

Academy Advisory Council – Meeting Minutes

March 29, 2016

PRESENT:

Chief Bill Dobberstein, Fortuna
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, CR 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 11:00.

An extended format Academy (Modules 3 and 2) is being designed for the fall in order to accommodate people with jobs and family obligations preventing them from attending a full time (intensive) Academy. Tentative plans are for classes on Tuesday/Thursday evenings and all day Saturday for 14 and 16 weeks respectively. Lectures will be held simultaneously in at the main campus and at Del Norte via distance-ed technology. Lab classes (Defensive Tactics, firearms, etc) will be held separately. There are a few **sticking points**:

- There are no adequate location can be found for the Crescent City class plus paying instructors for travel and per diem is cost-prohibitive.
- No Physical Training instructor has been found for Crescent City; it is needed if this class is to work. In general, a fairly steady core group of instructors would be needed.
- Module 1 (if held) would have to be a hybrid with high-speed driving and scenarios held in Eureka

Sheriff Downey commented that he would be very interested in sending some of his current Correctional Officers to the Extended Academy so that they could continue to work while training to be moved to the street. Undersheriff Honsal agreed and noted that it would allow the reserve program to be resurrected.

Additional instructors are needed for Defensive Tactics and PT for Eureka as well since the current instructors cannot do the current Academy in addition to the Extended Academy concurrently. There are a variety of backup instructors who come in on occasion but there is a lack of instructional consistency. Undersheriff Honsal suggested recruiting coaches from CR or HSU though Mr. Waters reminded him that they would have to have the Academy Instructor Course. Maria Sandoval responded that the AICC requirement is all but impossible for POST to waive, even for people with PE degrees and teaching credentials. Right now, the only PT instructor class is in San Diego but she will check with Santa Rosa about bringing the class further north. She noted that the class IS reimbursable by POST and she would check on obtaining Letters of Agreement.

Cultural Diversity/Racial Profiling instructors are needed in addition to other [1070](#) blocks. There are currently only two who have completed the training at the Museum of Tolerance. Chief Smith noted that he has the required training and said he was already teaching a large block in the Academy but could be used if there was a staffing emergency. Notably needed are First Aid/CRP/AED instructors to accommodate the May 1 effective date of new POST mandates of tactical first aid for law enforcement

The current Human Trafficking instructor used in Perishable Skills classes is a former trafficked victim. “She does an amazing job!” Should this block be added to Module 1 in the Basic Academy? Sheriff Downey agreed that it should be and the group concurred. Academy Coordinator Sandi Petersen was present and agreed to add it to the schedule.

The required 16-hour Patrol Rifle training is a training issue for new hires. Consideration is being given to scheduling the course immediately following the Basic Academy graduation which would accommodate the POST requirement that the training must be taken AFTER a student has completed the Academy. It would give students this additional training giving them the ability to carry rifles once they have been released from FTO training. Undersheriff Honsal questioned why the training couldn’t just be added to the Academy since it was mandated training. Maria Sandoval responded that the requirements are already substantial and it wasn’t desirable to continue adding even more hours. It had already been revisited and was a “dead issue”. Sheriff Downey stated that his Agency would “probably just hold the training in-house” if it wasn’t included in the Academy.

Dispatch instructors were needed for the regular Public Safety Dispatch course as well as any specialized training for Dispatchers. Amanda O’Neill is currently the only instructor and she no longer has the time availability to teach the entire 120-hour course alone although she is available to assist another instructor.

Training needs were requested from all agencies in attendance. ..Would like to put on an 11550 class and create an “Interview and Interrogation”-type classes but need knowledgeable instructors to keep classes local.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:00 am.

Respectfully submitted,



Debbie Topping
Recording Secretary