**The Ohio Collaborative Update**

***Don’t wait to Re-Certify for Year Two***

July is already here and soon the deadline for year two will be approaching. It is not too soon to be submitting your paperwork to retain your certification for the second year of the Ohio Collaborative.

As a reminder, there are three additional standards in the year two:

* Community Engagement
* Body Worn Cameras
* Tele-communicators or Dispatching

Agencies that do not use Body Worn Cameras can complete the waiver that is on the Ohio Collaborative website. Similarly, not all agencies have dispatch centers, so if that is the case with your agency you can again complete the waiver.

The Community Engagement standard applies to all agencies. This standard realizes the differences among agencies, communities and budgets. What is important is that your agency:

* Has a community engagement policy
* Identifies specific agency programs
* Provides proof of programs and how they are shared in your service area
* Provides sign and read on the policy and testing

If you are looking for a template for a community engagement policy, the S.A.F.E.R. (Seeking Aid From Every Resident) Program developed by Chief Michael Harnishfeger is attached and being offered to all OACP members. Chief Harnishfeger does request that is your agency utilizes this program and the S.A.F.E.R. acronym, that you advise him so he can track where the program is being implemented. The S.A.F.E.R. programs has won numerous awards and has operated successfully in Ada, Ohio for over a decade.

As a reminder, for re-certifying in year two, you only need to send to OCJS your agency’s documentation (or applicable waivers) for the three new standards. No documentation proof is required to be forwarded for the first two standards; however, your agency needs to continue to keep documentation on compliance for these standards in your files.

If your agency is not yet involved in the certification, the Ohio Collaborative website provides all the tools and instructions to guide you through the process.

Please contact Joel Brown at OACP if you have questions or would like to have a Peer assigned to your agency.

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