

OWI Advisory Committee Meeting

Kirkwood College, Cedar Rapids

May 3, 2012

Attendees: Diane Thomas, Marcia Oltrogge, Kim Gamm, Richard Swanson, Nancy Tegeler, Katrina Carter-Larson, Joe Quinn, Lois Keister, Kim Oaks, Jessica Baustian (Kirkwood), Tracy Schmidt, Barbara Ledvina, Janine Johnson

Guests: Eric Preuss, Iowa Dept of Public Health, and Michelle Ellison, Prime for Life

Announcements:

Handouts:

1. Prime for Life – guest Michelle Ellison: Instructor recertification is needed every 2 years. They are not so concerned with getting this recertification done before the expiration date, as long as it is in the same calendar year. Instructors can register for the class online; training class for new instructors is a 3-day session.

Q: what happens if a student has a complaint, who handles that?

A: the agency where the education was held should be the starting place for complaints. It was noted that evaluation forms are used in classes, for students to evaluate the training

Q: what is the mix of instructors who are substance abuse counselors vs. people who have only taken the PFL course?

A: Instructors are not identified in that way, so we can't really answer that question. It was noted by DMACC that they have had police officers as instructors, as well as lawyers and probation officers.

Michelle noted that they are working on updates for the PFL program, and should be ready in 2013 or early 2014. "Treasures Lost", the Victim's Impact video is being updated.

2. Education for Under 18: Barb noted that this requires a law change, and she has been in touch with Kathy Stone, IDPH, who is working with the people needed to get the information prepared and ready to present to the legislators in the fall of 2012. Diane T asked if this committee can review the language before being presented to the legislators. Barb will send out this section of the Iowa code with the current language, to the committee.
3. Discussion was held regarding the potential capping of training hours allowed in a day. There are some agencies that do marathon training, 12 hours in a day. This was noted that this may exceed what trainers can handle, and what students can absorb.
4. Discussion was held regarding capping the number of attendees. Some states mandate less than 25. Iowa does not, however, most agencies represented said that 14-15 is the max for them.
5. Approved Programs: Iowa code states that the Department of Education is to provide information of drinking driver schools to judges. Barb worked with the DE attorney, who sent a note to the judicial officers to direct them to the DE website, with the Facility Locator. It was requested that Barb also send the same information to the Iowa Bar Association.

6. DOT issues: Barb explained to the committee that updates on the DOT site do not happen immediately in the satellite offices of the DOT (the county treasurer's offices). Those clearances have to be manually downloaded to the county treasurer's offices, and can happen later. However, the actual DOT offices, in the larger cities, (sometimes referred to as the DOT superstores), do have immediate access to the submissions. Barb gave out the support sanctions email address to the committee.
7. Additional Topics: has anyone ever failed to pass the drinking drivers class? It was requested that we look at the wording in the Iowa code regarding passing the class. It was noted that it is up to the instructors to monitor the class, for those being obnoxious, or sleeping in class.
8. A task force is being formed to look at standardizing the 2nd weekend program. Barb will send an email to see who is interested in being on this task force. They will meet separately, and will report back to the next advisory committee meeting in the fall.
9. Department of Corrections, Katrina Cater-Larson: Of the 9 institutions in Iowa, only 6 provide the classes currently. She requested the help of other agencies to form a partnership with the DOC to possibly give classes in the facilities in Newton, Mt Pleasant and Clarinda. They do not have the personnel to give the classes in those institutions. Richard Swanson said that he would check with his agency in Mt Pleasant to see if they could help out in that capacity. Katrina noted that EFR (Employee and Family Resources) gives the classes at Mitchellville.
10. User Agreements: Barb will be sending out the 2012 updates and requested that agencies return those promptly.
11. Next Meeting: Hawkeye Community College, Cedar Falls (Tracy Schmidt) volunteered to host the next meeting, to be held in early September. Date will be announced later.