

OC Public Safety
ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Present: Steven Hall (Dean, Oxnard College Public Safety), Bill Lynch (OC Public Safety / Fire Technology Department Chair), Carl Schwab (OC Public Safety/ EMT Coordinator), David Latham (OC Public Safety/Interim Fire Academy Coordinator), Tamara Crudo (OC Public Safety/Fire Academy Coordinator), Nathan LaRusso (Oxnard FD), Luis Manzano (Ventura City FD), Karsten Guthrie (Oxnard FD), Jeremy Henderson (Ventura City FD), Keith Gurrola (Fillmore FD), Jeramy Guercio (Cal Fire), Scott Quirarte (Ventura County FD) Hunter Taylor (Rio Mesa HS), Rosa Soliz (Oxnard union), Mikey Martin (Fire Technology Student), Raul Gomez Gutierrez (OC Counselor), Richard Beckman (Mt.SAC), Mark Rotondo (MES/ OCRFA Professional Expert), Steve Wallace (San Diego FD)

Absent: Alexander Hamilton (Oxnard FD), Curtis Tolmie (Oxnard FD), John Colamarino (Oxnard FD), Dustin Lazenby (Ventura County FD), Chad Cook (Ventura County FD), Scott Guirarte (Ventura County FD), Chris Rosa (VC EMS), Jason Johnson (City of Port Hueneme), Dave Updike (USFS Risk Management), Merrit Eaton (Buena HS), Claire Hartley (VCMC), Andy Werner (Ventura County Harbor), Fred Martinez (NBVCFD), Joey Williams(GMR), Jeremy Brant (Cal Fire)

Meeting Date: October 10, 2024

Recorded By: Samantha Agreda

AN = Action Needed

AT = Action Taken

D = Discussion

I = Information Only

	TOPIC		DISCUSSION
I.	Welcome/Call to Order		W. Lynch calls the meeting to order at 1:33 pm
II.	Introductions		W. Lynch introduces the agenda for the meeting and invites the attendees to introduce themselves.
III.	Follow-up from Previous Meetings		<div>1. Approval of Minutes<ul style="list-style-type: none">W. Lynch motioned to approve the minutes from March 7, 2024.Minutes were approved without objection</div> <div>2. Truck Academy</div> <div>T. Crudo shares that about a year ago the discussion of offering a truck academy at Oxnard College started. M. Rotondo who is familiar with Rio Hondo Community College shares that Rio's truck academy has more applicants than seats available. T. Crudo proposes a two-week summer academy. We tried to run the program through Contract Education, but it did not work out. T. Crudo hopes to be able to offer the truck academy Summer 2026. R. Beckman agrees that offering a truck academy at</div>

		<p>Oxnard is a great idea due to the demand for the course. R. Beckman shares that the key is getting the funding for this program. S. Wallace also agrees that having a truck academy in Oxnard would be a great opportunity. S. Wallace mentions that he currently has 24 firefighters that will start their driving training course.</p> <p>L. Manzano asks if the truck academy would have a tiller driving or if it is just operational. T. Crudo explains that the academy does not have an emergency vehicle operations course yet. T. Crudo shares that there was proposal to spread the field in the South lot to the gate (Pleasant Valley Rd.) and cover it with road based and asphalt. Therefore, any of the driving instruction or aerial operations can be incorporated. T. Crudo and the team will need to secure driving area either through the airport, base, or a larger area. T. Crudo shares that the academy runs an engine operation onsite, and they use the south lot; however, an aerial operation is more involved. M. Rotondo shares that some conversations have been exchange with chief Brant at Cal Fire, and he was also interested in a course that includes a tiller driving. M. Rotondo shares that T. Crudo and him are open to any other trainings that they can offer. They have the cadre available for the course.</p> <p>T. Crudo asks L. Manzano if Ventura City FD have the grounds for the tiller training. L. Manzano shares that they have collaborative agreements to conduct their own training. L. Manzano expresses his interest in the truck academy and states that if there is a place where they could send their firefighters to get the training, it would be helpful. N. LaRusso shares that Oxnard FD have used the base and both airports to conduct their trainings. For tiller training, Oxnard FD, Ventura City FD and Ventura County FD use state beaches. L. Manzano shares that they need to book the state beaches when they need to use the land, but there is not charge for the booking. L. Manzano also shares that the driving portion of the course is a challenge.</p> <p>R. Beckman offers to look into the driver operator 1C course through State Fire Training and add it to the truck academy training. N. LaRusso shares that 1C training varies depending on location and how the firefighter is trained may affect their ability to use the skills at Oxnard FD.</p> <p>L. Manzano shares that if there was a place were Ventura City FD could send their firefighters to receive formal training, it would shorten the time to getting people through their promotional exams. M. Rotondo is open to the idea of offering a driver operator certificated course, but he would also like to open this opportunity to graduates of OCRFA to continue their education through the truck academy and become stronger candidates to be hired.</p> <p>T. Crudo acknowledges that the agencies have an overall standard for their driver operation training. She asks if the agency have come together to create a truck certification and if there are agreements between them. The agencies explained that they were referring to the driving element of the training. There is not an agreement, but they offer similar trainings. Therefore, it would be helpful if there were a training place that could offer that standard driving operation training would be helpful.</p>
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M. Rotondo wants to provide the training needed for the local agencies. He already has a cadre ready for training from Santa Barbara County, Ventura County and LA County. M. Rotondo is open specially if T. Crudo and him receive the support of the local agencies.

K. Guthrie asks if there are any plans of building an Emergency Vehicle Operator Course (EVOC) training grounds onsite. S. Hall shares that the EVOC course is in the college facility master plans and was going to be funded by facilities bond, but the bond didn't get place on the ballot. S. Hall asks the type of surface needed to have an EVOC course such as asphalt or road base. T. Crudo responds that for an EVOC course, road base will be needed which will need to be capped with concrete or asphalt that does not buckle. For the apparatus, the ground needs to be a solid ground.

S. Hall also asks S. Wallace if the 24 firefighters that will go to the training will do the training at the same time. S. Wallace shares that they will do it at different times – 6 people at a time. Then, S. Hall asks the agencies how many people will be interested in the course or how many people they would refer per year. J. Henderson shares that they would probably have 15-20 people a year that would need the training, but they would be spread out through the year. M. Rotondo shares that the demand is high for the truck academy since a lot of people do not make in the academy offered by Rio Hondo. M. Rotondo would like the course to be offered once a year, but it is needed to be offered more times and the cadre is available, then he would be interested in offering it more times.

L. Manzano asks M. Rotondo how many apparatus are available. M. Rotondo shares the Chief Lazenby from Ventura County Fire Department has offered his support as far as apparatus, and LA County will be able to support too. L. Manzano shares that Ventura City FD has a reserve truck. T. Crudo shares that the course max will be 30 students, and the course will be adjust depending on the training that will be offered.

N. LaRusso asks if the certificate issued by Rio Hondo's truck academy is 1C. R. Beckman explains that Rio Hondo does not include the certification as part of their program. R. Beckman adds that there is only one day that the Rio Hondo academy has aerial apparatus onsite. Most of what they do in the academy is skill focused based.

T. Crudo asks the agencies if they have any registered instructor 2 – 1C staff. N. LaRusso shares that they offered some training for the 1C, but it is uncertified. N. LaRusso points out that it seems that the truck academy that Oxnard College wants to offer is trying to accomplish two types of training – skills (ventilation, forcible entry, etc.) and operation of aerial apparatus. Both are very different disciplines; therefore, Oxnard College will probably need about four weeks to be able to provide a comprehensible training of both disciplines instead of two-weeks.

T. Crudo and M. Rotondo will follow up on this topic.

		<p>3. Oxnard FD & Filmore FD – FFI testing at Oxnard College</p> <p>D. Latham talked to T. Crudo about the test which will take place at the beginning of 2025. D. Latham will be back with the Wildland Academy, and T. Crudo will be organizing the testing with N. LaRusso. K. Gurrola may have 4 or 6 people ready to take FFI from Filmore FD.</p> <p>T. Crudo asks K. Gurrola if they are looking for an independent test, or if they are looking to join the test with another agency. K. Gurrola would like to join Oxnard FD testing dates.</p> <p>4. ISA Curriculum</p> <p>B. Lynch shares that currently the college does not have any ISA agreements. Prior to B. Lynch and Dr. Hall's time at OC Public Safety. Chief Guthrie worked with Matt Jewett to begin the process of creating an Instructor Service Agreement. B. Lynch explains that the first step to start the process is to receive a formal letter from both organizations requesting to explore the ISA opportunity with Oxnard College. B. Lynch shares that the letter has been received will be given to the college administration. S. Hall will take the letter to the new president, and B. Lynch and S. Hall will follow up with K. Guthrie.</p>
IV.	College Updates	<p><u>Fire Technology</u></p> <p>B. Lynch shares that Fire Tech classes are going well. They are either full or nearly full. Enrollment is going well. Some students are getting hired before they make it to the Fire Academy. Four students graduated from Kern County FD and a couple went to Long Beach and LA city.</p> <p>B. Lynch also thanks Ventura County Fire Department for facilitating tour for Fire Tech students.</p> <p>L. Manzano asks B. Lynch if he is able to differentiate in his classes if there are paramedic students. B. Lynch shares that if he identifies a paramedic, they usually get hired within a month. J. Henderson shares that they have a couple of paramedics go through their application process. They do well on the written, but they don't do well in the interview. The paramedic license is an advantage and makes the applicant more competitive, but they still have to put work. B. Lynch will let Ventura City FD know when he has a paramedic student.</p> <p>B. Lynch shared that Ventura County FD will host Instructor 1/2 in December, and Oxnard College Fire Tech will facilitate RIO and CEET in January 27, 2024. Caryn Petty from State Fire Training will be the instructor. The cost for both courses is \$300 per student. S. Agreda confirms that the course has been requested, and we are currently waiting for the approval code. B. Lynch will inquire about offering an ethics class. He asks if there is anyone in the room who teaches it, but no one is qualify. J. Guercio asks if someone can take only one of the courses instead of both. W. Lynch says that they are set up as a package as most people seem to need both, but if there is someone interested in just one, we could probably do it. It is just not very common.</p>

B. Lynch also share that we will host the FCTC exam in January. N. LaRusso shares that Oxnard FD will be participation on the CalJAC Expo in South El Monte, and they can help market the FCTC exam that Oxnard College will offer. B. Lynch will offer more information. N. LaRusso asks if offering the FCTC will be something that Oxnard College would like to do in a regular basis. B. Lynch believes Oxnard College should offer the exam regularly since this exam is used by most agencies in California. N. LaRusso shares that it would help if we could offer the test once or twice a year. N. LaRusso also shares that Chief Hamilton and him were discussing of getting a facility for CPAT testing closer to the county.

B. Lynch is aware that Oxnard College used to offer CPAT, but he is not familiar with the history of the agreement. T. Crudo explains that CPAT changed the rules. The CPAT foundation wants the facility to get all the funds they generate and did not offer any plans for payment of Professional Experts or workers that run the exam or equipment replacement. That puts the cost of employment and equipment replacement on the facility offering the test while or the revenue went to CPAT. That was not a deal that Oxnard College was ready to commit.

T. Crudo asks the agencies if there is any possibility to create a exam that meets all the needs of the agencies instead of using the CPAT. B. Lynch believe that would be challenging because applicants need a CPAT card which is valid for one year. N. LaRusso shares that in order for a candidate to be in the eligibility list, they have to have a valid CPAT, FCTC, and EMT or Paramedic License, so agencies can sort through the list and select the candidates that they want to invite to apply.

S. Hall shares that the Oxnard College Fire Technology program is accredited by IFSAC and we are going through the re-accreditation process. The self-study has been written and submitted, and they will be coming to visit in January and we are expecting full re-accreditation.

Fire Academy/Wildland Academy

D. Latham shares that the Fire Academy is doing well. The academy started with 38, and it currently has 29 cadets.

With the new academy, we are seeing enrollment increasing. The Spring academy received 60 applications, and 47 have been invited to orientation.

Regarding the Wildland Academy, enrollment has increased. For the spring wildland Academy 40 applications have been received for 30 spots. Last year, the wildland academy did well with recruitment that some cadets have to drop before May because they were hired in April. Therefore, next academy has added an extra day of instruction per week, so it can end before hiring begins. B. Lynch adds that due to the demand for the Wildland Academy, Oxnard College is considering having two academies per year instead of one, but there is not a plan set yet.

EMT

		<p>C. Schwab shares last semester EMT got their best pass rates.</p> <p>The EMT program has received multiple grants this year which has allowed to purchase new EMT bags for students to use during their training, and ALS mannikins which are great CPR training since they give full feedback.</p> <p>In addition, EMT received a Perkins grant for two hospitals bed to put in one of the props that T. Crudo has been building. The prop will be an ER room/convalescent care for students to practice loading and unloading patience.</p> <p>EMT has a new volunteer program. Once students pass their NREMT, we invite them back to help students going through the program.</p> <p>EMT's partnership with Oxnard FD has been working well. Last semester, Oxnard College EMT sent 10 students.</p> <p>C. Schwab asks agencies what type of lifepak they currently use – 35 or 15. Most agency are using lifepak 35. L. Manzano asks C. Schwab to contact him because maybe they can provide EMT with one lifepak.</p>
V.	Employer Updates	<p><u>VCFD</u></p> <p>S. Quirarte shares that a new academy will start in January 20, 2025. They started with 50 applicants, and they currently have 36.</p> <p><u>Oxnard FD</u></p> <p>N. LaRusso shares that the department is trying to determine if they will have an academy in 2026; however, it seems that more likely, it will be in 2027. The goal is to offer the academy in the spring time. N. LaRusso thanks the collaboration with Oxnard College.</p> <p>N. LaRusso is asked for updates regarding the EMS Core. B. Lynch mentions that he had reach out to Chief Hamilton since he has students that have applied for the EMS Core through Oxnard FD, but they are not sure of the status of their application. Since enrollment for Spring 2025 at Oxnard College is coming up, students are interested to know if they should apply to EMT R169 or wait to hear back from Oxnard FD. C. Schwab suggests that students still register for EMT R169. They can always drop the course if they get accepted for the EMS Core.</p> <p>N. LaRusso also shares that Oxnard FD are in the initial face of another after school program with Oxnard High School District. This would be the second time running the program. There was a positive response by the</p>

students and they hope the program spark students' interest and they can later register for classes at Oxnard College Fire Technology.

B. Lynch asks if they are hiring for Explore. N. LaRusso answers that they are hiring for January; however, he refers any questions about Explorers to Kevin Todd.

Ventura City FD

J. Henderson informs that Ventura City FD is currently hiring. They will start building Station 7 at their training center next year. Their academy will go for 16 weeks, and they are adding tiller driving to their academy training, and they will also do lateral process next year.

Fillmore FD

K. Gurrola shares that Fillmore FD is in the process for engineering promotion and captain promotion. They hope to have a certified list of both mid-December. Fillmore FD academy will not start until the end of February.

Oxnard High School District

H. Taylor appreciates participating in the advisory committee because he learns about the needs on the field which he can share with his students, and based on today's meeting, H. Taylor will be advising students interested in the field to go towards paramedic school.

R. Soliz shares that she has been working with Dr. Steve Hall to get a dual enrollment to offer Public Safety courses at the high schools. R. Soliz informs that next year she will be at Camarillo High School instead of Hueneme, and the Principle at Camarillo HS would like to do a prehospital or EMR class where students are taking dual-enrollment at the college and after they can take EMT. One of the ideas is that if they do dual-enrollment, they would need an instructor that would be contracted through Oxnard High School District and can work with the High School and the College, so it is dual. R. Soliz offers to provide a hybrid course what the theory of the course can be offered online, so it can be offered to every high schooler in the district, and then the skills can be completed at Oxnard College Camarillo Airport. R. Soliz is trying to fill the course. She is aware if she offers the course in just one high school, she may not be able to get a full class of students interested in pursuing a firefighter career. However, if she opens the course to all the high school in the district, she will have a higher chance to get the class full. Therefore, having the course be hybrid would be ideal. In addition, Oxnard HS District is writing a grant for transportation, so students can drop off at the Camarillo location for the skills portion of the course. The grant would also cover transportation for the students interested in the Oxnard College First Responder Public Safety Academy offered in the summer.

R. Soliz is aware of the lack of information that students have in how to get into the Firefighter field. Therefore, the program would be targeting those students interested in the field but may not know where to begin.

T. Crudo shares that many students show interest in the Oxnard College First Responder Public Safety Academy, but they had a challenge to register for dual-enrollment. T. Crudo asks if that is something that the

		<p>College or the High Schools can provide help with. R. Soliz explains that they have an Oxnard College counselor onsite in most of the high school of the Oxnard College District. The counselor would provide to the students that want to be enrolled. R. Soliz explains that she has group of student's interests in a dual-enrollment course, she sets up a meeting with an Oxnard College counselor to help the students. S. Hall explains that the enrollment process for high school students has few more steps to follow since it requires approvals from the students' parents and principle.</p> <p>H. Taylor adds that before in order to graduate high school, students needed to take two years of a foreign language. Now, two years of a career pathway supplements the two years of foreign language. This change is making students are looking for career pathway. H. Taylor believes if there is a Public Safety pathway, it would be very successful. T. Crudo asks if an event for high school students interested in EMR/dual enrollment would be helpful. The even could have an orientation to explain the courses offer and during the orientation students can sign up for dual-enrollment. N. LaRusso adds that the event could include information about the firefighter pathway to follow for anyone interested to get into the field. R. Soliz agrees that an event specific for students interested in the field would be very helpful.</p> <p><u>Cal Fire</u></p> <p>J. Guercio shares that hiring begins November which will be open for one month. They will be hiring a few hundreds. Cal Fire is going through work schedule changes. They recently switch to a 66-hour work week, so there are a lot of transitions happening. They are going down to 11 days a month, and crew captains are going from 4 days a week to 3 days a week.</p> <p>Cal Fire has 40 students going through their first attempt of Firefighter I.</p>
VI.	Roundtable	<p>S. Quirarte shared that Ventura County FD will be hiring about 40 people for their hand crew in march. D. Latham ask if there is a date for the application, so he can share it with the Wildland Academy cadets. S. Quirarte will share the information as soon as he receives it.</p> <p>D. Latham is excited for the Truck Academy since it will help students further their career, so agency can fill out their academies with qualified individuals.</p> <p>C. Schwab participated in the EMS Education Committee, and Chris Rosa wanted him to share some updates. They are remaking the EMT skills sheets. The NREMT stopped making the skills about 7 years ago, so it has been left out to the state. Therefore, the EMS Education Committee and the county are taking upon themselves to remake these skills sheets, so they can be used in the county. They will work on the paramedic skills sheets after. The EMT skills sheets will be released probably in the next couple of months. They are finalizing medical trauma. They are also interested in meeting with other agencies in the county to offer a 40-hour Instructors training, so they can have more people qualified to be EMS instructors and teach EMT.</p>

			K. Guthrie shares the on Oct. 8, Oxnard City council had a meeting, and they shared a result of a study conducted by UCLA Chicano Studies Research Center on the well-being on young adult residents in the city of Oxnard. The survey focused on employment opportunities for a city of Oxnard residents. The city manager is interested in working with Oxnard College to create employment opportunities for the people in Oxnard.
VII.	Next Meeting		The next meeting will be scheduled for March 13, 2025 1:30 – 3:00 pm. S. Agreda will send the calendar invite.
VIII.	Adjournment		The meeting was adjourned at 2:55 pm