

Administration of Justice/Paralegal Advisory Board meeting minutes

May 27, 2015

Members in attendance:

Keith Page (MADD)

Rosie Soto (SFVBA)

Seymour Amster (SFVBA)

Gabriela Miranda

Darlene Montes

Pat Flood

Michael Griggs

Michael Bodell (LASD)

Regina Yost (LASD)

Michael Hoffman ATF

Nidia Castro (LAUSD)

Francisca Ortega (LAUSD)

Adrienne Williams (Law club)

Gina Zaragoza

Paul Graber (LAUSD)

John Arason

Cathy Brinkman

Emilio Rivas (San Fernando high)

Andy Greene (L.A. Probation)

Kelly called the meeting to order at 12:10pm. Introductions were made around the table and lunch was served. During lunch Kelly updated the committee on what actions were taken from the previous Administration of Justice Advisory Board meeting. The AJ program partnered with the CalWorks office on campus to sponsor an AJ student during Christmas. This partnership will continue in the future. The CSI certificate program has been sent to the state for approval and the AJ program is hosting workshops for students interested in forensic science. The AJ program has also been promoting internships and

volunteer opportunities for students with the Probation department and Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD).

Kelly added the AJ program welcomes high schools to bring groups of students on campus and take a tour of the crime lab and participate in hands-on workshops.

David updated the group on the LAMC Pathway to Law School program.

Kelly and David presented to the group a proposal to have a joint, interdisciplinary, inter-school educational collaborative between several Mission College disciplines and our local high schools to promote awareness of driving under the influence (DUI) and to have students simulate a mock DUI trial. The outcomes for the project would be to:

- Increase awareness of levels of impairment caused by drinking and driving
- Instill students with the potentially dangerous consequences of drinking alcohol and driving
- Understand and practice criminal investigation techniques in DUI cases
- Understand the legal system and practice trial advocacy in a mock trial courtroom

In the fall semester, students would use impairment simulator goggles while driving a pedal go-cart that will allow them to experience the hazards of drunk driving and to demonstrate how difficult it is to drive at various levels of intoxication in a safe environment. One student would play the role of the impaired driver and another the officer who stopped him. The driver would be subjected to a number of field sobriety tests before being placed under arrest and booked.

In the spring semester, students would participate in a rehearsed DUI mock trial to learn about the legal system and the consequences of driving under the influence.

Several of the members encourage the use of staging injuries of the victims of the drunk driver. Seymour recommended the case be a manslaughter charge. The role playing exercise should be videotaped as well.

Keith offered to have role players offer victim-impact statements at the mock trial. Cathy Brinkman asked how we could integrate this project with existing curriculum. Gabby recommended this project start in the spring of 2016.

Regina said a similar exercise takes place every year in Santa Clarita involving numerous agencies. She offered to invite us to observe and maybe incorporate some of their ideas.

David, Paul and Seymour will look at developing the idea of the mock trial and will meet over the fall. Mark Hobbs, Tashini Walker and Emilio and Cathy will look into tracking transfer students.

The meeting ended at 1:45pm.