

Academy Advisory Council – Meeting Minutes

May 3, 2017

PRESENT:

Ron Waters, AJ Director, College of the Redwoods
Sandi Petersen, CR Academy Coordinator
Lt. Gene McManus, Del Norte County Sheriff's Office
Chief Andrew Mills, Eureka Police Department
Chief Bret Smith, Ferndale Police Department

Chief Bill Dobberstein, Fortuna
Dennis Griffin, Humboldt County Corrections
Chief PO Bill Damiano, Humboldt County Probation
Debbie Topping, Recording Secretary

Ron Waters called the meeting to order at 2:00.

1 Ron Waters proposed the **elimination of Public Safety Dispatch** as an AJ course. Although the turnout has always been good in the semester-long course, it has produced few viable candidates, mostly due to background issues. The Academy receives regular inquiries but there is a lack of willing and qualified instructors due to both schedules and the requirement of a degree to teach at the College level. Several suggestions of potential instructors were received; the topic was tabled to see if any possibilities panned out.

2 A new **Associate of Science degree in Police Science** has been created which will require completion of the Basic Academy, general education requirements and electives involving critical thinking and social studies topics. This will allow students who complete the Academy to earn a degree sooner, making more of them available as potential Academy instructors. It has been approved by the President and College committees. It now moves to the State Chancellor's office for final approval. Fall of 2018 is likely the soonest it would be available to students planning their schedules.

3 The new **training cycle** began January 1 and runs through December 2018. The intention is to set up 3-day training blocks again and utilize both FOS and Driving Simulators. The F.O.S. is almost ready to go after the technician returns for final set-up of the computer. Those attending were asked for suggestions regarding the third day of training. Some suggestions:

- CIT Update/Deescalation training
- Secondary Trauma/self-care for all first-responders and dispatchers "We don't want to appear weak so suck it up but do harm to ourselves. It would be helpful to know the signs and symptoms as well as the resources that are available".

It is intended that First Aid be the second day of class but 16 sessions will be needed to get all local officers through PSP and CR has only one First Aid instructor that has the updated Tactical First Aid training. Other potential instructors were offered:

- Cindy Henderson possibly (per Gene McManus)
- Dennis Stevens may need the Tactical update (per Bill Dobberstein)
- Blake Massaro and Jason Akana may have just gone through the training (per Dennis Griffin)

4 CR has an **Active Shooter** course certified but Tom Dewey, the original instructor, does not plan to continue. Are there any potential instructors available to take this on? Lt. McManus will check in Del Norte. Chief Mills has several officers who have taken the class; he will see if they are available.

5. Final items from the floor? Humboldt County Sheriff's Office is in need of PC832 training. That training was currently in progress at the time of the meeting but another session would be considered for the Fall semester if enough people needed it.

This group continued as the **BASIC ACADEMY ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

1. Due to regular inquiries, an extended format Academy (Modules 3 and 2) is being considered in order to accommodate people who can't afford to take off six months from work to attend the regular (intensive) Academy. By utilizing "simulcast" instruction, classes *could* be held simultaneously in Eureka and Del Norte. This was attempted in Fall of 2016 but the number of potential candidates that could pass the pre-entry (PELLETB) test was too small to justify the cost of the course. The Director at CR Del Norte, Rory Johnson, continues to field inquiries and believes it would be viable. Although it would be difficult, Ron Waters is again investigating the possibilities. Instructors would be needed, especially for PT.

2. The **shortage of instructors for both Physical Training and Defensive Tactics** continues. This is especially true if an extended Academy is considered. Instructors for PT must have BOTH the 40-hour Academy Instructor Certification Course as well as the 40-hour PT specific training. Defensive Tactics instructors are also needed in order to have consistent training. We have a variety of instructors who make themselves available on occasion but that makes consistency of instruction an issue. **How can we increase the number of people interested in instructing?**

3. **Backup instructors are needed for 1070 classes**, those that require topic-specific training. For example, John Packer and Ron Waters are the only two in the area with the training required to teach Cultural Diversity/Racial Profiling. Eric Losey is the only instructor we have available that has completed all updates for teach First Aid. This leaves the Academy in a bind should the assigned instructor take ill or be tied up in court or on an emergency when scheduled. Chief Smith reminded the group that he had the Cultural Diversity training and could teach in a pinch though he already has a large (report-writing) block he is teaching in the Academy.

4. The group was reminded that **Maria Sandoval** would no longer be the Zone P.O.S.T. Rep for this area as she has been appointed as one of two new Assistant Executive Directors for P.O.S.T. The relationship will be missed but good things have been heard about the potential replacement.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:55 pm.

Respectfully submitted,



Debbie Topping
Recording Secretary