

WLEA Advisory Board Workshop

17 October 2023

Attendees:

Chuck Bayne, Wyoming Law Enforcement Academy
Jesse Curtis, Wyoming Law Enforcement Academy
Kurt Taboga, Wyoming Law Enforcement Academy
Justin Smith, Wyoming Law Enforcement Academy
Megan Doneski, Wyoming Law Enforcement Academy
Brian Brooks, Wyoming Law Enforcement Academy
Craig Smith, Wyoming Game and Fish Department
Mark Francisco, Cheyenne Police Department
Ronnie Jones, Division of Criminal Investigation
Shaina Smith, Smith Psychological Services
Levi Dominguez, Sheridan County Sheriff's Office
Megan Pope, Attorney General's Office
Roy Eckerdt, Powell Police Department
Chris Walsh, Peace Officer Standards & Training

Meeting called to order

Introduction of Members

- The Academy has a new member of the Office Staff, Allie Brooks

Review of minutes from the April 2023 Meeting

- Motion to accept the minutes as written: Levi Dominguez
- Second: Mark Francisco
- Vote: all aye, none opposed

Training Report

- Failure of the Initial PT Assessment continues to be biggest cause of dismissal from training
- Craig Smith asks if WLEA still invites alternates, to fill the spots of those who fail on the first day
 - There have not been enough students registered for a class to require this since COVID
- Levi Dominguez asks if WLEA has considered allowing "conditionals" again

- The standard is the standard – even if a student fails by 1 pushup, that is where the line is drawn
- Unlike several years ago, the physical skills training starts on day 2 of the Basic, so there is no additional time to prepare like there used to be
- Several years ago, WLEA did one-year moratorium with no initial PT standard for DOB
 - Test scores were lower, there were more injuries, and more behavioral issues
- WLEA’s standard is lower than other states
 - For example, Georgia requires students to score a 75%
- Chris Walsh would strongly advise the POST Commission **not** to lower the PT standard
- WLEA has a fitness training program available online
 - *Post-meeting note: this program is available here:*
<https://www.wleacademy.com/fitness-standards>
- The Board discussed the possibility of students who fail the Initial PT Assessment retaking it the next morning
 - Students would need to complete the entire assessment again, not only the section(s) they failed

Updated DOB Curriculum

- Updates were made based on the result of the Job Task Analysis and consultation with the Detention Training Advisory Board
- 7 hours were removed
- 19 hours were added
- 5 existing topics were amended
- The total course hours increased from 298 to 310

Peace Officer Basic Job Task Analysis

- The JTA is being completed by Val Lubans, who has worked with WLEA before
- The technical committee met with Val and determined the task list
- Survey respondents from agencies across the state have been identified
- WLEA is not anticipating changes to POB in 2024, as the JTA won’t be completed until part way through the year

Communications Basic Report

- The class is now 83 hours – up from 55 hours previously
- WLEA received positive feedback from the students that participated in the first running of the new curriculum back in March
- WLEA requests feedback on advanced training classes that dispatchers would like to attend

Advanced Training Report

- There have been more training courses this year than last year
- There does seem to be a lack of interest in Custody & Control courses
- Per Ronnie Jones, DCI has a training available regarding human trafficking

- This training is specifically geared towards patrol officers
- DCI is open to WLEA hosting this training

OET Funding Report

- The Officer Education and Training Fund has covered the cost of 38 courses over the last biennium

Bike Test

- WLEA has noticed an increase in bike tests for the Initial PT Assessment
- Data shows that students who do the bike have a higher failure rate than those who run
- The full details are available in the packet provided to the Board Members

Final PT Assessment

- WLEA has noticed an increase in the number of failures on the Final PT Assessment
- In the last DOB, several students scored 0%
- Should the Final PT Assessment count in some way?
- Many other academies do have an exit PT requirement
- WLEA is considering the possibility of moving to a physical skills test of job related tasks

Dual Cert Concerns

- The Dual Certification Course was initially intended for veteran officers, not officers who just came through Peace Officer Basic
- Many agencies are sending new officers to POB, and then enrolling them in Dual Cert as soon as they graduate
- Per POST, the basic training standards **are** being met, even in these cases
- Overuse of the Dual Certification Course could result in fewer Detention Officer Basics per year

Cost Increases

- A new bid will go out soon for ammunition, as the current ammo provider has become unable to fulfill orders
- Ammo costs are surely going to increase
- Food costs are projected to go up 12-27% in 2024

Facility Presentation

- Facility Manager Brian Brooks presented updates being made to the WLEA campus
 - Planned updates include renovated dormitory rooms, new firearms ranges, and a new EVO driving course
- The full details are available in the packet provided to the Board Members

Meeting adjourned