

***Commission to Improve First Responder Interactions with
Persons with Disabilities:
Meeting Minutes***

November 10, 2021

I. Call to order at 1:05 p.m.

Chair Chris Smith called to order the regular meeting of the Commission to Improve First Responder Interactions with Persons with Disabilities at 1:05 p.m. on November 10, 2021 held virtually on Zoom.

II. Roll call

The Chair conducted roll call. The following persons were present:

- Daniel Brite
- Jennifer Roberts
- Josh Snider
- Jill Pidcock
- Debra Antista-Bianchi
- Atalanta Cozad
- Erika Liljedahl
- Christopher Gulli
- Terrence Gordon
- Chris Smith
- Janet Larson
- Kurt Morrison
- Shalyn Kettering
- Jefferey Riester
- Erik Bourgerie
- Steve Eckelberry
- Catherine Rodriguez

IV. Approval of minutes from last meeting

Minutes were approved unanimously.

V. Public Comment

N/A

VI. Review of POST hour requirements and capacity of academies

A. Director Bourgerie explained that POST academies dedicate a minimum of two hours to this topic and in-service has no dedicated mandatory requirement for this topic. Colorado has one of the more rigorous overall in-service requirements nationally. The interpretation from Department of Law attorneys is that the number of hours should remain the same to minimize the administrative burden on POST and Academies. Additional training can be suggested, and it can be left at the discretion of academies.

1. A question was asked about POST purview over in-service training. Director Bourgerie explained that while the total hour requirement is governed, individual training is not overseen by POST.
2. There was continual discussion about the perception and opinion of various commissioners that the two-hour limit to academy training was not accurate or appropriate.
3. Department of Law attorneys confirmed that the Commission does not have the authority to mandate additional training.

VI. Commission duties regarding first responders (firefighters and EMS)

A. DOL attorneys explained that statute is permissive related to first responders, except for the responsibility of the commission to review existing curricula. The recommended curriculum can be posted on the POST website and/or provided directly to the governing agencies (DPS and CDPHE) and they can use it at their discretion.

VII. Facilitated discussion

A. Commissioner Antista-Bianchi facilitated a discussion regarding a survey distributed to the commission and included: defining “disability”, statutory mandated tasks, survey responses, requirements of training, and the motivation of individual commissioners to participate in the process.

VIII. Meeting schedule review

A. Chair proposed meeting weekly through 12/22/21 *except* Thanksgiving week. A few people have some conflicts. If set subcommittees that may resolve the issue. POST has conflict next Wednesday running the meeting. Will meet Wed 11/17/21 at 12-1:30 p.m.

IX. Agenda Setting

- A. Discuss POST curriculum – may assign to subcommittees.
- B. Discuss other agency curriculum.
- C. Identify specific “wants” for training and resources.

X. Adjournment

Chris Smith adjourned the meeting at 3:13 p.m.

Minutes submitted by: Cathy Rodriguez