

# **Police Officers Commission on Standards & Training**

## **Meeting Minutes**

**May 22, 2008**

### **I. Call to order**

**Colonel Stephen M. McCartney called to order the regular meeting of the Police Officers Commission on Standards & Training (POST) at 10:04 a.m. on May 22, 2008 in RIMPA-Lincoln.**

### **II. Roll call**

**Colonel McCartney stated for the record that all POST members were present with the exception of Colonel Brendan Doherty and Captain David Ricciarelli who is with the class and will arrive late. The following persons were present: Colonel Stephen M. McCartney, Chief George L. Kelley, III, Chief Anthony Pesare, Chief Anthony J. Silva, Mr. Robert Driscoll, Mr. Richard B. Woolley, Esq., Captain David Ricciarelli, Captain Glen Shibley, Donna Lavalley. Also present was Anthony Brahishma, Summer Intern.**

### **III. Approval of minutes from last meeting**

**Colonel McCartney asked for approval of the minutes from the last meeting dated February 15, 2008. (Captain David Ricciarelli is now present for the meeting at 10:10 a.m.). The minutes were approved following no further discussion. Chief Pesare made a motion to accept the minutes; Chief Kelley seconded the motion. After no further discussion and all in favor (4-0), the minutes were accepted.**

**IV. Presentation by the R.I. Interlocal Trust, Police Tactical Team workgroup, re: recommendations relative to POST's 2003 Police Tactical Team Training Certification Program.**

**Colonel McCartney introduced the two members from the R.I. Interlocal Trust who are present to make the presentation - - Paul Dutra and Paul Brouillette. Also present are three members of R.I.T.O.A. - - Sgt. Carmody, Lt. Carnevale and Capt. Schaffran.**

**Before the presentation begins, Chief Silva formally introduced the summer intern, Anthony Brahishma. He is a Junior at Roger Williams University studying Crim. Justice and he will be putting together our policies, similar to what last year's intern started for us.**

**Paul Dutra gave everyone a hand-out detailing the overview of this project and what has been accomplished to date. He spoke of the Trust and their involvement in this Certification Project as well as the assistance from the Tactical Teams, RILETA, etc. Paul Brouillette then showed a Power Point presentation with a hard-copy given to all present.**

**Colonel McCartney commended the Trust for putting it all together. He said he was able to sit in at one meeting and things were progressing quickly, everyone involved has taken a great leap of faith to move on this and he is very impressed with all parties involved and with the work produced. He is enthusiastically supportive of their work and the work of all the members.**

**Paul Dutra stated that this is just the beginning of the process. There are two more matters that the POST will need to deal with and that is:**

**1. The POST will have to set up the process to evaluate trainings out**

of state.

2. The POST will need to turn to the Tactical Officers and RILETA for input.

Chief Silva asked that are we to assume that if the POST accepts this plan, anyone who deploys a tactical team from today on is in violation of the plan? Paul Dutra said no, these requirements would be effective from this day forward..they would not be retroactive. Any new member assigned to a SWAT team would have to meet these standards.

Chief Silva asked if the POST approved this today, should he recommend to the POST that this take effective 7-1-09 or 1-1-09 or sometime in the future to give everyone enough time. Once the POST takes action, no one can be deployed without certification. Paul Dutra stated the POST could defer for one year the implementation of this so departments could train individuals. He feels that maybe some verbiage could be added to the provision that it would not take effect until passage and have no impact retroactively. The 2003 plan would still be in effect anyway.

Chief Silva asked if he should recommend to the POST today with an effective date later in the future. Colonel McCartney agreed and said to use that date in the motion. Mr. Driscoll asked if it would make sense to certify existing teams and Colonel McCartney replied stating to change the wording perhaps to include “new” appointments and that will protect the team in place now.

Chief Silva asked if the POST approved this today for “new” teams and new members, then teams already in place doing very little

training and they will exist in less than satisfactory training standards. He recommends leaving the language alone and suggests that the POST pass today with a date for everyone to meet the standards and everyone must meet by the benchmark date. He also added that everyone has done a phenomenal job and has gone above and beyond expectations! He will send a letter to all departments explaining if they have a team, they must comply by the given date.

Colonel McCartney added that if the POST approves this, it will need to be monitored state-wide as there are 14 teams. He suggests that the POST give the Director of the Academy the authority to appoint a 3-member revision team representing R.I.T.O.A. Chief Pesare agreed and stated it should be passed with an effective date. Colonel McCartney then asked the three members present if 1/1/09 would be a reasonable date. They agreed 1/1/09 would be plenty of time to have everyone meet the standards. Paul Dutra thought 1/1/09 might be a little too aggressive. Chief Silva agreed on 7/1/09 and that would give everyone plenty of time.

Colonel McCartney asked Mr. Woolley if he was comfortable with this and he said he was. Paul Dutra asked if the POST recommends that between now and 7/1/09 the 2003 plan would not be in effect. Chief Kelley agreed, stating it would be a good idea for liability purposes. Mr. Woolley stated that if this is approved, it would become effective immediately and this supercedes 2003 and those standards would be suspended.

Chief Pesare made a motion for the POST to accept that the 2003 POST certified standards for the Tactical teams are hereby

suspended. The POST is adopting the new May, 2008 standards as developed by the Tactical Committee and those standards must be met by 7/1/09 and any team deployed after 7/1/09 cannot be deployed until they have met the standards.

This motion was seconded by Chief Kelley.

Under discussion, Chief Silva added to the motion that the Director of R.I.M.P.A. be authorized to appoint members of R.I.T.O.A. to assist in the review of the departments certification.

Chief Kelley made a motion to add to the above motion that the POST gives authority to the Director of RIMPA or his designee to go to R.I.T.O.A. for guidance in getting the certifications completed. Chief Pesare seconded the motion. All in favor 4-0. Motion carries.

Under discussion, Chief Silva asked that the motion be amended to say a three-member panel. Chief Kelley made a motion to amend the above motion to state that the POST gives authority to the Director of RIMPA or his designee to go to R.I.T.O.A. and form a 3-member panel for guidance in getting the certifications completed. Chief Pesare seconded the motion. All in favor 4-0. Motion carries.

#### **V. Update on current 2008-II recruit class and schedule.**

Chief Silva began by stating we currently have a running in-service training going on now - - Mental Health – First Aid for Law

**enforcement which is being facilitated by Joe Coffey of Warwick PD and Lifewatch.**

**Capt. Shibley stated the recruit class is in Week 10. This class size is 19 and has members from 12 agencies. Capt. Ricciarelli stated the class is progressing well, no major incidents and they, so far, have excelled in leadership.**

**At 11:00 a.m., the Commission took a short break to view the in-service Mental Illness training.**

**At 11:15 a.m., the Commission meeting resumed.**

#### **VI. Update on grants**

**Director Silva confirmed that we have been awarded the \$188,000 Kennedy grant and he is in the process of getting together with Roger Williams University, Salve Regina and C.C.R.I. to assist with the grant proposal. Also, we have been awarded a grant with the 100-Club and will get going on a Job Task Analysis, which is overdue.**

**VI. Request from Warden Wayne Salisbury for a review and approval of the in-service training program for correctional officers at the Wyatt Detention Facility.**

**Director Silva directed everyone to their packets which includes a letter from Warden Salisbury with an attachment of the 2008 in-service training block for the Wyatt Detention Center. By statute, this must be forwarded to the POST annually for review and approval.**

**The contents are pretty much the same as 2007 with a few extra hours of training which is positive.**

**Chief Kelley made a motion to accept the 2008 in-service training schedule for the Wyatt Detention Facility and Chief Pesare seconded the motion. All in favor, 4-0. Motion carries.**

**VII. Update on RIMPA BJA application for grant funding – Mental Health awareness.**

**Capt. Shibley spoke on the progress of this grant application. He said that it was a successful combined effort and he feels it has a strong possibility of being chosen as a model. The grant would be for a total of \$250,000.**

**VIII. Request for R.I. Re-Certification by Capt. Leo D. Messier, RISP (ret)**

**Chief Silva stated that he received a call from (ret) Leo D. Messier of the RISP who applied for a position with Brown University and was rejected, stating he wasn't certified. Chief Silva states that he meets requirement (d) in the 3-year rule; therefore, he has already sent him a letter approving his certification, pending the POST approval.**

**Chief Pesare made a motion to approve Leo D. Messier as a certified police officer. Mr. Driscoll seconded the motion. All in favor, 4-0. Motion carries.**

**IX. Discussion of (new) R.I. Department of Public Safety oversight of POST.**

**Chief Pesare stated that as everyone is aware, there is a new statute which establishes the POST to fall under the Public Safety division.**

**Because of this, he and Richard Woolley have done some research as to whether or not there would be a conflict with Colonel Doherty sitting as a member of the POST. Mr. Woolley stated that he has also conferred with Gerald Coyne, Assistant A.G. and it is there opinion that at this time, there is no conflict. Essentially, all public safety agencies will be lumped together and it will be the same as the Colonel being the Director of Public Safety and the Colonel of the RISP. He sees no problem with it and does not foresee any issues.**

**X. Discussion of House Bill 7645/Senate Bill 2318, transferring oversight of Domestic Violence Training and Mentoring Unit from the State courts to the POST.**

**Director Silva stated that this item is an FYI. Currently the Domestic Violence unit, falls under the court but Chief Justice Williams sees a conflict with that and there is a proposal in the legislature to house them under RIMPA. By doing this, we would inherit two FTE's at RIMPA. Their budget would transfer to RIMPA. Testimony was heard last week and appears it has the support needed to pass and that this transfer will, in fact, happen. If it does, job descriptions will be modified. Chief Silva described this as a very positive move for RIMPA. Aside from gaining two FTE's and their budget, it would enable us to utilize them for training and assistance with our recruits and in-service trainings. All members agreed that this would be a positive addition to RIMPA.**

**XI. Discussion of establishing the position of "Law enforcement**

**Highway Safety Coordinator” at the Academy.**

**Chief Silva went into a brief explanation of Colonel Sullivan’s position as the L.E. Liaison for Highway Safety and that this position was recently abolished. Chief Silva met with Highway Safety and N.H.T.S.A. reps. recently to see if we could resurrect this training position and house it here at RIMPA. There is over \$300,000.00 of Federal monies and R.I. is the only state not using the money or staffing this position. The only problem comes in to play when petitioning the State to have his position under RIMPA—we cannot get an FTE. However, if he writes a good letter for a limited FTE position, there’s a good chance it would get accepted. He asked if Colonel McCartney would write one as well on behalf of the POST.**

## **XII. Review of Continuing Ed Calendar**

**Captain Ricciarelli announced that we will have hosted approximately 50 in-service trainings by June. Between 1400-1600 officers have been trained - - we have had 24 trainings alone in the last six months. Our in-service trainings have been a huge success and we anticipate a very aggressive calendar coming in June.**

## **XIII. Approval of RIMPA COOP (Continuity of Operations Plan) For RIEMA/DOHS.**

**The COOP Plan is attached for everyone’s review. Mr. Driscoll made a motion to approve the RIMPA COOP Plan and Chief Pesare seconded the motion. All in favor, 4-0. Motion carries.**

**Before adjournment, Chief Silva reminded everyone of graduation for the Recruit Class 2008-II is Friday, June 27, 2008. Because of the State's financial crisis and our looming budget, we will NOT be sending out hard copy invitations- - we will be sending them out via e-mail. Also, immediately after adjournment, he would like to pull the recruits out of class and perform an inspection.**

### **XIII. ADJOURNMENT**

**Chief Kelley made a motion to adjourn the POST meeting of May 22, 2008. Chief Pesare seconded the motion. Meeting was adjourned at 11:58a.m.**

**Minutes submitted by: Donna M. Lavalley**