



NEW MEXICO LAW ENFORCEMENT STANDARDS AND TRAINING COUNCIL

DATE: Wednesday, March 20, 2024



REGULAR MEETING

TIME: 9:00 AM

LOCATION: East Mesa Public Safety Complex,
550 N Sonoma Ranch Blvd, Las Cruces, NM 88011

MEETING MINUTES

I. COUNCIL CALL TO ORDER

LEA Director Sonya K. Chavez called the meeting to order at 9:06 am.

A. Roll Call

LEA Executive Secretary Lily Romero conducted roll call, confirming the in-person attendance of members Dir. Sonya K. Chavez, Lt. Jacob Garcia, Cmdr. Joseph Viers, Dir. Ray Fritts, Cpt. Samuel Ramos, Dir. Tate McBride, Sgt. Jonathan Jensen, Dir. Gilbert Najar, District Attorney Sam Bregman, Ms. Nicole Brown, Ms. Rachel Feldman, and Sheriff Dennis Garcia.

Attending remotely were members Lt. Santiago Roybal until 10:15am, Mark Swanson, and Teresa Beaty.

Absent were members Dir. Walter Coburn, Guadalupe Tarango, Richard Mathews, Chief Mizel Garcia, Chief Adrian Armijo, and Sara Millspaugh.

Dir. Sonya K. Chavez recognized recent fallen Officer Jonah Hernandez of Las Cruces Police Department and Patrolman Justin Hare of New Mexico State Police and a moment of silence was held.

B. Approval of Agenda

Member Sam Bregman made a motion to approve the March 20th, 2024, Council agenda, seconded by Jacob Garcia. None opposed. Motion passed unanimously.

C. Approval of Meeting Minutes

Member Tate McBride made a motion to approve the NMLESTC Meeting Minutes from February 15th, 2024, meeting, seconded by Sam Bregman. None opposed. Motion passed unanimously.

D. Welcome from Las Cruces PD Chief Jeremy Story

Chief Story welcomed the Council to Las Cruces and expressed the importance of training and curriculum.

II. REPORTS

A. Director Reports

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Law Enforcement Standards and Training Council

1) Job Task Analysis Updates

This item was not discussed.

2) Academy Reports & Updates

a. New Mexico Law Enforcement Academy

i. Director Sonya K. Chavez provided updates.

b. Albuquerque Police Department Academy

Commander Joseph Viers provided updates.

c. Bernalillo County Sheriff's Department Regional Training Academy

No updates were provided.

d. Central New Mexico Law Enforcement Academy

Director Ray Fritts provided updates.

e. Dona Ana County Sheriff's Office Academy

Captain Samuel Ramos provided updates.

f. Las Cruces Police Department Training Academy

Director Tate McBride provided updates.

g. New Mexico State Police Training Academy

Lieutenant Jacob Garcia provided updates.

h. San Juan County Criminal Justice Authority

Sergeant Jonathan Jensen provided updates.

i. Southeastern New Mexico Law Enforcement Academy

No updates were provided.

j. Western New Mexico University Police Academy

Director Gilbert Najar provided updates.

III. PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comments were made.

IV. OLD BUSINESS

A. Classification of Instructors: Red Flag Law

Dir. Sonya K. Chavez asked the Council to provide input related to placing Red Flag Law curriculum instructors in the appropriate instructor classification. Deputy Director Brian Coss explained the complex nature of the topic and the need determine the administrative process going forward. Sgt. Jonathan Jensen asked if a person who is specialized in Red Flag Law should teach it. Cmdr. Joseph Viers asked if it can be classified under Domestic Violence with a specialty designation. Dep. Dir. Coss advised it would be cleaner as its own certification. DA

Sam Bregman expressed his belief that it should be taught in the Legal Update block. Member Nicole Brown believes it sounds like it would fit under Mental Health. Dir. Sonya K. Chavez agreed it should be a specialized certification and LEA will continue to review the administrative process and will move forward as necessary. No motion was made.

B. Discussion on the Rulemaking Process, Timeline, and Goals for the Council to Repeal and Replace

Deputy Director Brian Coss advised the Council of the steps that are involved in creating an outline for updating rules and statutes. Member Rachel Feldman advised the Council of the process on getting statutes changed. No motion was made.

V. NEW BUSINESS

A. Updates from Working Groups

1) Law Enforcement Working Group

Sgt. Jonthan Jensen advised that there are no updates. No motion was made.

2) Telecommunicator Working Group

Member Nicole Brown advised the Council that this working group have contemplated if Fire/EMS Dispatchers should be taught separately from LE Dispatchers. Dir. Chavez advised that a meeting with Fire/EMS personnel should be held to discuss. Member Brown also explained that the Department of Homeland Security could teach Fire/EMS Dispatchers instead of LEA. Brown also expressed that there is not enough NCIC training for dispatchers. Member Rachel Feldman advised that this may be an area in which we need outside consultants to assess or to review other states' curriculum models. No motion was made.

3) Legislative Working Group

Member Rachel Feldman advised that this working group will be meeting in early April and expressed the need for the Governor's office's buy in and presenting to advocate groups throughout New Mexico. Dir. Chavez reminded everyone to be mindful of DPS's capacity. No motion was made.

B. Performance Standards Discussion

Member Rachel Feldman addressed the need for simple and articulate performance standards to strengthen the Law Enforcement profession and increase the public's respect. Feldman also expressed the need for performance-based budgeting. No motion was made.

C. Proposed Future Meeting Dates and Locations

- 1) May 9th, 2024 – BCSO
- 2) June 12th, 2024 – Farmington
- 3) September 11th, 2024 – Silver City
- 4) November 14th, 2024 – Hobbs
- 5) December 11th, 2024 – APD

Dir. Chavez announced future meeting dates and locations. No motion was made.

VI. ANNOUNCEMENTS AND ADJOURNMENT

A. Next Regular Meeting

May 9th, 2024 - BCSO

B. Member Announcements

Sgt. Jonathan Jensen thanked the Academy for updating the website for In-service training requirements. Member Rachel Feldman requested that the July budget be given out at the next meeting for the Council to review and discuss what can be added to the next budget. Sheriff Dennis Garcia requested to take the flag displayed for Patrolman Justin Hare to the Candlelight Vigil. Lt. Jacob Garcia informed the Council of Patrolman Hare's Funeral information. Deputy Director Brian Coss advised the Council that LEA has been working to broaden the scope of the budget every day. Member Rachel Feldman expressed that she believed the Council needed an understanding of the budget.

C. Adjourn

Cpt. Samuel Ramos made a motion to Adjourn, seconded by Sam Bregman. None opposed. Motion passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 11:10 am.