

Thursday, October 16, 2008
BOARD ON LAW ENFORCEMENT
TRAINING, STANDARDS, & EDUCATION
WSCJTC • E-154
10:00 AM

ATTENDEES

Members Present:

David Ellis, Deputy, Spokane County Sheriff's Office
Denis Austin, Chief, Pasco Police Department
Duane Kist, Officer, Kennewick Police Department
Jerry Weeks, Sheriff, Pend Oreille Sheriff's Office
Linda Forst, Professor, Shoreline Community College
Linda Pillo, Chief, Bellevue Police Department
Martin Anderson, Sergeant, Spokane Police Department
Michael Evans, Chief, Squaxin Island Tribal Police Department
Mike Brasfield (Chair), Sheriff, Jefferson County Sheriff's Office
Mike Gaffney, Professor, Washington State University
Mike Harum (Vice Chair), Sheriff, Chelan County Sheriff's Office
Robert Perales, Chief, Mabton Police Department

WSCJTC Staff Present:

Anthony Anderman, Regional Training Manager
Debbie Mealy, Commander, Basic Law Enforcement Academy
Doug Blair, Deputy Director of Operations
Lee Brandt, Regional Training Manager
Nia Johnson-Crowley, Curriculum Developer
Richard Phillips, Assistant Commander, Basic Law Enforcement Academy
Steve Lettic, Assistant Manager, ODS
Tisha Ehret, Assistant to the Commander, Basic Law Enforcement Academy
Wes Anderson, Facilities Manager

MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER

The Chair, called the meeting to order with a quorum present at 10:00 AM.

Introductions followed.

Approval of Notes of the April 17, 2008 Meeting

A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes as written.

Motion was moved (Sheriff Weeks) and seconded (Professor Gaffney). The motion carried unanimously.

LEGISLATIVE DISCUSSION, WSCJTC REPORTS AND UPDATES

Doug Blair, Deputy Director

Legislative Discussion

The **Deputy Director** explained that the Tribal Bill passed during the past legislative and it will have some impact on the Commission in addition to some law enforcement entities. This Bill contained the request of full-police powers or non-tribal members who were on or within the exterior boundaries of the reservation. First stipulation, the tribal officers allowed this power will have to meet the requirements of certification and that officer must work for an agency that has entered in an agreement with the Commission. Second, the tribal agency must meet the insurance requirement set by the Office of Financial Management (OFM). Third, there must be a memorandum of understanding (MOU) between the tribal agency and the neighboring police entities that may or may not have jurisdiction.

Although the Bill has passed, there is a piece of the Bill that pertains to the training record, of the tribal officer, be sent to OFM. The Deputy Director will be working with OFM, the Legislature, and some stakeholders to clarify this.

Chief Evans explained that the intent was to create a line of communication between the Commission and OFM; for example, if the tribal agency chose not to seek insurance, then all parties would be aware and the certification would be stopped.

Sheriff Weeks explained that there are many stipulations in regards to the MOU when it comes to liability and those things are still being worked out. There was a short discussion and this topic was tabled.

10:21 AM – Sergeant Rich Phillips entered the room.

(1) BLEA forecast – based on the forecast results, the Commission will request the funding that will cover the costs associated with training the number of people the forecast reflects. (2) Funding for the forecast – the cost of the forecast to be completed \$60,000 per year and the forecast was completed for two years, totaling \$120,000. (3) Attorney General's (AG) Office – the Commission must pay for the time the AG's office dedicated to the decertification hearings.

The increase in decertification cases and increased the amount of funding needed to cover the costs.

As a separate request, the Commission asked that the Chief For A Day event be recognized. The Governor chose this item as a Governor's issue.

The Commission's position on the Tribal Bill is to provide information about certification and decertification. The Commission is remaining neutral.

An additional Bill being introduced has to do with obtaining non-conviction criminal information for decertification. The Director is waiting for more information regarding this Bill before making any decisions on how it will impact the Commission.

Dormitory

Wes Anderson provided the Board with a package that consisted of PowerPoint slideshow detailing the current problem in Dorm 1 along with the schematics of the property to be used in the building of the dorm. The plan is to build a 120-bed dormitory with parking under the building. This building process should take approximately three-to-four years to complete.

Emergency Vehicle Operating Instructor Course

Anthony Anderman provided the Board with a short video of what the course the students are being exposed to looks like.

After the presentation, the Chair asked what the BLETSE's role is when it comes to this training.

Mr. Blair explained that this presentation is more informational basis; moreover, members may hear that the Commission is mandating that instructors attend an instructor course.

Consultant

The consultants that visited the Commission last fall will be returning to complete their post analysis sometime in April.

General Commission Issues

The Director introduced Lt. Debbie Mealy as the new BLEA Commander. Prior to this position, Commander Mealy served as the Assistant Commander in the BLEA.

The first Problem-Based Learning (PBL) class will begin February 11, 2008. The Commission invited two trainers to assist with the training of half of the BLEA training staff. The trainers will return in March to training the remaining members. The plan is to transition all the BLEA classes to PBL model in May 2008. In time, the Spokane academy will transition to the same model.

Commander Mealy explained that the staff will work out the bugs as they go along. Because this is new, the staff does not know what those bugs are yet. She also explained that the May class will transition into PBL as long as there are no major issues with the first class.

The Chair asked if the PBL classes will be running concurrent with the traditional classes. **The Commander** said yes. **The Director** explained that the Commission in conjunction with the Washington State University plan to run a longitudinal study of the two training models. **The Chair** recommended including the Spokane academy in this study.

Mr. Blair asked that the Board take on the challenge of revamping the Equivalency academy. There is always a question of what is taught and why, when it comes to the equivalency academy. Mr. Blair would like to know what the equivalency academy curriculum should look like.

Sergeant Maule explained that a longitudinal study may be needed to look at the effectiveness of the Equivalency training.

Mr. Blair explained further that he would like the Board to do with the Equivalency academy what they accomplished with the Reserve academy. This topic was tabled until later in the meeting.

Basic Law Enforcement Academy

Debbie Mealy, BLEA Commander

As of today, there are 185 people on the waiting list. However, when the numbers are broken down the list is 30 people have been selected and will begin class on January 28, 2008; 30 more have been selected and will begin class on February 11, 2008; 30 more have will begin on February 13, 2008 in Spokane; this leaves approximately 70 people on the list for the next selection.

In partnership with the Washington State Liquor Control Board (WSLCB), the BLEA will begin a 440-hour limited authority class in March or April 2008. The WSLCB will have the same entry requirements as the BLEA. **The Chair** asked if the addition of this class will slow down or make those mandated students have to wait to get in the BLEA. **The Commander** stated no, the WSLCB will be providing some trainers for the class.

Chief Evans asked how the shorter list will impact allowing tribal agencies to attend the BLEA. **The Commander** explained there is no impact; however, she recommended still submitting the names to the BLEA in case of a last minute opening.

The Chair asked how the staffing is going. The **Commander** explained that there are openings for TAC Officers and the Assistant Commander Position will be filled once it is decided what the position will consist of.

The **Director** explained that one of the TAC Officer positions will be filled with an attorney. This change will benefit both the Academy and the Commission.

On a separate note, the **Chair** asked if the Commission was aware of how many vacancies there are throughout the state. The **Director** stated the forecast model would be the closets thing that can answer that question. However, the forecast did not include how many people fail the academy. Nor did it include the annexations.

The **Chair** inquired about future regional academies. The **Director** explained that the Snohomish County region has requested to run another class in May sometime. The Director, Deputy Director, and BLEA Commander plan to meet with the regional contact sometime in February.

Sergeant Anderson explained that if Spokane had a dorm built at their location, this would cut the costs. A short discussion was held and the **Director** explained that building a dorm in Spokane is not only the Commission's decision. The request would need to go through the legislative process. Because the State does not own the property it would be hard to build a state facility on city/county property.

The **Chair** welcomed the Director's support in building a facility; however, he understands why it is not an easy process.

Leadership in Police Organizations

The Chair asked how the Leadership in Police Organizations classes are going. The Director explained that the course is moving along and he plans to ask for more funding for this program. He invited Chief Gray to talk on behalf of experiences as a class member.

Chief Gray explained that this is a four week program that meets one week a month for four months. He is in class number two. The origins of the curricula is from the West Pointe Military Academy, IACP took the curricula and modified it to be law enforcement/criminal justice specific. He is enjoying the training and looks forward to the remaining classes.

Special Reports by Members

The Chair asked how the Board could obtain surveys and evaluations from the staff. The Commander explained that there needs to be a more clear direction from the Board on what they want to see. Currently, the academy can provide statistics. The Chair is looking to track the process of the graduates. He would like to see what a student feels he has learned how he has applied it to his job and then have them identify any needs that should be addressed. Basically, he would like to see this survey be conducted even after graduation.

The **Commander** explained that what the academy is currently doing is a class average.

Professor Gaffney explained that he will be discussing a longitudinal study with the Director later in the afternoon that will hopefully help in this situation.

The **Chair** explained that he wants to make sure that the BLETSE is being used to its fullest potential.

A short discussion regarding methods of receiving the requested survey information from agencies was held and the topic was tabled.

The Board took a 15 minute break at 11:10 AM.

Peace Officer Certification

Doug Blair, Deputy Director

Mr. Blair provided a PowerPoint presentation on the current case load of peace officer certification hearings (for an electronic copy of the presentation, contact Mr. Blair at dblair@cjtc.state.wa.us).

Keeping in mind the confidentiality of the people involved, Sheriff Brasfield suggested using some of the decertifying cases in the Law Enforcement Digest.

Sheriff Harum said that he would like to see Ethics covered more in BLEA. The Commander explained that it is covered throughout the academy; moreover, there is a 4-hour block designated for that class.

The Board broke for lunch at 11:46 AM and reconvened at 12:45 PM.

The Board broke for an executive session at 12:46 PM and reconvened at 12:49 PM.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Chief Gray suggested that the committees should be reestablished as three committees. Below is a breakdown of what he suggested:

1. Training Committee

- a. Advanced Training
- b. In-Service Training
 - i. Courses offered by the Professional Development Division
- c. Training outside of the BLEA

2. Standards Committee

- a. Certification
- b. Decertification

3. Education Committee

- a. BLEA
- b. Equivalency
- c. Reserve Officer Academy

He further explained that an additional meeting would be needed to detail the duties of each committee.

There was a short discussion regarding the validity of the committees as they are currently established and the Board agreed that a restructuring of committees should be addressed.

The **Chair** requested that each Board member contact him, via email, to discuss what committee they are interested in being a part of and what those committees should be. He also extended this invitation to the CJTC staff.

The **Director** expressed how these meetings should not need to be a forum for presentations, so the staff would prefer to have a substance of issues to be addressed. He recognizes that the Commission needs to be accountable for what they are doing and the input from the Board is needed.

OLD BUSINESS

The **Chair** asked about the status of the annual report and when it is due. Because of the disbanding of the committees and the duty changes, he does not know when the report should be completed. He explained there would not be a report for 2007.

NEW BUSINESS

Chief Evans was assigned to the Legislative Committee. [This change was made prior to the decision to restructure the committees.]

A short discussion began about the Equivalency Academy, the curricula within that academy, and what should the training look like. **Sheriff Weeks** warned that there needs to be an arbitrary line drawn and say what works best. A topic like this can be examined for a long time. There is the assumption that the student is coming in with the basic knowledge of policing and attending the Equivalency could be more focused on the Washington State laws and procedures. This topic was table and requested to be on the next meetings agenda.

Meeting adjourned at 2:08 PM.

NEXT MEETING

<p>Thursday, July 17, 2007 10:00 AM WSCJTC – Room: E-154</p>

Minutes written by:

Tisha Ehret, Recorder

Reviewed by:

Nichol Girten, Office Assistant