

**Center for Public Safety Innovation (CPSI)  
Florida Regional Community Policing Institute (FL RCPI)  
St. Petersburg College  
Advisory Committee  
Conference Call Meeting Minutes**

*April 6, 2011, 2 p.m.*

*Present:* Dr. William Blount, University of South Florida  
Sgt. Tim Brockman for Chief Charles Harmon, St. Petersburg PD  
Sgt. Mark Delage for Chief Jane Castor, Tampa PD  
Captain Terry Dioquino for Sheriff Jim Coats, Pinellas County SO  
Mr. Watson Haynes, Florida Commission on Human Relations  
Chief Anthony Holloway, Clearwater PD  
Mr. Jim Madden, Florida Department of Law Enforcement – Tampa Bay  
Mr. Bernie McCabe, State Attorney, Pinellas/Pasco Counties  
Mayor William Mischler, City of Pinellas Park  
Chief David Romine, St. Pete Beach PD  
Ms. Donna Schulz, U.S. Attorney’s Office, MDFL  
Chief Dorene Thomas, Pinellas Park PD, Chairperson, RCPI Advisory Committee

*Staff:* Ms. Eileen LaHaie, Executive Director  
Mr. Todd Kirchgraber, Training Manager  
Dr. Ernesto Santiago Fernandez, Puerto Rico Training Initiative  
Ms. Crystal Hinnant, Training Coordinator  
Ms. Laura Heisler, Training Coordinator  
Ms. Barbara Kieta, Executive Assistant to the Director  
Ms. Amy Brush, Academic & Student Affairs, St. Petersburg College  
Mr. Steve Johnson, Grants Coordinator, St. Petersburg College

*Absent:* Chief John Carroll, Largo PD  
Mr. David Brand, Florida Department of Law Enforcement  
Mr. Emery Gainey, Florida Attorney General  
Chief Tom Gavin, Pinellas County Schools PD  
Sheriff David Gee, Hillsborough County SO  
Mr. Tom Lange, Pinellas Police Standards  
Asst. Chief Bill LePere, Lakeland PD  
Ms. Elaine Terenzi, U.S. Probation

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**I. Welcome/Introductions/Approval of Minutes**

Chairperson, Chief Dorene Thomas, asked for approval of the minutes from October, 2010. Dr. Bill Blount motioned to approve and Mayor Bill Mischler, seconded. Minutes approved.

**II. Administrative Update – Eileen LaHaie**

Director LaHaie thanked everyone for participating in the unorthodox meeting (conference call) and stated that this type of meeting would not be the norm. Due to many factors, including grant writing season, Ms. LaHaie felt this would be a good way of holding a short, but informative meeting and would not take up too much of everyone’s time.

**A. Untimely Death of Instructor Tony Rolon**

Ms. LaHaie began the meeting by discussing the death of retired SPPD Officer Tony Rolon, who had been an instructor for RCPI since its inception. Tony was instrumental in authoring RCPI’s *Introduction to Community Policing* manual as well as *Managing Encounters with the Mentally Ill*. He was the inaugural instructor for RCPI’s community

policing training initiative with the Department of State in Central America. He will be sorely missed by all. A tribute to Tony is on our website.

## **B. RCPI Current Funding Levels – Eileen LaHaie**

Director LaHaie reported that the RCPI currently has about thirteen different projects for a total of \$1.8 million. Much of the monies are supporting the course or event coordination to include speaker fees and salaries for program operation. With the project management model used throughout the Center for Public Safety Innovation, the \$1.8 million is under the umbrella of \$8.5 million and twenty one projects overall. The RCPI has most of the projects but only a small amount of the money. These smaller projects keep us sustained.

### **a. COPS RFPs**

The Cops Office Request for Proposals are now out and due on April 21, 2011. There are ten topic areas. The FL RCPI is applying for funding in the areas of: **Human Trafficking** in the **Open category** to continue the work we've already started in the area of Human Trafficking; **Role of Community Policing in Homeland Security – Special Needs category**. We have worked in the area of special populations before and will identify areas where needs are not being met for this group, i.e. hurricane preparedness, homeland security and other catastrophic events; **Deadly Force by and Against Police**. This is being submitted with many partners locally and nationally to include the U.S. Attorney's Office, FDLE, NOBLE, Florida Police Chiefs, etc. Eileen asked if anyone had information they would like to contribute to this Use of Force proposal that we'd be happy to receive your input. Donna Schulz also mentioned that if any agency is applying for an RFP, the U.S. Attorney's Office would be happy to provide a letter of reference to include in their proposal. Eileen reiterated that the COPS proposals are all national in scope as opposed to local projects and suggested that anyone applying for one of the COPS grants keep that in mind.

### **b. COPS Conference – August 1-2, 2011, Washington DC**

Eileen announced that there will be a COPS Conference in Washington DC on August 1-2, 2011. They haven't had one lately but they normally provide very informative conferences with approximately 3,500 people in attendance. Eileen and another staff person will be attending. If you are interested in information, please contact her office.

## **III. RCPI Program Update – Eileen LaHaie**

### **A. Human Trafficking Initiative**

#### **a. Participation in Human Trafficking Focus Group in Tampa**

Eileen was asked to participate in a focus group sponsored by the Upper Midwest RCPI and funded by BJA. It was targeted specifically for judges and prosecutors, focusing on what they need in terms of knowledge regarding human trafficking issues as they pertain to prosecutors and judges. Attendance was from throughout the country, with a good representation from Florida. Ms. LaHaie's role was as an observer to better understand what would need to be included in a manual, should BJA have funds available to develop a curricula and the Upper Midwest historically contracts with FL RCPI for curriculum development.

#### **b. Future of HaltHT Website Funding**

Eileen reported that the Human Trafficking website, <http://haltht@spcollege.edu> hosted by the RCPI, is in jeopardy of losing its funding. The website was actually funded by St. Petersburg College as human trafficking was a concern of the college's former president, Dr. Carl Kuttler, Jr. The college provided the RCPI with seed money. Along with the development of the website with the seed money, RCPI has also managed a speakers' bureau of experts working in the human trafficking field that provide information at events throughout the state. RCPI provides them with a standard curriculum so that the message is

consistent and accurate. This funding ends June 30, 2011. We do not know if additional funding will be available in the new fiscal year beginning July 1. If not, RCPI may continue to provide the information under our RCPI website or work with the Clearwater Area Human Trafficking Task Force, led by Clearwater PD. They also have a robust website. The RCPI wants to continue to provide and update information relating to human trafficking since we've worked hard to develop an informational site and we hope to work with our partners on continuing these efforts without having to specifically fund a staff person to take on this role.

## **B. Law Enforcement Suicide Prevention**

### **a. In Harm's Way Conference, June 13-14, Hilton Carillon Parkway, St. Petersburg**

RCPI's next "In Harm's Way" (IHW) conference is scheduled for June 13-14, 2011, at the Hilton Hotel Carillon Parkway, St. Petersburg. We have held many IHW conferences throughout the years without specific funding, through partnering with the U.S. Attorney's Office, MDL, SOLES (Survivors of Law Enforcement Suicide) and other groups. This particular conference is funded through BJA. Eileen suggested that everyone take advantage of this excellent free training opportunity. We have learned a lot over the years and have built a great cadre of experts/instructors.

Donna Schulz mentioned that the current administration at the federal level has shown an interest in this topic. The Vice President and the Attorney General would like to support the efforts of law enforcement (LE.) suicide prevention. Eileen and Donna participated in a conference call with DOJ officials to discuss ways to strengthen this program. Also, the incoming president of the International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP) will be Walter McNeil, currently the Quincy, Florida Chief Police. He will be speaking at the conference and is a staunch supporter of LE suicide prevention. Eileen also mentioned that BJA has reached out to us regarding providing a speaker at the IACP Conference in October, and Donna mentioned that our IHW speakers would also be presenting at the NOBLE Conference. Donna discussed the fact that RCPI also schedules training of trainers throughout the country which helps develop a knowledgeable group of instructors that can provide information nationally. Laura Heisler, [heisler.laura@spcollege.edu](mailto:heisler.laura@spcollege.edu) schedules these trainings and conferences if you would like more information.

Ms. Schulz added that FLETC (Federal Law Enforcement Training Center) is also developing a curriculum based on "In Harm's Way" through the Department of Homeland Security geared for returning military veterans.

Ms. LaHaie concluded that the RCPI has another round of funding in this category in which we will be enhancing aspects of our existing curriculum to include the corrections side of law enforcement.

## **C. Law Enforcement Executive Session**

Director LaHaie discussed the upcoming Law Enforcement Executive Session that will also be held at the Hilton Carillon Parkway, St. Petersburg. This will be the second Executive Session. The first one took place last September at the Don Cesar. The group meets throughout the year discussing what law enforcement leadership should look like in the future. The teams have specific identified topics on which to focus and at this second Executive Session, they will be reporting their findings. We are not sure if they will include "first responders" at the meeting in July as they did last September.

If you are interested in participating, please contact Eileen or Barb Kieta and they will let you know the details as we are informed.

**D. “New Face of Gangs,” (correction from agenda that titled the conference “Many Faces of Gangs”) May 4-5, 2011 – Double Tree in Tampa – Donna Schulz**

Ms. Schulz reported that 250 participants are already registered and there is a waiting list of over fifty. It shows how agencies view the importance of this topic. On May 6, there will be an Executive Leadership Summit at Federal Training Center Coleman. This is for chiefs, sheriffs, SACS and command staff. It will be a half day with a luncheon. There is still space available for that meeting and it will include a visit to a high security penitentiary. It will be an opportunity for leadership to discuss where we are going with the gang issue.

**a. VALOR Training (*Preventing Violence Against Law Enforcement and Ensuring Officer Resilience and Survivability*) – April 5-6, 2011**

Eileen discussed this training initiative as a partnership between IIR, BJA, USAO and RCPI. It is part of Attorney General Holder’s Law Enforcement Safety initiative. The training is currently taking place in Tampa at the Convention Center. The RCPI will have representatives there and is in conversation with BJA and IIR to provide a broadcast about the availability of this training.

**E. New COPS Grants: Issues Forums/Podcasts**

RCPI was provided funding to coordinate the COPS Office Issues Forums – (Focus Groups) These focus groups are held periodically to discuss new trends in law enforcement and the direction of the COPS Office.

RCPI was also funded to develop the **COPS Office Podcast Series**, entitled “**The Beat**” which is available on the COPS Office website. These are produced monthly in the studio here at the Allstate Center. The COPS Office has been pleased with the series and will hopefully continue to fund the project.

**IV. Upcoming Activities – Eileen LaHaie**

**A. BJA Mortgage Fraud Curriculum Development**

Ms. LaHaie mentioned that last year staff went to Washington and met with the National White Collar Crime Center, National Crime Prevention Council (NCPC) and BJA to discuss this issue and each group was given funding to develop a curriculum. The White Collar Crime Center developed a manual for investigators while NCPC is providing citizens with information warning them about fraudulent practices. RCPI planned on developing a module about vacant property issues relative to what happens to neighborhoods when vacant properties are left to decay or multiply or become targeted for use by drug dealers or homeless persons, etc. The curriculum is to be a four-hour block that will help law enforcement identify and deal with these neighborhood issues that are no longer only focused in blighted areas of the community but also in upscale neighborhoods. The four-hour block can be provided at conferences added on to another curriculum that deals with mortgage fraud issues. It would also be offered online. BJA is also developing a website to provide information regarding mortgage fraud issues that would provide links directing people to the appropriate website that would answer their specific question on this subject.

**B. Critical Incident Peer Support for Law Enforcement (CIPS) Training**

Director LaHaie reported that at RCPI’s last advisory meeting, the first CIPS train the trainer course was also being held at Allstate Center. It was taught by Jim Sewell and Tom Acker (Pinellas County Sheriff’s Office) who were excellent instructors. We now have several trainings scheduled throughout the country. We believe that this is an

important part of RCPI's officer safety continuum that began with Law Enforcement Suicide Prevention training and continues with CIPS training.

**C. Law Enforcement De-Escalation Tactics for Veterans in Need Trainings**

RCPI partnered with the Upper Midwest Community Policing Institute for this training program and plan to bring it to our area in the fall. The first train the trainer was held in Minnesota in March. We've cultivated tactical law enforcement personnel as well as military personnel that have a background in this area to offer the course. We continue to look for local instructors that have this unique kind of background and we would like your input if you know of anyone on your staff that would be a good instructor in this area.

**D. Social Media Class**

Ms. LaHaie talked about a new class to be offered entitled "*Social Media for Public Safety*." It discusses how law enforcement can use social media to their advantage in regards to ongoing investigations, etc. It will also teach officers how to keep out of trouble regarding the same issues, such as discussing investigations on a social media site, talking about personal issues that could be detrimental to their careers and other realities regarding the drawbacks of putting information on sites such as Facebook, Twitter and others. We will be offering this training in partnership with the Gulf States RCPI. It will be a one-day class and will be held at the Allstate Center. We are also in the midst of writing a grant proposal with Gulf States RCPI regarding teaching social media users about social media.

**E. International Initiatives**

Eileen mentioned that earlier, when discussing the death of Instructor Tony Rolon, she referred to the work the RCPI has been doing in Central America through the Department of State (DOS) for the past two years. This relationship, which began at a meeting at the Clearwater P.D, has developed into a strong commitment to provide community policing training to law enforcement in Central American countries through DOS. We have made several trips there providing weeklong trainings and they have sent officers here several times for training. While here, we have worked with several of our local agencies to provide onsite visits for the officers to get a better understanding of how community policing works here.

SPC, particularly the Allstate Center, has begun working with a group that is interested in having the college participate in a "City of Knowledge" located in the country of Panama recently. This "city" is located in an area in Panama where universities have centers available to provide training on various subjects. USF and FSU have already established themselves within the "City of Knowledge" and offer courses in areas such as medicine/health and general education. After learning of our experience with DOS, there is an interest in working with RCPI in the area of public safety training. The college sent representatives to Panama to meet and see how we could fit in and it sounds very promising that we will be providing some training there.

We continue to work with the United Kingdom as they prepare for the 2012 Olympics. They contracted with us to put their curriculum on "how to detect terrorism" on line and available to the public.

We are also working with a group from Canada regarding training focusing on identifying fraudulent IDs. They already have the online curriculum developed but are looking for educational institutions to offer it. If we agree to offer/advertise this training for them, we will receive a portion of the fees charged to those who sign up. Lastly, Ms. LaHaie told the committee that the RCPI is still working with Trinidad regarding private security guard training for their security officers to make them more

professionalized. A curriculum has been built based on Florida's security guard training and we will be meeting to discuss offering that training soon.

Ms. LaHaie thanked the committee for agreeing to meet via a conference call. She mentioned that she had recently been named interim "Director of Grants" for the college and as such it has limited her time even more. She emphasized that the position is an interim one.

**V. Round Table Discussion – Chief Dorene Thomas**

**Sgt. Delage – Tampa P.D.** – Discussed Critical Incident Peer Support and how Tampa P.D. is looking into a finding a cost-effective program to provide returning troops and police officers that are suffering from PTSD. Eileen mentioned that the Allstate Center's In-Service department is working with the St. Petersburg Police Department (SPPD) to bring a program to this area. Most programs tend to be very expensive. Chief Thomas mentioned that Bay Pines Veterans Administration offered a program regarding this issue. Eileen suggested that we could provide the curriculum RCPI has that covers this area.

*Update: Curriculum has been sent to Sgt. Delage*

**Crystal Hinnant – RCPI** - provided more information regarding scheduling a program to be held for St. Petersburg Police Department officers in May or June.

**Ms. Donna Schulz – U.S. Attorney's Office, MDFL** - Mentioned that the FBI Junior Special Agent Academy, part of the Project Safe Neighborhoods Anti-Gang program, will be provided the use of the Everest Wall Challenge from the Multijurisdictional Counterdrug Task Force Program (MCTFT) at the Tampa Bay Prep School. Eileen discussed the decrease of the MCTFT budget and how it affects all areas of counterdrug training and how the Everest Wall will not be available in the future if funding is not reinstated.

**Amy Brush – St. Petersburg College** - The College is waiting on a date for the **Fall All Advisory Board Meeting** and will let committees know when the date is selected.

**Captain Terry Dioquino – Pinellas County Sheriff's Office** - Thanked Eileen for sponsoring the "In Harm's Way" conference and how much the RCPI is doing for the community.

**Watson Haynes - Florida Commission on Human Relations** - The state has recommended a 60% cut in the budget of the Florida Commission on Human Relations. This will put the Florida Commission out of business. Donna Schulz added what a valuable partner the Commission is for the state.

**Chief Dorene Thomas – Pinellas Park Police Department** – Pinellas Park started their Citizens Police Academy and Advanced Public Education (Apple) Program, programmed after a mini academy for learning all of the city processes. Chief Thomas also announced that State Attorney Bernie McCabe would be recognized by Live Free with an Excellence Award at a Town Hall meeting on Thursday.

**Dr. Ernesto Fernandez - Puerto Rico Training Initiative** - Dr. Fernandez announced that PRTI continues conducting COP training in Puerto Rico. Thanked Eileen for her support.

**Meeting adjourned.**

*Next meeting:* October, 2011, TBA