

Task Force on In-Custody Restraint-Related Death Investigations Minutes

February 26, 2026

9am – 11am

In person at the House Judiciary Committee Room

Commission Attendees: Dorothy Lennig, Dr. Meg Sullivan, Col. Andrew Rohrer, Brian Diggs, Major Adam Tersi for Lt. Col. Kenny Brown, Michael Dunty, Dr. Stephanie Dean, Brian DeLeonardo, Lt. Steve Hall for Sheriff Joe Gamble, Lt. Bill Gleason, Lt. Steven Thomas, Jessica Williams, Tony Schartner, Wayne Silver, Tiffany Dayemo, Julie Shapiro

Staff Attendees: Deena Hausner, Jeffrey Zuback, Arinze Ifekauche, Allison Badger, Elisa Nicoletti

1. Welcome and Opening Remarks

The meeting was called to order at 10:00am.

Commission members introduced themselves.

Dorothy Lennig gave an overview of the Task Force's meetings so far.

2. Review of December Meeting Minutes

The Task Force approved the December Meeting Minutes.

3. Presentation and Q&A from the Maryland Police Training Standards Commission

Wayne Silver, Executive Director of the Maryland Police Training Standards Commission, gave an overview of the Commission.

Jessica Williams asked how the recertification process functions. Wayne Silver explained that Maryland's police certification process is unique because every officer is certified annually. The annual recertification process involves verifying that officers have met their training requirements for the year, checking for any ongoing issues of concern, and confirming compliance with other requirements, such as mental health and physical agility assessments, depending on the officer's current cycle. Maryland's certification is conducted both in person and "in position". This means that the day an officer leaves a department (due to retirement, resignation, etc.), their certification is immediately revoked. To be recertified, an officer must go through the entire process again, including a psych evaluation. A requirement put forth by the General

Assembly mandates that when a police officer moves between departments, the hiring agency must review the Internal Affairs or HR file from every agency the officer has ever worked for. The hiring agency must then report to the Commission anything found that indicates the individual does not meet certification standards. This process ensures an officer who resigns due to ongoing issues does not jump between departments.

Tiffany Dayemo asked what the process was for auditing over 150 law enforcement agencies a year. Wayne Silver clarified that the Commission does not audit all agencies annually. Instead, there are several conditions that can trigger an audit. These include auditing along a timeline, an area of concern is raised by members of the public or other law enforcement agencies, and a request is asked for by the agency itself, often when a new chief desires a thorough review. Additionally, there are limited and full audits. Audits investigate inconsistent patterns and practices. Full audits may be narrowly focused, such as reviewing selection standards or the psychological evaluations of all agency personnel, depending on the identified concern.

Brian DeLeonardo inquired if correctional officers must go through a similar training process. Wayne Silver noted that a separate training commission exists for correctional officers. Many correctional officer programs embrace de-escalation training and revamp their training objectives based on job task analysis, paralleling the process used for police officers. The deputy director of the Maryland Police Training and Standards Commission also serves as the deputy director of the Correctional Training Commission, resulting in many similarities in standards and operations. However, MPTSC has a much broader view as it governs *training and standards*, as opposed to the Correctional Training Commission, which focuses primarily on training.

Dr. Stephanie Dean asked Wayne Silver to elaborate on what happens when a restraint-related in-custody death occurs. Wayne Silver said that each agency has unique protocols. The process involves criminal investigation and an internal administrative investigation. Administrative charges may differ from criminal charges, as standards and burdens of proof differ. The Commission reviews the Attorney General's Independent Investigative Division's annual report to inform recommendations for improvement. Training emphasizes learning from past incidents to see if standards or training need modifications to prevent recurrence. This review is often coordinated with the Maryland Chiefs and Sheriff's Association.

Dorothy Lennig noted that, often, new officers' training can be undermined by the practices of older officers.

4. *Presentation and Q&A from the Office of the Attorney General Independent Investigations Division*

Tony Schartner, Chief Investigator, gave a presentation on the Office of the Attorney General Independent Investigations Division (IID).

Col. Andrew Rohrer asked how the proper information is reaching each investigative team, as often, there are multiple investigations going on at one time. For example, the Office of the Medical Examiner may need investigative information to complete an autopsy report, but investigative information may not be

shared until an autopsy is complete. Tony Schartner replied that all information comes through IID, and IID is responsible for choosing what information to share.

Col. Andrew Rohrer followed up asking how communications are documented, and Dorothy Lennig asked if there were formal information sharing agreements. Tony Schartner answered that all information is coordinated through OneDrive. Julie Shapiro added that relevant information (such as video footage) is sent to the Office of the Medical Examiner as soon as possible. Dr. Stephanie Dean confirmed communication flow has been positive, though differences in jurisdictions would benefit from being standardized.

Jeff Zuback commented that the Governor's Office of Crime Prevention and Policy (GOCPP) also reports on in-custody deaths. He inquired if there was a way to notify GOCPP when a death occurs to make data collection more streamlined, and if data on bystander deaths (such as the death of a passenger in a vehicle) was collected. Tony Schartner confirmed that data is collected on bystander deaths, and one difference between the data that IID and GOCPP collects is that IID collects data on suicides.

Lt. Steve Hall questioned how many officers have been criminally charged or indicted from direct involvement in cases handled by IID. Tony Schartner stated that a total of three officers have been charged in IID cases: two by IID, and one by the Baltimore City State Attorney's office prior to 2023. He clarified that the first case they prosecuted involved misconduct charges that were not directly related to the fatality.

Michael Dunty asked for examples of police-involved incidents that fall outside of IID's jurisdiction. Tony clarified that IID's authority is limited to cases involving death or the likelihood of death. Cases that do not meet this threshold, such as a use of force or shooting without resulting in death, can only be referred to IID by the local State's Attorney's office if they involve serious injuries.

Dorothy Lennig asked if there were any trends identified in the last five years. Tony Schartner reported that mental health has had a significant impact on cases, which was detailed in the IID's annual report.

5. Adjournment

Dorothy Lennig announced the next meeting would be held in April. The meeting adjourned at 11am.