

MN State Taskforce on Law Enforcement Education Reform Meeting Summary

Meeting date: Wednesday, October 28, 2020 from 12:00–2:00 p.m. via Zoom

Taskforce conveners: George Soule, Dennis Olson, and Satasha Green-Stephen

Meeting adjourned: 1:57 p.m.

Revisited Taskforce Goals and Outcomes

A flow chart with Taskforce Outcomes was shared that consisted of outcomes and bucketed topics.

Outcomes:

1. Priorities Relative to Law Enforcement Education Reform (anti-racism law enforcement education)
2. Propose/Develop Competencies for Law Enforcement Programming that prepare graduates for transformative policing of our communities.

Buckets:

1. Education and training of New Officers
2. Recruitment and Retention of LE Officers of Color (How do we get people in the pipeline)?
3. Education and Training of Current Officers
 - a. The Taskforce briefly discussed on this topic. Suggestions were as follows:
 - i. Ongoing/personalized training—Continuing education programs
 - ii. Challenging systems/culture when joining local agencies
 - iii. Power dynamic

The Taskforce will advise and make recommendation to the Chancellor and the State Board of Trustees that fall within Outcome 1-2 and Buckets 1-3. Based upon the Taskforce discussions and knowledge of those involved, the deadline on recommendations has been extended to Spring 2021.

Suggestions from member:

- LE Faculty to train Police Officers to be more culturally competent

Action item:

- Bucket item #2: Proposals/ideas for potential speakers or discussion topics.
- Bucket item #2: Minnesota Department of Education and Minnesota State Career Technical Education will present at next taskforce meeting

Taskforce Discussion Topics

Revised Initial thoughts about Minnesota State Law Enforcement Programming

The Taskforce members discussed the redesign of law enforcement programs presented by Minnesota State University Mankato and Inver Hills Community College.

MSU had town hall meetings and workgroup documents have been completed/submitted to the President. Basic topic recommendations were:

1. General Education courses that align with cultural competency
2. Program specific curriculum that include mental health
3. Faculty—Facilitating uncomfortable conversations in the classroom and curriculum design assistance to incorporate cultural pedagogy.
4. Clarity of the programs
5. Program structures

IHCC focused on redesigning their curriculum to be culturally responsive. Revising about 80% of their curriculum. IHCC anticipates programs offered and available in Fall 2021. The five-prong culturally responsive program framework are:

1. Holistic admissions
2. Developmental instruction
3. Teaching and learning framework
4. Culturally responsive curriculum
5. Scholar-practitioner model

The members continued their discussion on Minnesota State Law Enforcement programming. The following questions guided the conversation:

- What about the Minnesota State programming did you not previously know?
- What did you find pleasantly surprising about Minnesota State programming?
- What is unclear about Minnesota State programming?
- What is missing from Minnesota State programming?
- How does this fit into the external discussions and efforts on Police reform?
- What additional information would you like to have?
 - Taskforce members would like more information on the following topics:
 - What is considered “training?” Education training vs Police training. Standardize training.
 - Students transferring between institutions—What knowledge do they take with them? How is the curriculum delivered? Operationalized the program.
 - Basic skills training vs advance training. Peace officers and part-time peace officers must successfully complete 48 hours of law enforcement related continuing education every three years during their license renewal period.
 - Recruiting diverse students into our programs.
- Who would you like to hear from?

Action item:

- Taskforce members will send recommendations to the Associate Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs for potential speakers to talk about recruiting diverse students.

Skills Training in MN State Law Enforcement Programming

Hennepin Technical College presented on their law enforcement skills training/certificate program.

- **Key Points Discussed:** Program overview, academic plan, in progress crimes, traffic enforcement, defensive tactics (physical contact), crime scene and evidence, firearms, tactical driving for law enforcement, class structure, POST Board standards/exam, facilities-simulation space and range, and consortium agreement.
- Most students enrolling in the skills program come from the consortium institutions:
 - Century College
 - Inver Hills Community College
 - Minneapolis College
 - Normandale Community College
 - North Hennepin Community College
- The State of Minnesota requires a two or four year degree in law enforcement to become a police officer. Most other states require a high school education and a valid driver's license to become a police officer.

Taskforce Discussion Topics

It was recognized that many of the questions were difficult to answer. Taskforce members briefly discussed their views on the following questions:

- What are the police for? What are the role of the police?
 - Enforce the laws/rules
 - Police should be invested in the community that they serve
 - Serve the citizenry
- What qualities are you looking for in a peace officer?
 - Humility, empathy, elements of incorporating service learning, community/public service, public trust, culture awareness
- How do you identify and measure those qualities?
 - Then what are those competencies that those people should have?
 - Certified/trained instructors
 - Integrating knowledge into practical training
 - Continuing education courses

Action item:

- The Taskforce suggested to create research/evidence based partnerships between departments, schools and colleges to ensure collaboration and accountability.
- Minnesota State University Mankato's Report on their program redesign will be shared with the Taskforce members.
- Pull themes/recommendations and provide summary to the Taskforce members.
- Taskforce members will send any materials, resources, and articles to the Associate Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs.

Next Steps

Next meeting dates: November 25th, and December 23rd