved and completed. The next facility to undergo the upgrade would be the MCJA. Commissioner Liberty would like to discuss the strategic plan and the suggestion to enhance the length of the BCTP program to 9 weeks. He wants to include all facilities to see what the impact would be if it was done slowly by instituting those lesson plans for courses that are needed.

Chair Pellerin said that the Board would have to be briefed on the overall strategic plan and that would be a conversation that would need to be made with the Sheriff's Association and DOC.

Ms. Rodas told the Board that on August 15<sup>th</sup> DOC would be hosting an ADA best practices workshop at Central Office.

#### **E. Policy Standards Committee: Dep. Chief David Bushey**

Dep. Chief Bushey told the Board they had been working on the minimum requirements for the Executive Certifications and that Brian MacMaster had sent some material for them to look at such as the Code of Conduct. As these are also tied in with the Administrative Rules Committee, he felt that they should discuss procedure before moving forward on those. He said he did make the adjustments and forward it to the Policy Review Committee.

#### **VI. Item Six on the Agenda: Report from the Chair – Chair Brian Pellerin**

On May 19<sup>th</sup> Chair Pellerin attended the 43<sup>rd</sup> BLETP held at the Academy on the parade deck.

Chair Pellerin congratulated Lincoln Ryder on his appointment as the Academy's new Assistant Director and thanked him for his many years of service on the Board of Trustees as the Vice-Chair and leading several committees during his tenure on the Board.

The process to replace Assistant Director Ryder on the Board is underway and it was believed that there were more than one applicant who had submitted their application for consideration. Also, recent legislation had been submitted to expand the Board by another position representing defense attorneys. This legislation is pending and we are awaiting the outcome.

Prior to the September Board meeting, Chair Pellerin will be reaching out to Board members to fill various subcommittee assignments for the upcoming year.

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

The 43<sup>rd</sup> Basic Law Enforcement Training Program graduated on May 19<sup>th</sup>. The graduation was held outside on the parade deck on a beautiful spring day.

Sixty-four Cadets earned their full-time law enforcement certificates. All but two of the Cadets met the graduation requirements. The two could not complete their MARC final due to injuries: One had a prior injury and the other sustained a shoulder injury during his MARC final. Both will re-schedule.

The 44<sup>th</sup> BLETP will start on August 14<sup>th</sup>. The Cadet Orientation and Physical Fitness Test (PFT) was administered at the Academy on July 12<sup>th</sup>. This was the first time we have held the Orientation and PFT at the academy since COVID protocols were initiated in 2020.

There are eighty-three named Cadets, four of whom did not appear at orientation, and we had ten who did not pass the PFT.

The ten who did not pass the PFT will be allowed to re-test on July 26<sup>th</sup>.

Academy staff will be conducting interviews for the two open Cadre positions. At this time, we have no representation from the sixteen county sheriff departments.

On June 7<sup>th</sup>, the largest class of correctional officers graduated from the Basic Corrections Training Program. Fifty-three correctional professionals walked across the stage. One of the keynote speakers was Board Member and Sheriff of Franklin County, Scott Nichols, Sr.

Since the last Board of Trustees meeting in May, the Academy has hosted a Methods of Instruction class with eighteen attendees and a Firearms Development class with twenty-four students. Staff also coordinated two ARIDE trainings held at Brunswick and Holden Police Department. Nineteen attended the training in Brunswick and eleven in Holden.

Five Law Enforcement Pre-Service Programs (LEPS) were held in Presque Isle, Central Maine Community College, York County Community College, Bangor Police Department and at the Gray Warden Service venue.

A total of sixty-five students attended the LEPS training.

Several of our training coordinators attended and presented at the OUI Summit and partnered with AAA and the Maine Bureau of Highway Safety. This was held on June 27<sup>th</sup> at the Cross Arena in Bangor. Over two hundred law enforcement, prosecutors and policy makers attended the training.

Recently retired Acting Waterville Deputy Police Chief Lincoln Ryder was chosen as the MCJA Assistant Director. Sixteen candidates applied for the position, with Mr. Ryder being the clear choice of the hiring panel.

The panel consisted of Maine State Police Lt. Jason Madore, Auburn Police Chief Jason Moen, Somerset County Sheriff Dale Lancaster and Jeffrey Morin the Superintendent at Mt. View Youth Development Center.

Assistant Director Ryder brings a wealth of knowledge and experience to the academy. He is a twenty-nine year law enforcement career professional. He holds a Master's Degree in Public Policy and Management and a Bachelor of Arts degree in Criminology. He earned both degrees from the University of Southern Maine.

Ryder has extensive in-service training and is or has been a certified MCJA Instructor in firearms, urban rifle, interactive use-of-force, OUI/SFST and MARC. He is a Master Instructor for "Pepperball" and has taught this non-lethal training all over the United States for the last twenty years.

In addition, Assistant Director Ryder has served on the MCJA Board of Trustees for twelve years and was the Vice Chair. As a member of the Board, he has been the Chair of the Administrative Specification Committee and the Law Enforcement Training Committee.

Welcome Assistant Director Lincoln Ryder.

At 11:15 a.m. Chair Pellerin requested that the Board take a short break. The meeting reconvened at 11:39 a.m.

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

### **A. Board Case 2020-027 Decision**

**MOTION: To approve the decision as presented.**

Motion made by Ms. Stark and seconded by Director Love.

**Motion passed with Chief Rumsey recusing himself.**

### **B. Strategic Plan Update – Director Jack Peck**

Director Peck told the Board that the Strategic Plan for the Academy was finished and there was little difference than what was presented at the last Board meeting. A 39-page slide show was put together to present to the Maine Chiefs and Sheriffs, and he plans to go to the MMA conference in October. The highlights of the plan are Phase 1 - address the immediate needs. Phase 2 - Build on the Foundation and Phase 3 - How the 5-year plan may evolve in the future to hybrid learning.

The Slalom Group outlined the trends inside and outside of the Academy that will impact the future such as keeping pace with the political environment and having a dedicated staff member research grants apply and administer them. They thought the Academy should update their technology and could partner better. They also felt that the Academy should codify the BLETP curriculum as there is a tremendous amount of training happening before and after the classroom that is not calculated in the 720 hours.

The Slalom Group also identified the need to increase tuitions as the cost for food service keeps rising and to find further avenues to raise money.

At 11:55 a.m. Chair Pellerin requested that they take a 15-minute break to go to the café and get their lunch. The meeting resumed at 12:09 p.m.

**IX: Item Nine on the Agenda: New Business**

**A. Complaint Committee Cases**

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 Director Love.

**Motion Carried Unanimously at 12:10 p.m.** The meeting reconvened at 1:50 p.m.

1. Board Case 2021-015

**MOTION: To accept the recommendation of the Complaint Review Committee to issue a letter of reprimand, enter into a consent agreement with 3-years of probation.**

Motion made by Ms. Stark and seconded by Col. Scott.

**Motion Carried with DA Slattery recusing herself. During the discussion DA Slattery left the room at 12:10 p.m. and returned at 12:13 p.m.**

2. Board Case 2022-043

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

Motion made by Chief Rumsey and seconded by Ms. Stark.

**Motion Carried with 1 opposed.**

3. Board Case 2023-009

**MOTION: To accept the recommendation of the Complaint Review Committee to revoke the officer's Part-Time Law Enforcement Certificate of eligibility.**

Motion made by Chief Rumsey and seconded by Ms. Hansen. **Motion Carried.**

4. Board Case 2023-010

**MOTION: To accept the recommendation of the Complaint Review Committee to grant the Law Enforcement Waiver.**

Motion made by Ms. Stark and seconded by Director Love. **Motion Carried.**

5. Board Case 2023-013

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

Motion made by Ms. Stark and seconded by Col. Ross. **Motion carried.**

6. Board Case 2023-015

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

Motion made by Chief Rumsey and seconded by Mr. Mendoza. **Motion carried.**

7. Board Case 2023-016

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

Motion made by Ms. Stark and seconded by Chief Rumsey. **Motion carried.**

8. Board Case 2023-021

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

Motion made by Chief Rumsey and seconded by Ms. Stark. **Motion carried.**

9. Board Case 2023-022

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

Motion made by Director Love and seconded by Ms. Stark. **Motion carried.**

10. Board Case 2023-023

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

Motion made by Chief Rumsey and seconded by Col. Scott.

**Motion Denied – 4 In favor – 7 Opposed.**

**B. Less-lethal Munition – Director Jack Peck**

Director Peck received a request from BolaWrap (a company that manufactures a less-than-lethal device called the BolaWrap Remote Restraint Device which is marketed to law enforcement agencies) that their product be included in the Board of Trustees approved less-than-lethal devices for use in Maine (which is required pursuant to Title 17-A section 101.5.B)

After discussion, it was suggested that this request be submitted to a group of subject matter experts so that an informed evaluation can be conducted on the product and a recommendation made to the Board of Trustees.

**MOTION: To table this request until more information can be obtained.**

Motion made by Commissioner Sauschuck and seconded by DA Slattery.

**Motion Carried.**

**C. Background Investigation Request – Director Peck**

Director Peck distributed a letter to Board members from Darrell O. Crandall, Jr. owner and chief investigator for the Edgewater Reliance Detective Agency in Oakfield, ME who was requesting approval of the Board to conduct background investigations on BLETP candidates, not already hired by an agency.

**MOTION: To approve the request made by Darrell Crandall, Jr.**

Motion made by Chief Rumsey and seconded by Director Love. **Motion Carried.**

**D. LD 847 – Trauma Informed Training – Director Peck**

Director Peck explained to the Board members that the CJPS committee of the legislature initially wanted the Academy to certify and approve imbedded social workers in all municipal police agencies. After more deliberation, the committee directed the Board of Trustees to conduct a study and develop recommendations regarding the implementation at the Academy of a program to provide trauma-informed training for law enforcement officers. They set a deadline for this study with the findings and recommendations to be returned to the Joint Standing Committee on Criminal Justice and Public Safety no later than February 15, 2024.

Director Peck suggested that a sub-committee be formed to work on this study and get it back to the Legislature by the 2/15/24 deadline. Chair Pellerin stated that he would be reaching out to a few Board members to start work on this request.

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

Chair Pellerin called for a motion to adjourn.

**MOTION: To adjourn the July 14, 2023 Maine Criminal Justice Academy Board of Trustees Meeting at 1:20 p.m.**

Motion made by Commissioner Sauschuck and seconded by Chief Rumsey.

**Motion Carried.**

Ms. Kimberly Russell