



**Palomar College
Public Safety Joint Advisory Board Meeting
April 18, 2017**

Meeting Minutes

Opening Session

The Advisory Board meeting was called to order at 8:45 a.m. by Darryl Hebert with a video presentation of the Public Safety Programs at Palomar College. The video is not yet completed but it was previewed to the group.

Margie Fritch, Dean of Career, Technical and Extended Education at Palomar College, shared information on the future of these programs and how they will be impacted in the next few years. The most recent development was Fire Technology's move to the Escondido Center; now both Fire Technology and Emergency Medical Education are housed in the same building.

In addition, the Fallbrook Center is scheduled to offer classes in Summer 2018. The current plan is to use modular buildings until permanent classrooms are built. There is also a tentative plan to open a North County Public Safety Training Center that will include the Fire Academy/Fire Technology, EME, and the Police Academy as early as 2019 at the Fallbrook location.

Funds are also available for workforce development. The state has awarded Palomar College with \$2.1 million for the next five years through the Strong Workforce Program. These funds will enable Palomar to invest in its Career Technical Education (CTE) programs to meet the changing needs in the labor market.

Palomar will also focus on increasing the enrollment for veterans and high school students in our CTE courses. There is currently a marketing campaign at Camp Pendleton, and Palomar will offer a Summer Academy that will combine classes from EME, Fire Technology and Administration of Justice to be offered to high school students during a six week program.

A presentation was provided by two employees from the City of Murrieta. Lt. Tony Conrad of Murrieta PD and Capt. Eric Ballard of Murrieta FD explained how they are training their tactical medics. They sent their first tactical medic through the Palomar College Police Academy, Module III, this year so that he would be able to become a Level III Reserve Officer and be legitimately armed to accompany the SWAT Team. They also said the side benefit was a bridge between Police and Fire and a more efficient operation. They discussed the costs and scheduling arrangements made to accommodate the training schedule. The group inquired if there was an opportunity to hold a Module III program that mirrors the fire departments' 3-shift "Kelly" schedule, which would lessen the overtime/backfill costs that Murrieta experienced during the 9 weeks that their tactical medic attended academy training. They also discussed the legal research they did with POST and through legal counsel about how to lessen/alleviate liabilities by having their medics cross-trained as Reserve Officers. Their three other tactical medics are not armed until they complete the academy, due to liability issues. The group discussed how other agencies have medics complete a PC 832 course, while others send their medics through police SWAT Schools.

The opening session adjourned to accommodate the breakout sessions for Police and Fire/EMS.

Breakout Session – Police Academy

Shanon Dreyer, Police Academy Director, welcomed the group and provided background information on the purpose of the Advisory Board.

Modular Format – The Police Academy changed curriculum from an extended academy to the modular format (still with the extended format schedule). After completing Module III, recruits can work as Level III Reserves and the course includes a PC 832 certification. Module II allows for employment as a Level II Reserve Officer. This format benefits local agencies who want Level III/II Reserves because recruits do not have to attend the entire academy and can return to complete subsequent modules at a later date. It also benefits recruits who may be unable to complete the entire year of training.

In addition, agencies may sponsor recruits and should contact Julie Barnes to discuss the different ways that can be done. Agencies are also invited to make arrangements with the Police Academy to come in and recruit for Reserve Officer positions. Agencies have an opportunity to utilize recruits in Reserve Officer positions or PC 832 certified positions while the recruit is completing the entire academy to then consider them for full-time employment.

Due to the increased demand for Reserve Officers, there were agency requests to offer an additional Mod III class during the year. The discussion centered on staffing and classroom issues which will be addressed at a later date to determine if this is feasible.

Academy Screening Requirements – The screening process has been modified and we have eliminated the written and physical agility test at this time, although it may be brought back into the selection process to help assess applicant suitability. Applicants participate in an interview and that includes information about their background, although we do not conduct a background investigation on applicants. Our scoring matrix helps to identify the most qualified candidates for our limited amount of seats.

Some agencies have stated that there are a significant number of recruits who had washed out of the background investigation and wanted to know our application requirements. According to Ed Code limitations, Palomar cannot do the same type of intensive background investigations that agencies do. Dean Margie Fritch said that the Academy could change to a “restricted” status to be exempt from certain Ed Code requirements, thus making the screening process more in-line with local agencies. Agencies were asked to check with their background investigators to determine the major areas of concern. The biggest challenges agencies see with new hires in Field Training tends to be report writing skills and officer safety skills. This is consistent from graduates of any academy, not simply Palomar. Any training that incorporates or stresses the importance of these skills is desired by agencies. The academy does not currently have any requirements for English proficiency skills but this will be re-examined to possibly introduce into the screening process.

Training Needs – Local law enforcement agencies are requesting opportunities to receive training from Palomar College. There are currently not enough facilities to accommodate the training needs in North County. The San Diego County Sheriff's Department has suggested a partnership with Palomar to assist with this endeavor, particularly in the development of a North campus in Fallbrook and building the instructor pool of AICC certified staff to teach the requested training. The following training needs have been identified:

- POST Requalification Course
- Officer Safety Issues/Additional Training
- Report Writing Refresher Courses
- EVOC Training
- Advanced Officer Training
- PC 832 Course
- Continuing Professional Education (CPE) Courses/Perishable Skills Courses

Dean Margie Fritch suggested that it may be possible to build Non-Credit courses for refresher/perishable skills classes. It was suggested that we look into purchasing a driver simulator and force options simulator with Strong Workforce funds if we decide to offer these training courses.

Equipment Donations – The Police Academy needs vests and will accept certain expired equipment. More than one agency stated they believe they have vests that could be donated. Oceanside Police Department has PR 24s that they can donate.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:15 a.m.

Attendees:

Shanon Dreyer, Police Academy Director, Public Safety Programs, Palomar College
Kelli Florman, Police Academy Coordinator, Public Safety Programs, Palomar College
Juliette Barnes, Training Assistant, Palomar College Police Academy
Glenda Gardner, Academic Department Assistant, Public Safety Programs, Palomar College
Mike McClain, Captain, San Diego County Sheriff's Department (San Marcos Station)
Nathanael Brazelton, Sergeant, Oceanside Police Department
Michael Sandoval, Sergeant, Brawley Police Department
Ralph Garcia, Sergeant, MiraCosta College Police Department
Jeff Maxin, Captain, San Diego County Sheriff's Department, Training Division
Nancy Blanco, Sergeant, San Diego County Sheriff's Department, Reserve Coordinator



PUBLIC SAFETY JOINT ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

April 18, 2017

AGENDA

0800 - 0845: Classroom 2A/2B - Check-in and Breakfast

0845 - 0900: Welcome - Video Presentation

0900 - 0930: Opening Remarks:

President Joi Blake

Dean Margie Fritch

BREAK

0930 - 1100: Breakout Sessions:

Police - Classroom 2A/2B

Fire/EMS - Classroom 1A/1B