

AJ Advisory Council – Meeting Minutes

March 29, 2016

PRESENT:

Sheriff Mike Downey, Humboldt County Sheriff
Dennis Griffin, Humboldt County Corrections
Undersheriff William Honsal, Jr, Humboldt County Sheriff
Andrew Mills, Chief, Eureka Police Department
Sandi Petersen, Academy Coordinator
Chief Donn Peterson, Humboldt State University PD *

Michelle Reyna-Sanchez, Eureka Police Department
Maria Sandoval, POST *
Chief Bret Smith, Ferndale Police Department
Debbie Topping, Recording Secretary
Ron Waters, AJ Director

Ron Waters called the meeting to order at 10:00.

A change has been made to the AJ degree program. An AJ Transfer degree had been created to coordinate with the CSU degree process. The Transfer degree has the “critical thinking” course earlier requested by this committee where the existing Associates degree had included courses that did not fill a specific need but taken by students testing the waters of different facets of law enforcement. Some of the classes were not generally compatible with law enforcement needs and, due to infrequent degree and Certificate of Achievement completions, it was decided to keep only the Transfer degree and eliminate the older degree program. No one present had objection to this change.

A decision has been made to eliminate the Corrections degree that was available only at CR Del Norte. The program was initially started for the prison guards at Pelican Bay but enrollment has been falling since its inception. No students have declared “Corrections” as their major so, unless there are objections, there seems to be no reason to continue the program.

A Basic Academy Degree has been proposed that would include the completion of all three Modules (or the complete AJ80 Academy from Spring 2009 or before), the [standard] 18 units of General Ed requirements plus 10-12 elective units. Professor Gary Sokolow suggested adding Criminal Law to the required courses in the degree. Chief Mills felt that completion of such a degree would be highly looked upon in a candidate for promotion. Sheriff Downey also felt it was a good way for an officer to go towards promotion.

Perishable Skills blocks have been held with a few hitches. The 12-hour days were “disastrous”; feedback was “too much, too long”. The blocks of three eight-hour days were well-received. Nine months are left in the current cycle so suggestions were solicited for the next cycle that will run from January 2017 through December of 2018. Chief Mills suggested possible classes be taken from the list of mandated classes. He also requested some courses for civilian staff (records and dispatch), suggesting a class might be held on the first (or last) day of perishable skills so that they might only attend that day and all officers could attend the full block. POST rep Maria Sandoval reminded the group that Crisis Intervention Training will be required of all FTOs. She will look into the current 32-hour CIT course to see if the outline includes all requirements of the 8-hour course. She also noted that Solano has an 8-hour CIT course we might investigate. Undersheriff Honsal asked if the CIT elements would be included in FTO updates. He felt that “de-escalation training” was more of what was needed. Chief Mills agreed with de-escalation being a priority and that a n 8- or 16-hour class was preferred to the current 32-hour.

Maria Sandoval (POST) reminded the group about new First-Aid/CPR mandates. There was also discussion about the Human Trafficking element that has been included in the Perishable Skills block. Ron Waters reported that the class has been very well received with most being surprised by the information that is provided by the instructor who is a former trafficked victim.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:00 am.

Respectfully submitted,



Debbie Topping

Recording Secretary