

Law Enforcement Advisory Board Meeting
Minutes of Meeting
November 8, 2012

- Rick Gauthier called the meeting to order at 1:04 pm with Board members Keith Clark, Tom L'Esperance, Michael O'Neil, Paco Aumand, Jim Leene, Glenn Button and non-board members Dave LeCours, Kevin McLaughlin, Roger Marcoux, Donald Hull, Allen Gilbert and Suellen Royea present. Tom Hanley participated by phone. John Treadwell and Jim Hughes joined the meeting at 1:11pm and 1:17 pm, respectively. (Karen Horn was in attendance from 1:00 – 2:00 pm.)
- Discussion Full-time versus part-time: Rick noted LEAB members received a copy of a survey prepared by the VT Criminal Justice Training Council in 2007 regarding Part-time Law Enforcement in the United States. Sheriffs expressed their concern about the importance of part-time officers and some of the limitations. The definition and duties of part-time was reviewed. A suggestion was made for a Tier type certification process to meet the needs of law enforcement. Other issues discussed included: monitoring part-time officers working for more than one department, part-time training, people who are not trained for certain things should not be doing them, once in a uniform public does not know they are only part-time, and that someone with limited hours of training has the same authority as someone with full-time training. Some thoughts were reviewed about additional training for part-time officers and the amount of experience someone may have versus just out of the Academy. A waiver program for someone to get credit for their experience was briefly reviewed. One concern raised was that the LEAB should not be in front of the Training Council; that the two groups should work together. It was noted that Constable's do have authority to enforce local ordinances even if they are not certified with law enforcement training, but since July 1, there is a requirement for them to go through the part-time training. A suggestion was made for this topic to be brought before the Training Council, which meets on December 4, 2012. The outcome will be discussed at the LEAB's next meeting on December 6, 2012. A report is due to the Legislature on January 15, 2013 from the LEAB with a recommendation.
- Report from working group: Rick Gauthier gave an overview of what the working group has been working on; short term versus long-term of moving concept along, hiring standards, and strengthening the decertification process. One issue that continues to be at the forefront is that the Criminal Justice Training Council needs to be given the authority to establish the hiring and training standards, and enforce the decertification process. There was a discussion about the decertification process issues and hiring standards. A question was raised about how changes would affect tuition students. It was noted that this has not been resolved yet. A discussion was held on how the Academy is viewed; a state educational facility versus police academy. Paco Aumand described the working group's discussion around licensing versus certificates/endorsements and explained the terminology. Alan Gilbert added that the issues being discussed are encountered in other occupations. He described certification as the requirements you need to meet to get into a profession and licensing is something you get to

continue to work in the profession. He gave an example of a peer review board model used by nurses. The working groups direction was reviewed; strengthening hiring standards, certification/licensing; establish decertification process and better access to information about officers who have been decertified; give necessary authority to the Training Council; and possibly establishing another subcommittee to deal with complaints. It was noted that local police/sheriff departments should not lose control in the decertification process and that the Training Council should be the ones writing the rules. Resignations and criminal charges of law enforcement officers were reviewed. A suggestion was made to get the Training Council's feedback as the LEAB is charged with proposing a recommendation.

- Model Policy for assaulting health care workers: Rick Gauthier reported that an email was sent to the Representative requesting a model policy for further information and received a response that it was still pending, but was asked to wait until after election. Paco Aumand also had a conversation with him and advised that law enforcement does not generally put out model policy. During Paco's conversation, the Representative indicated his concern was to educate law enforcement that it was a crime to assault health care workers and was trying to get the word out. The Board had decided not to write a specific model policy at its last meeting. Rick will touch base with the Representative.
- Paco Aumand noted that a law was passed several years ago which made it illegal for someone to breach a database. This is something new for law enforcement to deal with and raised the question of who has the responsibility to put out notices of law changes.
- Meeting adjourned at 2:22 pm.