

LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS  
STANDARDS AND TRAINING COMMISSION  
DCI Conference Room  
George Mickelson Criminal Justice Center  
Pierre, SD  
August 28, 2024

The South Dakota Law Enforcement Officers Standards and Training Commission meeting was called to order on August 28, 2024, in the DCI Conference Room at the George Mickelson Criminal Justice Center. This meeting was conducted both in-person as well as via virtual teleconference.

Roll call was taken with the following members responding: Steve Allender, Municipal League; Casey Collins, SD Highway Patrol Superintendent; Andy Howe, Clay County Sheriff; Marty Jackley, Attorney General; Jessica Quigley, Tea Chief of Police; Kathy Peterson, Rapid City; Jay Rasmussen, Sioux Falls; Troy VanDusen, Codington County Commissioner; and Neil Fulton, USD School of Law Dean, joined the meeting later. Others present included Dan Satterlee, Chairman; Hank Prim, Executive Secretary; Kim Knecht, Assistant Law Enforcement Training Administrator; Law Enforcement Training and DCI Staff. Commission Members, Joan Machione, Special Agent, FBI; Gary Gaikowski, Sisseton-Wahpeton Chief of Police; and Tom Wollman, Lincoln County State's Attorney were absent.

Chairman Satterlee declared a quorum present.

The following agenda amendment was approved on a **motion** by Commission Member Allender, **second** by Commission Member Peterson, motion **approved**.

- Remove Candi Sutton, Sturgis Police Department, request for certification reinstatement.

Chairman Satterlee opened the floor for public comments. There were no public comments and/or testimony on the agenda items.

Executive Prim presented and reviewed the proposed technical college articulation agreement.

- The updated agreement is a standard form and template to provide clarity, compliance, and consistency.
- The proposed agreement has been presented for review to each technical college, Southeast, Lake Area, and Western Dakota.
- Each technical college will be required to map the curriculum and objectives to the basic course in Pierre and aligns the program curriculum to meet the required equivalent and quality standards.
- The agreement will be renewed on an academic year cycle, August - July.

Staff recommendation - to accept the proposed agreement and authorize the Chairman to sign the agreement on behalf of the commission.

**Motion** by Commission Member Jackley to approve the template and have the Chairman sign on behalf of the Commission, **second** by Commission Member Collins, motion **approved**.

Dr. Bolman and Staff (Tiffany Howe, Vice President for Teaching and Learning, Program Director Jonni Joyce, and Consultant Kevin Thom) addressed the concerns that led to the January 2024 termination of the Commission's articulation agreement with Western Dakota Technical College (WDTC).

- There has been a substantial and extensive process to bring their program into compliance;
- Leadership changes and curriculum revamps have taken place;
- New program leadership. The program director has been working to improve the working relationship between WDTC and the South Dakota Law Enforcement Academy. The director has worked to update the program curriculum and to incorporate the state curriculum into WDTC's program.
- The four areas of concern that were identified have been addressed:
  1. Submitting inaccurate/false reports:

All faculty will submit records in WDCT's grading system within 48 hours of student testing. Failure to comply will lead to instructors not being asked to return in future semesters.
  2. Presenting students for testing prior to the final program semester:

This will be communicated to the student and the South Dakota Law Enforcement Training Center when the student will be eligible to take the reciprocity exam.
  3. Failure to record and report required retention information:

The data will be reported to the program director. The program student's records will be shared with the program director and the vice president to ensure this is accurate information.
  4. Instructor credential records:

The Human Resources office will be responsible for instructor credentials for the law enforcement program. The Human Resources Office will make sure instructors have the credentials required by the State. Instructors who do not provide their credentials will not be approved to instruct.

President Bolman advised members that communication was the primary deficiency. The qualifications for adjunct instructors wasn't handled by the human resources department. Western Dakota has adopted the State curriculum and has aligned the training objectives across the two-year program. The amount of time students spend in the areas of firearms and emergency vehicle operations has been increased. This will improve student success and increase the pass rate. Instructors are going to be held accountable, if they are not performing, they will not be retained. President Bolman and Staff are grateful to Hank Prim and team for addressing concerns and willingness to rebuild rapport between WDTC and the South Dakota Law Enforcement Training Center.

**Motion** by Commission Member Jackley, to approve the Western Dakota proposed program, if necessary, have the Chair or other staff sign on behalf of the Commission, **second** by Commission Member VanDusen, motion **approved**.

**Caleb Dirksen** along with Rusty Schmidt, Pennington County Sheriff's Office Training Coordinator, are present via teleconference requesting certification reinstatement. Dirksen completed the 176<sup>th</sup> 520-hour Basic Officer Certification course and was certified in February 2021. He was employed with the Pennington County Sheriff's Office in 11/2020 and was transferred to Transport Officer, a non-law enforcement position, in 6/2021. His certification lapsed in 8/2023. He was transferred from Transport Officer to Deputy Sheriff on 5/13/2024. He is currently attending a 16-week Field Training Program and will be required to participate in law enforcement in-service training from September - December 2024.

Staff recommendation - reinstate certification contingent on completion of outstanding continuing education requirements. **Motion** by Commission Member Quigley to accept the request for certification reinstatement, **second** by Commission Member Howe, motion **approved**.

Executive Secretary Prim presented the following reciprocity requests:

**Tyler Wallert**, Flandreau Police Department, completed the Minnesota West Community and Technical College Peace Officer A.A.S. program 8/2020 - 5/2022. The program is approved by the Minnesota POST and qualifies students for licensing as a Peace Officer in Minnesota upon completing the A.A.S. degree. His Peace Officer license was issued on 9/22/2022. He was hired by the Flandreau Police Department on 10/19/2023. Tyler completed the reciprocity exam in April 2024. The background check revealed no adverse information. Tyler attended the skills and classroom requirements during the April 15 - 19, 2024, reciprocity training week. He did not successfully demonstrate proficiency in EVOC skills. He completed the 40-hour EVOC training week July 15 - 19, 2024, during the 192<sup>nd</sup> Basic Training Session. **Motion** by Commission Member Fulton to grant reciprocity certification to Officer Wallert, **second** by Commission Member VanDusen, motion **approved**.

**Morgan Rein**, Moody County Sheriff's Office, completed the Lake Area Technical College Law Enforcement Program in May 2024. Morgan completed the reciprocity exam in April 2024. The background check revealed no adverse information. Morgan attended the May 6 - 7, 2024, reciprocity skills requirements and did not successfully demonstrate proficiency in firearms. Morgan completed the reciprocity skills firearms qualification on June 12, 2024. **Motion** by

Commission Member Rasmussen to grant Morgan Rein reciprocity certification, **second** by Commission Member Howe, motion **approved**.

The following canine teams have met the requirements for certification or recertification:

- Canine Team **Joshua Lee and K9 Hari**, Brown County Sheriff's Office, have met the requirements for Drug Detection recertification on June 18, 2024;
- Canine Team **Brandon Fisher and K9 Ringo**, Hand County Sheriff's Office, have the requirements for Drug Detection recertification on June 18, 2024; and
- Canine Team **Chris Happe and K9 Bleu**, South Dakota Department of Corrections, have met the requirements for Corrections Service Dog recertification on August 13, 2024.

**Motion** by Commission Member Collins to approve the canine certification listing as presented, **second** by Commission Member Peterson, motion **approved**.

Commission Member VanDusen has reviewed several complaints. Executive Secretary Prim initially determined the complaints did not warrant presentation to the full commission. Commission Member VanDusen concurred with the Executive Secretary's decision. The complaint dispositions were accepted as reported in Attachment A.

The Professional Standards Unit will move out of Law Enforcement Training and to DCI Field Operations under Assistant Director Mosteller. SA Jeff Kollars will be taking over as the Professional Standards Unit Leader under the supervision of SSA Matt Glenn. SA John Basche will be assigned part-time to the Unit. Special Agents Kollars and Basche will cover and investigate East River and Guy DiBenedetto will cover and investigate West River complaints.

There being no further business to come before the meeting body, the meeting was adjourned on a **motion** by Commission Member Quigley, **second** by Commission Member Collins, motion **approved**.