Advisory Board Meeting Minutes

April 10, 2013. RTC 213. 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Attendance: Chief Darrell Cleveland, NLCFPD; Chris Graves, RFD; Lt. Heidi Howe, WSCO; Pat Irwin, SOEMS; Kevin Jakubos, TMCC; Alex Kukulus, TCFPD; David LeBaron, TMCC; Sandy Munns, RFD; Jim New, TMCC Dean AIT; Michael Sacci, TMCC Hybrid Paramedic Student; Time Soule, EFFPD; and Joseph VanWalraven, TMCC Full Time Paramedic Student.

Recorder, Jeanie Silver, TMCC

I. Introductions: Welcome and thank you for attending. This is the largest attendance to date since Chief Cleveland accepted the chairperson position.

II. Review of Minutes: No adjustments to the previous minutes.

III. Advisory Board Chairman’s Report

Visit to Riverside Community College; David LeBaron and Chief Cleveland met with staff at Riverside College for the purpose of exploring how Fire and EMS meld in an educational field. There were a number of items they explored, such as staffing, uniforms, communication, values, and mission. The meeting was very beneficial and several ideas have been implemented and will be discussed in the EMS report.

Come up with a plan on how to get more instructors/IA’s; Previously the IA’s for the Paramedic department earned $15.00 per hour, before Dr. Tuthill retired, he approved a raise for the Paramedic special projects lab instructors to receive $25.00 per hour. This has been in effect since November 2012. The department should expect a higher level of quality IA’s with this rate of pay increase.

Chief Cleveland spoke of Fire academy lacking discipline and respect of agency personnel. Courtesy and respect should be first and foremost with attention to detail with any academy. In response to that comment; Commander Jakubos stated that his first focus has been to stabilize the academy and then incorporate the respect aspect. It is hard to make the students understand the respect aspect of the academy with the prospect of employment in the area lacking promise.

Comment was made that the area agencies need to be involved in the training of the academy cadets and make it possible for them to hire the graduating cadets.

Chief Cleveland expressed the need for agencies to consider the college training an investment in their qualified employment base. Chief Cleveland had a meeting with TMCC President Sheehan and thought the meeting was productive in support of academies.

IV. Report on EMS Department

- Accreditation Status
- Perkins Grant Application
- EMS’s new Core Values
- A new look for EMS programs
- Overall EMS Report

See attached report for this discussion.
Additional items of discussion: IA’s are being paid more and should be held to higher standards. Suggestion was made to create procedures manual and have the more competent current IA’s who are familiar with present procedures responsible. Once complete have the instructors approve.

Comment was made that once the quality increases then the reputation will also increase within this captured area.

- Student report:

  Hybrid Paramedic Class President: believes that instructors within the Hybrid program are a good mix. The format of the classes leads to many of the students to learn subject content on their own. More direction would be helpful

  Feels that the Hybrid Program is a great addition as this student would not be in the program had they attempted the full time academy.

- Student report

  o Full time Paramedic Class President: Thinks that reputation of program is a hindrance.

  Interviews are a good entrance process as it confirms student cognitive process and shows how they behave under pressure.

  Testing process needs to be improved, thinks that some of the testing should be hands on to show skills level.

- As suggestion was made to try to build a mechanism into the program for experience based processes, maybe have potential students do ride along with agencies. Unfortunately, that is a problem due to liability with students not being registered in any courses.

V. Report on Fire Sciences/Technology

- Fire Academy

  o New IFSTA manual and TMCC

  o Structure and Skills sets

  o Student Success

  o Hire Rates.

  See attached comments from K. Jakubos.

- Wildland Classes: Please see attached report on status of wildland workshops held spring 2013. Department is working on a few late fall classes and will get that information out to agencies once the dates and times are confirmed.

- Hiring a Full Time Fire Coordinator: The Dean is hopeful for the approval of the RPSTC agreement. This should make it better and more likely to hire full time Fire Coordinator. Having full time staffing will make the department more stable.

- Status of Fall NNFRA: The Dean informed all that there must be 15 to 18 applicants to hold a fall fire academy, presently there are only three applicants that qualify with pre-requisites completed.

VI. Agency Reports:

- Dean New thanked everyone for attending the meeting and considers the attendance level a positive for the programs.

- State EMS Office, Reported that they had completed a needs assessment and were holding an online EMS Basic course. He mentioned that opening it to Washoe County had unexpected results. The office was hoping for 50 students and received 107 students. Presently the enrollment is at about 80. They are in need of assistance with the skills requirement of the course. Looking to Elko, Ely, Fernley, Fallon, Las Vegas, REMSA to provide the skills portion of this class.

- Mr. Irwin would like to make the instructor course a master level to increase the integrity and competence of the instructor pool.
• There was a meeting in Las Vegas to coordinate the bridge to the National standards. Names of the titles and courses are a concern for renewals, established a two year upgrade time frame.

• WCSO: Lt Howe is being promoted to Captain and will be reassigned in mid June. Do not have the name of the replacement at this time. Will keep the office informed.

• East Fork Fire Protection District: Due to increase in their preceptor pay rate may create an issue for incoming interns.

• Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District: The Hybrid Paramedic program is more convenient and appreciative of the opportunity for the training. Is concerned with scheduling situation due to cost prohibitive for the agency due to coverage for shifts issue. Believes planning the program around a certain shift would be more helpful to the agencies.

• Reno Fire Department: Due to budget shortfalls and loss of the 14 million safer grant they are doing a major redeployment of resources. Due to this dilemma there are no prospects for recruits into the fire academy. There focus will be on EMS and Paramedic programs, however, the focus will be more on ITLS level not ALS level. 25 employees get incentive pay for being paramedics at this time, there are four additional employees that are awaiting promotion to this level. They will look to TMCC for the bridge programs.

• North Lyon Fire Protection District: Not much change at this time with this agency. Internships for paramedics may start soon as staffing stabilizes.

VII. Other Business: purchase of GMC Envoy for use within the Public Safety department.

VIII. Next Meeting Date; October 16, 2013, 10:00 am. RTC 110. Meeting adjourned at 12:30 pm