

St. Petersburg College
Center for Public Safety Innovation (CPSI)
Florida Regional Community Policing Institute (FLRCPI)
Advisory Committee Meeting
September 10, 2014
Location: EPI Center

Meeting Notes

Present: Chief Dorene Thomas, Pinellas Park PD, RCPI Committee Chairperson; A. Lee Bentley, III, U.S. Attorney, MDFL; Chief Joseph Collins, U.S. Probation Office, MDFL; Will Daniels, U.S. Attorney's Office, MDFL; Major Mike Ring *for* Sheriff Robert Gualtieri, Pinellas County Sheriff's Office; Major Alan Hill *for* Sheriff David Gee, Hillsborough County Sheriff's Office; Chief Anthony Holloway, St. Petersburg Police Department; Mr. Eric Johnson, U.S. Attorney's Office, MDFL; Captain Glen R. Smith, Largo Police Department; Ms. Sandra Lyth, Intercultural Advocacy Institute; Dr. William Blount, University of South Florida; Mr. Bernie McCabe, State Attorney, Pinellas/Pasco Counties; SAC Rick Ramirez, FDLE, Tampa Bay Region; Ms. Deborah McDonald, FDLE, Tampa Bay Region; Ms. Eileen LaHaie, Executive Director; Dr. Scott Fronrath, Provost, Allstate Center; Mr. Todd Kirchgraber, Training Manager; Ms. Trenette Brown, Project Administrative Services Manager; Ms. Kadell Ford, Executive Assistant to the Director; Ms. Dee Mortellaro, Career Outreach Specialist, SPC

Staff: Ms. Eileen LaHaie, Executive Director
Dr. Scott Fronrath, Provost, Allstate Center
Mr. Todd Kirchgraber, Training Manager
Ms. Trenette Brown, Project Administrative Services Manager
Ms. Kadell Ford, Executive Assistant to the Director
Ms. Dee Mortellaro, Career Outreach Specialist, SPC

Absent: Chief Jane Castor, Tampa Police Department
Chief Daniel Slaughter, Clearwater Police Department
Mr. Nick Cox, Office of the Florida Attorney General
Mr. William LePere, Lakeland Police Department

Welcome/Introductions/Approval of Update Rpt of May 23rd – Chief Thomas, Chairperson
Chief Thomas welcomed the committee members and asked everyone to join in the Pledge of Allegiance. Chief Thomas then asked the members for approval of the written update report from May 23, 2014. Chief Holloway motioned to approve the update and Mr. Ramirez seconded. All approved. Chief Thomas welcomed Dr. Scott Fronrath as the new Provost of SPC's Allstate Campus. Dr. Fronrath introduced himself to the committee and gave an overview of his professional background as a law enforcement officer and an educator.

Administrative Update – Eileen LaHaie

- A. Retirement of JC Brock on June 30th and Barb Kieta on August 29th** – Executive Director LaHaie began the meeting by announcing the current retirements of SPC’s Allstate Center Provost, JC Brock and FLRCPI/CPSI’s Executive Assistant, Barbara Kieta. Dr. Fronrath is the new Allstate Center Provost and Kadell Ford will assume Barbara Kieta’s responsibilities with the Advisory Committee. Director LaHaie then referred the Committee to the CPSI organizational chart. CPSI serves as the umbrella organization and includes the FLRCPI, the Multijurisdictional Counterdrug Task Force Training (MCTFT) program, the National Terrorism Preparedness Institute (NTPI), and, as of January 2013, the Advanced/Specialized (In-Service) training program. Additionally, CPSI administers the Criminal Justice Trust Fund (CJTF) for officers from Pinellas County and officers within Region IX. LaHaie then identified her senior managers and their respective functions.
- B. FLRCPI/CPSI Funding Levels** – Currently, FLRCPI funding is approximately \$4 million. This includes funding from the Department of State (DOS) and Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) and the Office of Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) within the Department of Justice (DOJ). The budget balance for CPSI collectively is approximately \$7.6 million, which includes salaries for staff as well as expense budget for training. CPSI did not receive any additional counterdrug funding (MCTFT) from the National Guard Bureau in FY 2014, and neither did any of the other four counterdrug schools nationally. Director LaHaie talked about the Congress possibly funding several counterdrug schools for the FY 2015 budget and remains hopeful that the MCTFT funding will return to CPSI to allow continued training.
- C. COPS 2014 RFPs** – Director LaHaie discussed the grants that CPSI applied for in the FY 2014 funding cycle. CPSI applied for ten funding opportunities: five proposals were funded, three were not and two proposals are still pending. The two proposals still pending include COPS grants for continuation funding for training in Puerto Rico and Emerging Issues Forums coordination. The new awards total \$700K, including two awards from the Department of State to deliver community policing training to LE officers in Panama and El Salvador; and one award from DHS/FEMA to deliver Firefighter Suicide Prevention training nationally. LaHaie noted that this project is a spinoff from our national Law Enforcement Suicide Prevention project known as *In Harm’s Way* that is currently funded by BJA and the COPS Office. Chief Thomas inquired about the course instructors. LaHaie gave a brief overview and history of the lead instructor Mary Van Haute from Minnesota, who assisted CPSI with preparing the initial proposal for the grant. LaHaie pointed out that aside from Ms. Van Haute’s own personal family experience with suicide, she is also a professional educator who has developed curricula and taught for CPSI as part of the *Law Enforcement Suicide* prevention program. St. Petersburg Fire Department Training Chief Bruni and retired fire Chief Jim Angle who now oversees SPC’s Fire Academy have also been involved at various points in the process. Advisory Committee members were encouraged to recommend other potential instructors and forward contact information to LaHaie.

FLRCPI Program Update – Eileen LaHaie

- A. USAO Hate Crimes Working Group** –Will Daniels, Public Affairs Specialist for the USAO, gave an overview of the history and accomplishments of the Hate Crimes Working Group established in 2003 and led by the US Attorney and his staff in the Middle District of Florida. In addition, as a member of that working group, RCPI oversaw the creation of the *About Face: Turning Away From Hate* CD that has been used nationally as an effective training tool since its completion in 2005. Most recently, members of the *Working Group* met in Atlanta in August 2014 at the Carter Presidential Center. Daniels wanted to reinvigorate the group to continue their work in this area. Representatives from federal, state, and local law enforcement; educational institutions; non-governmental organizations and other stakeholders came together to renew their commitment to develop training, education, policies and technical assistance in the area of hate crimes. Eileen LaHaie identified grant funding that would help kick-start some of these initiatives including the needed update of the *About Face* CD with the changes in state and federal law. US Attorney Bentley thanked the FLRCPI for its many contributions to educating LE and the community in the areas of community policing; suicide prevention; human trafficking; terrorism; drugs; gangs, etc. over these many years and that he is looking forward to working with CPSI in the future.

Discussion followed amongst multiple members of the committee regarding the recent events in Ferguson, Missouri; use of force issues; militarization of police; use of military vehicles; and proper protocols needed to avoid perceptions by the community.

- B. Executive Session on Police Leadership:** Director LaHaie updated the committee on this national police leadership project that is being funded by BJA to identify what 21st century police leadership will look like and what skills will be necessary for those future leaders to succeed. A series of executive sessions have been conducted over the last 3-4 years and multiple products have been created as a resource for these future leaders. LaHaie announced the launching of a website CPSI developed to house the products so they can be accessed by police leadership nationally. The website will go live in October 2014 and a press release will be issued by BJA and the College. **Update: The site is now available at www.bjaexecutivesessiononpoliceleadership.org**
- C. Puerto Rico Training Initiative** –Director LaHaie talked about continuing training efforts in Puerto Rico in partnership with the Department of Justice and the leadership of PRPD. As typical in Puerto Rico, leadership in the government and law enforcement change frequently, causing many delays in getting confirmations and approvals for training activities. To date, with this current project, two TOTs have been completed with a third planned in a few months. RCPI also partnered with FSU to offer training. FSU created *The National Prevention Toolkit on Officer-Involved Domestic Violence* (<http://nationaltoolkit.csw.fsu.edu/>) that RCPI agreed to translate into Spanish so that it could be offered in Puerto Rico to officers and agencies at no charge. Domestic violence was one of the areas of concern noted in the DOJ’s Civil Rights and Ethics Violations report issued most recently.

- D. BJA Pharmaceutical Crime Training** –Training Manager Todd Kirchgraber updated the advisory committee members on the first Pharmaceutical Crime steering committee meeting hosted by RCPI in May as part of grant requirements from BJA. This first step will assist staff with what training/resources are needed in the field and how best to provide those resources; and will also allow staff to draw on the knowledge of the group to help identify subject matter experts and instructors from across the country.
- E. Central America Training Projects** – Training Manager Kirchgraber updated the committee on RCPI’s current training initiatives in Central America. Currently, RCPI is working with the Department of State in the US Embassy in El Salvador to train law enforcement officers from multiple Central American countries in Introduction and Advanced Community Policing, using gang and drug issues as the practical application examples for problem solving. RCPI has worked with DOS on this initiative for the last 5 years averaging 3-4 week-long trainings a year.

Kirchgraber also mentioned that every 2-3 months, staff is asked to host international guests representing law enforcement, government and universities to conduct tours of the Allstate Center campus and speak with them about multiple public safety topics from community policing to terrorism to human trafficking to drug/gang issues.

In addition, Request for Quotes (RFQ) have been received from Panama and Peru through the Department of State for similar services. RCPI will be responding to these requests with a formal proposal submitted.

- F. Various** - Director LaHaie provided updates on the following BJA grant-funded training initiatives:

Project Safe Neighborhood (PSN): RCPI administers this training on behalf of, and in conjunction with, the USAO throughout the Middle District of Florida. When *PSN* originally started it focused on gun violence only and then added gang violence a few years later as part of the initiative. Recent trainings include *Street Gangs* held on September 9th at SPC’s Allstate Center campus with 96 attendees. Another *PSN* training is scheduled for November 18th at Allstate entitled *Campus and Student Safety*. There will be no charge for this training.

During this reporting period:

Critical Incident Peer Support (CIPS) - 5 trainings conducted nationally for a total of 131 students trained; *Veterans in Transition*: 6 trainings conducted nationally for a total of 141 students trained; *Law Enforcement Suicide Prevention*: 2,200 persons trained between training and speakers’ bureaus nationally. In addition, staff continues to work with the Sandy Hook PD and the US Attorney’s Office in CT; the Office of Victims Assistance in MA re: the aftermath of the Boston Marathon Bombing; and Jefferson College in Missouri after the shooting in Ferguson as these agencies are in need of CIPS and suicide prevention training and technical assistance for their officers.

Mortgage Fraud Awareness/Vacant and Abandoned Property: 83 students have completed this four-hour online training.

Upcoming Activities – Eileen LaHaie

- A. Law Enforcement Resources for Suicide Prevention** – Funded by COPS, this project will augment our current Suicide Prevention training and will focus on developing resources for LE agencies and officers as well as family members of LE officers, including online training for families; family brochure; protocols to address funerals, notifications, communication with family, and short papers on best practices of agencies around the country. The first focus group meeting to identify contents of these resources is set for November 2014.
- B. IACP Conference** – CPSI will host a booth at the upcoming IACP conference in October in Orlando to showcase the public safety training and academic programs available at the Allstate Center campus. A new promotional video will also be displayed.
- C. BJA Veteran’s Court Broadcast** – work on the broadcast continues to highlight issues veterans face on a regular basis, including post-traumatic stress disorder, separation issues, domestic violence, substance abuse, job loss. Staff traveled to Rochester, NY to observe their Veteran’s Court and interview those involved, and are also working with State Attorney Bernie McCabe’s staff about their recently established Veteran’s Court. Broadcast scheduled for June 2015.
- D. BJA Restorative Justice Broadcast** – still in development. Our film crew will be attending the International Restorative Justice Conference in PA in October 2014 to obtain interviews and footage.

CPSI Updates

- A. Advanced/Specialized Training (In-Service)** – Director LaHaie gave an update on the department, including new efforts to bring in more contemporary training, refurbishing the training vehicles, and creating a template for forecasting anticipated expenses and revenues to allow for more strategic and profitable training offerings.
- B. MCTFT funding status** –Director LaHaie update the committee on the 2015 DOD budget and her ongoing discussions with the FL National Guard that it looks promising that funding would be restored for the operation of the 5 NGB counterdrug schools. There are no funding level projections at this time and the scope of work has not been determined. We hope to hear more in the early part of 2015.
- C. Youth Initiatives** –An update on CPSI’s week-long Youth Public Safety Summer Camp was presented. 37 middle-school aged students attended from around Pinellas County. Many agencies donated the time of their officers to assist with the camp, which reduced costs, allowing us to offer scholarships to some students who otherwise would not have been able to afford the tuition. Activities included CPR; K-9 presentation; fingerprinting; internet safety; lunch with the police academy recruits; tours of the jail, SPPD and SPFD. LaHaie advised that CPSI is planning to do another summer camp in 2015 and is considering having it run for two weeks, at the request of many of the students’ parents.

Will Daniels also mentioned the FBI middle school camp that the US Attorney's Office is involved with and suggested that maybe the two groups can work together.

Other youth-focused initiatives included \$8K received from the Unilever Corporation to provide our *Everest Challenge* program that incorporates a prevention message lesson plan, positive interaction with police and the physical activity of climbing a rock wall to 8 middle school sites to train 350 students and CPSI provided *Gang Awareness* training to PACE for Girls - Coordinated Child Care at the Florida School Alliance Conference.

D. Development of Application for First Responders – Director LaHaie informed the committee about the upcoming launch of an iPhone app through iTunes that CPSI has developed that provides information and resources on how to assist people with access and functional needs including those with disabilities during emergency or disaster incidents. The *Access for All (AFA)* Guide is for people serving the community in any capacity and who need to quickly familiarize themselves with how to safely assist people with access and functional needs and disabilities, including emergency or first responders, health care workers, non-profit service organizations, and/or non-government organization (NGO) workers and will be available for a nominal fee of \$4.99. **Update: App is now available at <https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/afa-guide/id947877383?ls=1&mt=8>** Development is underway for the Android phone as well.

E. Upcoming Courses (See Handouts) Director LaHaie requested training announcements provided be distributed as appropriate within their organizations/agencies.

Round Table Discussion – Chief Thomas held a short, round table discussion.

Next Meeting: Spring 2015 (Date to be announced)

Meeting adjourned. Committee members were invited to attend lunch with other College Advisory Committee members that also included an information update from the President of St. Petersburg College, Dr. Bill Law, about a variety of College-wide initiatives.

