

MINUTES

BLEOST MEETING

May 16, 2024

Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order at 9:01 a.m. by the Chairman Sheriff Pollan.

Roll Call:

The Chair called the roll, and a quorum was established. Board members present were:

Supervisor Anjuan Brown
Hon. Kassie Coleman
Chief Michael Hall
Deputy Charles Harris
Dr. Steve Mallory
Constable Glenn McKay
Sheriff Greg Pollan
Chief John Mark Quaka
Chief Daniel Sanford

Board Counsel Luke Williamson

Board members not present were:

Mayor Nancy Chambers
Hon. Lindsay Cranford
Col. Charles Haynes
Sheriff Jim Johnson

Introduction of Guests and Introductory Remarks:

The guests introduced themselves and were welcomed by the Chairman.

Speakers/Guests present were:

Eric Lewis, Columbus P.D.
Joseph Gendreau, Bay St. Louis
Chief Joseph Daughtry, Columbus P.D.
Chief Randy Patrick, Newton P.D.
Larry Smith, Jr., Bay St. Louis
Major Steve Palmer, Desoto Co. S.O.
Lt. Mike Cowan, Desoto Co. S.O.
Major Jacqueline Moreno, SRPSI
Master Sgt. Richard Washington, Capitol P.D.
Asst. Chief Derrick Jordan, Capitol P.D.
Lagracha Carter, Copiah Co. S.O.
Capt. Brandon Hendry, Harrison Co. LETA

Latonya Norris, Hattiesburg P.D.
Lt. Jeremy Gordon, Capitol Police
Lt. Johnathan Esters, Hinds Co. S.O.
Capt. Jeffery Burnley, Hinds Co. S.O.
Chief Michael Crawford, MDOC

Staff Members Present were:

Program Specialist Supervisor Robert Davis
Program Specialist Donna Rogers-Perkins
Program Specialist Risa Turpin
Accreditation Manager Bob Morgan
Program Specialist Bryce Alexander
Administrative Officer Joshua Broman

Approval of Minutes:

A copy of the minutes from the meeting on March 14, 2024, was emailed to each member. Constable McKay made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Dr. Mallory seconded the motion. The motion passed without opposition.

OLD BUSINESS

In-Service Training – Request for Approval:

1. Mississippi Association of Chief of Police 2024 Summer Conference, 20 hours
2. Mississippi Sheriffs' Association 2024 Summer Conference, 17 hours
3. Emergency Services Administrative Professionals 2024 Conference, 9.5 hours
4. Public Safety Summit 2024, 20 hours – Executive Level
5. Child Passenger Safety Technician Training, 24 hours-Hattiesburg P.D.,
6. Mechanical Advantage Subject Control Tactics, 16 hours; Reactionary Defense, 32 hours; Close Range Subject Control/Countermeasures, 40 hours- Controlled FORCE, Inc
7. Leadership for Women in Policing, 15 hours, Public Safety Training Council-D'Iberville P.D.
8. Adaptive Law Enforcement: An Immersive Experience for First Responders, 12 hours-Bay St. Louis P.D.
9. Mississippi Constables Association 47th Annual Convention & Training Seminar, 24 hours
10. Human Trafficking Training, 8 hours-Rural Law Enforcement Initiative/ USM/DPS
11. Field Training Program – Evaluation – Train the Trainer, Lt. Jeremy Gordon, Capitol Police

Lt. Gordon presented the courses listed in item 11. DA Coleman made a motion to approve, and Supervisor Brown seconded the motion. The motion passed without opposition.

Items 1 through 10 were presented and Constable McKay made a motion to approve, Chief Hall seconded the motion, and it was passed without opposition.

Chief Daughtry requested that the training presented at IACP, FBI Academy, and Noble be approved as executive level training. Dr. Mallory made a motion to approve, Chief Hall seconded the motion, and it passed without opposition.

NEW BUSINESS

Certification of Officers:

Director Davis presented four (4) full-time academy classes and two (2) part-time classes for certification pending completion of all requirements. The Chair entertained a motion. Chief Hall made a motion to approve the classes for certification subject to meeting all requirements. DA Coleman seconded the motion. The motion was adopted without opposition.

Thirty-two (32) full-time and ten (10) part-time equivalency of training candidates were presented for certification pending completion of all requirements. The Chair entertained a motion. Constable McKay made a motion to approve the equivalency candidates for certification subject to meeting all requirements. DA Coleman seconded the motion. The motion was adopted without opposition.

Director's Report:

The Director introduced Bryce Alexander as the new Instructor/Academy Certification Officer. The Director advised that the courts ruled in favor of the Board's decision in the Roosevelt Brown and Derick Felton appeals.

The Board reviewed House Bill 691 that has been signed into law by the Governor. This new law will make changes to the Board Membership, give the Board the authority to conduct investigations, and allow the Board to establish a hearing panel. It also requires chiefs from agencies other than municipal agencies to complete certain training and requires all law enforcement officers to complete in-service training. It requires the Board to reimburse agencies for the expense of the training.

The Director recognized the 4 members that will not be staying on the Board. He thanked Dr. Mallory, Supervisor Brown, Deputy Harris, and Mayor Chambers for their service to the Board and law enforcement. This meeting will be Director Davis's last meeting due to his retirement on June 30.

Certification Review Hearing for Officer LaGracha A. Carter-Boyd:

The Board on Law Enforcement Officer Standards and Training (BLEOST) received information from Officer Carter-Boyd's former employer, the Hazlehurst Police Department, that she resigned prior to, during, or at the conclusion of an investigation concerning Extortion. She recently contacted the BLEOST staff to inquire about the status of her certification. Her certification has been in-active since she left the Hazlehurst Police Department on 12/31/2012. Based on the information contained in her law enforcement certification file, the BLEOST staff determined that she was no longer eligible for certification, but she could request a Board hearing for the Board to make a determination concerning the status of her certification. She requested this hearing.

The Board on Law Enforcement Officer Standards & Training (BLEOST) has been provided with information that Officer Carter-Boyd, a law enforcement officer was charged with Extortion for an act committed while working with the Hazlehurst Police Department. Extortion is a crime involving moral turpitude or that is directly related to the duties and responsibilities of a law enforcement officer. She violated Board Policy when she entered a plea of guilty to this charge, and was sentenced to five years in the custody of the Mississippi Department of Corrections, and was placed on House arrest for a period of one year. Four years were suspended with her being placed on post release supervision. She was accused of accepting \$100.00 to take care of a ticket. Her record has since been expunged. This conduct or action violates the Law Enforcement Code of Ethics or would greatly diminish the public trust in the competence and reliability of a law enforcement officer. According to the record, she was certified by the BLEOST as a law enforcement officer on July 7, 2010, certificate number 21432.

Director Davis presented a 25-page document taken from Officer Carter-Boyd's file to back up the allegations (marked as exhibit 1).

Officer Carter-Boyd addressed the Board explaining her actions and apologized to the Board and requested that the Board allow her to return to law enforcement.

After all testimony was concluded, the Chair entertained a motion. DA Coleman made a motion to go into closed session to consider whether to declare an executive session, Chief Quaka seconded the motion. The motion passed without opposition. Constable McKay made a motion to enter into executive session to consider the allegations of misconduct and evidence produced during open proceedings, and the possible issuance of an appealable order. DA Coleman seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

After executive session was completed, the Chair invited everyone back to the meeting room. Constable McKay made a motion to come out of executive session, seconded by DA Coleman. The motion passed unanimously.

The Chair announced that after deliberations in Executive Session, the Board on Law Enforcement Officer Standards & Training finds that:

FINDINGS OF FACT

After deliberations in Executive Session, the Board on Law Enforcement Officer Standards & Training finds that:

1. The Board has promulgated policy and procedure whereby: the Board may reject any unqualified applicant for certification by a classification of not eligible for certification, and any conduct or action that would violate the Law Enforcement Code of Ethics or would greatly diminish the public trust in the competence and reliability of a law enforcement officer would be actionable as due cause for reprimand, suspension (under condition), recall or cancellation of a certificate.
2. Clear and convincing evidence was placed before the Board that you, LaGracha A. Carter-Boyd violated Board Policy by accepting \$100.00 to dismiss a traffic ticket that you issued. This conduct or action violates the Law Enforcement Code of Ethics and would greatly diminish the public trust in the competence and reliability of a law enforcement officer. You were certified by the BLEOST as a law enforcement officer on July 7, 2010, certificate number 21432.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

Upon consideration of the testimony presented today, and pursuant to Mississippi Code, Section 45-6-7, the Board on Law Enforcement Officer Standards and Training has promulgated policy for the administration of the Law Enforcement Officers Training Program (LEOTP) allowing the Board the authority to reject any unqualified applicant for certification by a classification of not eligible for certification. Any conduct or action that would violate the Law Enforcement Code of Ethics or would greatly diminish the public trust in the competence and reliability of a law enforcement officer would be actionable as due cause for reprimand, suspension, recall or cancellation of a certificate.

In Executive Session, after considering the facts presented, the Board voted unanimously (9-0) to cancel your certificate, certificate number 21432. This action is effective on May 16, 2024.

Certification Review Hearing for Officer Joseph C. Gendreau:

The Board on Law Enforcement Officer Standards and Training (BLEOST) received information from Officer Gendreau's former employer, the Hancock County Sheriff's Office, that he resigned prior to the completion of an internal investigation. Information was received that he was arrested for simple assault, accused of making unwanted sexual advances on a female by touching, groping, fondling, and rubbing her crotch and breast areas. He contacted the BLEOST staff to inquire about the status of his certification and was told that his certificate was inactive and that he was not eligible for certification based on the information received. He provided the BLEOST, a statement, a court record indicating that he was found guilty of Simple Assault and was fined, and an expungement order. He was advised that he could request a Board hearing for the Board to make a determination concerning the status of his certification. He requested this hearing.

The Board on Law Enforcement Officer Standards & Training (BLEOST) has been provided

with information that Officer Gendreau, a law enforcement officer was charged with Simple Assault, a crime involving moral turpitude or that is directly related to the duties and responsibilities of a law enforcement officer. He entered a plea of no contest to this charge. He was convicted of Simple Assault and was fined \$301.00 plus assessments of \$188.00. This conduct or action violates the Law Enforcement Code of Ethics or would greatly diminish the public trust in the competence and reliability of a law enforcement officer. According to the record, he was certified by the BLEOST as a law enforcement officer on November 13, 2020, certificate number 27439.

Director Davis presented a 37-page document taken from Officer Gendreau's file to back up the allegations (marked as exhibit 1).

Officer Gendreau addressed the Board and explained his side of the story. Mr. Larry Smith testified on behalf of Officer Gendreau.

After all testimony was concluded, the Chair entertained a motion. DA Coleman made a motion to go into closed session to consider whether to declare an executive session, Dr. Mallory seconded the motion. The motion passed without opposition. Constable McKay made a motion to enter into executive session to consider the allegations of misconduct and evidence produced during open proceedings, and the possible issuance of an appealable order. DA Coleman seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

After executive session was completed, the Chair invited everyone back to the meeting room. DA Coleman made a motion to come out of executive session, seconded by Constable McKay. The motion passed unanimously.

After deliberations in Executive Session, the Board on Law Enforcement Officer Standards & Training finds that:

FINDINGS OF FACT

After deliberations in Executive Session, the Board on Law Enforcement Officer Standards & Training finds that:

1. The Board has promulgated policy and procedure whereby: the Board may reject any unqualified applicant for certification by a classification of not eligible for certification, and any conduct or action that would violate the Law Enforcement Code of Ethics or would greatly diminish the public trust in the competence and reliability of a law enforcement officer would be actionable as due cause for reprimand, suspension (under condition), recall or cancellation of a certificate.
2. Clear and convincing evidence was placed before the Board that you, Joseph C. Gendreau violated Board Policy for making unwanted sexual advances on a female by touching, groping her breast area. This conduct or action violates the Law Enforcement Code of Ethics and would greatly diminish the public trust in the competence and reliability of a law enforcement officer. You were certified by the BLEOST as a law enforcement officer on November 13, 2020, certificate number 27439.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

Upon consideration of the testimony presented today, and pursuant to Mississippi Code, Section 45-6-7, the Board on Law Enforcement Officer Standards and Training has promulgated policy for the administration of the Law Enforcement Officers Training Program (LEOTP) allowing the Board the authority to reject any unqualified applicant for certification by a classification of not eligible for certification. Any conduct or action that would violate the Law Enforcement Code of Ethics or would greatly diminish the public trust in the competence and reliability of a law enforcement officer would be actionable as due cause for reprimand, suspension, recall or cancellation of a certificate.

In Executive Session, after considering the facts presented, the Board voted unanimously (9-0) to cancel your certificate, certificate number 27439. This action is effective on May 16, 2024.

Certification Review Hearing for Officer Ezell L. Arnold Jr.:

The Board on Law Enforcement Officer Standards and Training (BLEOST) received a “Full-Time Law Enforcement Application for Certification” from the Mississippi Department of Corrections indicating they hired Officer Arnold as a law enforcement officer on 9/25/23. Based on information in his certification file, the Board’s staff has determined that he is not eligible for certification, but may request a hearing before the Board. He did request this hearing.

The Board on Law Enforcement Officer Standards & Training (BLEOST) has been provided with information that he was discharged from the Waveland Police Department. His discharge was due to him being charged with Simple Assault with Injuries, a crime involving moral turpitude or that is directly related to the duties and responsibilities of a law enforcement officer. He entered a plea of guilty to this charge. The charge was non-adjudicated, was fined \$717.00 and placed on six months’ probation. This charged deals with him spanking a child that was living in his house with the child’s family. The mother of the child was a law enforcement officer. This conduct or action violates the Law Enforcement Code of Ethics or would greatly diminish the public trust in the competence and reliability of a law enforcement officer. According to the record, he was certified by the BLEOST as a law enforcement officer on November 5, 2021, certificate number 28314.

Director Davis presented a 28-page document taken from Officer Arnold’s file to back up the allegations (marked as exhibit 1).

Officer Arnold addressed the Board and explained his side of the story. He said that he had the mother’s permission to spank her child. Chief Michael Crawford of MDOC testified on Officer Arnold’s behalf.

After all testimony was concluded, the Chair entertained a motion. DA Coleman made a motion to go into closed session to consider whether to declare an executive session, Constable McKay seconded the motion. The motion passed without opposition. Constable McKay made a motion to enter into executive session to consider the allegations of misconduct and

evidence produced during open proceedings, and the possible issuance of an appealable order. DA Coleman seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

After executive session was completed, the Chair invited everyone back to the meeting room. Constable McKay made a motion to come out of executive session, seconded by Chief Quaka. The motion passed unanimously.

After deliberations in Executive Session, the Board on Law Enforcement Officer Standards & Training finds that:

FINDINGS OF FACT

After deliberations in Executive Session, the Board on Law Enforcement Officer Standards & Training finds that:

1. The Board has promulgated policy and procedure whereby: the Board may reject any unqualified applicant for certification by a classification of not eligible for certification, and any conduct or action that would violate the Law Enforcement Code of Ethics or would greatly diminish the public trust in the competence and reliability of a law enforcement officer would be actionable as due cause for reprimand, suspension (under condition), recall or cancellation of a certificate.
2. Clear and convincing evidence was placed before the Board that you, Ezell Louis Arnold Jr., violated Board Policy by entering a plea of guilty to a crime involving moral turpitude. This conduct or action violates the Law Enforcement Code of Ethics and would greatly diminish the public trust in the competence and reliability of a law enforcement officer. You were certified by the BLEOST as a law enforcement officer on November 5, 2021, certificate number 28314.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

Upon consideration of the testimony presented today, and pursuant to Mississippi Code, Section 45-6-7, the Board on Law Enforcement Officer Standards and Training has promulgated policy for the administration of the Law Enforcement Officers Training Program (LEOTP) allowing the Board the authority to reject any unqualified applicant for certification by a classification of not eligible for certification. Any conduct or action that would violate the Law Enforcement Code of Ethics or would greatly diminish the public trust in the competence and reliability of a law enforcement officer would be actionable as due cause for reprimand, suspension, recall or cancellation of a certificate.

In Executive Session, after considering the facts presented, the Board voted unanimously (9-0) that you are eligible for certification. The Board is placing you on probation for twenty-four months. This action is effective on May 16, 2024.

Continuation of Eligibility Hearing for Officer Autery Dunbar:

The Board on Law Enforcement Officer Standards & Training (BLEOST) has been provided information that Officer Dunbar was discharged “under other than honorable conditions” from the Naval Discharge Review Board on April 28, 2023. According to his DD Form 214,

the reason listed for separation was due to a Court-Martial.

This hearing is a continuation of a previous hearing. Since the first hearing, the Board proposed to change the rules concerning discharges “under other than honorable conditions”

The new proposed policy allows applicants to explain the reasons and provide documents for this discharge and allows the Board to declare an applicant eligible for certification depending on the actions of the applicant. This proposed policy has not been finalized as of this date.

Director Davis presented a 23-page document, a 6-page document, and a 5-page taken from Officer Arnold’s file to back up the discharge (marked as exhibit 1, 2, and 3).

Officer Dunbar explained and provided new documents for the Board’s review.

After all testimony was concluded, the Chair entertained a motion. Dr. Mallory made a motion to go into closed session to consider whether to declare an executive session, Constable McKay seconded the motion. The motion passed without opposition. Constable McKay made a motion to enter into executive session to consider the allegations of misconduct and evidence produced during open proceedings, and the possible issuance of an appealable order. Dr. Mallory seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. Eight members were present, DA Coleman had to leave the meeting.

After executive session was completed, the Chair invited everyone back to the meeting room. Chief Quaka made a motion to come out of executive session, seconded by Dr. Mallory. The motion passed unanimously.

After deliberations in Executive Session, the Board on Law Enforcement Officer Standards & Training finds that:

FINDINGS OF FACT

After deliberations in Executive Session, the Board on Law Enforcement Officer Standards & Training finds that:

- 1. The Board has promulgated policy and procedure whereby: the Board may reject any unqualified applicant for certification by a classification of not eligible for certification.**
- 2. Clear and convincing evidence was placed before the Board that you, Autery Dunbar received an “other than honorable discharge from the military”.**

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

Upon consideration of the testimony presented today, and pursuant to Mississippi Code, Section 45-6-7, the Board on Law Enforcement Officer Standards and Training has promulgated policy for the administration of the Law Enforcement Officers Training Program

(LEOTP) allowing the Board the authority to reject any unqualified applicant for certification by a classification of not eligible for certification.

In Executive Session, after considering the facts presented, the Board voted (6-2) that you are not eligible for certification due to the amendments to policy not being effective as of this date. This action is effective on May 16, 2024. Sheriff Pollan and Supervisor Brown voted against declaring this officer not eligible. Sheriff Pollan encouraged this officer to reapply after the policy becomes final.

Next Scheduled Meeting: To be arranged

Concluding Remarks; Adjournment:

The meeting was adjourned at 1:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Director, Board on Law Enforcement Officer Standards and Training