

St. Petersburg College
Center for Public Safety Innovation (CPSI)
Regional Community Policing Institute (RCPI)
Advisory Committee Meeting
Friday, September 13, 2013
10:30 - 12PM
EpiCenter, Room # 2-303

Minutes

Present: Chief Dorene Thomas, Pinellas Park Police Department; Chairperson, FL RCPI Advisory Committee
Captain David Danzig *for* Sheriff Robert Gualtieri, Pinellas County Sheriff's Office
Major Alan Hill *for* Sheriff David Gee, Hillsborough County Sheriff's Office
Chief Anthony Holloway, Clearwater Police Department
Mr. Eric Johnson, U.S. Attorney's Office, MDFL
Ms. Sandra Lyth, Intercultural Advocacy Institute
Mr. Bill LePere, Lakeland Police Department
Mr. Bernie McCabe, State Attorney, Pinellas/Pasco Counties
Major Matthew McKinney *for* Chief Chuck Harmon, St. Petersburg Police Dept.
Mr. Rick Ramirez, FDLE, Tampa Bay Region

Staff: Ms. Eileen LaHaie, Executive Director
Mr. Todd Kirchgraber, Training Manager
Ms. Barbara Kieta, Executive Assistant to the Director
Ms. Marta Przyborowski, St. Petersburg College

Absent: Dr. William Blount, University of South Florida
Chief John Carroll, Largo Police Department
Chief Joseph Collins, U.S. Probation Office, MDFL
Mr. Nick Cox, Office of the Florida Attorney General
Dr. Ernesto Fernandez, Puerto Rico Training Initiative
Assistant Chief John Newman, Tampa Police Department

Welcome/Introductions/Approval of Minutes of April 10, 2013 – 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 for approval of the minutes from April 10, 2013. Chief Tony Holloway motioned to approve the minutes and Mr. Rick Ramirez seconded them. All approved.

Administrative Update – Eileen LaHaie

- A. Restructuring of All SPC’s Public Safety Training Programs (handout)** – Executive Director LaHaie began the meeting by discussing the restructuring of the public safety programs within the Allstate Center which resulted in merging the former SEPSI In-Service program into the Center for Public Safety Innovation (CPSI). This move will bring all of the public safety grant-funded and advanced/specialized training programs together under one umbrella. This new change went into effect on January 1, 2013. During the better part of this year staff have continued becoming familiar with the FDLE trust funded and fee paying courses that are now part of our program. We also assessed the current costs vs. revenues and the break-even point of each course offering. The program was not sustaining itself financially. We began looking at the training schedule and cancelled classes that were not profitable, were not in demand, were out of date or were offered by our grant funded programs at no cost to the students. We looked at instructor costs and their credentials to see if they were providing current information and were up to date in their field of expertise. We looked at when courses were offered and if they would bring in more students in the evening, or on multiple days for lengthy trainings, or weekends. We discussed the idea of using social media as a marketing tool. In other words, we have been completely overhauling the former In-Service area. We have now begun meeting with the agencies and asking them to provide input as to what their training needs are and what courses they would like to see provided through trust-funding. Eileen then asked the Committee members with any input they may have in this area, to please contact her directly (727-341-4502).

The College requires that its workforce training programs become self-sustaining. What this means is that the cost for the training must include staff salary time. This had not been previously figured into the In-Service class scheduling calculations. Eileen was asked to bring the Project Management Model she has used with all the grant programs to the In-Service program to see if she could turn it into a self-sustaining, thriving program.

While we were working through all of these details, CPSI also lost funding from one of our main funding sources for 2014, which made it necessary to reduce staff in some areas. We eliminated one videographer position and three support staff positions (although we later were able to keep one of the staff positions).

One of the positions eliminated was that of the support staff person who was part of the In-Service team and responsible for coordination of the Driver Improvement course offerings. This program was not covering its costs and it has since been reduced to offering only the on-line option. Those requesting a classroom offering are referred to the other agencies that provide that.

When In-Service was merged with CPSI in January 2013, the projected loss in revenue to In-Service was \$271,000 for the year. Through reviewing all of the budgets and other financial reports, CPSI was able to make up \$200,000 of that lost revenue by June 30, 2013, and we are looking to break even by December 31, 2013.

Eileen closed with encouraging agencies to get with her to discuss their training needs as we move forward to bring our former In-Service area into a more customer-oriented

training entity within CPSI, offering the most up-to-date advanced and specialized training available.

- B. COPS 2013 RFPs** – Ms. LaHaie discussed the grants that CPSI applied for, mentioning also that we recently hired a new grant writer. Ms. Jenny Laws has a background in marketing and foundations as well which will be beneficial as we move forward with our marketing program. We applied for \$1.7M in grants: COPS Emerging Issues, \$350,000; BJA Executive Session on Police Leadership, \$300,000 (received this grant); DHS/FEMA Emergency Management Leadership Training, \$990,000; BJA CPTED Training and Technical Assistance. Also applied for a Humana Intergenerational Health grant in partnership with Operation PAR who was lead applicant. We should hear back by September on the above RFPs. The Continued Resolution was discussed and its impact on our programs.
- C. RCPI Current Funding Levels** – Director LaHaie reported that RCPI currently has \$2.8M; National Terrorism Preparedness (NTPI) has \$4.2M and our Multijurisdictional Counterdrug Task Force Training program (MCTFT) has \$1.5M. FY12 MCTFT money must be spent by September 30. Some FY13 funding will be carried over to support ongoing projects. Eileen will be meeting with the National Guard Bureau in Washington DC to discuss some contract work with our development and multi-media area that will help sustain the program through 2014. Although the MCTFT program will not receive funding in 2014 it is not closing down. CPSI is marketing its courses in a fee-pay capacity and staff are working with the HIDTAs regarding training. MCTFT also has online and CD courses that are open entry-open exit courses with certificates provided to download when completed. These are very popular courses. Our broadcasts are also provided as webcasts and can be downloaded for free. Eileen asked that if any agency needed any of our training, please contact us.

CPSI is in the process of combining all of our websites into one that will be less confusing for our students. Our goal is to provide a more user-friendly website where everything is easily accessible. We are also automating our registration system where students will register, do an evaluation and print a certificate all on their own. Lastly, we have begun putting together a marketing video that we can show at conferences and other events.

RCPI Program Update – Eileen LaHaie –

- A. Law Enforcement (Public Safety) Suicide Prevention** – Eileen reported that since January we have trained *1,443* students nationally through our *Law Enforcement Suicide Prevention* grant. This number represents attendance at conferences, train the trainers and speakers bureaus. We have three trainings and four speaker bureau presentations scheduled through December 2013.

Fire Service Suicide Prevention training has now been built into our existing training program with permission from our funder. We have held trainings in Green Bay and Milwaukee, Wisconsin and here at the Allstate Center. We have customized our *Law Enforcement Suicide Prevention* Tool Kit for Fire Service needs and it is now available on our website.

B. Project Safe Neighborhoods – This funding is provided by BJA to support the PSN efforts of the U.S. Attorney’s Office (USAO), Middle District of Florida (MDFL). Training coordinator, Mike Miller, whom many of you know, oversees that grant and works in concert the USAO attending meetings and coordinating trainings throughout the MDFL. Since January we have completed six trainings to include: Jacksonville State Attorney’s Office (*Wiretap Class*); Hillsborough and Volusia CSO (*Gang Intervention/Suppression*); Orlando (*Courtroom Testimony*); through our Sheriff’s Association partnership, Collier and Brevard CSOs have received (*Gangs, Codes, Sign and Symbols*). We are negotiating to bring a *Gangs* class to Coleman Corrections Facility and *Wiretap* training to Hillsborough CSO in the near future. We have been very successful in providing this training.

C. Law Enforcement Tools for Supporting Veterans in Transition – Director LaHaie stated that we offer this course throughout the country. We’ve trained 118 students and have six more classes scheduled. We did something different here in Pinellas County with this topic. We combined SPC’s student veterans and Clearwater Police Department’s Hostage Negotiators and utilized the curriculum in a forum context. She asked Chief Tony Holloway to explain further.

Chief Holloway reported that with so many veterans coming home to this area, his hostage negotiators felt they needed to be better prepared for possible encounters that might include veterans. Chief Holloway began talking to MacDill staff to find out what key issues and trigger words should be considered when dealing with vets, especially those who may have PTSD symptoms.

The Chief then moderated a session between his negotiators and St. Petersburg College student veterans focusing on these considerations. All participants said how beneficial the session was.

The Chief thanked Eileen for her support of the event. They will be taking this same discussion to Sarasota next and other areas after that. He mentioned that there will now be negotiators available at some agencies that are familiar with the trigger words and can be utilized to help other agencies if a situation arises that calls for the negotiators trained in this area.

Eileen stated that our video crew taped some portions of the round table. We will develop a broadcast in the near future of best practices. Eric Johnson, USAO, indicated that he would like to be involved with that project.

D. CPSI Update – Eileen reported that we co-hosted with the *International Association of Human Trafficking Investigators*, a conference in May on Clearwater Beach. We continue to work with World Relief and held three classes with that organization. Also, our Human Trafficking broadcast titled: *Slavery in the 21st Century*, that aired recently was the highest viewed broadcast we ever produced, to include our MCTFT and NTPI broadcasts. We won a Bronze Telly and a Silver Communicator Award for it.

Ms. LaHaie asked Todd Kirchgraber to discuss the on online training that is now available for your code enforcement officers and others, regarding *Vacant and Abandoned Properties*. Mr. Kirchgraber reported that CPSI just completed the development of two online modules on this topic as part of a BJA grant that we received in the category of *Mortgage Fraud*. We focused on underlying issues relating to foreclosed and abandoned properties. One module is a general resource for the officers that are not familiar with the issues relating to these abandoned properties. The second module is a downloadable presentation that can be used in community forums, etc. to familiarize the community with what options are available for use in combating the issues relating to abandoned properties. Although we are not seeing the foreclosure rate as high as it once was, communities are still burdened with these properties. A short discussion took place regarding adverse possession and Todd stated that it is not discussed in this course.

Eileen concluded that we are now awaiting the Federal approval of the course.

IV. Upcoming Activities – Eileen LaHaie

- A. BJA Pharmaceutical Crime Investigation and Prosecution Training Program** – Eileen reported that we received funding for \$1M. She asked Todd to update the Committee on the progress. Todd reported that we are now in the process of putting together a national steering committee. The goal is to build a training package addressing investigation and prosecution (and awareness on the judge’s level). We have submitted a list of our recommendations for approval but have not gotten a commitment at the Federal level at this time. It is a two year grant. We will keep you updated as we move forward.

Mr. Bernie McCabe suggested that it should not be Florida centered. Todd stated that it is more national in scope.

- B. Law Enforcement Resources for Suicide Prevention** – Eileen explained that the funding for this grant was awarded by the COPS Office that would build upon, but not duplicate, our already existing grant from BJA on Law Enforcement Suicide Prevention training. This funding is being used to provide written reports from agencies that have proactively addressed the issue of law enforcement suicide and have these resources available for all agencies to use as best practices and protocols when there is a suicide within their agency. We are developing an online course to be used by families to familiarize themselves with the signs of a possible problem with their spouse. We are trying to take a holistic wellness approach in the products and resources we are developing to combat this issue within law enforcement agencies. If any Committee members have any best practices, please let Eileen know. Chief Holloway reported that Clearwater Police Department holds a “Spouse Day.” Others indicated they have similar programs for spouses and families. Some hold them when recruits are hired. A discussion took place and suggestions were made.

- C. Puerto Rico Police Department Training Initiative** – Ms. LaHaie provided an update on this initiative. She explained that the focus of the grant awarded by the

COPS Office is to provide community policing training to law enforcement agencies and community members in Puerto Rico. A discussion followed regarding the issues in Puerto Rico. Eileen explained the composition of law enforcement on the Island. The process for the training has been lengthy due to the continuing changes in hierarchy in the Puerto Rico Police Department. More discussion. Our first executive staff training is scheduled for November. A discussion followed.

- D. Central America Training Update** – Eileen reported that we continue to provide Community Policing training at the U.S. Embassy in El Salvador through the Department of State. We recently provided a site assessment in Costa Rica with Dr. Ernesto Fernandez and Dr. Phil Lyons (two trainers providing our Central American training). We were asked to give them a needs assessment, which we did. We are hoping that training in that country will come out of the needs assessment. We have several classes scheduled in El Salvador. Attendees come from throughout Central America to attend our week-long trainings on either *Introduction to Community Policing* or *Community Policing: From Theory to Practice*.
- E. Upcoming Events** – Eileen asked the Committee to look at the flyers in their packets of upcoming events. A discussion took place regarding the “*Stand Your Ground*” training.

V. Round Table Discussion – Chief Dorene Thomas

Chief Thomas held a short, round table discussion.

Next Meeting: Spring 2014 (Date to be announced)

Meeting adjourned.