

St. Petersburg College
Center for Public Safety Innovation (CPSI)
Regional Community Policing Institute (RCPI)
Advisory Committee Meeting
September 7, 2012

Minutes

- Present:* Chief Dorene Thomas, Pinellas Park Police Department; Chairperson, FL RCPI Advisory Committee
Dr. William Blount, University of South Florida
Mr. Nick Cox, Office of the Florida Attorney General
Mr. Will Daniels, U.S. Attorney's Office, Middle District of Florida (MDFL)
Mr. Bernie McCabe, State Attorney, Pinellas/Pasco Counties
Mr. Rick Ramirez, FDLE, Tampa Bay Region
Chief David Romine, St. Pete Beach Police Department
- Staff:* Ms. Eileen LaHaie, Executive Director
Mr. James Brock, Center Executive Officer, Allstate Center
Mr. Todd Kirchgraber, Training Manager
Ms. Barbara Kieta, Executive Assistant to the Director
Ms. Ashley Caron, Academic & Student Affairs, St. Petersburg College
- Absent:* Chief John Carroll, Largo Police Department
Assistant Chief John Newman, Tampa Police Department
Dr. Ernesto Fernandez, Puerto Rico Training Initiative
Sheriff David Gee, Hillsborough County Sheriff's Office
Sheriff Robert Gaultieri, Pinellas County Sheriff's Office
Chief Charles Harmon, St. Petersburg Police Department
Chief Tony Holloway, Clearwater Police Department
Mr. Bill LePere, Lakeland Police Department
Ms. Sandra Lyth, InterCultural Advocacy Institute
Mr. Daniel Mangru, U.S. Probation - MDFL

- I. Welcome/Introductions/Approval of Minutes of April 2012 – Chief Dorene Thomas, Chairperson** – Chief Thomas welcomed the committee members and asked everyone to join in the Pledge of Allegiance. Chairperson Thomas then asked the members to introduce themselves, after which she asked for approval of the minutes from April 11, 2012. Rick Ramirez motioned to approve and David Romine seconded. Minutes were approved by the committee.
- A. Member Changes: Eileen LaHaie**
- 1. Retirement of Chief Elaine Terenzi, U.S. Probation, MDFL**

Ms. LaHaie announced that Elaine Terenzi had retired and would be replaced on the committee by Mr. Daniel Mangru, although it was not sure who would be officially replacing Chief Terenzi as Chief Probation Office for the MDFL.

2. Retirement from the RCPI Advisory Committee:

- a. Chief Tom Gavin, Pinellas County Schools Police
- b. Mr. Emery Gainey, Office of the Florida Attorney General

3. New Members:

- a. Mr. Nick Cox, Office of the Florida Attorney General
- Ms. LaHaie welcomed Mr. Cox to the committee, replacing Mr. Gainey.

II. Administrative Update – Eileen LaHaie – Ms. LaHaie began by thanking and congratulating all of the agencies that were involved in the planning and participation in the Republican National Convention. The huge success of the event did not go unnoticed by the national news agencies as they gave well-deserved accolades to our agencies. She wanted to reiterate that message of “good job.”

A. COPS Awards Announcement – 2012 – Eileen was happy to announce that RCPI was funded by the COPS Office this year. We applied for three proposals and were funded for two of them. We received **\$400,000** for a **Puerto Rico Community Policing Training** grant. This award had a lot to do with the Department of Justice (DOJ) report that came out last year regarding lack of trust between the citizens and police, ethics violations, civil rights violations, etc. at the Puerto Rico Police Department. Since we have been providing training in Puerto Rico in community policing and counterdrug areas for years, we were contacted about providing the training needed to help with the issues in Puerto Rico. It took six more months for decisions to be made on the local and federal level regarding how and what training would address their needs. We continued to provide our regular training as usual and eventually the Request for Proposals (RFPs) were announced. We applied and are now in the process of executing the contract. We will be providing training for law enforcement and the community, to include: *Problem Solving, Partnerships, Current Drug Trends, Ethics*, etc.

We were also awarded funding of **\$200,000** for our **Resources for Officer Suicide Prevention** proposal. RCPI’s funding for our “*In Harm’s Way: Law Enforcement Suicide Prevention*” training has traditionally come from the Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA). Eileen actually called BJA to ask if they were supportive of RCPI applying to the COPS Office for funding in this area. We made sure that we did not duplicate services. We submitted the grant, building upon our BJA training program, with the intent to develop additional resources for our tool kit that we provide at our trainings and on the website. These toolkits are available to be downloaded and contain information and other resources for an agency to use in their efforts to prevent law enforcement suicide.

With the available COPS funding this year, only 22 applications were awarded and we received two of them. CPSI, as a whole, submitted a total of 26 applications this year and have been funded for 18, with five still pending and three rejected. Ms. LaHaie felt that our programs have done very well this year.

B. RCPI Current Funding Levels – Eileen reported that RCPI has a total of fourteen funding lines, equal to approximately \$2.4M. Primary funders include: BJA, COPS, DOS and individual sub-contracts. Some of the contracts are minimal while others are as high as \$800,000. As of July 31, RCPI has trained 105,000 students.

III. RCPI Program Update – Eileen LaHaie

- A. **Human Trafficking Public Service Announcement (PSA) – Clearwater Area Taskforce on Human Trafficking** - Ms. LaHaie updated the committee on what RCPI is doing with Human Trafficking training. She first discussed how we have been involved with the Clearwater Area Task Force on Human Trafficking since the Task Force's inception and RCPI has been its primary training provider. We currently are working with the Task Force members to develop a PSA on *Domestic Minor Sex Trafficking*. It will be available shortly for download.

In May, RCPI also partnered with the *International Association of Human Trafficking Investigators* (started by Jeremy Lewis and James McBride, both local HT investigators) to provide a training conference specifically for the HT investigator. The conference was held at the Sheraton Sand Key in Clearwater and it was attended by 100 participants. The training had a fee attached that helped offset costs and for the first event of this kind, it was very successful.

Ms. LaHaie reported that additionally, with funding provided by BJA, a one hour television broadcast on Human Trafficking was developed and broadcast via satellite and as a webcast. It was so successful that it surpassed all of the other broadcasts that CPSI has developed over the years in terms of number of viewers. The broadcast had more than 20,000 satellite viewers, with the webcast accounting for 4,100 internet viewers. Staff that worked on this project included those that traditionally have only worked in one area of CPSI, with this topic being one in which they had not been previously exposed. This project was a good example of how the project management model of doing business works by utilizing skillsets from any area of CPSI that can diversify staff knowledge/expertise and offset salaries. A discussion followed regarding marketing. Webcast is available to download from our website at <http://haltt.spcollege.edu>.

Eileen also reported that our Florida Human Trafficking experts are being utilized by the Upper Midwest RCPI to create an advanced Human Trafficking investigator training that can be utilized throughout the country.

- B. **Law Enforcement Suicide Prevention – Update**

Eileen updated the committee on this award. Currently we've trained approximately 27,600 students through four conferences, thirteen train-the-trainers, 31 Speakers' Bureau presentations and 43 student presentations. Work has begun to create a Firefighter Suicide Prevention Train-the-Trainer curriculum. A discussion followed regarding the Firefighter suicide issue.

An "In Harm's Way" conference is scheduled at the New York State Police Academy in Albany, NY, on November 7-8, 2012. *Update: Due to Hurricane Sandy, this conference was postponed until possibly the spring of 2013 and will have an extended component addressing PTSD due to the aftermath of those affected by Sandy.*

- C. Executive Session on Police Leadership** – Eileen updated the committee on this funding initiative. The goal of the initiative is to create position papers for publication and other resources, identifying the qualities and skills necessary to lead a law enforcement agency in the future. Darrel Stephens is among those working with this group of approximately 26 “principals” and their innovation teams. We have recently developed an internal website for those involved to share documents and other information as they work through their assigned topic areas. Eventually, this site will be open to the public. The fourth meeting of this group will take place the week after Thanksgiving in Clearwater to discuss progress (most papers are close to the publication stage) and to identify the next round of projects.
- D. Fee Based Activities** – Ms. LaHaie discussed our expansion into fee based training as another means of sustaining our program as federal funding continues to diminish.
- E. Project Safe Neighborhoods (PSN) 2011** – RCPI was selected to provide this training on behalf of the U.S. Attorney’s Office, Middle District of Florida. The training will be in the area of gang and gun violence. We already have a great pool of gang instructors due to our MCTFT program that offers gang training. Mike Miller is the coordinator for this training. You can contact him at miller.mike@spcollege.edu or 727-344-8010, if you have a need for training in these areas. We’ve already applied for the 2012 funding. A discussion followed. Will Daniels explained more about the funding.
- F. CPSI Update** – Ms. LaHaie reported that CPSI is the umbrella organization that all the other public safety grant-funding sources fall under. As federal administrations change, so do the availability of certain funding streams. With our project management model as explained previously, staff can be directed to support any grant, no matter what direction funding takes.

Within the project management model, in 2012, we have 22 funding lines that represent approximately \$10M. We have 30 employees and our payroll is \$2.1M. At our last advisory board we notified you that our counterdrug program had to lay off two employees due to the decrease in funding for that program. Fortunately, both employees were hired by the college for other positions.

Earmarks are also a thing of the past. 90% of our monies used to come from earmarks. Now, due to the reduction of earmarks, we receive 60% of funding from earlier earmarks and 40% of funding comes from self-generated/competitive funding. As of May, college wide grant balances were at \$11.6 M with \$8.7M of those funds being generated by CPSI, which means CPSI is generating 75% of the grant funding for SPC. The college has hired a new Grants Director, who has already increased the general college grant activity level for SPC.

Bernie McCabe asked if there were competitive grants for Veterans in Courts? Eileen told the committee that one of the other RCPIs has a “Veterans in Crisis” training. Mr. McCabe asked for something more specific for the veterans in courts. Eileen said that she will look into it. Mr. McCabe gave an overview of

what they (State's Attorney's Office) are doing with these issues regarding veterans with domestic violence issues, etc., after coming back from combat. JC Brock mentioned that Mike Prendergast, Executive Director of Veterans Affairs has been having conversations regarding these issues. JC suggested that Mr. McCabe get his concept together so it can be moved forward as there are multiple groups that would like to focus on this arena. Discussion followed.

IV. Upcoming Activities – Eileen LaHaie

- A. **Puerto Rico Police Department Training Initiative** - Ms. LaHaie gave an overview of the Puerto Rico Training Initiative and how we continue to provide community policing related courses in Puerto Rico (PR) through the coordination of Dr. Ernesto Fernandez. Dr. Fernandez is currently on assignment with the Puerto Rico National Guard and will return to PR in the summer. To date, 8,604 police officers and citizens have been trained through this initiative. We also have funding through our counterdrug program for training in PR and have trained over 15,000 with \$2.2M in funding through that program. We definitely have a presence in the Island. In fact, MCTFT recently received an award from HIDTA (High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area), for the support and contributions made to Puerto Rico through that program over the years. We look forward to continuing to provide training through the COPS grant we recently received.
- B. **Central America Training Update** – Eileen reported on the training that is ongoing through the Department of State's U.S. Embassy in San Salvador, El Salvador. We now offer two 40-hour courses there: *“Introduction to Community Policing,”* and *“Community Policing: From Theory to Practice.”* This second course was developed specifically for the training needs of Central America and is focused on taking the community policing practices they learned in the classroom and putting them into practice. Gang-related issues are infused into this training block. All ranks of law enforcement attend the training. Our website has more information relating to our training program there, and is also included in our Conexión Hispana section in Spanish.
- C. **Website Update** – Eileen discussed some recent updates to our website: <http://cop.spcollege.edu/cop> . Barb Kieta worked on a marketing piece that is now on the front page, providing information to agencies regarding the continued availability for our community policing classes at a fee. She also worked with some of our agencies across the state, asking them for community policing related pictures and articles describing events and other activities that may be of interest to other agencies. She received quite a few ideas for community events and programs that the agencies are involved in. Eileen suggested that the group check out the site. She also asked for submission of community policing events from their agencies that we can include.
- D. **Upcoming Events Handout** – Ms. LaHaie provided handouts for two upcoming events: *Security, Pseudo-Patriotism and the Erosion of American Liberties* (September 12); *When Violence Occurs in the House of Worship: 9-1-1 Someone got Shot in My Church* (March 12, 2013-Attachment).

V. Round Table Discussion – Chief Dorene Thomas

Chairperson Thomas complimented Eileen on the job that the RCPI staff is doing and also on how the college provided other jobs for the two employees that were laid off from the grant projects.

- **J.C. Brock** mentioned that Allstate Center has some funding in the area of Human Trafficking and would like some suggestions on ways that this money could be utilized. Haven't had any input from our line officers that were asked, so would like the committee's thoughts on some creative and interesting ways we could use the money. A discussion followed regarding child prostitution/human trafficking, etc.
- **Will Daniels** discussed more on Human Trafficking and talked about how the U.S. Attorney's Office is involved in cases in which several agencies are involved. Will thought that RCPI could get their multimedia group working with those agencies putting the case together and do some kind of PSA. He discussed that they are involved in many cases. Amanda Kiser and Stacy Harris are some of the point persons on these cases. Discussion followed.
- **Nick Cox** provided his input regarding Human Trafficking and said that foster kids are targeted for this. He suggests getting a relationship with social service agencies. More discussion followed.
- **Bill Blount** discussed briefly the master's and doctoral programs at the University of South Florida.
- **Rick Ramirez** provided more information regarding Human Trafficking and noted that most cases are in the south Florida district. He then discussed the issue of Turbo Tax with ID Theft. He discussed the major issues with getting the problem solved. The agencies have many cases but have no idea how to work the cases. FDLE has a pilot program that they are using for educating the agencies. The pilot program involves encouraging IRS to take the initiative to move on the cases. Electronic filing of Tax Refunds, and IRS issued debit cards for tax refunds, are the two major issues that allow the ID Theft to thrive.
- **Chief Thomas** discussed how Pinellas Park Police Department has lost two great employees to SPC. One is going to work at PASS and the other at the SPC Law Enforcement Academy.

Meeting adjourned. Next meeting TBA.