

APA APC Meeting – 11/17/2025

Present for APA/1199: Kristie Branch; Brenda Duenas; Vincent Ciccolini; Jaedan Tucker; Paul Cieslinski; Jennifer Stormont; Anna White; Amy Jenkins; Robin Tilman; Ray Gordon; Angie Foltz; Jason Marks; Jim Haas; Chris Niekamp; Jeff Fortman; Kelly Thomas

Present for Management: Allison Vaughn; Katrina Ransom; Beth Hogon; Heather Smith; Brittany Thomas; Chris Gipson; Aaron Corwin; Phil Rader; Tina Patrick; Marie Britton; Mark Herubin; Markie Chesshir; Jason Perez

- 1.) New Radios: Mark Herubin – enough available for all officers who want them. Programmed and distributed to regions. Will have man down alert feature. Training will be forthcoming.
- 2.) SCRAM:
 - A.) Expectations – Regionals locally will make the determinations on what priorities are. There is a work group currently looking at various issues (i.e. after-hours, addressing dead battery issues, alcohol monitoring, etc.). Currently, Regionals are deciding what the main priorities will be. Workgroup is ongoing to develop policy and answers to various questions that have been asked and additional future questions as they arise.
 - B.) Savings from having HWH covering the EMU – will continue to be monitored, no current data on actual cost savings. No answer on where any monetary savings will be re-directed.
 - C.) SCRAM installations in prisons – Lebanon/Warren prisons will begin pilot project today to have SCRAM staff into the facilities to install units prior to release
 - D.) Per Katrina, any future questions should be directed to the work group members within each region
- 3.) OT at Indian River DYS:

Parole Officer ARE eligible to participate, per Beth Hogon. Must have prior custody experience as state/county Corrections Officers. Additional training dates were sent out via email last week. This training addresses supervision differences between youth and adults. Beth acknowledges that **the environment at Indian River is “Very Dangerous”**. Also, ODRC prison overtime is still available to PO’s. Forms must still be completed and submitted to the DRC Overtime email account. SCI specifically had some issues with complaints regarding overtime assignments, and they are “working out the bugs”.
- 4.) Violator Apprehension Team – Brittany Thomas is taking lead on this. Northern half will have a PSS and Southern half will have a PSS assigned. Purpose is to locate and

apprehend PVAL's (over 2000 statewide, currently), the 2 new PSS 's will have a lot of input into creating the "team". This would be modeled off of STAR teams and be on call for early mornings, late nights, and/or weekends. Brittany reports this is something DRC fully supports and will be under the Special Assignment Policy, consisting of anyone in the Parole Officer classifications. Katrina reports that the VAT will not be doing the same as SOFAST and other task force. There will be a lot of collaboration with TFO's and local law enforcement.

- a. We've had PVAL's for years? Why now create VAT? Per Katrina, since Reagan Tokes case, there have been many questions about what we are doing to address the number of VAL's. Katrina reports that our PO's do the best they can with what they have. Dedicating a group of people to exclusively focus on VAL's, coordinating information and leads, and making arrests is the APA's response.
- b. Why a Team, and not a Unit? Why under the Special Assignment Policy? Per Katrina, goal was to be able to still accomplish what we are looking for. PO's will have OT opportunities but will keep their caseloads and not absorbed by other officers. Kelly advised the perception is that creating the team is intended to avoid seniority issues and avoid all staff getting OT. Katrian further advised that TFO's are important to have those connections with other TF members. Each TF determines their own priorities, but they will not be able to spend much time looking for APA PVAL's. The "team" would allow concentration solely on PVAL's without doing double work. TFO's do not have case loads in most areas, and their focus is often NOT on APA clients. The new PSS's will be working with Chief Inspector's Office.
- c. Allocation of officers – we have some units in the state who don't work ANY state cases. Also, why is the assigned PO not included in the apprehension? Kelly notified Katrina that what was discussed at meetings with Regionals and Supervisors is NOT what was disseminated to the field. Brittany stated that the assigned PO will be contacted to assist with VAT attempts to arrest any PVAL's. Katrina says they all recognize the violent nature of APA staff (i.e. Level II vests being issued), but it's almost impossible to do all the work on all of the VAL's.
- d. Jim discussed the 42 vacancies and asked about the efforts to fill positions with quality people faster at the same time as supporting the VAT efforts. Katrina reports that hiring goes beyond APA/DPCS, sometimes it's DAS and things can get messy. "We" are still having conversations about the vacancies and how can we get them filled. It simply takes time. This has been ongoing for years, unsure what the solution is.

- e. Kristie reminded Katrina about Article 43.11 Supplement – would benefit to hiring in the areas hit hardest by vacancies.
 - f. Dayton Region has some groups going out frequently looking for PVAL's and are awarded overtime. Katrina advised that PO's don't always have time to look into the information to gain leads on client whereabouts. The new PSS positions will do all the background. Katrina acknowledges the perception that some supervisors refuse to approve overtime.
 - g. Criteria for VAT – outlined by Special Assignment Policy – but, per Katrina, “can be changed”. The team will be selected by the PSS's assigned to the VAT and Brittany. Ideally, VAT would be comprised of non-TFO's. Katrina suggests that, while we are working on figuring things out, any recommendations for selection process be shared with Brittany.
 - h. Time Frame to determine efficiency? No. What happens to the 2 PSS positions if the team doesn't work out? Katrina: Not sure. Going to move forward under the assumption that it will work.
- 5.) 43.11 Recruitment and Retention Supplement – policy 35-PAY-07- outlines the guidelines to establish the committee and is to be requested by Regional Administrators. Katrina admits that none of the framework has been provided to the Regional, but will do so and move forward to create the committee. This is something new to DPCS/APA.
- 6.) Field Coaching - SIT/SAT subcommittee – allowing new officers to learn skills; applicants to have 1 year PO experience, 8 hours instructional skills, completion of probation, submit a completed application. 2 forms created for the coach – Report Out Form for tracking progress of new hires, get turned in to PSS/SPO. Tracking Form- passed around to the various coaches who will sign off. It's really just a modification of the old OJT form. Shifting from 8-hour training to a “coaching”. Second half would be a scenario...to include arrest, investigation, creation of a hearing packet, and the VSP hearing. Also falls under the Special Assignment Policy, with possibility of OT as needed. Getting resume-building skills toward promotional opportunities.
- 7.) APA vacancies = currently at 45 PO vacancies

OLD BUSINESS:

- 1.) Management can disclose the Senior Officer Forms and the list of certifications without filing a grievance. Requests can be forwarded to Aaron Corwin. The screening tool will not be sent, just the score sheet to outline how the selection was made. Approved certification will be included in future Senior Officer Job postings. Allison had to get clarification on a few things on the new SPO scoring tool. Tabled until both sides review again.
- 2.) SIT/SAT workgroups are still active. Brittany reports there was a collaborative presentation after getting feedback from town halls, Tuesday talks, and visits to field offices.
- 3.) Sex Offender Supervision Revamp – workgroup meeting with Parole Board to modify SO conditions; Pilot staff selected; Presentation of specialized training being made to the pilot group; will reconvene the larger work group after the holidays to get feedback on where it makes sense to have specialized caseloads and where it won't work.
- 4.) Work From Home – Some offices are really tight with space. Where there is no office space, some officers get more than 1x/week at home. Must meet the “field worker” designation to have the once/week WFH. PO's can request alternative location with written justification.

MANAGEMENT TOPICS:

- 1.) Fugitive Section is upgrading operations to cover 24/7 and will now be known as “Warrants” section. There are enough staff for 1st & 2nd shift, with OSHP covering 3rd shift and holidays. Eventually will have analyst on 3rd shift, along with AP1 on each shift. Will be increasing AP1 positions from 6 to 10, as they actually issue the warrants. VAT supervisors will also assist “Warrants” section by monitoring SCRAM and requesting warrants. Effort will be made to expedite the warrants being entered.
- 2.) Opinion issued by Attorney General Yost: the opinion does not apply to FEDERAL task forces, but it DOES apply to local teams working with public safety, county drug task forces, etc. Katrina reports that “we” are interpreting the opinion that **if our staff is doing any sort of search or arrest, the PO should be involved ONLY ON APA CLIENTS**. It is reported that Legal has been advised and is looking for clarification. Requested clarification on scenario if an APA PO is taking a supporting role on an operation that does NOT involve APA client, but something occurs (i.e. physical altercation or someone runs out the back door), what should the PO do and how does the liability issue apply?

Next Meetings: 1/28 (TEAMS); 4/9 (In Person); 7/16 (in Person); 10/15 (TEAMS)

