

SEPSI Advisory Board

Date: 6/08/2016 Time: 1:30 p.m. Location: Pinellas County Sherriff's Office

Attendees: Rob Vincent (GPD), Michael DiBuono (SPC), David Smolenski (SPC), Lauren Bley (SPC), Diana Ospina (SPC), JD Lofton (SPPD), Eddie Tucker (KCPD), Bill Sohl (Belleair PD), Chris Squitieri (Clearwater PD), Christopher Groff (PCSO), and Armand Boudreau (Treasure Island PD).

1. Welcome - Call to Order: Meeting was called to order by Chief Rob Vincent at 1:30 p.m.

I. Announcements

2. Old Business

1. Academy Changes:

There have been some structure changes within the academy. The Academies and In-Service staff is moving downstairs to room 114. David Smolenski is the new Academy Coordinator and Paul Andrews is changing to the In-Service and will handle all high liability courses. Lauren Bley remains in the In-Service and she handles all the non-high liability courses and the EOT courses. Diana Ospina is the new academies support specialist. Rosanne Beck is becoming a full time faculty. A new coordinator for the academies will be hired soon.

2. Electronic Testing:

The Academy exams online are working very well since January 2016 and the correction academy will use the same electronic exam.

3. Equipment

The SPC-AC mat room change to blue padding is done. SPC has purchased new equipment to improve trainings. All instruct are welcome to use the Go Pro cameras, but the SIM card has to be clean after use.

3. End of Program Assessment:

All PRC 200 students passed their evaluations. The evaluation assessment requires a report to be done in APA format and all students must pass. All students are eligible for up to 30 college credits after academy; however, they are not given automatically because each student is responsible to apply with a Career and Academy Advisor to get those 30 credits aware. We need to inform and incentive

all academy students to get an Associate's Degree after graduating from the academy because they can receive salary incentive for that. We also need to inform all Career and Academy Advisors of this incentive for cadets.

4. Trust Fund Advisory Committee:

SPC has scheduled several course trainings for all agencies. Civilians and support personnel are authorized to attend Advanced and Specialized training courses, but support personnel do not displace a sworn Region IX officer.

5. Firearms Training”

We have made changes to cut down on student class inactivity by implementing malfunction drills in the classroom. Agency sponsored students are able to use their department issued weapon. It was suggested to use rifles in training, but everybody agreed that the use of rifle in training is not possible because it will add to academies high liability issues and extra expenses. Every agency is responsible to provide rifle training that is three days in house training.

New Business

1. Crossover academies

SPC wants to implement a new way to hold this class by putting them into our PRC academies in January 2017. The reason of not having crossover classes individually is because they have always carried a lot of problems and financial issues. The college wants to offer the crossover academy for correction active employees in a continued basis and this will only cost \$2,100.00 dollars. We will require that all crossover students are hired and active when we start this program; we may look into allow students to come through that were previously certified at a later date. Students for this academy will not need a background check but will need the LE BAT test. The PRC academy can hold up to 32 students and allowing crossover student will help to get the classes full. The recruits will have to wear the same PRC uniform and the students will have the same class schedule and curriculum and they will only need to take 569 hours and not 790 hours as the regular academy. The students will not have any extension to retake any class with other academy. Disciplinary rules will apply the same for all students to avoid negative attitude from crossover students. The graduation is going to be at the same time as the PRC academy. SPC will have a new set of instructions for crossover students. This class will have its own FLDE course number. FDLE and SPC have agreed to incorporate crossover class to the PRC academy and the advisory committee will need to approve it.

Motion: To make an endorsement to approve the crossover academy to be incorporated into all the PRC academies. The motion passed with 6 votes for and one opposed.

2. PASS

- We have been notified that there is a potential of violating the ADA regulations because we are not permitted to ask students of drug historical use unless they are going to get hired. PASS is not changing the standard drug questions and will keep asking students of any drug use.
- Qualifications to be admitted to the academy are as follow: The student must have earned at least 30 credits with the potential to receive 30 more credit upon completed the academy: or the student can be sponsored by an agency; or the student had received an Honorable Discharge for active duty in one of the armed services.
- The committee wanted to know if we can offer the same credit benefits to the crossover students? If an agency sponsors a corrections officer and they resign from their corrections position, would they still be allowed to come through the crossover program through the agency sponsorship? Mike is going to check into this and have an answer for the next meeting.
- Problems with students that are not going to get hired. SPC is aware that some students are coming with a bad background and the college handles all recruit issues by applying disciplinary actions when they are needed. There was a suggestion to implement a physiological test and a Polygram test before the student gets admitted to the academy, but this cannot be done because we will need to add at least \$100.00 dollars to the pre-admission fee and adding these pre-requirements will affect the enrollment considerably.
- PRC 202 has now open enrollment and all agencies are welcome to come and help with this academy. The committee is very pleased with all the positive changes that happening with the academies. They all agreed that the military discipline approach is giving the cadets a more professional and respectful outlook. The college wants that all recruits learn that personal integrity is vital for their career.

Open Discussion:

1. Weather issues: A good gauge is that if Pinellas county school close the college may close as well. All students that miss class due to weather will need to makeup work by written a paper.
2. State exam: SPC is a private testing institution that offers testing on Wednesday and prefer to not have any other days. However, we are open to schedule another day only if an agency sends a big group of officers to take the test.
3. Use of radios: The committee wants to know if the students use radios in the academies. SPC does use radios in the academies only in all the classes that require them.
4. New cars: SPC has not purchased cars in many years and we are in need of them. The whole committee agreed that we need new cars and make some suggestions. SPC knows that the vehicle needs to be approved by FLDE, so the students can pass the driving test and that is the car that we will like to buy.

Motion: A motion was made to get new cars. All the committee were in favor and the motion passed. The committee recommended to buy cars with warranties to avoid repairs cost and to use the special discounts that we get for the police academy. Dibuono is going to check into the best price and also into the Ford Explorer with the interceptor package if it is approved by FDLE.

Adjournment

Next Meeting: September 7, 2016 at 1:30 p.m. Clearwater PD