

**MINNESOTA WEST
LAW ENFORCEMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
APRIL 8, 2008**

The Minnesota West Law Enforcement Advisory Committee met on Tuesday, April 8, 2008, in room 203 at Minnesota West – Worthington Campus. Lt. Joel Mikle, Chief Jeff Shirkey, Detective Sgt. Kevin Flynn, Chief Mike Cumiskey, Lt. Brian West, Chief Deputy Chris Heinrichs, Jay Klein, Markus Murphy, Mark Holden, Dr. Jeff Williamson, and Jerry Jansen were present.

Welcome

Mark Holden called the meeting to order and thanked everyone for their attendance at the meeting.

Curriculum Changes

Mark Holden informed the advisory committee of an additional curriculum change that has taken place since the last advisory meeting in October 2007. SOC 2230 (Juvenile Delinquency 3 credits) has been removed as it is no longer part of the Minnesota Transfer Curriculum (MnTC) and is now listed under the “Recommended Program Coursework” area. As a result, both the PSCI 1201 (American Government & Politics) and PSCI 2202 (State & Local Government) courses are now both required general education classes. Associate in Science degrees are required to meet 6 of 10 MnTC areas and have 30 credits of general education. These changes, along with the changes approved in October 2007, will go into effect for Fall 2008. The 08-10 formally accepted AS Law Enforcement students will graduate under these new requirements. Mark indicated that another curriculum change is possible under the “Program Requirement” area. A new Juvenile Justice LAWE prefixed course may be added in order to meet the juvenile POST objective requirements. The new course would focus on the POST requirements, case law, etc. A question on whether child protection issues would be covered in this new course was brought forward by an advisory committee member due to the fact that many young officers have misconceptions about child protection issues. Markus Murphy indicated that portions of this topic are currently being covered in the LAWE 2251 Psychology of Law Enforcement class.

Admission Process Change

Minnesota West is in the process of revamping its category 2 POST objectives. During a recent POST Coordinator’s meeting, the completion of record checks on students was discussed. Minnesota West currently does a basic criminal history background check with the BCA. The Program would like to add a new admission requirement that would require the student to provide a copy of their driver’s license (DL) record. The record could be obtained by the student at their local police department for a nominal fee. Mark proposed a question to the Advisory Committee - Should a second DL check be done before EVOC training takes place because driving issues may evolve during the course of a student’s educational training? Committee comments indicated that the admission requirement change and follow-up process would be good to implement.

Committee Membership Replacements

Mark Holden requested nominations be brought forward to replace a Committee member who has not been able to attend and whose employment would be changing. Committee members provided numerous options for the replacement which included:

an area BCA agent, Brian Christensen (Murray County), current Law Enforcement Program student, graduate of the Law Enforcement Program. Mark Holden indicated he would review the names/information provided to him and replace the open position on the Committee. The new individual would be invited to attend the meetings beginning in the fall of 08.

SKILLS Graduation Date

Markus Murphy informed the Committee that May 26 will be the last day of Skills training and the graduation ceremony will be held on Wednesday, May 28 at 2:00 p.m. in the Performing Arts Center at Minnesota West. Markus anticipates 15 students graduating from Skills. Markus requested the attendance of the Committee members at graduation. The students should be ready for the June POST test.

Comments/Suggestions on Training Needs & Observations

Mark Holden would like to see Minnesota West's Law Enforcement Program continue to grow and evolve. He asked the Committee for their observations and suggestions on what areas they felt, if any, needed improvement. Chief Deputy Chris Heinrichs indicated that the Nobles County Sheriff's Office has hired 3 graduates from the Minnesota West Law Enforcement Program. The biggest issue FTO officers have reported is statute issues. It is sometimes hard for students to transition from the classroom to actual "on the road" usage. Markus Murphy, who is Hibbing CTC's onsite Skills Coordinator, indicated that he has added two additional scenario days to SKILLS training this year. Lt. Joel Mikle asked if Committee members could observe Skills scenario days as he would like to see how scenarios are carried out/completed. Markus indicated there would be no problems/issues for Committee members to attend these days. Both criminal code and traffic code are 16 week courses in Minnesota West's Law Enforcement Program curriculum. The POST test does include these elements. Committee members suggested a survey of the Program's graduates be done or that the graduates be invited to a luncheon to ask them for their comments/suggestions. Students' writing abilities were also discussed. Markus, the current instructor of the Report Writing class, indicated writing abilities depend on the amount of effort a student puts into it. Minnesota West is touching on multiple report writing formats. Most agencies have an individual in place (Sergeant, FTO, etc.) to review written reports. How are interpersonal skills of graduates? Chief Deputy Chris Heinrichs reported he has had no issues with the Minnesota West hires in regard to interpersonal skills. Mark requested the Committee forward any observations/comments to him as they arise.

Outside Agency Assistance if SKILLS Approval Received

Mark Holden informed the Committee that the Minnesota POST Board has approved a Minnesota West Skills program; however, MnSCU approval is necessary before a new Skills program may begin. Mark informed the Committee of issues Minnesota West has with the current Hibbing CTC Skills program (Driving objective issues; Taser issues; scheduling). Mark is currently working on creating partnerships with local agencies (airport, etc) in order to have partnerships in place for MnSCU purposes. A Minnesota West offered Skills program may not be lower cost, but students would receive all of the required training. Mark asked if there were things outside agencies could help with or provide if a Minnesota West Skills program was approved by MnSCU. Minnesota West has most of the Skills areas covered, but does have some issues with SFST, driving school, HAZMAT. Lt. Brian West indicated that the State Patrol has 4 SFST instructors (1 local) in the area. Mike Cumiskey indicated that the Skills program is currently utilizing Worthington Police Department's Firearms instructors and that the range is not

an issue. Minnesota West's Continuing Education Department currently instructs a driving school but the Law Enforcement Program only has 3 cars for training at this time. Lt. Brian West indicated he would provide a contact name for the State Patrol driving school to Mark Holden. Chief Deputy Chris Heinrichs and Det. Sgt. Kevin Flynn indicated that the Sioux Falls Police Department or the ATF out of Sioux Falls could do bomb class.

Other

Mark Holden informed the Committee that there will be a Program uniform change next year due to a vendor no longer being able to manufacture the current uniform. The uniform shirt will be changing to blue. This upcoming 08-09 school year will be a transition year. Chief Deputy Chris Heinrichs indicated he would provide a catalog from Hero 24/7 to the college. The company provides good quality at a lower cost.

Mark updated the Committee on a few disciplinary issues that have taken place during the school year. A second year student was removed from the program and a first year student was dismissed due to driving issues. A few other students have been placed on a probationary status.

Markus Murphy asked for volunteers to assist in the April 25 mock interview process. Individuals interesting in volunteering were asked to arrive at the Prairie Justice Center at 8a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Angie Hoffman