Michigan Commission on Law Enforcement Standards
Commission Meeting Minutes
June 16, 2010
Lake Superior State University, Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan

COMMISSION MEMBERS PRESENT:

Sheriff James Bosscher, representing the Michigan Sheriffs' Association
Chief Doreen Olko, representing the Michigan Association of Chiefs of Police
Mr. John Buczek, representing the Fraternal Order of Police
Mr. Tom Cameron, representing Attorney General Mike Cox
Trooper Chris Luty, representing the Michigan State Police Troopers Association
Chief Richard Mattice, representing the Michigan Association of Chiefs of Police
Lt. Col. Timothy Yungfer, representing Colonel Peter C. Munoz, Michigan State Police
Mr. John Szczubelek, Commission Counsel

COMMISSION MEMBERS EXCUSED:

Mr. Marty Bandemer, representing the Detroit Police Officers Association
Professor Ron Bretz, representing the Criminal Defense Attorneys of Michigan
Mr. Jim DeVries, representing the Police Officers Association of Michigan
Director Kurt Jones, representing the Michigan Association of Chiefs of Police
Mr. David Morse, representing the Prosecuting Attorneys Association of Michigan
Sheriff Robert Pickell, representing the Michigan Sheriffs' Association
Mr. Fred Timpner, representing the Michigan Association of Police
Mr. Richard Weiler, representing Police Officers Labor Council
Deputy Chief Gail Wilson-Turner, representing Chief Warren Evans, Detroit Police Department
Sheriff Gene Wriggelsworth, representing the Michigan Sheriffs' Association

COMMISSION STAFF PRESENT:

Ms. Cheryl Hartwell
Mr. David King
Mr. Gary Ruffini
Mr. Lynn Ried
Mr. Wayne Carlson
Ms. Hermina Kramp
Mr. John Steele
Mr. Lawrence Jones

GUESTS (signing in):

Training Director Page Gordier, Lake Superior State University
Chief Louis Murray, Sault Ste. Marie Police Department
Captain Judd Price, Sault Ste. Marie Police Department
Undersheriff Bob Savoie, Chippewa County Sheriff's Office

CALL TO ORDER:

The Commission meeting was called to order by Sheriff Jim Bosscher at 10:00 a.m., at Lake Superior State University, Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan.

INTRODUCTIONS:

Dr. Ken Peres, Vice President of Student Affairs welcomed the Commission to Lake Superior State University. He stated that the university is very pleased to host the Commission meeting and he extended an invitation for the Commission to return to Lake State for future meetings.

Sheriff Bosscher asked all present to introduce themselves. He welcomed all in attendance to the meeting. He thanked Training Director Paige Gordier and Lake Superior State University, for hosting the Commission meeting.

ACCEPTANCE OF THE APRIL 21, 2010 COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES:

Since there was not a quorum present, the minutes from the April 21, 2010 Commission meeting will be reviewed and approved at the September 15th meeting.

ADDITIONS/CHANGES TO THE AGENDA:

There were no changes to the agenda.

CONSENT AGENDA:

There was no Consent Agenda.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

There was no public comment.

COMMISSION ATTORNEY REPORT:

Mr. Szczubelek provided a brief update of the Jeremy Lockwood case. The Commission revoked Mr. Lockwood's law enforcement license in April of 2010 for misrepresentation relative to his meeting the MCOLES color vision standard. He explained that there was a window of opportunity for Mr. Lockwood to file an appeal of the Commission's decision in Circuit Court, which they did not file. Therefore, the Commission's decision will stand and the facts in the hearing cannot be re-litigated in a court of law.

Mr. Lockwood's attorney currently has a civil suit pending in Clinton County Circuit Court regarding this matter. He has notified Mr. Szczubelek of their intent to amend the complaint to add additional items to the suit. Mr. Szczubelek will advise the Commission when the complaint is received and will continue to keep the Commission updated as this complaint progresses through circuit court.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT:

Law Enforcement Officer Position Report – Sheriff Bosscher stated that the number of law enforcement positions continues to decline. Currently Michigan is down 2,385 law enforcement positions since September 11, 2001.

Special Use Requests – Sheriff Bosscher stated that the Special Use Request activity that has been handled by staff since the last meeting is outlined in the Commission materials. There were no questions raised on any of these requests.

Grant Contract Adjustments – Sheriff Bosscher stated that the Grant Contract Adjustment activity that has been handled by staff since the last meeting is outlined in the Commission materials. There were no questions raised relative to these activities.

2009 Annual Report – Sheriff Bosscher stated that a copy of the 2009 MCOLES Annual Report was recently received and each Commissioner present received a copy of the report. He offered special thanks to Ms. Diane Horwath for all her work on this report. He also commended staff for all of the work that was completed and outlined in the report.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Executive Committee – Sheriff Bosscher stated that the committee met last night and discussed several matters that will be presented as informational items later in the meeting. The committee also discussed the pending legislation that may impact the Commission's Regular Employment Standard. In addition, there were a series of bills that involve the Corrections Training Fund. Representative Meadows has indicated that MCOLES will be removed from this legislation. The Commission will continue to monitor these bills.

Executive Director Selection Committee – Chief Olko stated that the committee has met a number of times and have made tremendous progress. She thanked Mr. David King for all his hard work on the process. Chief Olko stated that the Commission received 74 applications for the Executive Director position. From those 74 applications the committee narrowed the candidates to 15. These candidates were asked to submit an essay. To date, one candidate withdrew from the process and 14 essays were received. She stated that the Selection Committee met this morning and has identified five finalists. The committee set July 15th as the day when panel interviews will be completed. Chief Olko stated that there may be a need for a special Commission meeting in mid August to ensure that the candidates will be properly screened and a final candidate selected for presentation to the Commission at the September 15th meeting.

NEW BUSINESS:

Lake Superior State University Academy Presentation – Training Director Page Gordier provided a brief presentation outlining the structure of the police academy at Lake Superior State University. She stated that the criminal justice program is the largest program at Lake State. The academy students start the program in January and complete in June. Each of the current academy students graduated Lake State with a Bachelor's degree in May. Three options are available in the Lake State program. The options are law enforcement, public safety, and criminialistics. Tuition for the program is $2,500 per students. Michigan Works has been involved in providing funding for students. The University also utilizes Perkins grant funds to support the costs of academy activities.

Cultural Competency Curriculum Revision Adoption – Mr. Carlson provided an update to the Commission on behalf of Mr. Danny Rosa. The ALPACT group has been working with MCOLES to update and modernize the basic training curriculum in the academy that addresses this area. Currently there is an eight (8) hour module in the academy. The preliminary results of this project indicate that the current number of hours in the curriculum is adequate. The objectives have been updated to reflect the best practices in this area. The sample manual that was provided to the Commission is still being refined.

ARRA – Sexual Assault Training Project – Mr. Carlson stated that staff is working to create training content and support materials relative to sexual assault response training. The funds for this project are being provided by a grant from the federal government, and this project is part of a national initiative. The training is for licensed law enforcement officers and the basic academy module will also be updated in the near future. Seven major objectives have been developed. It is anticipated that the program will be 16 hours in length and will be modeled like the current domestic violence workshops. Training will be free of charge to participants and will be team taught by law enforcement and service providers. This is a two year project; the first year to develop materials and in the second year teams will be providing statewide training. Mr. Carlson stated that there will be a train-the-trainer program this summer.

LED Eligibility Review Process Report – Mr. Jones provided an update on the process for reviewing agencies that have old balances in their Michigan Justice Training funds. This effort is to bring these agencies back into eligibility should they choose to continue to participate in the program. Mr. Jones explained that the prevalent reason for the non-compliance status of these agencies have been changes in their administrations. Notices were sent to all agencies in this position and 12 agencies responded to and were resolved immediately.

Mr. Jones stated that he is working to contact the remaining agencies in an effort to bring them into compliance. He found that 27 agencies have disbanded but still have outstanding funds. He is attempting to work with treasurers, supervisors, etc at the local level to track down the expenditures to be able to close the file. Mr. Jones explained that this will be an on-going process as dynamics of law enforcement agencies continue to change and MCOLES will continue to be responsive to these types of needs.

The Commission requested staff to track the status of law enforcement agencies, much like the report that is provided at each meeting with respect to the law enforcement position strength. They asked that this information be provided at the next meeting.

Training Directors Meeting Report – Mr. Steele provide an update on the Training Director's Conference that was held at Grand Valley State University in April. He explained that some of the academies have reduced the number of sessions provided due to economic conditions in the state and the corresponding drop in the job market. A number of the academies have been pressured by their academic institution to better utilize technology in an attempt to reduce the overall cost of the academy. Online training delivery is being explored as this technology is currently being used by the academic institutions in other academic areas. Staff will continue to explore these types of efficiencies.

E-learning Pilot Project with Northern Michigan University – Mr. Carlson provided an update on this project. Northern Michigan University is currently pilot testing online learning in the area of first aid. The curriculum has been reviewed to ensure that all the training objectives are covered. This program is a blended learning program as there is a classroom requirement wherein the students are able to demonstrate first aid skills. The program will be monitored closely by instructors at NMU to ensure that these students are not disadvantaged in any way, due to participating in this pilot program, with respect to the licensing exam.

OLD BUSINESS:

Competitive Grant Process Workshop Update – Ms. Hartwell provide an update on the 2011 Competitive Grant process. Three grant application workshops were held in Gaylord, Ann Arbor, and East Lansing. A total of 36 eligible entities involving 82 individuals attended the workshops. The grant submission deadline is August 31, 2010.

The grant application has been modified consistent with the guidelines provided by the Implementation Committee and approved by the Commission at the April meeting. The former Grant Guidelines have been modified to include the changes in the process as well as making it a more complete manual that outlines the entire competitive grant program.

Fiscal Year 2011 Budget Update – Ms. Kramp provided an update on the MCOLES 2010/2011 budget. She explained the Governor's recommended budget and the budget bills that are currently progressing through the legislature. There are differences in the department's budget bills from the two chambers, so the bills will be sent to conference committee for resolve. Ms. Kramp explained that the position strength of MCOLES has been reduced in the proposed budget bills from 26 to 22 staff. The other major change is the removal of the Survivor Tuition program from MCOLES to the Department of Treasury, Office of Scholarships and Grants. A meeting is scheduled for next week to discuss the transition. Preliminary notifications will be sent to all participants to ensure a seamless transition.

The big issue remains the reduction to the Michigan Justice Training Fund. The revenue collections are continuing to decline and the interest paid on the account is also on a sharp decline. Ms. Kramp stated that the 2010 Spring Law Enforcement Distribution, with a per capita distribution amount of $98.80 should be released tomorrow.

Michigan Justice Training Fund Audit Report – Ms. Kramp stated that the Michigan Justice Training Fund audit (2008 & 2009), which is required every two years, is complete. The Final Report should be available for the Commission by the end of the summer. There were no material finds with the exception of them questioning the large amount of administrative costs to the fund in the fall of 2009. This action has been explained that the additional costs were a direct result of legislative action to the Commission's general fund budget.

MISCELLANEOUS:

Lt. Colonel Yungfer stated that Colonel Washington has announced a re-alignment of the department. MCOLES will move to the Administrative Services Bureau under the direction of Lt Colonel Christy Etue. The majority of the department will transition in July, but the MCOLES transition will be later in the year. A copy of the organizational chart will be provided to the Commission.

NEXT MEETING:

Date: Wednesday, September 15, 2010
Location: Wayne County Regional Training Academy

ADJOURNMENT:

A **MOTION** was made by Lt. Colonel Yungfer and supported by Chief Olko to adjourn the meeting.

A **VOTE** was taken. The **MOTION** carried unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:41 am.

APPROVED BY _____ ON 9-15-10

WITNESSED BY _____ ON 9/15/10