

**Vermont Emergency Services Training Center
Governance Committee**

Meeting Minutes – January 8, 2025

Virtual Attendees: Michael Desrochers (DFS Executive Director), John Marcus (VFSTC Chair), Chris Brickell (VCJC Executive Director), Sherilyn Lafley (BGS), James Whitcomb (VSP LT Col), Bill Clements (VCJC Chair), Ken Hawkins (VCJC Director of Training), Lindsay Thiverge (VCJC Director of Administration),

In-Person Attendees: Michael Skaza (VFA Chief of Training)

Meeting called to order at 1:00 p.m. by Chairperson Desrochers and began with introductions.

Chairperson Desrochers set a goal of establishing a quarterly meeting schedule. A poll will be sent out to the Committee to determine what recurring days would be best.

The Safety Report draft was discussed and the following points were made:

- The increased number of injuries within law enforcement trainees can be attributed to a change in culture that encourages open reporting of all incident that either do or could result in injury. Many reports are incidents that result in rehabilitation and strengthening to prevent future injury. There is also an assumption higher injury numbers come naturally with increased enrollment, which presents more opportunities for injury. It was suggested that future reports report injury rates rather than numbers to account for varying student enrollment from year to year. All agreed that would be a good approach.
- The emphasis place on the contracted services of O2X is good and will pay dividends in injury prevention and reduction.
- The committee felt that it was important to add a lay-persons definition of rhabdomyolysis to inform the reader on the condition. A statement was proposed and agreed to.

A motion was made and seconded to add a footnote to the report that states “Rhabdomyolysis is a breakdown of skeletal muscle tissue due to direct and indirect muscle injury. If not treated immediately, it can lead to kidney damage.” There was no discussion. Motion passed.

A motion was made and seconded to accept the safety report with the addition of the above mentioned footnote. There was no discussion. Motion passed.

Chairperson Desrochers stated that the agenda for the next meeting would include the election of a Chair and Vice-Chair and appointment of a Safety Sub-Committee member from the police academy.

With no other business at hand, the meeting was adjourned at 1:35 p.m.