

The Ohio Collaborative 2017

Three new standards, but how do they apply to your agency?

We are beginning the second year of the Ohio Collaborative. With year two, three new standards have been approved for compliance in 2017. The new standards include:

- Community Policing
- Body Worn Cameras
- Dispatching or Tele-communicator Training

How do these standards apply to your agency? Or perhaps the better question-- do they all apply? Let's look at each new standard individually.

The Community Engagement Standard applies to all agencies seeking certification with the Ohio Collaborative. Almost all agencies are doing some form of community engagement today. To meet this standard, an agency needs to:

1. Have or create a policy for community engagement.
2. List the specific programs for documentation proof.
3. Include within the proof, photos, a webpage, or Facebook page demonstrating proof of the programs and showing how they are shared publically.
4. Have a read and sign and testing process. Testing may be done orally. Please refer to the sample policy on the Ohio Collaborative website.

The second new standard for Body Worn Cameras requires a policy addressing five specific areas if your agency uses body worn cameras. If your agency is not using body worn cameras, indicate that and show an N/A in that section of the standards compliance checklist.

The third new standard applies to dispatching or to use a broader term—tele-communicators. The standard requires agencies that have a “telecommunication center or perform that function” to have a training program and policy directives. But does this apply to your agency? To clarify applicability, you can refer to the Ohio Revised Code (ORC 4742.01) definition of a tele-communicator. That definition refers to individuals “*employed by emergency service providers whose primary responsibility is to be an operator for the receipt of processing of emergency calls*”. Consequently, if your agency has a 10-digit telephone number and your emergency calls go to 911 center, the new standard does not apply to your agency. If this is the case, you can mark N/A on the standard compliance checklist and no further action is necessary.

For agencies certified with the Ohio Collaborative prior to March 1, 2017, you will need to submit documentation on the three new standards by February 1, 2018. Documentation is be sent to the Ohio Collaborative and on-site will not be scheduled until 2019.

For agencies that have not been certified, agencies will need to submit compliance and documentation for all five standards. The standards compliance checklist can be found on the Ohio Collaborative website. The Ohio Collaborative website address is:

<http://www.ocjs.ohio.gov/ohiocollaborative/index.html>

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