

**MINUTES**  
**Palm Beach State College**  
**Fire/EMS Programs**  
**Partnership Council Meeting**  
**October 31, 2013**

**ITEM 1. Welcome and sign in** – Barbara Cipriano, Public Safety Associate Dean, welcomed members.

Discussion: None

Action: None

**ITEM 2. Adoption of Agenda** –

Discussion: Motion made and seconded to adopt.

Action: The agenda for **October 2013** was adopted without changes.

**ITEM 3. Approval of Minutes** -

Discussion: Motion made and seconded to approve.

Action: The minutes for **April 30** were approved with the following change:

- Item 6: New Business - **a.-** Dr. Scheppke reported the success of the Hand only CPR at the Medical Magnet High Schools.

**ITEM 4. Old Business** –

**Dean Cipriano reported:**

- The need for 100 chairs for the Laboratories of the Public Safety Complex building for the EMT and Paramedic program.
- That uniformity within the Public Safety programs has brought a positive outcome; students overall are more polite and well behaved.

**ITEM 5. Program Status/updates** –

**a. Fire Academy – Dean Cipriano reported:**

- \$20,000 grant from the State of Florida was received to create a natural disaster simulation to help FEMA response teams prepare for any emergencies of this nature. The event is called South Florida Exercise “SOFLEX” and will be held at the College, Lake Worth (LW) campus, the 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> of January. 20 instructor/students will participate in the simulation for approximately 70 participants.
- Candidate Physical Ability Test (CPAT) will permanently be located in the Science building - block C (SCD). The goal of this move is to have the CPAT under air-conditioning. The service will be offered not just to College students but to other vendors as well. Miami Beach Fire Rescue and Palm Beach Fire Rescue will utilize this service for their hiring process which will bring 1,000 to 1,200 customers per fire department.
- In 2015, Palm Beach State College Fire Academy will be taking over the Great Florida Fire School from Indian River State College.
- The interviews for the Fire Academy Director will be the 12<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> of November, 2013. 5 candidates will be interviewed for the position.
- All major Fire Science Technology degree credit courses are now offered online.
- Fall enrollment increased 30%.
- Spring enrollment deadline will be the November 27, 2013.
- ✓ **Bruce Arbeit** asked if Fire Academy would offer more classes to accommodate EMT graduates. Dean Cipriano responded yes, more classes can be offer based on the number of applicants in waiting list.

**b. EMS Programs – Director Everette Vaughan reported:**

- Palm Beach State College EMS programs have been recertified by the State of Florida EMS Bureau, Ricky Stone, for another two years. The State inspection was successful with no recommendations.
- Class enrollment increased for both programs.
- Working with Chief Donatto to add more Fire Stations to our Clinical rotations.
- The National Registry of Emergency Technicians (NREMT) first attempt pass rate for EMT increased 17% and decreased 4% for Paramedic. To help our EMS graduates better prepare for these exams, we plan to offer NREMT prep courses in the upcoming Spring term.
- Also, for the Spring term we will offer ACLS, BLS and PHTLS Instructor classes as well as Level A Instructor Certificate to all our EMS adjunct Instructors.

**Paramedic Program – Department Chair, Jamie Smith reported:**

- Working on posting Spring Syllabi to comply with new College template and State representative recommendations.
- Changes in the students Effective Behavior Evaluations.
- Changes in the ACLS, PALS and PHTLS routines to promote consistency between the different shifts (A, B, C, and Night) and classes (Paramedic 1, 2, and 3).
- And online testing for the Paramedic Program to meet CoAEMSP requirements.
- ✓ Dr. Schepcke stated the quality of our medic students is greater than at other institutions. Even if our students fail the NREMT the first time, the knowledge and their level of competency is far superior; and he can see that every time he has them at the hospital.

**EMT Program – Full time Faculty, Jo Shapins reported:**

- EMT switched to shift schedule to replicate the Paramedic Program schedule.
- The addition of an Occupational Skill Evaluator (OSE) temporary position to the program.
- Working to add an online component in the EMT classes. A student must take 12 credits or more in a semester in order to qualify for financial aid; at the moment our EMT certificate is only 11 credits, with this online component we are looking to increase the credits to 12 and provide learning modules to help the student better understand their lectures.
- Searching for a Primary Instructor for the Night EMT class.
- Standardization of scenarios, PowerPoint presentations, skill sheets and testing for the program to have consistency between the different shifts (A, B, C and Night).
- Affective Behavior to the grading process to stay in line with Paramedic.

**Clinical – Clinical Coordinator, Bruce Arbeit reported:**

- Paramedic night class clinicals will continue as scheduled next semester. We will fine tune the clinical component so as to accommodate student's needs and not overwhelm our clinical sites.
- Clinicals will switch from using the Typhon skills tracking software to Platinum Planner software for one paramedic class in January. If this goes well, all paramedic and EMT classes will use Platinum Planner. This is a more efficient program for students to use and self populates all the clinical component lists required by CoAEMSP.
- CoAEMSP Airway Competency Requirements: current recommendations are to track not only live skills performed but how many attempts were performed in the lab setting. The new Platinum software is set up specifically for this. The goal for CoAEMSP is to assemble a "Portfolio" of skills that demonstrates how a student was trained up to the point of live interaction and eventual competency. The goal is to move away from

formative skill checklists after the initial introduction and teaching phase and broaden it to how one arrives at a differential diagnosis. Look at the situation, assess the best approach to manage the airway, and if that approach does not work, what is another approach.

- American Society of Anesthesiologists (ASA) led by Dr. Murray Kalish drafted a resolution that will be presented to the ASA House of Delegates this month. It encourages anesthesiologists to support the paramedic practice of airway management in hospitals.

**ITEM 6. New Business –**

- Dean Cipriano asked Director Vaughan to document where our graduates are working to comply with Perkins reports for not traditional employment.
- Liz Carracher reported on Fire Advanced Training offerings. There has been considerable interest in our Technical Rescue classes and enrollment in classes scheduled for this term has been strong. We will also be developing and administering a Driver Engineer assessment process for a local fire-rescue agency.

**ITEM 7. Other Business –**

- David Summers informed St. Mary's Hospital is now Level 1 Trauma Center; also, all students must have their flu shots in order to do Clinicals at St. Mary's.
- Director Vaughan proposed having the Fire/EMS Partnership Council Meetings in conjunction with the EMS Provider meetings; Dr. Scheppke added not to have them the same date as EMS Advisory Month.
- Dean Cipriano reported The Mental Health Association of Palm Beach County is conducting a study on mental health and awareness for Juveniles to be able to identify issues at a younger age.
- Director Vaughan informed Palm Beach State College is hosting their first EMS Panther Challenge Competition. It will be held at the Lake Worth campus on April 11<sup>th</sup>, 2014; we already have two teams registered for the event. The following link provides more information about it:  
<http://www.palmbeachstate.edu/programs/ems>

**ITEM 8.** The next meeting date is **TBD**.

**ITEM 9.** The meeting was adjourned at **3:15 pm**.

Attendance: Dr. Kenneth Scheppke  
Jamie Smith  
David Summers

Barbara Cipriano  
Bruce Arbeit

Everette Vaughan  
Jo Shapins

Submitted by:  
Suhe Bethell, Scribe