

PEACE OFFICER STANDARDS AND TRAINING COMMISSION

June 23, 2021

3:00 PM

**Peace Officer Standards and Training Commission
Remote Participation**

PUBLIC MEETING MINUTES

Documents Distributed in Advance of the Meeting:

- Proposed Guidance on Developmentally Appropriate De-escalation and Disengagement Tactics, Procedures and Other Alternative to Use of Force for Children

In Attendance:

- Chair Margaret R. Hinkle
- Commissioner Hanya H. Bluestone
- Commissioner Lawrence Calderone
- Commissioner Clementina M. Chéry
- Commissioner Marsha V. Kazarosian
- Commissioner Charlene D. Luma
- Commissioner Kimberly P. West
- Commissioner Michael Wynn

1. Call to Order

- The Chair recognized a quorum.

2. Discussion of Proposed Guidance Pursuant to Section 119: “Notwithstanding any general or special law to the contrary, not later than June 30, 2021, the Massachusetts peace officer standards and training commission established in section 2 of chapter 6E shall issue guidance on developmentally appropriate de-escalation and disengagement tactics, techniques and procedures and other alternatives to the use of force for minor children that may take into account contextual factors including, but not limited to, the person’s age, disability status, developmental status, mental health, linguistic limitations or other mental or physical condition.”

- Commissioners Luma, Wynn, and Bluestone presented revised proposed guidance.
 - The proposed guidance attempts to balance the different law enforcement, community, clinical, and legal perspectives involved.
 - The proposed guidance is written with academic tone to show that guidance the guidance is based on scientific research and facts rather than opinion, procedure, or directives.
 - Commissioners Luma, Wynn, and Bluestone expressed their openness to feedback and further suggested revisions, but wanted

to emphasize the importance of the scientific foundation and research behind the proposed guidance.

- Commissioners Luma, Wynn, and Bluestone noted that guidance on training is foregrounded to acknowledge the gap in the current training curriculum and to encourage training to evolve so that it catches up with other recommendations.
- Discussion:
 - Commissioner Kazarosian expressed her appreciation of the development of the proposed guidance.
 - Commissioner Chéry expressed her gratitude for starting the guidance, and expressed that more could be added. She noted her appreciation of the focus on education, training, trauma, and community. Commissioner Chéry suggested the draft guidance include guidance on cultural sensitivity.
 - Commissioner Calderone expressed his gratitude for the guidance.
 - Commissioner West expressed her appreciation of the academic tone of the guidance, and suggested where Commissioner Chéry's proposed language on "culturally relevant" could be added.
 - Chair Hinkle noted a typo in the proposed guidance.
 - Mr. Povich turned the Commission's attention to the procedural requirements for issuing guidance by June 30. The Commission agreed to share draft guidance with key stakeholders.
- 3. New Business the Chair Did Not Anticipate at the Time of Posting
 - The Commission received a question on how the guidance would impact accreditation. Chair Hinkle responded that as guidance, it is up to the Massachusetts Police Accreditation Commission to decide how they want to take it on.
- 4. Adjournment
 - Commissioner Wynn moved to adjourn the meeting.
 - Commissioner Calderone seconded the motion.
 - The Commission unanimously voted to adjourn.