



Ohio Collaborative Community- Police Advisory Board

February 17, 2017 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 Senator
- Senator Sandra Williams, Ohio Senator
- The Honorable Tim Derickson, former Ohio Representative

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.

February 17, 2017, Columbus, OH Meeting of the Ohio Collaborative Community-Police Advisory Board

The Collaborative meeting was held on February 17, 2017 at the Ohio Department of Public Safety. The meeting began at 10:05 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
- Sheriff Tom Miller
- Chief Michael Navarre
- The Honorable Ron O'Brien

Director Born welcomed members of the Collaborative.

Executive Director Moore discussed the Executive Order requiring the Office of Criminal Justice Services to produce a report on law enforcement agency adoption of the standards on use of force/deadly force and on recruiting and hiring. The report is due to the Governor at the end of March. He thanked the Ohio Association of Chiefs of Police and the Buckeye State Sheriffs' Association for their assistance in the agency certification process. He also thanked OCJS staff.

As of today, 451 agencies have begun the certification process, and of these, 179 have received final certification. In all, 24,776 officers, or 73 percent of officers in the state work at an agency working toward certification. These officers serve approximately 8 million Ohioans. This says a great deal about the leadership of the chiefs and sheriffs in the state. Executive Director Moore reminded agencies that although the February 1 deadline for guaranteed inclusion in the final report has passed, agencies can still submit their certification paperwork and OCJS will try to include them in the report.

Executive Director Moore pointed out that this effort in Ohio is unique and that the Department of Justice is interested in the statewide certification process.

The first presentation was given by Chief Paul Hartinger, Blue Ash Police Department, and Elizabeth Atwell, LSW, Executive Director, Mental Health America of Northern Kentucky and Southwest Ohio. Chief Hartinger spoke first, and highlighted the need for officers to be trained to respond appropriately to people with mental illness. CIT and related training, such as Mental Health First Aid training, are instrumental in how law enforcement respond to and even change their philosophy toward addressing people with mental illness or who are in crisis. Information was provided on the IACP One Mind Campaign, which seeks to ensure successful interactions between police officers and persons affected by mental illness. The One Mind Campaign consists of four strategies: 1) finding/developing partnerships; 2) developing and implementing a model policy addressing police response to those with mental illness; 3) utilizing the Mental Health First Aid training for all officers; 4) providing CIT training for a proportion of officers.

Elizabeth Atwell spoke next as an advocate for properly trained officers who can respond to persons in crisis. She noted that at the end of the day, CIT is not just about the response to an individual in crisis, but it is also about the officers that are able to go home safely and the partnerships that are established in the community. CIT can be implemented differently depending on the population being served in a community, but it can still happen in every agency. She recommended that agencies follow a mental health training curriculum that starts with basic training and Mental Health First Aid, followed by exposure in the field, and continuing with advanced/ongoing training.

The Chief concluded the presentation on CIT by asking the Collaborative to consider developing a standard that includes training on responding to persons with mental illness.

Collaborative members asked questions of the presenters. Chief Hartinger reported that officers initially reluctant to attend the training ultimately see the value. Sheriff Miller noted that his county has been doing CIT for years and now trains dispatchers. Ms. Atwell reported that all officers should have mental health training and enough officers should be CIT trained to ensure that every shift is covered. The Chief added that all his supervisors and dispatchers are trained. There is a CPT mandate through the Attorney General's Office on trauma informed care, and while the Chief noted that it is a great first step, it is web-based and may not be as effective a training tool as other forms of training.

The second presentation on racial intelligence was given by Chief Jeffrey Scott, Notre Dame College. He spoke very favorably about the need for law enforcement agencies to have policies designed to make law enforcement stronger and better and to ensure that they are doing their absolute best for citizens. Agencies should ask 'What can we do better?' to prepare and train officers. The Chief then discussed the training on Racial Intelligence which is a tool designed to improve the person, improve the profession, and build community trust. This one-day training covers two of the six pillars of the President's Task Force on 21st Century Policing—building trust and legitimacy and officer wellness and safety. He noted that this training is in line with the bias-free policing standard. Chief Scott commented that he is in favor of this standard, but has concerns about whether agencies can adequately collect the appropriate data to assure the community they are engaging in bias-free policing. Dr. Dunn responded that the Collaborative has been working diligently on this issue for months and that the overwhelming body of research supports the need for data collection. Chief Scott responded that he is fully supportive of data collection, but wants to make sure that it is done right.

The final item on the agenda was approval of the bias-free policing standard. Dr. Dunn thanked the Collaborative for their diligent work. The standard has been vetted with multiple entities, including the community and OACP. Chief Navarre explained that the standard mandates that data be collected, but not how it will be collected. A methodology was recommended in the standard. Chief Navarre pointed out that there will never be total support for this standard, as some felt that small agencies should be exempt, while others felt that those with body cameras should be exempt. Karhlton noted that the wording for this standard came largely from CALEA. After one minor edit was made to remove 'if applicable' from the 5th bullet, the standard was approved by the Collaborative members.

Director Born noted a change of venue for the upcoming Collaborative meetings. Upon Senator Turner's recommendation, the next three meetings will take place in the cities where the original Town Hall meetings were held—Cleveland, Toledo, and Cincinnati—and the public will be invited to attend. The dates and times for these meetings is to be determined.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:37 A.M.