

St. Petersburg College
Center for Public Safety Innovation (CPSI)
Regional Community Policing Institute (RCPI)
Advisory Committee Meeting
April 10, 2013

Minutes

Present: Chief Dorene Thomas, Pinellas Park Police Department; Chairperson, FL RCPI Advisory Committee
Dr. William Blount, University of South Florida
Lt. Jim Bradford *for* Sheriff David Gee, Hillsborough County Sheriff's Office
Chief Joseph Collins, U.S. Probation Office – Middle District of Florida (MDFL)
Mr. Will Daniels, U.S. Attorney's Office, Middle District of Florida (MDFL)
Chief Anthony Holloway, Clearwater Police Department
Mr. Eric Johnson, U.S. Attorney's Office, MDFL
Mr. Daniel Mangru, U.S. Probation Office - MDFL
Mr. Bernie McCabe, State Attorney, Pinellas/Pasco Counties
Captain Tim Pupke *for* Sheriff Robert Gualtieri, Pinellas County Sheriff's Office
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. Krista Fusari, Academic & Student Affairs, St. Petersburg College

Absent: Chief John Carroll, Largo Police Department
Mr. Nick Cox, Office of the Florida Attorney General
Dr. Ernesto Fernandez, Puerto Rico Training Initiative
Chief Charles Harmon, St. Petersburg Police Department
Mr. Bill LePere, Lakeland Police Department
Ms. Sandra Lyth, InterCultural Advocacy Institute
Assistant Chief John Newman, Tampa Police Department

- I. Welcome/Introductions/Approval of Minutes of September 7, 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 for approval of the minutes from September 7, 2012. Ms. Eileen LaHaie made a correction to the minutes. An error was made in students trained. It was reported that 105,000 had been trained since inception, when in fact the number should have been 103,000. Dr. Bill Blount motioned to approve the corrected minutes and Mr. Rick Ramirez seconded. Minutes were approved by the committee.

A. Member Changes: Chief Thomas

1. Retirement from Committee

a. Chief David Romine, St. Pete Beach Police Department

Chief Thomas announced that since St. Pete Beach P.D. has closed its operations and St. Pete Beach is currently serviced by the Pinellas County Sheriff's Office, Chief David Romine has retired from the RCPI Advisory Committee.

2. New Member:

- a.** Chairperson Thomas welcomed **Chief Joseph Collins**, U.S. Probation (MDFL) to the Committee. He is replacing Chief Elaine Terenzi who retired last year.

II. Administrative Update – Eileen LaHaie

- A. Restructuring of All SPC's Public Safety Training Programs (handout)** – Executive Director LaHaie asked the Committee to turn to the new Allstate Center Organizational Structure as she reported that as of January 2013, the Criminal Justice In-service program as well as the Public Safety Youth Initiative was collapsed into the Center for Public Safety Innovation. She explained the consolidation of multiple cost centers (grants, trust fund, fee pay) and how bringing the college's training components under one umbrella would provide a more cohesive training schedule (current training schedule handout) allowing CPSI to offer more relevant and in-demand training, especially for our region. A cost analysis review of each class would now be conducted before the posting of any fees to make sure that we are covering all associated costs before scheduling the course. With this restructure, Ms. LaHaie advised that the former Criminal Justice In-Service Advisory Committee may be absorbed into one of the other public safety training advisory committees since many of the law enforcement agencies are represented on the RCPI or MCTFT committees. She stated that a consolidation of committees may be more beneficial in identifying what training is needed and to make sure that agencies are getting the trust funded and advanced training courses they feel are necessary for their officers.

Ms. LaHaie referred again to the Organizational Chart, providing an overview of each area and how managers are working out the details of how to structure services and staff. She also referred to the Project Management Model that she has discussed in previous meetings, indicating how staff are able to work on multiple projects from different funding sources based on their skillsets and how this model has proven to be more efficient.

Eileen discussed the training schedule again and how providing students with a more comprehensive schedule that includes all course offerings from all funding areas, will allow them to more easily decipher what is available without having to look at multiple websites.

- B. COPS 2013 RFPs** – Ms. LaHaie announced that Director Bernie Melekian left the COPS Office in March after serving four years. He returned to California. There is an acting director currently in that position. She also reported that the COPS Requests for Proposals (RFP) are coming out at the end of April. Topics for proposals include ethics and integrity, child/youth safety plus community policing enhancement and open topics.

Micro-grants for law enforcement agencies to fund new initiatives will also be available through the RFP process.

Allstate Center's new grant writer, Ms. Jenny Laws, will start on April 22. Her background is in foundations and fund-raising. We are very excited to have her on board.

- C. **RCPI Current Funding Levels** – Director LaHaie reported that RCPI currently has \$3.2 million over 11 funding lines, including BJA, COPS, World Relief, Clearwater PD, Coordinated Child Care and others. Currently, 82% of our funding is competitive while only 18% comes from earmarks. 103,316 students to date have been trained.

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

- A. **Human Trafficking Initiative** – Ms. LaHaie discussed the upcoming International Association of Human Trafficking Investigators' (IAHTI) conference (flyer in packet) that will be held at the Sheraton Sand Key Hotel in Clearwater on May 30-31, 2013. RCPI is co-hosting the event.

Other Human Trafficking projects include: working with human trafficking issues in Guatemala; working on a Public Service Announcement with the Clearwater Area Human Trafficking Taskforce on Domestic Minor Sex Trafficking.

It was requested by State Attorney Bernie McCabe, to have the conference flyer sent to the Advisory Committee via email so it can be distributed. (Sent April 11.) Will Daniels, U.S. Attorney's Office, MDFL, also inquired if a media announcement would go out. Eileen has made contact with the conference planner and gave him Will's contact information.

- B. **Law Enforcement Suicide Prevention** – Eileen reported that the “In Harm’s Way” conference scheduled at the New York State Police Academy in Albany, NY, on November 7-8, 2012 was postponed due to Hurricane Sandy. It is now rescheduled for June 13-14, 2013, with over 200 expected to attend (see flyer).

Since our last report, two Law Enforcement Suicide TOTs were held; one in Daytona Beach and one in Meridian, Connecticut. Five more are scheduled through July in Ohio, New Hampshire, Texas, Massachusetts and South Dakota. Four “In Harm’s Way” presentations were also held during this past six month period with five more scheduled through September.

The U.S. Attorney in Connecticut requested a technical assistance site visit to assist law enforcement agencies and their officers dealing with the aftermath of the Newtown School Shooting. We sent three subject matter experts (Donna Schulz, Tom Acker, Ph.D. and Richard Cipriano, Ph.D.) to meet with the chiefs of police and their command staff of the different agencies.

Eileen reminded the Committee that we have speakers available for conferences and/or other events and that we have the Law Enforcement Suicide Prevention

Toolkit that is downloadable from our website and can be customized by individual agencies.

She also discussed the fact that CPSI is now providing suicide prevention training for firefighters. Entitled “The Fire that Burns Within,” eight-hour trainings are scheduled at the following locations: The National Fire Protection Association in Chicago and the Milwaukee and Green Bay, Wisconsin Fire Departments. We are also working with the Firefighter Association in Tampa Bay area to provide future training. Our suicide prevention curriculum and tool kits have been updated to include firefighter suicide prevention as well.

- 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 national group of approximately 26 “principals” and their innovation teams.

Activities during this past six months include: the fourth Executive Session meeting November 28-29, 2012, at the Sheraton Sand Key in Clearwater; developing a new website where the final products can be displayed/distributed; taping of a forum on *The Work of Policing* in Washington D.C. on April 29, 2013. This forum will be devoted to topics ranging from the role of Peel’s Principles in today’s policing and the challenges awaiting leaders in the coming decades. Terry Gainer, Sergeant of Arms of the U.S. Senate, is the team leader for this group.

- D. Project Safe Neighborhoods (PSN)** – RCPI was selected to provide PSN (gang) training on behalf of the U.S. Attorney’s Office, Middle District of Florida. It is a 24 month grant (\$238,000). Mike Miller is coordinating the training. The first course, “Gang Intervention/Suppression” was hosted by the Hillsborough County Sheriff’s Office for 148 attendees. Volusia County hosted the same course in March with 53 attendees. Courses continue to be scheduled throughout the MDFL to include four through June. Eileen asked that if any agency is in need of Gang training, please contact Mike directly @ 727.344.8010.

- E. Law Enforcement Tools for Supporting Veterans in Transition** - Eileen referred to the scenario with the homeless man in Tampa, who killed a Tampa police officer, and it was discovered that the homeless man was a war veteran. She talked about the special needs of veterans coming home from war and how law enforcement needs to be provided the tools for working with the veterans during an encounter in a community setting or if the veteran has returned to a law enforcement agency. This course provides those tools for law enforcement to use supporting both the officer and the veteran.

To date, five trainings are scheduled: Texas, Champagne, IL, Danville, IL, South Dakota and Indiana. A taping is scheduled to take place in May of SPC student veterans and Clearwater Police Department Hostage Negotiators. It will be a

forum using a conversation format facilitated by Chief Tony Holloway. *Chief Holloway discussed the video and some of the topics. Discussion followed.*

- F. Fund 10 Activities** – Director LaHaie explained that Fund 10 is the funding that supports the college’s normal operations vs. Fund 20 which constitutes restricted or grant funded operations. With the merging of the former in-service staff into CPSI, the plan is to try offering some of our more popular, former grant funded courses through fee-pay. Fee-pay courses that were offered only within our region will now be available nationally. Ms. LaHaie would like to eliminate some offerings that are losing money and reduce the number of some course offerings to make them more appealing. Director LaHaie plans to have the transition finalized by July 1, 2013.
- G. CPSI Update** – Ms. LaHaie notified the Committee that CPSI has a total of \$10.7 million over 24 funding lines. We have 38 employees. Tom McKanna and Charlie Hall have retired.

Daniel Mangru, U.S. Probation, asked about resources available to be used by the Department of Corrections. Ms. LaHaie suggested using our RCPI video and our CD Roms. All deal with making decisions relating to potential crimes that are facing young adults. They also discussed the Everest Challenge Wall which is used as a goal setting tool.

IV. Upcoming Activities – Eileen LaHaie

- A. BJA Pharmaceutical Crime Investigation and Prosecution Training Program** – CPSI submitted an RFP for this grant in 2009, to provide training, technical assistance and resources to law enforcement and prosecutorial agencies to increase successful identification, investigation and prosecution of drug diversion crimes through the creation of local task forces. It was national in scope. We did not receive the funding in 2009. The agency that did receive the funding did not provide the training. Therefore, we were recently contacted by BJA and asked if we were still interested in accepting the \$991,013 for our proposal. Of course, we said “yes.”

The grant includes a training support package, prosecutor tool kit, broadcast, webinars, conference presentations, podcasts, onsite technical assistance, one pilot training session and nine training sessions plus website creation. Long discussion followed. State Attorney Bernie McCabe offered to help Eileen with discussions with the appropriate groups to enlist their help and ideas.

- B. Law Enforcement Resources for Suicide Prevention** – Eileen discussed the COPS award for \$200,000 to develop training and resources for law enforcement families. Since BJA funds our Law Enforcement Suicide Prevention training, Eileen did not want to compete with BJA by applying for the COPS funding. With that in mind, she looked at the missing piece in this area and decided that the “family” is left out of the picture. She discussed officer wellness, insurance issues, what spouses should expect being married to a police officer, should suicide be discussed, etc. This kind of training did not affect our grant with BJA

and therefore we were able to submit the proposal to COPS. We can now begin working with law enforcement families to offer them support mechanisms. Initially, we plan to develop online training for officers and their families using a focus group of subject matter experts to come up with the curriculum. We will also update our current suicide prevention toolkit to add a brochure targeting officers' families. This will be downloadable and also available on USB drives for distribution. Eileen continued to discuss other areas to include creating best practices of protocols in specific agencies, partnering with IACP, etc. *Will Daniels asked about our possible involvement with Sister Ann and her non-denominational facility that offers family retreats. A discussion followed.*

- C. Puerto Rico Police Department Training Initiative** – Director LaHaie discussed this award entitled “Puerto Rico Community Policing Project.” She began by saying that it has been a slow start for this award due to the political changes that have taken place in Puerto Rico. We have finally made some progress through a conference call with the Puerto Rico Police Department (PRPD) and now have a plan in place that includes: a train the trainers for the academy instructors and a train the trainer for sworn officers from PRPD; an overview will be conducted for the top command staff in the PRPD; we will train all the municipalities as well; we will train officers to work with the community on how to hold community meetings, etc. Most of our curriculum has been converted into Spanish and one course will be put on line in Spanish. We will also enhance and update our Conexión Hispana website that is linked from our RCPI website.

State Attorney McCabe asked if, after all the years of training provided to Puerto Rico law enforcement, has there been any noticeable improvement? Eileen said that due to a lot of political changes in the PRPD, it has been difficult to measure. The key is perception and this is why it is imperative to include the citizens in the training as we move forward with this grant.

- D. Central America Training Update** – Director LaHaie gave the background of the community policing training being held in Central America. It began in 2009 and we have continued to work with the Department of State through the U.S. Embassy in El Salvador. We have trained all levels of law enforcement officers from throughout Central America. We have two, 40-hour courses: *Introduction to Community Policing* and *Community Policing: From Theory to Practice*, both in Spanish. Our most recent training was held March 18-22, 2013, for 28 students from El Salvador, Guatemala, Belize, Costa Rica and Honduras. We have six more trainings scheduled through October 2013.

- E. Public Safety Youth Initiatives** - Eileen reported that CPSI is currently coordinating initiatives with middle school and high school youth. Funded by Coordinated Child Care, we are coordinating an eight-week camp called iCorps that focuses on improving perception between at-risk youth and law enforcement officers. The camp is held on Monday and Tuesday afternoons with four different groups. CPSI is also coordinating an SPC fee-paying “*Camp of Public Safety: Who Done it?*” camp that is held each summer at the Allstate Center. This camp is a hands on experience that includes working in the crime lab,

fingerprinting, investigating a crime scene and collecting evidence. It is for middle school aged youth.

- F. Upcoming Events** – Eileen discussed an online course *The Effects of Vacant and Abandoned Properties* that consists of two 2-hour presentations available on our website. The first segment is about mortgage fraud and the other deals with code enforcement. It is an open entry/open exit online course. Once the student passes the test, they can print a certificate. Former RCPI instructors Dan Bates and Jeff Kronschnabl, who developed our original classroom curriculum for these topics, worked with identifying what areas needed to be addressed in these presentations. We also collaborated with National White Collar Crime Center and the National Crime Prevention Council.

V. Round Table Discussion – Chief Dorene Thomas

Chief Thomas held a short, round table discussion.

Meeting adjourned.

Next Meeting: SPC’s Fall Joint Advisory Committee Appreciation Event - September 12, 2013 at SPC’s Epi Center (directions and formal invitations will be forthcoming from President Law’s office). The RCPI Advisory Committee meeting will be held at 10:30 a.m. followed immediately by a luncheon.