MINUTES OF ARKANSAS STATE POLICE COMMISSION MEETING
October 14, 2008

The Arkansas State Police Commission met on Tuesday, October 14, 2008 at the Arkansas State Police Administrative Headquarters, 1 State Police Plaza Drive, Little Rock, Arkansas.

Commission Chairman Dupwe called the meeting to order at 10:07 a.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Commissioner Warren Dupwe, Chairman
Commissioner Dr. Charisse Childers, Vice-Chairman
Commissioner Dr. Lewis Shepherd, Secretary
Commissioner John Allison
Commissioner Jane Christenson
Commissioner Steve Smith
Commissioner Woody Futrell

STATE POLICE PERSONNEL ATTENDING:

Colonel Winford Phillips      Major Kathy Sparks
Major Cleve Barfield          Major Les Braunns
Major Ed Wolfe                Sergeant Scott Woodward
Sergeant Ron Stayton          Captain Gloria Weakland
Trooper Tom Weindruch         Debra Hollis
Lieutenant Stan Witt           Captain Larry Robertson
Captain Ron Stovall           Sergeant Charles Beall
Karen Perry                   Emma French
Sergeant Stuart Woodward      Lieutenant Mark Blankenship
Lieutenant Jeff Jester        Cathalene Purvis
Lieutenant Glenn Sligh         Captain Myron Hall
Richard Davis                 Debbie Kirk
Captain Mike Fletcher          Bridget White
Jami Cook                     Dale Saffold
Captain Lloyd Franklin        Sergeant Lynn Breckenridge
Captain Nate Jackson          Captain Tommy Wicker
Captain Steve Coleman         Captain G. B. Harp
Sergeant John Catlett         Captain Lance King

OTHERS PRESENT:

John E. Chambers, Retiree
Joe Lee Richards, Retiree
Randy Lann, ASP Foundation
Bishop Woosley, AG’s Office
Rhys Rogers, DFA

OPENING PRAYER:

Commissioner Shepherd opened the meeting with prayer.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

Commissioner Childers led the Pledge of Allegiance.

NOTIFICATION OF MEDIA:

The media was notified of this meeting on October 3, 2008.
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MINUTES:

Commissioner Christenson made a motion to approve the minutes of the September 12, 2008 Arkansas State Police Commission meeting and Commissioner Futrell seconded the motion. The motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS:

Fiscal Report – Presented by Ms. Emma French

Ms. French presented an oral summary of the written report distributed to the Commission. She reported expenditures are at about 25%. She advised they had gone to the Audit Committee last week for one audit finding. She also reported our Budget Hearing is next Tuesday at 9:00 on October 21st. She advised we received Executive Recommendations late yesterday afternoon but have not had the opportunity to analyze it to see how it applies to us. She reported they had attended the bid opening for the construction of Troop K Headquarters, and their lowest bid was $2.2 million, so we are in the process now of looking to see what our next step will be.

Commissioner Smith asked where the other bids had come in, and Ms. French asked Major Brauns who had been present for the bid opening. Major Brauns advised the lowest bid was $2.2 million and the highest was around $2.6 million or $2.8 million.

Commissioner Allison asked Ms. French to tell them about the audit finding. She reported it was an overpayment of certificate pay of about $1500 over 4 years, and we were able to collect the overpayment for the last three years.

Administrative Services Division – Presented by Major Kathy Sparks

Major Sparks presented an oral summary of the written report distributed to the Commission. She reported the applicant processing for recruiting consisted of 114 applicants out for background investigations. Some of these applicants are being disqualified for different reasons found during the investigations. She advised another testing is planned for the last week of this month. Major Sparks reported a total number of 748 applicants which will be contacted for testing and we expect to get between 200 and 300 who will report for testing.

She reported training is working on a new curriculum for that school. She told how our trainers are making a comparison of our curriculum to surrounding states, in particular Louisiana who had a 26 week recruit school and has reduced that down to about 18 weeks by eliminating some of the non-critical courses and concentrating on the core courses and conducting the non-critical courses through their in-service training after graduation. She advised if we are successful in reducing the number of weeks, this will not cut our number of hours for this training, and this will be done by through wireless independent studies done as homework.

Commissioner Christenson asked for an example of a non-critical class. Major Sparks explained it would be courses such as Bias-based Policing. She explained that by saying non-critical she meant it was a course which did not require hands-on training and which does not have to be performed in the classroom. This can be tested in the scenario based training.

Major Sparks advised if there is a troop school held in January or February it will be the first time the F.A.T.S. has been available for the entire school, so any downtime for the recruits will be used on this system. This is very important not only for developing their proficiency skills in shooting, but more importantly it develops decision making and critical thinking. Major Sparks advised it was important to keep the troop schools small while developing a new curriculum.

Major Sparks reported September was a million dollar month for health care claims, with this being the largest claims month to date this year. She reported $143,000 of that amount was for one billing which came from UAMS. This put us above the monthly stop/loss by about $56,000; however we’re about $2 million below the stop/loss for the year. We still feel comfortable that our plan is in good shape for 2008.
Major Sparks asked for the Commission to vote on paying for flu shots for commissioned personnel. She asked that they vote on the Health Plan picking up the cost annually, unless we request to withdraw the approval from the Commission.

Commissioner Christenson made a motion to approve the annual flu shots be paid by the health plan. Commissioner Allison seconded the motion, and it carried.

Major Sparks advised Greg Hatcher will be presenting information at the next meeting concerning the selection of a new TPA. Greg will be working to get the best performance and discounts possible for the agency. She advised there is a spreadsheet showing some of the differences in the TPA’s they will be looking at for the next contract. Different areas will be looked at in this selection, discounts, and the best cost for our money, the efficiency in which claims are paid, and the overall best service.

Major Sparks advised the selection for a new TPA needs to be made before the 15th of November, and if the meeting is held after the 15th, then a special conference call meeting may be required to get approval of a new health care provider. 

Commissioner Allison asked about Greg Hatcher and how he is paid, and Major Sparks explained we have a consultant contract with him.

Commission Chairman Dupwe asked how it would affect the plan by going over the stop/loss last month. Major Sparks explained this is figured on an annual basis, and we are in very good shape annually as far as stop/loss.

Major Sparks advised Greg Hatcher is very candid in speaking with the TPA’s and letting them know what the comparisons are so that he can obtain the very best plan at the lowest cost possible for the State Police. She explained she had asked Mr. Hatcher if they had any recourse if the TPA chosen failed to perform satisfactorily, and she was told we would be locked in for only 12 months and could go back out for another selection then if it were necessary.

Commission Chairman Dupwe noted the wide variance in costs according to the spreadsheet they were looking at and wanted to make sure the one chosen would perform as well as the current carrier with the same capabilities of choosing doctors. Major Sparks assured Commission Chairman Dupwe that is one of the things Mr. Hatcher is looking at.

Commission Chairman Dupwe asked if there is any means to obtain comments or suggestions from the employees who have problems. Major Sparks advised providers for each carrier are available on the website for the provider. Commission Chairman Dupwe wanted to make sure each area will receive the same service and availability of doctors and hospitals. Major Sparks explained that each provider has its own group of PPOs, but it seems like Blue Advantage combines all the providers under the Blue-Cross Blue-Shield companies and cover a much larger range.

Commission Chairman Dupwe told Major Sparks to tell Mr. Hatcher he has his work cut out for him.

**Crimes Against Children** – Presented by Pam Davidson

Ms. Davidson presented an oral summary of the written report distributed to the Commission. She reported there were over 600 more calls to the Hotline than the same time last year. In August we had 242 more calls than last month this year. The number of calls that were determined to be valid was 319 from last month and 324 from this month last year. So we’ve had some pretty significant increases. We usually try to speculate as to why, I give up. Publicity is the only thing I can see lately, but there is no observable trend. Investigations were up 9 for this month compared to this month last year and 19 from August just for our investigations section. We did have 2 more investigators in September than we did in August, and we’re in the process now of hiring a Hotline operator.
Commissioner Allison asked to what publicity Ms. Davidson was referring. She reported the publicity was newspaper articles mostly, investigations into foster care involving foster children. She reported it hasn’t been real positive, and she said she thinks many times we see more calls due to the awareness such as April which is “Prevent Child Abuse Month”. She advised this is just speculation on her part, that there is no way to know for sure.

Commissioner Allison asked if these people are eventually being imprisoned. She advised that many more are being imprisoned today than 10 or 15 years ago. She said the cases she is seeing now are much more serious than when she first started working with abused children.

Commission Chairman Dupwe asked for any more new business, and Colonel Phillips advised Lieutenant Michael Foster is being transferred from Troop H to Troop I.

Commissioner Futrell asked that Chairman Dupwe recognize Randy Lann with our Foundation and also Retiree John Chambers who retired after 37 years of service.

Commission Chairman Dupwe also recognized Joe Richards who worked from 1968 to 1995.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

At 10:39 a.m. Commission Chairman Dupwe announced the Commission would retire into Executive Session.

The Open Session resumed at 12:10 p.m.

Commission Chairman Dupwe recognized Captain Ron Stovall who will be retiring this month. Commission Chairman Dupwe wished him well and congratulated him on his retirement.

Colonel Phillips recommended the Commission consider Corporal Mike Kennedy for promotion to the vacant Sergeant position in the training section here in Little Rock. Commissioner Futrell made a motion that Corporal Kennedy be promoted to Sergeant, Commissioner Smith seconded and the motion carried.

Colonel Phillips recommended the Commission consider Sergeant Ron Stayton for promotion to the vacant Lieutenant position in the Criminal Investigation Division, Company B. Commissioner Christenson made a motion that Sergeant Stayton be promoted to Lieutenant, Commissioner Smith seconded and the motion carried.

Colonel Phillips recommended the Commission consider Lieutenant Jeff Jester for promotion to the Captain position in the Highway Patrol Division at Troop G. Commissioner Futrell made a motion that Lieutenant Jester be promoted to Captain, Commissioner Shepherd seconded and the motion carried.

Colonel Phillips recommended the Commission consider Lieutenant Keith Eremea for promotion to the vacant Captain position in the Highway Patrol Division at Troop A. Commissioner Allison made a motion that Lieutenant Eremea be promoted to Captain, Commissioner Childers seconded and the motion carried.

Commission Chairman Dupwe congratulated all recipients of promotions.

NEXT MEETING:

The next regular scheduled meeting of the Arkansas State Police Commission will be held on Thursday, November 13, 2008 at 10:00 a.m. and the meeting for December will be held December 12, 2008 at 9:30 a.m. to correlate with Linda Craig’s memorial breakfast.
Commissioner Futrell expressed the success of the past events at the Firing Range, both with the Foundation and the Legislators. Commissioner Futrell suggested they plan a cook-out at Petit Jean for the Legislators and the Commission to see how the cars handle. Commissioner Futrell also thanked Commissioner Allison for arranging for the cook-out at the range for the Commissioners and the Foundation.

Commission Chairman Dupwe thanked Commissioner Allison for his work on the finance committee. He asked for a report from the Commissioner.

Commissioner Allison reported they met today and advised they have some legal questions which will be researched, but the committee’s charge is to protect the money for the ASP Health Plan. He reported over the past several months that has been backed by bonds which have been reviewed by me and with the ups and downs of the market, Commissioner Allison stated he has concerns about carrying the total responsibility of the Health Plan, so the committee is looking at a different strategy, maybe to be backed by U.S. Government Securities. He reported the committee will meet again an hour before the next commission meeting. Commissioner Allison suggested they have Counsel write a letter to the financial institution informing them we want our funds backed by U.S. Government Treasuries.

Commissioner Allison made a motion to that effect, and the motion was seconded by Commissioner Futrell. The motion carried.

There being no further business to come before this meeting, it was adjourned at 12:24 p.m.