

**MINUTES**  
**North Carolina Criminal Justice**  
**Education and Training Standards Commission**

**Planning and Standards Committee**  
**August 26, 2010**

The Planning and Standards Committee of the North Carolina Criminal Justice Education and Training Standards Commission met in Room 229 of the Department of Correction Office of Staff Development and Training in Apex, on August 26, 2010 at 1:00 pm.

**Members Present**

Kevin Wallace, Chairman  
Tom Thornburg  
Stephanie Freeman  
Scott Cunningham  
Richard Armstrong

**Members Absent**

Johnson Britt  
Frank Rogers  
Randy Glover  
Brent Heron

**Staff**

Teresa Marrella, Criminal Justice Standards Division  
Dawn Suffel, Criminal Justice Standards Division

**Visitors**

Julia Lohman, Sheriffs' Standards Division  
Angela Williams, New Commission Member

**I. Call to Order**

Vice-Chairman Thornburg called the meeting to order, welcomed those present and declared a quorum.

**II. Election of Committee Chairman**

Vice-Chairman Thornburg introduced the first item of business to nominate and elect a new committee chair. Motion to nominate Commissioner Stephanie Freeman as new committee chair was made by Commissioner Richard Armstrong and **seconded** by Commissioner Scott Cunningham. **Motion carried** unanimously and the meeting was turned over to new Chairperson Stephanie Freeman.

**III. Approval of May 27, 2010 Meeting Minutes**

The minutes from the May 27, 2010 meeting were approved. Motion was made by Commissioner Cunningham and **seconded** by Commissioner Thornburg. **Motion carried** unanimously.

#### **IV. Development of 7<sup>th</sup> Edition System Plan**

Chairperson Freeman advised members that the full commission has received a draft copy of the 7<sup>th</sup> Edition System Plan. The 7<sup>th</sup> Edition System Plan currently contains ten goals.

After assessing the list of goals, members agreed that all ten goals should remain on the plan for evaluation by the Executive Committee. Chairperson Freeman informed committee members that she would take the current draft plan to the Executive Committee in preparation for presentation to the Commission.

#### **V. Proposed Amendment to 12 NCAC 09.0203**

Ms. Teresa Marrella presented a proposal for amendment to 12 NCAC 09.0203 concerning age requirements for admission of trainees into Basic Law Enforcement Training (BLET). Ms. Marrella stated that the rule was amended earlier this year (lowering the entry age from 20 to 18 years) in order to abide by G.S. 93B-9 which prohibits any occupational licensing board from restricting entry to licensing programs for persons over age 18. Shortly after this change was established, legislation was passed granting the Commission an exception to this statute. Because law enforcement officers cannot be certified before the age of 20, it is proposed to revise the rule back to its previous age requirement that stipulates individuals must be at least 20 years of age for admission into BLET.

Motion to approve this change and ask the Commission for rule-making authority was made by Commissioner Armstrong and was **seconded** by Commissioner Thornburg. **Motion carried** unanimously.

#### **VI. Other Business**

Ms. Marrella advised that following the last Executive Committee meeting, the Planning & Standards Committee was asked to review the age of certification for law enforcement officers. There is an inconsistency between the two commissions whereby the Criminal Justice Commission certifies law enforcement officers at the age of 20 and the Sheriffs' Commission certifies deputies at the age of 21. Members discussed how to proceed and agreed that information will first need to be collected from agencies to determine the typical age of new hires and to get an idea of how any changes might impact individual departments.

Chairperson Freeman stated that a letter was recently sent to the Criminal Justice Standards Division for review by the committee. The letter was from a physician who serves as a volunteer medical advisor to the Gaston County PD Emergency Response Team. The physician is proposing that he, and other volunteers in similar positions, be allowed to become sworn officers without completion of BLET. He believes this would allow him to better serve in his volunteer capacity. Members concluded that additional research is necessary before proceeding.

#### **VII. Date of Next Meeting**

Chairperson Freeman stated that the next scheduled meeting of the Planning & Standards Committee will be on Tuesday, November 9, 2010 at 1:00 at the Department of Correction OSDT in Apex.

#### **VIII. Motion to Adjourn**

Motion to adjourn was made by Commissioner Tom Thornburg and **seconded** by Commissioner Kevin Wallace. **Motion carried** unanimously.