** 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.

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 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 2020 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 6 week program.

A presentation was provided by two employees from the City of Murrieta. Lt. Tony Conrad and Capt. Eric Ballard explained how they are training their tactical medics. They sent their first medic through the Palomar College Police Academy, Module III, 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.

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

**Breakout Session**

Darryl Hebert brought the Fire Technology and EME meeting to order with introductions of speakers Pete Ordille, Margie Fritch, John Thompson, Wayne Hooper and Ed Sprague.

**Pete Ordille, EMT-P, Associate Professor; Palomar College** – The Palomar College North campus near Interstate 15 and Highway 76 is slated to open for classes the summer of 2018. Modular classrooms will initially be on the site, and by 2020, it is hoped that the police, fire and EMS programs will move to the campus. Several of Palomar College’s students commute from the Inland Empire, and the convenience of the Palomar College North campus will lessen the commute for the students in the above-mentioned programs.

Ordille also mentioned proposed State Assembly Bill 387. This bill would require Palomar College students in their internship phases to be paid by participating agencies. Margie Fritch suggested the agencies where students intern write letters to local assemblymen against AB 387. San Marcos Fire Chief Van Wey voiced his concern that if students intern full time, they will be entitled to benefits such as medical coverage, retirement, etc.

# **Darryl Hebert, Palomar College Fire Technology/ Fire Academy Supervisor** –Transition classes for military veterans interested in police, fire and EMS careers were discussed. Hebert stressed that mentors are needed for military veterans to make the transition to Palomar College smoother. MITFFAD (Military in Training, Fire Fighter For A Day) and R.V.E.T.S Returning Veterans; Enlisting Their Skills (CAL FIRE) both offer frequent events in north county. The last MITTFAD event was held at the Palomar College Fire Academy building, and had an excellent turnout. A six-week summer academy at Palomar College will be offered to high school students in the summer. This course will include fire, EME and administration of justice classes.

# The Regional Fire Fighter Test (JPA) was explained as was revenue sharing (Palomar College Fire Tech class Fire 98). Hebert reported on career days at local middle and high schools that fire academy staff has attended in the past year. Ordille offered to contract with north county fire agencies, providing Megacode testing to candidates. It was suggested Ordille attend the next JPA meeting on June 1, 2017 to discuss.

# A new part-time position for marketing the fire academy and EMS programs was created, and has been filled by Sam Neuhauser, a former Marine and Palomar College Fire Academy graduate.

**John Thompson, Palomar College Fire Academy Coordinator** – Curriculum taught in the Fire Academy is now IFSAC, Pro Board and California State Fire Marshal certified. A 67-hour CAL FIRE wildland fire course has been incorporated into the fire academy as well. There is a need for more state certified evaluators for academy testing. Thompson is concerned with the low number of applications received for the fire academy, and believes Palomar College has lost some of its prospective applicants to San Pasqual Fire Academy. On-site apparatus was also discussed, along with the ability for Palomar College to service and maintain this equipment. Agencies no longer in need of apparatus will donate the equipment to the fire academy.

**Wayne Hooper, Palomar College Fire Technology Assistant Professor** - The Fire Technology Department has moved to the Escondido campus, and has two full time professors. The college is in the process of hiring a third full time professor. Fire Technology classes are also offered at Camp Pendleton and Fallbrook High School. Hooper stressed the importance of students completing a 2-year fire technology degree. This degree better prepares students for the fire service and is highly regarded by agencies hiring fire fighters who have this degree. As of fall, 2017, Fire 142 (Fire Ethics) is a required class for the fire technology degree. Hooper addressed the importance of weighing fire academy applicants’ transcripts heavily, and questioning less than satisfactory grades in fire technology classes. He believes strong grades reflect drive and dedication.

**Ed Sprague, Palomar College Fire Technology Professor** – State Fire Marshal curriculum is being rewritten to allow Palomar College to offer higher level fire classes for fire fighters

# (Levels 2, 3, and 4). More online fire technology classes are also in the works. Sprague also discussed the college becoming FESHE (Fire and Emergency Services Higher Education) certified.

**Other Discussion:** North County Fire Chief Stephen Abbott voiced his concern about the diminishing pool of diverse graduates of the fire academy, particularly females. Suggestions were made by meeting members, including the fact that there has been an influx of females in the Palomar College Fire 51

(Fire Academy Prep) class and some females do not desire firefighting as a career. The Palomar College Fire Technology/Fire Academy administrative staff is reaching out to younger school-age children in middle and high school by attending career events at local schools.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:27 a.m.

**Attendees:**

Darryl Hebert, Fire Technology/Fire Academy Supervisor, Palomar College

John Thompson, Fire Academy Coordinator, Palomar College

Wayne Hooper, Fire Technology Assistant Professor, Palomar College

Ed Sprague, Fire Technology Assistant Professor, Palomar College

Pete Ordille, EME Director, Associate Professor, Palomar College

Sarah De Simone, EME Assistant Professor, Palomar College

Carole Musgrove, Career Technical Program Specialist, Palomar College

Nick Schuler, Division Chief, Cal Fire

Jason Malneritch, Battalion Chief, Cal Fire

Mike Lopez, Division Chief, Carlsbad Fire Department

Jeff Calhoun, Battalion Chief, Escondido Fire Department

Stephen Abbott, Deputy Fire Chief, North County Fire Protection District

Rick Robinson, Fire Chief, Oceanside Fire Department

Tracy Hawk, Pauma Reservation Fire Department

Dave McQuead, Battalion Chief, Rancho Santa Fe Fire Protection District

Tony Michel, Fire Chief, Rancho Santa Fe Fire Department

Jim Kirkpatrick, S.D. County EMS Agency

Rick Tallman, Field Training Coordinator, S.D.F.D., AMR

Dan Barron, Battalion Chief, San Marcos Fire Department

Jenny Duffy, Emergency Services Coordinator, San Marcos Fire Department

William Frederick, Battalion Chief, San Marcos Fire Department

John Ghiotto, Battalion Chief/Academy Director, San Pasqual Reservation Fire Academy