

**BLET ADVISORY GROUP
MEETING MINUTES
March 3, 2023
Cleveland Community College
Shelby, NC**

Jennifer Fisher called the meeting to order at 10:00 am and thanked everyone for attending the March 3, 2023, BLET Advisory Group meeting. Leann Supko conducted a formal roll call. A quorum was present. Jennifer Fisher recognized guests in attendance and asked that they introduce themselves.

Members Present:

Rick Barney, Craven Community College
Jaquelyn Bryley, Charlotte Mecklenburg Police Department
Jon Gregory, Wake Technical Community College
Kenneth Klamar, Sunset Beach Police Department
Rick Eades, Brunswick County Sheriffs' Office, Proxy for Sammy Turner
Aaron Vassey, Cleveland Community College
Yovana Vest, Fayetteville Technical Community College

Members Absent:

Kelly Blackwelder, Town of Elon Police Department
Jeremy Brewington, North Carolina State Highway Patrol
Boris Neal, Wake County Sheriffs' Office

Ex-Officio Members Present:

Michelle Schilling, Criminal Justice Standards Division
Richard Squires, Sheriffs' Standards Division
Robert Brackett, North Carolina Justice Academy

Ex-Officio Members Absent:

Jeffrey Smythe, Criminal Justice Standards Division
Autumn Hanna, Sheriffs' Standards Division
Chris Scott, Sheriffs' Standards Division

Staff Present:

Jennifer Fisher, North Carolina Justice Academy
Leann Supko, North Carolina Justice Academy
Alex Gazaway, North Carolina Justice Academy

Guests Present:

Lorin Dingler, North Carolina Community Colleges
Scott Brown, Shelby Police Department
Justin Etters, Cleveland County Sheriff's Office
Jordan Bowen, Cleveland County Sheriff's Office
Craig Earwood, Cleveland County Community College

OLD BUSINESS

➤ Approval of September 2, 2022, meeting minutes

Members were afforded an opportunity to review the minutes from the September 2, 2022, meeting. Rick Barney made a **motion** to accept the minutes. Jon Gregory **seconded**. **None opposed**. No further discussion. **Motion carried**.

➤ Lesson Plan Revisions

Mrs. Fisher sent the lesson plan revisions to the group for review prior to today's meeting. Mrs. Fisher reiterated to the group that while the new BLET revision project is underway, no major content revisions will be made to the current BLET lesson plans except for critical updates reflecting statutory changes, case law updates, or other substantial changes. After presenting each revision, Mrs. Fisher opened the floor for discussion.

- Arrest, Search and Seizure/Constitutional Law
Case law was added to the lesson plan regarding the show of authority. Additionally, current case law on exigent circumstances was updated on the hot pursuit of a subject. Aaron Vassey made a **motion** to accept the proposed revisions. Kenneth Klamar **seconded**—no further discussion. **Motion carried**.
- Communication Skills for Law Enforcement Officers
The proposed revision to the lesson plan includes gender-neutral terminology when addressing individuals. Yovana Vest made a **motion** to accept the proposed revision. Rick Barney **seconded**—no further discussion. **Motion carried**.
- Juvenile Law and Procedures
Proposed changes include the removal of an outdated instructor note and an updated AOC form. Kenneth Klamar made a **motion** to accept the proposed revision. Jaquelyn Bryley **seconded**—no further discussion. **Motion carried**.
- Motor Vehicle Laws
Proposed revisions include updated statutes and AOC forms. Bob Brackett stated a citation needed updating. Jon Gregory made a **motion** to accept the proposed revision and changes as discussed. Rick Barney **seconded**—no further discussion. **Motion carried**.
- Domestic Violence Response
An instructor note was revised discussing the new N.C. Administrative Office of the Courts eCourts database that replaced NCAWARE. Aaron Vassey made a **motion** to accept the proposed revision. Kenneth Klamar **seconded**—no further discussion. **Motion carried**.
- Controlled Substances

The statutory definition of hemp was added, and the section on limited immunity for a good Samaritan was updated. Mr. Brackett advised that some footnotes needed updating. Rick Barney made a **motion** to accept the proposed revision and changes discussed. Aaron Vassey **seconded**—no further discussion. **Motion carried.**

- **Individuals with Mental Illness and Developmental Disabilities**
The Commitment Issues for Law Enforcement handout was updated. Jon Gregory made a **motion** to accept the proposed revision. Yovana Vest **seconded**—no further discussion. **Motion carried.**
- **Crowd Management**
The practical exercises evaluation form was created with a grading sheet. Additionally, instructor notes were added regarding the evaluation sheet. Yovana Vest made a **motion** to accept the proposed revisions. Jaquelyn Bryley **seconded**—no further discussion. **Motion carried.**

➤ **BLET Job Task Analysis (JTA) Revision Update**

Alex Gazaway updated the group on the BLET revisions. The Firearms lesson plan will increase to approximately 90 hours from the current 48. Subject Control Arrest Techniques will also increase from 40 to 80-88 hours. Four lesson plans are currently pilot ready. Nine are under executive review. 20 are under review by Subject Matter Expert review groups. The Course Management Guide is almost complete. The total hours for BLET are approximately 870 hours. 30 of those hours are reserved for the end-of-topic testing. The total hours may change as the pilot begins/advances in August 2023, depending on any changes identified.

Mr. Gazaway then demonstrated a completed lesson plan to the group in a digital and printed format. Mrs. Fisher opened the floor for questions. Jon Gregory discussed the logistical delivery of courses, such as SCAT and Firearms, on the challenges of relying on part-time instructors. Mr. Gazaway referred to the Course Management Guide, which suggests such courses are taught over several weeks. This will help alleviate the logistical issues of relying on part-time specialized instructors. Additionally, this process will assist students in retaining the information. Lastly, the Course Management Guide is written to build each lesson plan off of the previous lesson plan to also help with student retention.

The use of hyperlinks in the lesson plans was briefly discussed. Mr. Gazaway stated that each website used is saved and archived in PDF format at the time of use. It will be the job of the NCJA to update the hyperlinks in the lesson plans. Mr. Gazaway informed the group that the lesson plans are downloadable. Computers are not necessary for instruction as the lesson plans are also available in book/printable form—end of discussion.

OTHER BUSINESS

➤ **Division Reports**

North Carolina Criminal Justice Training and Standards Division Report

Michelle Schilling provided the group with an update from the Criminal Justice Training and Standards Division. 419 instructor certifications were revoked for failure to complete the one-hour update. About 80 of the revocations were specialized instructors. The information was sent to the Justice Academy. Following feedback from the previous School Directors Conference, C.J. Standards held a “back to basics” course. This course covers the roles and responsibilities of the school director and qualified assistant.

The division is transitioning to online testing in ACADIS. The process will help maintain the security of the state exam. It will be piloted via SMI courses. The new BLET state exam will be one test in which one must score a 70 to pass. To be eligible to retake, one must score between 60 – 69. Scores below 60 will not be eligible for a retake. The test will be no more than four hours, with no more than 300 questions, and 25% will be scenario-based questions.

The Specialized Driver and Subject Control/Arrest Techniques Instructors recertification rules take effect May 1, 2023. Beginning October 1, 2023, school directors must be current General Instructors. Every ten years, the Commission must review its rules. This review cycle must be completed by 2025. C.J. Standards is beginning to review rules affecting BLET. Finally, the School Directors Conference is scheduled for August 20 – 22, 2023, in Greensboro, NC—end of the report.

North Carolina Sheriff’s Training and Standards Commission Division Report

Richard Squires stated Sheriff’s Training and Standards are also reviewing their rules. The Detention Officer Certification Course (DOCC) job task analysis rewrite is underway. The Telecommunicator Certification Course (TCC) rewrite is completed but awaiting voting/passing by the Sheriff’s Commission. The Sheriff’s Commission is working to address critical shortages in staffing across the state. The next Sheriff’s Training and Standards Commission meeting is scheduled for March 24 in the Outerbanks—end of the report.

North Carolina Department of Justice Division Report

Robert Brackett updated the group on the passing of Senate Bill 3, N.C. Compassionate Care Act. This bill legalizes the medical use of marijuana for terminal illnesses and debilitating issues. Mr. Brackett explained the stipulations outlined by the bill and added there is not an effective date determined. Mrs. Fisher opened the floor for discussion. No discussion ensued—end of the report.

➤ Open Discussion

Mrs. Fisher opened the floor for discussion to all in attendance. No discussion ensued.

ADJOURNMENT

Aaron Vassey made a **motion** to adjourn the meeting. Rick Barney **seconded**. None opposed. **Motion carried**. The meeting adjourned at 12:35 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Leann Supko

Program Assistant
North Carolina Justice Academy

Date
March 13, 2023