

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, November 15, 2024.**

Board Members Attending:

Chief Charles Rumsey IV – Chair
Deputy Chief David Bushey – Vice Chair
Commissioner Michael Sauschuck
Colonel Dan Scott
Colonel William Ross
Sheriff Scott Nichols
Mr. Mateo Mendoza
DA Kathryn Slattery
Ms. Francine Stark
Ms. Elizabeth Ward Saxl
Major Jason King
Dr. Michael Kamorski

Board Members Excused:

Director Anna Love
Officer Matthew Dana
Mr. Nathan Poore
Commissioner Randall Liberty

Participants:

Director Jack Peck
Assistant Director Lincoln Ryder
AAG Samantha Andrews
Karen Green, Board Clerk

Guests:

Christopher Britting – Department of Corrections
Laura Rodas – Department of Corrections
Darin Gilbert – MCJA Training Coordinator

I. Item One on the Agenda: Call to Order

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

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

Chair Rumsey requested that roll call be conducted, stated there was a quorum and then requested that introductions be made as there were new members of the Board present as well as guests attending the meeting.

Chair Rumsey then led the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

MOTION: To accept the minutes of the September 13, 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**

MOTION: To accept the minutes of the September 30, 2024 Board of Trustees meeting and to have it placed on file with the secretary.

Motion made by Sheriff Nichols 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:

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

1. Lauren Flippinger – South Portland 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 8/26/2025.

Moved by Colonel Scott and seconded by Ms. Ward Saxl. **Motion Carried.**

2. Drew Massey – 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 6/3/2025.

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

3. Noelle Pechie – Maine State Police

MOTION: To approve the Basic Law Enforcement Training Program Waiver, pending successful completion of Maine Crash Reporting and Investigation Training, Emergency Vehicle Operation Course, and the Maine Law Enforcement Officer's Certification Examination by 9/16/2025.

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

4. Michael Street - Bridgton Police Department

MOTION: To approve the Basic Law Enforcement Training Program Waiver, pending successful completion of Emergency Vehicle Operation Course, Maine Crash Reporting Training and the Maine Law Enforcement Officer's Certification Examination by 6/19/2025.

Moved by Colonel Scott and seconded by Sheriff Nichols. **Motion Carried.**

5. John Sullivan – Portland Police Department

MOTION: To approve the Basic Law Enforcement Training Program Waiver, pending successful completion of Maine Crash Reporting Training, Emergency Vehicle Operation Course and the Maine Law Enforcement Officer's Certification Examination by 8/5/2025.

Moved by Commissioner Sauschuck and seconded by Dep. Chief Bushey.
Motion Carried with Major King recusing himself.

6. David Wicks – Maine State Police

MOTION: To approve the Basic Law Enforcement Training Program Waiver, pending successful completion of Maine Crash Reporting Training, Emergency Vehicle Operation Course, and the Maine Law Enforcement Officer's Certification Examination by 9/16/2025.

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

B. Basic Law Enforcement Training Program Extension Requests:

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

1. Cody Henry – Wilton Police Department

MOTION: To approve the 180-day Basic Law Enforcement Training Program Waiver Extension so that he can attend the August 2025 BLETP.

Moved by Major King and seconded by Commissioner Sauschuck. **Motion Carried.**

C. Basic Corrections Training Program Waiver Request:

1. None at this time.

D. Basic Corrections Training Program Extension Requests:

1. None at this time.

E. Law Enforcement Pre-service Program Waiver Requests:

Assistant Director Ryder presented the following Law Enforcement Pre-Service Waiver request.

1. John Dunay – Somerset County Sheriff's Officer.

MOTION: To approve the Law Enforcement Pre-Service waiver, pending the successful completion of at least 80 hours of field training (LEPS Phase III)

Motion made by DA Slattery and seconded by Mr. Sheriff Nichols. **Motion Carried.**

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

Director Peck presented the following Part-time Law Enforcement 1040 Hour Extension requests.

1. Officer James Labbe – Norway Police Department

MOTION: To approve the Part-time Law Enforcement Officer 1040 Hour Extension Request of 700 hours.

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

2. Officer Mark Belanger – Ashland Police Department

MOTION: To approve the Part-time Law Enforcement Officer 1040 Hour Extension Request of 200 hours.

Motion made by Commissioner Sauschuck and seconded by Major King.
Motion Carried.

G. Course Certification Requests:

Director Peck presented the new Probation and Parole Course Certification requests.

1. INTERACTIVE USE OF FORCE / SIMUNITION

MOTION: To approve the Course Certification Request for the 8-hour Interactive Use of Force // Simunition Course for the Basic Probation and Parole Training Program.

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

2. TOURNIQUET

MOTION: To approve the Course Certification Request for the 2-hour Tourniquet Course for the Basic Probation and Parole Training Program.

Motion made by Ms. Ward Saxl and seconded by DA Slattery. **Motion Carried.**

At this time Chair Rumsey requested a break so that the Board Members could attend the State Police RTT graduation ceremony, as many of the members had never been able to attend one before. The meeting resumed at 11:22 a.m.

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

Director Peck presented the list of the eighty certifications that were issued since the Board Meeting on September 13, 2024.

MOTION: To accept the 80 Certifications that were issued by Director Peck on behalf of the Board since the Board meeting held on September 13, 2024.

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

V. Item Five on the Agenda: Committee Reports

A. Complaint Committee: Chief Charles Rumsey IV

Chair Rumsey stated that the Informal Conferences scheduled to be heard on October 9th were cancelled due to a quorum and he is planning to have conferences on December 30th and another on January 2nd. They plan on inviting ten individuals for each of those two days of conferences and then bring those cases to the Board meeting on January 10, 2025.

B. Administrative Rules Committee: Colonel Dan Scott

Colonel Scott said he passed out copies of Specification S-22 to the members and that he and Assistant Director Ryder have presented some of the items over the last couple of meetings for discussion. He said that some recommendations of word changes were made by Darin Gilbert who is the Training Coordinator who processes all of the out-of-state waiver requests that come into the Academy.

Under the requirements: B-6 a recommended wording change of: *Polygraph Exam upon submission of application* and B-7 a recommended change of: *Psychological Exam upon submission of application*.

Under D-3 and I-1,2 and 3 the recommended change of: *12 months from meeting pre-service standards*.

MOTION: To approve the recommended changes made to Specification S-22 as presented.

Motion made by Ms. Ward Saxl and seconded by Deputy Chief Bushey.

Motion Carried.

C. Law Enforcement Training Committee: Deputy Chief David Bushey

No report at this time.

D. Corrections Training Committee: Ms. Rosalie Morin

Ms. Rosalie Morin, Chair of the Corrections Advisory Council, told the Board that the Advisory Council met on Thursday, September 5th and again on Monday September 16, 2024 and is recommending the Mandatory Corrections Training for 2025.

In 2025, all Corrections Officers will complete training in:

1. New Law Updates / Relevant Case Review
2. Use of Force using either the BCTP or JBCTP curriculum
3. Building and Inclusive Culture (BCTP Curriculum)
4. Developmental Disabilities/Disabled Inmates/Residents (BCTP Curriculum)

MOTION: To approve the Corrections Advisory Council's recommendation for the 2025 Correction Officer's Mandatory Training as presented.

Motion made by Ms. Ward Saxl and seconded by Colonel Scott. **Motion Carried.**

E. Policy Standards Committee:

No report at this time.

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

Chair Rumsey told the Board that has been very busy couple of months working with Director Peck, Assistant Director Ryder and Academy staff on a number of different topics as well as the pending cases of the CRC. He also said that he was happy that some of the seats that were vacant on the Board had been filled and welcomed Professor Kamorski and Major King. He mentioned that were still two seats to be filled, one representing federal law enforcement and one more person representing the citizens of Maine.

Chair Rumsey thanked the members of the Board for coming forward and filling in on committees and hearings due to those vacancies. He also thanked the staff of the Academy for all the work they do to prep for the committees and hearings.

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

- Welcome Husson University Professor Michael Kamorski (who has a son in our current BLETP, and another signed up for the 47th) and Portland Police Department Jason King to the Board of Trustees. Thank you for your commitment to the Board.
- The 46th Basic Law Enforcement Training Program (BLETP) will complete week 13 of 18 today. The class now has 72 Cadets.
- The Cadets have also picked their class officers, and they are:
President, Scott Johnsen, Westbrook Police Department
Vice President, Jacob Dever, Somerset County Sheriff's Office
Secretary, Taylor Owen, Scarborough Police Department
Treasurer, Anthony DiLisio, South Berwick Police Department
- As stated in our last Board meeting this class is the largest ever and has the most females ever with 16.
- The 47th BLETP will start January 21st, the day after the Martin Luther King holiday. We will be accepting 80 Cadets. The cut-off for all required paperwork is December 6th. Agencies that have cadets on the list but have not supplied the required paperwork will be replaced by those who have.
- Interviews for the Cadre positions were held two weeks ago and officers from the Scarborough Police Department, Portland Police Department, Franklin County Sheriff's Department and the Maine Warden Service were selected for the 47th BLETP.
- The Maine State Police will contribute three Cadre to this Academy class, and all will be led by MSP Sergeant Joseph Mills.
- Orientation and the physical testing for entry into the 47th BLETP will be held on Monday, December 23rd at 0900 hours at the Academy.
- In October, Academy staff hosted the New Chiefs and Sheriffs' seminar, a two-week Chaplains' training and a Mechanics of Arrest, Restraint and Control (MARC) instructors' course.
- The Academy also hosted a first responders' wellness and resiliency training through the Boulder Crest Foundation and Struggle Well for post-traumatic growth. This training was free, was very well attended and received positive reviews.

- The 83rd Basic Corrections Training Program will complete their fifth week of training today. Of the 54 enrolled students, 28 are county corrections and 26 are Department of Corrections employees. Their graduation is November 26th.

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

Assistant Director Ryder spoke on the following topics.

Additional course offerings completed since September 2024 meeting:

- Urban Rifle Instructor Development, Sept 23 to 26, 2024 28 students
- LEPS Phase II, Maine Criminal Justice Academy, Sept 30 to Oct 11, 2024 30 students.
- Basic Juvenile Corrections Training Program, Oct 7 to Nov 8, 2024 10 students
- New Chiefs and Sheriffs Seminar, Oct 15 to 18, 2024 10 students
- Law Enforcement Chaplains Training, Oct 21 to 25, 2024 9 students
- Basic Corrections Training Program, Oct 22 to Nov 22, 2024 51 students

- Staff update:

OAI Debbie Dalzell will retire at the end of December after 6 years of service with MCJA. Debbie served as the bookkeeper for the Academy handling billing and accounts payable, as well as the BCTP / JBCTP, corrections related NOEs and NOTs, and end of year reporting. In September, Debbie received the Department of Public Safety Administrative Ace Award for her outstanding work. Debbie will be greatly missed and has done an excellent job training new staff to assume her role upon retirement.

- BLETP Cadre Warden Evan Ackley (Maine Warden's Service), Officer Derek Drouin (Auburn Police Department), and Investigator Doug Maher (Westbrook Police Department) will be rotating back to their agencies at the end of this class. Additionally, Sgt Scott Hamilton (Maine State Police) has been assigned to other duties pending his planned retirement later this month.
- 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)

The 47th BLETP will move to 80 students and the Cadre will increase to 7 in an effort to manage the additional capacity.

Building Update:

- We continue to work with staff and Bureau of General Services to identify and correct issues with the building. We are currently experiencing ongoing heating issues with B Building resulting in consistent temperatures between 75 F and 80 F in most workspaces. BGS has identified the problems and are waiting for necessary

components for the repair. Temporary repairs that were made to the A Building roof has helped with the water intrusion issues and will facilitate the billets and allow an increase from 74 to 80 students for the 47th BLETP.

Masonry work continues on the face of the building. Several more phases of renovation to complete and will likely continue into 2025.

Grants:

- COPS grant for FY24 SAFER OUTCOMES: Enhancing De-Escalation and Crisis Response Training For Law Enforcement that was submitted at the end of July was awarded to DPS / MCJA on 11/14/2024. The grant has a 2-year performance period and will create an approved de-escalation and crisis-response training curriculum which will be integrated throughout the Basic Law Enforcement Training Curriculum. The grant will be used to:
 1. Hire a project manager 20 hrs. a week during the performance period.
 2. Develop a de-escalation and crisis response training program for BLETP integration.
 - a. Host FSI Realistic De-escalation Instructor Class and train 20 SMEs identified to represent the entire state. These SMEs and this curriculum would be the basis for the de-escalation curriculum.
 3. RFP for updated Job Task Analysis for BLETP.
 4. From JTA, Tasks identified to extrapolate Instructional Blocks. Instructional Goals / Performance Objectives identified.
 5. Blocks for de-escalation instruction integration would be identified and Lesson Plans written for them using new de-escalation curriculum.
 6. Remaining blocks not integrated would need to be updated / written / re-written using alternative funding sources / existing SMEs and resources / etc.

Alfond Workforce Development Grant we have leveraged to defray up to 50% of the cost of staff training (up to \$1200 / employee per year) was renewed and will be available through 2030. We will continue to use these funds for staff development.

Rulemaking:

- Chapter 15: Standards of Conduct was reviewed by the AGs Office following adoption in September and will be approved in the next few days. Following this, I will file it with the Board of Corporations, Elections, and Commissions. Five days following the filing, the rule is in effect.
- A revision to Chapter 3: Entrance Standards is ready for review and discussion today. If approved, I will submit it through the rulemaking process in the coming weeks.

Assistant Director Ryder then asked that the Board review the revisions to Chapter 3: Entrance Standards out of order. He explained that the wording in requirements for admission to the Academy in order to be admitted to the BCTP Course needed to be changed as Maine changed from using the General Education Development Test (GED) to the High School Equivalency Test (HSET). (1-A)

2-A: Requirements in order to be admitted to the Law Enforcement Pre-Service Course was also changed from the GED to HSET with other standards to be consistent with full time law enforcement officers.

3. Requirements for Admission to the Academy. At the wish of the Board, the Academy's Alert Test would be eliminated and candidates "shall be able to read and write at a level necessary to successfully complete the Basic Law Enforcement Training Program as determined by the hiring agency."

MOTION: To authorize Academy staff to proceed with the proposed changes to Chapter 3: Entrance Standards, which would include the polygraph examination and psychological screening to be enacted by July1, 2026.

Motion made by Ms. Ward Saxl and seconded my DA Slattery. Motion Carried.

IX. Item Nine of the Agenda: Old Business

None at this time.

X. Item Ten of the Agenda: New Business

A. Rulemaking Chapter 3: Entrance Standards – Assistant Director Ryder
Assistant Director Ryder covered this item at the end of his report.

B. Dirigo Safety Gift Proposal

Chair Rumsey told the Board that Dirigo Safety's owner, Scot Mattox, gifted the Academy a new Power Point Projector but because of a state statute prohibiting the acceptance of that gift, it has been determined that this projector will remain the property of Dirigo Safety and be stored at the Academy for use by Dirigo and instructors.

C. Graduation Certificate Request

Director Peck explained to the Board that Thomas Burton, a current BLETP cadet, who is in good academic standing and who has completed all aspects of the BLETP so far, was ill during EVOC and could not complete that requirement. Due to the next EVOC being held in the Spring of 2025, Cadet Burton would not meet the graduation requirements. South Portland Police Chief Daniel Ahern has asked that Cadet Burton be issued a Waiver for the Law Enforcement Pre-Service, upon successful completion of the 46th BLETP, then have Burton complete the EVOC Training in the Spring which would complete his requirements for his full-time Law Enforcement Training Program Certification.

MOTION: To grant the waiver for the Law Enforcement Pre-Service Program upon successful completion of the 46th BLETP and 80 hours of Field Training with South Portland PD until Thomas Burton is able to complete EVOC in the Spring of 2025, where he would then receive his Full-time Law Enforcement Certification.

Motion made by Ms. Ward Saxl and seconded by Major King. **Motion Carried**

D. Less-Lethal munition Recommendation

Assistant Director Ryder spoke about the TASER 10, a less-lethal-munition that Training Coordinator and Firearms Instructor, Josh Daley and members of the Firearms Committee recommended being added to the approved list of less-than-lethal munitions.

MOTION: To add the TASER 10 to the Board of Trustees' approved list of less-than-lethal munitions.

Motion made by Commissioner Sauschuck and seconded by Colonel Scott.
Motion Carried.

Prior to adjournment, Assistant Director Ryder stated that under Rulemaking, Chapter 3, the final revision would include wording specifying that polygraph administration standards were approved by the Board on 1/1/2005.

XI. Item Eleven on the Agenda: Adjournment

Chair Rumsey called for a motion to adjourn the meeting.

**MOTION: To adjourn the November 15, 2024 Maine Criminal Justice Academy
Board of Trustees Meeting at 12:45 p.m.**

Motion made by DA Slattery and seconded by Ms. Ward Saxl. **Motion Carried.**


Mr. Mateo Mendoza