



# Ohio Collaborative Community-Police Advisory Board

August 3, 2016 Meeting Summary

On December 12, 2014, Governor John Kasich signed Executive Order 2014-06K announcing the creation of the **Ohio Task Force on Community-Police Relations**. The charge of the Task Force is threefold: 1) To explore the cause of fractured relationships between communities and law enforcement, 2) To examine strategies to strengthen trust between the community and law enforcement in order to resolve the underlying causes of friction; and 3) To provide the Governor with a report with recommendations about best practices available to communities. As a result of the work of the Task Force, on April 30, 2015, Governor John Kasich signed Executive Order 2015-04K establishing the **Ohio Collaborative Community-Police Advisory Board**.

The Collaborative is chaired by Director John Born, Office of Public Safety, and The Honorable Nina Turner, former Ohio Senator. Members appointed by the Governor, including ex officio members, are identified below:

- Sergeant Brian S. Armstead—Akron Police Department, member of the Fraternal Order of Police
- Dr. Ronnie Dunn—Cleveland State University, Professor of Urban Studies and member of the NAACP Criminal Justice Committee
- The Reverend Damon Lynch III—senior pastor, New Prospect Baptist Church
- Chief Michael J. Navarre—Oregon Police Department, member of the Ohio Association of Chiefs of Police
- Honorable Ronald J. O’Brien—Franklin County Prosecutor
- Sheriff Tom Miller—Medina County Sheriff’s Office, member of the Buckeye State Sheriff’s Association
- Commissioner Lori Barreras—member of the Ohio Civil Rights Commission
- Councilman Michael H. Keenan—City of Dublin, local government representative
- Austin B. Harris—student at Central State University

Ex officio members:

- The late Honorable George V. Voinovich—former U.S. Senator, Governor of Ohio, and Mayor of Cleveland
- The late Honorable Louis Stokes, former member of Congress
- The Honorable Tom Roberts, former Ohio senator, life member of the NAACP
- Senator Cliff K. Hite, Ohio Senate
- Senator Sandra Williams, Ohio Senate
- Representative Tim Derickson, Ohio House

The purpose of the Collaborative is to advise and work with the Office of Criminal Justice Services (OCJS) in the Ohio Department of Public Safety to implement the Task Force’s recommendations, as identified in the Executive Order.

## August 3, 2016, Columbus, OH Meeting of the Ohio Collaborative Community-Police Advisory Board

The Collaborative meeting was held on August 3, 2016 at the Ohio Department of Public Safety. The meeting began at 10:10 A.M. The following members were present at the meeting:

- Director John Born
- Executive Director Karhlton Moore
- The Honorable Nina Turner
- Commissioner Lori Barreras
- Dr. Ronnie Dunn
- Councilman Michael Keenan
- Sheriff Tom Miller
- Chief Michael Navarre
- The Honorable Ron O'Brien
- The Honorable Tom Roberts

Director Born welcomed members of the Collaborative. A moment of silence was held for the late Honorable George Voinovich, who served as honorary co-chair of the Task Force and ex officio member of the Collaborative.

Executive Director Karhlton Moore provided an update on agency certifications of the two standards that were developed on use of force and recruiting and hiring. He reminded members of the certification process: 1) Standards are passed by the Collaborative; 2) OCJS staff and partners review self-certification submissions from local law enforcement, after which provisional certifications are given; 3) Assessors conduct on-site reviews to ensure agencies are in compliance with the standards, after which full certifications are awarded. In March 2017, a report will be produced on the first two standards. A plea was made for agencies to get their certification documentation in to OCJS as soon as possible to avoid a last-minute rush.

The following statistics were provided:

- 956 law enforcement agencies in Ohio
- 162 agencies submitted applications
  - 52 provisional certifications were awarded
  - 32 final certifications were awarded

Executive Director Moore then thanked BSSA, OACP, and the assessors who were present at the meeting.

Next, Director Born summarized the standards to be finalized. He turned the meeting over to Executive Director Moore to begin discussion on the draft regarding community engagement.

### Community engagement standard

Executive Director Moore noted that a draft of the community engagement standard was distributed at the last meeting and feedback was received from the members. Additionally, OACP provided a version of the standard, which was given to Collaborative members. Chief Navarre summarized the opinions of OACP members on the original draft, which they felt needed to be more succinct. OACP's version of the community engagement standard was separated into three components: Purpose, Standard, and Commentary. Collaborative members agreed that this version of the standard was more digestible, and Senator Turner suggested that the previous two standards be revised to be consistent with this format. Director Born agreed that this could be done.

There was consensus from the group for the revised standard on community engagement, and the community engagement standard was adopted.

Executive Director Moore then offered the next standards to be developed: body worn cameras, biased-based policing, and law enforcement dispatcher training.

### Body-worn cameras standard

The Collaborative members offered their thoughts on issues to be considered when developing this standard. These issues include:

- Necessity of a statement on the release of public records
- Whether officers should be able to review footage when writing their reports
- When cameras should be used, and what should be exempt
- Concerns regarding victims of sexual assault, human trafficking, minors, medical conditions/HIPAA

Chief Navarre noted that we have to avoid writing state law. The core elements/guiding principles should be included in the standard, but it should not be prescriptive.

### Bias-based policing

Director Born noted that the draft standard contained four elements, but a fifth element should be considered: the collection of data. Dr. Dunn stressed the importance of data collection as evidence of what is occurring in the field, and noted that data provides a sense of transparency and trust within the impacted communities. If we are to move the needle on police-community relations, this is the place to start. How we go about doing so is what the Collaborative needs to discuss.

Chief Navarre noted that OACP is not opposed to data collection. The most common data collection elements being collected by departments is the race and gender of drivers of all self-initiated traffic stops through their CAD systems. The controversy begins when officers have to complete paperwork on each passenger in the vehicle. CALEA says that if an agency collects data, they need to meet with community leaders at least annually to discuss the findings. One thing the Chief noted is that if departments are mandated to collect data, there tends to be a decrease in self-initiated stops. The

question is whether the standard should mandate such data collection. Dr. Dunn pointed out that data is really the only way to demonstrate to the community whether biased policing exists.

Collaborative members discussed the pros and cons of mandating versus encouraging data collection. Some argued that mandating data collection would be difficult for the majority of Ohio's agencies, which may lack the resources to do so. Others argued that the purpose for the standard is to elevate agencies, and if data collection is optional many agencies simply won't do it. Senator Turner noted that the Collaborative can advocate for resources to assist agencies in collecting data. It was suggested by some to mandate limited data collection, such as self-initiated traffic stops.

Executive Director Moore reminded the Collaborative that the purpose is not to find the 'bad' officer but rather to support good officers. Being certified on these standards is a great asset for agencies to show the public.

Collaborative members were told to send their thoughts on this standard to Executive Director Moore prior to the December 1<sup>st</sup> meeting.

#### Law enforcement dispatching

Collaborative members looked over the text for the law enforcement dispatching standard. The amount of training being required (4 weeks) is reasonable, and should probably be considered a minimum. A question was asked as to whether the call-taker and the dispatcher are the same individual or two different individuals. In general, for larger agencies there is a separate dispatcher and call-taker. Dispatching is a very stressful job, and many dispatchers start their careers off as call-takers. A decision needs to be made as to whom this training applies—both the call-taker and dispatcher or just one or the other. Director Born asked the members to provide feedback to Executive Director Moore.

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, December 1, 2016 at 10:00 A.M.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:52 A.M.