Ohio Collaborative Community-Police Advisory Board

October 2, 2015 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:

- Officer Detective 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
- The Most Reverend George Murry—Bishop of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Youngstown
- 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
- Lori Barreras—member of the Ohio Civil Rights Commission
- Mayor Michael H. Keenan—City of Dublin, local government representative
- Austin B. Harris—student at Central State University

Ex officio members:

- The Honorable George V. Voinovich—former U.S. senator, governor of Ohio, and mayor of Cleveland
- The late Honorable Louis Stokes, former member of Congress, honorary co-chair
- 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.
October 2, 2015, Columbus, OH Meeting of the Ohio Collaborative Community-Police Advisory Board

The Collaborative meeting was held on October 2, 2015 at 10:00 AM at the Ohio Department of Public Safety. The following members were present at the meeting:

- Executive Director Karhlton Moore
- Director John Born
- The Honorable Nina Turner
- The Honorable Ron O’Brien
- The Honorable Tom Roberts
- Dr. Ronnie Dunn
- Reverend Damon Lynch III
- Chief Michael Navarre
- Mayor Michael Keenan
- Sheriff Tom Miller
- Commissioner Lori Barreras
- Representative Tim Derickson

Director Born welcomed members of the Collaborative. The meeting started with a presentation by Dr. Lisa Shoaf, from the office of Criminal Justice Services. Dr. Shoaf presented on the research associated with body cameras. She noted that because of the relative newness of the technology, there is not much research on body camera use by law enforcement. Early findings from the literature suggest that officer use of force incidents decrease, as do citizen complaints, but the reasons as to why these decreases occur are not fully understood. Law enforcement note specific concerns about what the cameras ‘see’ versus what an officer sees during an incident, and that cameras cannot replace a thorough investigation. Resources needed to implement a body camera program need to be carefully considered, especially ancillary costs and resources required for storage, for video review and redaction, and for development of extensive policies and training. Additionally, the impact on the agency is tremendous, affecting everyone from the line officer who uses the camera, to the supervisors, analysts, IT, legal department, internal affairs, and executives. Finally, research is needed to look into critical issues such as officer and victim privacy when cameras are in use.

After much discussion on the topic of body cameras, Director Born asked the group for consensus on developing standards for body worn cameras. The group agreed.

The second presenter was Executive Director Karhlton Moore, who discussed community engagement in the Los Angeles Police Department. Their Community Relations Section works with the community to identify and address issues that could lead to civil unrest. They use the SARA model (scanning, analysis, response, assessment) for problem solving. However, officers are not just problem solvers—they are leaders and mentors, and not every officer is suited to work in the community in this capacity. Executive Director Moore noted the role of the Community-Police Advisory Board, or CPAB, in setting goals for the community. Examples of community-police engagement include the “Safe Passage” model, which
involves community members being present outdoors before and after school hours to watch children as they go to and from school and ensure their safe passage.

Examples of programs in which law enforcement actively engage with the community were provided in a handout to Collaborative members.

At the conclusion of Executive Director Moore’s comments, Director Born asked whether the Collaborative should move forward on formulating standards on community engagement, to which the members agreed.

Dr. Dunn inquired as to how we (the Collaborative) identify which policies we should address next. He noted that racial profiling and bias need to be addressed sooner rather than later. Director Born and others agreed, and expanded the development of policy to include bias-based policing standards.

Reverend Lynch asked how we should let the community know of the work of the Collaborative. Through The Buckeye State Sheriff’s Association and the Chiefs of Police Association are kept apprised of the work of the Collaborative, so what should we be doing to keep the public informed? Senator Turner and others agreed with Reverend Lynch’s point and noted that we need to go out as a group and promote our work using a variety of ways, including social media. Director Born reminded the group about the awareness campaign that we plan to develop, and that vendors will be submitting bids for.

Before we adjourned, Chief Navarre spoke briefly about the OACP’s reaction to the standards that were developed on the use of force, use of deadly force, and recruiting/hiring. Recruiting/hiring generated the most discussion, and Sheriff Miller noted that the same was true for the Buckeye State Sheriff’s Association.

The next meeting date will be decided upon in the upcoming weeks, and it will likely be in January. The members will receive some model policies to review, and are asked to send their thoughts and ideas on developing standards prior to the next meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:50 P.M.