

Palomar College
Police Academy Advisory Board Meeting
June 26, 2013

Meeting Minutes

Present:

Wilma Owens, Dean, Career, Technical & Extended Education, Palomar College
Shanon Dreyer, Police Academy Director/Supervisor, Public Safety Programs, Palomar College
Melanie Toth, Senior Administrative Secretary, Public Safety Programs, Palomar College
Craig Carter, Captain, Escondido Police Department
Tim Dow, Sergeant, MiraCosta Community College Police Department
Sandra Albrektsen, Lieutenant, San Diego Police Department
Christie Calderwood, Officer, Carlsbad Police Department
Chris Steffen, Sergeant, San Diego Sheriff Office
Manuel Rodriguez, Chief, National City Police Department
Jeff Maxim, San Diego Sheriff Office

Shanon Dreyer called the meeting to order at 11:45am in the Public Safety Training Center, Room 3B.

The Police Academy was explained as an extended format with almost 1,200 hours, exceeding POST minimum hours of 664 hours. It meets 25 hours per week. It includes community service aspects and has a significant military presence. The Police Academy is self-paid or with tuition assistance, and costs just under \$5,000. The minimum age to attend is 18 years of age, but it is recommended that applicants be older, as POST certificates are good for 3 years and most agencies have a minimum hire age of 21 years of age. Our graduates have had a great hiring rate with one class having 17 of 25 graduates hired. The hire-rate is partly due to the Interview Preparation course in Palomar's Academy. It helps prepare students for agency interviews- what agencies are looking for and how to interview.

The first block in the Academy is mostly classroom instruction. For the Crimes in Progress course (LD 33), the POST minimum hours are 24 and Palomar's Academy totals 48 hours. The classroom portion is completed first, and then the rest of the class time is hands-on. The fire tower is used for Domestic Violence apartment issue training. The instructors of Arrest and Control work with the instructor for Crimes in Progress to help the students see the relationship between the two courses. The order in which LD's are taught has been changed to help students and how they relate to each other.

Shanon asked the agencies to notify our Training Officers if they hire any graduates of Palomar's Academy and find them to be deficient in field training. We will adjust our program accordingly.

POST has made some changes in course and test hours. They are reducing the tests from 60 to 20, requiring students to identify several types of crimes in each test, instead of one test per type of crime. This is in an effort to reduce costs of test security. It was felt by the group that this would be more difficult for students and rookies in the field. Chief Rodriguez stated that he felt it was not a good move on POST's part and that decisions should not be based on reducing costs of tests. He said it will cost more in the long run for agencies and will be worse for students.

The CE 100 internship was discussed. It is a 3.0 unit course that takes what is learned in the classroom and applies it in the field with ride-alongs. The students write papers about their ride-along experiences. They also volunteer at homeless shelters and other community service in order to learn to work with the public.

EVOC (Emergency Vehicle Operation Center) hours are also being changed, per POST requirements. The hours are being increased from 24-40, and per Sandra Albrektsen and Chris Steffen, POST is thinking of pulling hours from Report Writing to make the increase to EVOC hours.

Wilma Owens discussed the Associates degree program at Palomar College. The degree program transfers to universities with a Transfer Model curriculum. Cal State Universities have to accept these courses. It is felt that the more education a Peace Officer has, the better it is for the community.

Shanon spoke about the "Recruitment on the Road" program. About 3/4th of the way through the Academy, the recruits are put through PA test. Shanon advised the agencies recruit early. She said about half way through the Academy or later, the agencies should come to the Academy and speak to the recruits; they should look for recruits to hire. With a letter from the Agency, the recruit can wear the Agency uniform and be sworn in at graduation; they can have a conditional job offer.

Teaching commitment to family and community, as well as career, was stressed. It was also mentioned that it is good to have graduates that are now Training Officers.

Shanon Dreyer acknowledged and thanked all members for their time and participation. The meeting was adjourned at 12:35 p.m.