

WLEA Advisory Board Meeting

25 April 2022

Attendees:

Chuck Bayne, Wyoming Law Enforcement Academy
Jesse Curtis, Wyoming Law Enforcement Academy
Kurt Taboga, Wyoming Law Enforcement Academy
Megan Doneski, Wyoming Law Enforcement Academy
Kyndal Gudahl, Wyoming Law Enforcement Academy
Kebin Haller, Wyoming Highway Patrol
Forrest Williams, Division of Criminal Investigation
Allen Thompson, Sheridan County Sheriff's Office
Roy Eckerdt, Powell Police Department
Mark Francisco, Cheyenne Police Department
Megan Pope, Attorney General's Office
Scott Matheny, Campbell County Sheriff's Office
Chris Walsh, Peace Officer Standards & Training
Dan Smith, Wyoming Game and Fish Department
Dwane Pacheco, Wyoming Association of Sheriffs and Chiefs of Police
Byron Oedekoven, Wyoming Association of Sheriffs and Chiefs of Police

Meeting called to order

Membership Review

- Mark Francisco, Chief of Cheyenne PD, is the new Chief, Large Department
- Dale Stalder, Chief of Laramie PD, served for 12 years and has decided to step down at the end of his term
- Dan Smith has replaced Scott Edberg after his retirement from Wyoming Game and Fish

Review of the minutes from 19 November, 2021

- Motion to approve minutes as written: Kebin Haller
 - Second: Forrest Williams
 - Vote: All aye, none opposed

Basic Training Report

- This report, available in the Members' packet, provides more detail on training statistics

Curriculum Review

- In order to determine success, we need to be able to measure success
 - This led to the development of "competencies" & "performance standards"
- After the new Job Task Analyses are completed, Subject Matter Experts will review concepts to ensure they are relevant and are being held to the appropriate standard.

- In the future, the Final Report on Basic Training students will include the measures of how they performed on each competency.
- WLEA will measure how the students practically apply their knowledge
 - Can we determine why students are making errors?
 - Lack of knowledge? Under stress?
- Question from Scott Matheny: It appears that test scores are lower than they were previously. How are we measuring success now?
- Performance standards are recorded on Practical Evaluation Forms
 - This describes how a student performed during a practical activity
- Contributing to the drop in test scores, students have fewer in-class lectures, where historically instructors would review important points that “might be on the test”
- Question from Allen Thompson: Can WLEA share data on how test scores have gone down? Anecdotally, it seems like a larger drop than just a few points
- Question from Forrest Williams: Is WLEA soliciting feedback from agencies, months after their students attend, to determine how they are performing?
- WLEA would like to establish a feedback mechanism, once the new format is in place, specifically regarding Custody & Control, Firearms, and Use of Force.
- Question from Forrest Williams: Has there been an increase in PT failures?
- WLEA did get rid of conditional PT, where students who failed the Initial PT Assessment were given a second chance, due to the compressed Basic Training schedule
- WLEA paid for 2 trainers located in Douglas to plan out an 8-week program specifically to prepare a student for the Initial PT Assessment
 - It is available for free on the WLEA website (www.wleacademy.com)
 - One-on-one training is available with those same trainers for an additional fee (paid by the agency or student)

Dual Certification Course

- First session was a success
- Additional information on the Dual Certification Course is available on the WLEA website

Medical Clearance Forms

- WLEA is soliciting feedback from the Members - what is an appropriate timeframe for the form to be completed? A year?
- Could add an affidavit for the student to sign, stating that nothing has changed, if a form is outside of the current 90 day window
- Could set the expectation at 90 days, but allow for exceptions on a case-by-case basis
- The purpose of the form is to ensure the student is physically prepared for training, and to allow both WLEA and the Agency to address any issues ahead of time
 - WLEA is looking to eliminate excuses presented during training by the student
- Motion to continue as is, with MCFs required to be filled out within the 90 days prior to the course start date: Roy Eckerdt
 - Second: Scott Matheny
 - Vote: All aye, none opposed
- WLEA will continue to collect information and feedback regarding MCFs

- The Board will revisit the timeframe question in the Fall Workshop

Advanced Training Report

- Soliciting feedback from the Board - is there any interest in hosting a drone-related course?
 - It is intensive coursework
 - Requires a pilot's license
- WLEA is exploring a missing persons training in conjunction with local FBI
- Advanced training for officers dealing with mental health crises
 - Mental Health First Aid is specific to law enforcement
 - WLEA looking to bring in a Train the Trainer for this course
 - \$27,000 for 16 people
 - Department of Health expressed a willingness to assist with payment

Facility Report

- This report, available in the Members' packet, provides more detail on the status of the Academy's training facility.

CRI-TAC

- Review has been completed
- Result of this was the Strategic Plan, which is available in the Members' packet
- The Strategic Plan spans the next 3 years and outlines goals to update current training

Additional Notes

- The budget requests to pay for Detention Officer Basic & Peace Officer Basic Job Task Analyses were approved
 - Detention will be first, since it is the oldest
- Dwane Pacheco is retiring on 11 May 2022
- Kebin Haller is retiring on 3 June 2022

Meeting adjourned

- Motion: Kebin Haller
 - Second: Allen Thompson