Kim Vickers
Executive Director

TEXAS COMMISSION ON LAW ENFORCEMENT

TCOLE SPECIAL CALLED MEETING
February 28, 2018

The special called meeting of the Texas Commission on Law Enforcement (TCOLE) was held on Wednesday, February 28, 2018, starting at 3:00 p.m. The meeting was held at the TCOLE offices, 6330 East Hwy 290, Austin, Texas.

Commissioners attending were Sheriff Joel Richardson, Presiding Officer; Ms. Patt Scheckel-Hollingsworth, Assistant Presiding Officer; Major Jason D. Hester, Secretary; Ms. Patricia Burruss; Constable Ron E. Hood; Chief Kim Lemaux, Mr. Jack Taylor; and Senior Police Officer Tim Whitaker. Ms. Sharon Breckenridge Thomas was absent.

TCOLE staff attending included Executive Director Kim Vickers, Director Credentialing & Field Services Kenny Merchant, Director Enforcement & Special Services Michael Antu, Finance Director Brian Roth, Government Relations Director Gretchen Grigsby, General Counsel John Beauchamp, Cullen Grissom, Laurie Jackson, and Kaye Wilson.

Presiding Officer Richardson called the meeting to order. A quorum was present.

Executive Director Vickers reported on the regional meetings that were held in January and February where we received input from our stakeholders. Mr. Vickers noted that these meetings were well attended with 781 of our stakeholders present. In January, meetings were held in San Angelo, Amarillo, Arlington, and Tyler. The February meetings were in Laredo, McAllen, Pasadena, and Belton. Three questions were asked at each meeting which resulted in open dialogue between attendees and staff. These questions were: What are we doing well? What could we do better? What are we not doing currently that we could be doing?

Many of the responses were repetitive such as positive feedback for the FSA program, "positive" and "could be better" comments concerning open communication, additional online training, how to improve the F-5 process, and improvement in the background process.

Commissioners reviewed past goals and brought forth new ones. They declined to prioritize the goals.

- **Continued emphasis on customer service**
  This goal continues to be of high importance to both the Commissioners and the Executive Director.

- **Continued work on curriculum update**
  The Commissioners believe this is to be an on-going goal.

- **Seek alternative methods of funding**
  Research and apply for grants for FTE positions, curricula and curricula committees, training such as school shootings, veteran issues, mental health issues, and curriculum development travel expenses. Tap CJD and other sources for funding. Possibly contract with a grant writer. Seek training that is available at no cost to the law enforcement agencies.

- **Assist the development of training providers in underserved areas**
  Progress has been made in this area, but it needs to remain as a goal.

- **Utilize Commissioners in the Legislative process**
  The Presiding Officer has assigned Commissioners to the Legislative Committee.

- **Improve oversight of licensing documentation and hiring process**
  Changes to the rule concerning the L-3 psychological is being addressed now. Staff asked that this item remain as a goal.

- **Improve the process for required data reporting compliance**
  TCOLE is a repository for racial profile reporting. Statutorily those that routinely make traffic stops must report. We strive for 100% reporting. It would be helpful if the report form could be changed to include a box to check for those that are not required to report. This would take a legislative change.

- **Promote veteran and mental health issues education in law enforcement across Texas**
  This item needs to be a continued goal.

- **More emphasis on the development of online training**
  Online training was a recurring theme from the attendees at the Tour of Texas workshops.

- **Streamline the separation (F-5) process**
  The Commission agrees that this should be a goal, but also agrees that it is not under the control of staff. It is strictly a legislative issue.

- **Through the legislature, work toward getting the funding and staff necessary to complete our mission**

Other topics discussed:

- How to notify the law enforcement community of the rule making process.

The Presiding Officer invited public comments from the audience. No one came forward.

Presiding Officer Richardson adjourned the meeting at 4:55 p.m.

Jason D. Hester, Secretary
JDH/kw