

# **Eastern Center for Arts and Technology**

## **Program Review Final Report**

### **Protective Services**

**2015**

## **OCCUPATIONAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

John Fugelo	Chairman Protective Services Committee Captain, Upper Moreland Fire Department
Robert Waeltz	Sergeant Horsham Police Department
Timothy Flanagan	Fire Chief Horsham Fire Department
Brian Focht	Fire Chief Willow Grove Fire Department
Sam Gallen	Chief Montgomery County District Attorney Office
Alex Levy	Chief North Wales Police Department
Joseph O'Neil	Fire Marshal Cheltenham Township
Thomas Watkins	Bucks County Probation and Parole
Edward Wurster	Director Protective Services for PPL
Chas Moritz	Fire Training Coordinator, Bucks County Community College
Steve Catherman	Police Officer Abington Police department
Andrew Gerth	Firefighter Upper Moreland Fire Department
Matthew Cavinder	Student Representative Upper Dublin School District

## **EXECUTIVE ADVISORY COMMITTEE REPRESENTATIVE**

Gary Bissig	Springfield Township Rotary Club
John Di Benedetto	John J. Di Benedetto Assoc., Architects Inc.

## Protective Services Program Review

When the Protective Services OAC began the review process it was noted that there were several changes in regards to how the Program has changed due to world events and additional Pennsylvania Department of Education oversight namely, The Program of Study for Protective Services and the growth of the Emergency Management field, Several Committee members took responsibility for obtaining information for specific areas in the Protective Services Careers. In addition, the Committee has several members who are a great resource. The purpose of utilizing expertise within the Committee is to insure that the most current and relevant information in the Fire, Police, and Security fields were addressed.

### **Analysis of Job Opportunities in the following fields**

- a. Fire
- b. Police
- c. Security

#### **FIRE**

Background information provided to and discussed by the Committee: Keen competition for Fire fighting jobs is expected. Many people are attracted to the occupation because it provides considerable job security and the opportunity to perform an essential public service.

There were 307,000 Career Fire fighters in the United States in 2012. In response to the expanding role of Fire fighters, some municipalities have combined fire prevention, public fire education, and emergency medical services into a single organization commonly referred to as a public safety organization. Some local and regional fire departments are consolidating into countywide establishments to reduce administration staffs, cut costs and to establish consistent training standards and work procedures.

Employment opportunities are expected to increase slower than the average for all occupations through the year 2022. The largest opportunities for growth will occur as Volunteer fire fighting positions are converted to Career positions. Additional job growth is expected to result from the need to replace Fire fighters who retire, and who transfer to other occupations.

Employment of Career Firefighters in Pennsylvania is expected to decline. fr Physically fit Candidates with high test scores will have the best job prospects. The National average salary of a Firefighter in 2012 was \$45,250.00. Pennsylvania employment projections are that there will be an increase from 4730 Firefighters in 2014 to 4860 Firefighters in 2020. The average salary is \$46,630.00.

## **POLICE**

Background information provided to and discussed by the Committee: The number of qualified candidates exceeds the number of job opportunities at the Federal and State levels but is inadequate to meet the growth and replacement needs at the Municipal and Local levels. The largest number of employment opportunities will be in the urban communities.

Nationally, there were about 780,000 police jobs in 2012. The highest percentage of these jobs were at the Local government level. Law Enforcement agencies are urging applicants to take post-secondary training in law enforcement subjects. Many entry-level applicants for police employment have completed some formal post secondary education. Employment opportunities for Police officers are expected to be slower than the average for all occupations through the year 2022. The average annual salary for a Police Officer in 2012 was \$56,980.00.

Statewide employment of Police officers in Pennsylvania is expected to grow from 27,620 to 28,140 positions through 2020. Candidates with high

test scores, College education, and are physically fit have the best prospect for employment.

## **SECURITY**

Background information provided to and discussed by the Committee: Favorable opportunities are expected for the lower paying positions but stiff competition is expected for the higher paying positions at facilities that require a higher level of security.

Nationally, Security guards held more than 1,083,600 jobs in 2012. Industrial security firms and guard agencies employed 60% of all Security guards. Employment opportunities are expected to increase as fast as average through the year 2022. Employment opportunities will continue to grow as concern about crime, vandalism, and the need for security increases. Demand for Guards will grow as private security firms increasingly perform duties that were formerly handled by government police officers. The average annual earnings of security guards in 2012 were \$24,020.

Statewide employment of Security Guards is expected to grow from 41,890 positions to 47,140 positions through 2020. The average salary for a Security Guard in Pennsylvania is \$25,400

## **Student Completion, Placement and Follow-up Information**

- During the nine year period June 2006 to June 2015 100.00% of the students who were tested in the Protective Services Student Occupational Competency and Testing exam achieved an Advanced rating. This exam assesses the following Careers: Police, Fire and EMT.
- From 2010 to 2015 graduate placement has exceeded 80%.
- Based on the labor market data and the graduate placement data for Eastern students it was agreed that the Protective Services Program should be continued.

## **Industry Trends in the Protective Services Careers**

### **Response to Terrorism events**

The Protective Services as an Industry has been affected by the threat Terrorism poses to our Society.

The addition of the National Incident Management System level 100, 200, 700, and 800 Certifications plus the additional training provided by local Emergency Management experts is addressing this issue.

### **FIRE**

The Essentials of Fire fighting curriculum was established by National Fire Protection Association Standard 1001 regulations and is a nationally recognized Curriculum. This Curriculum was modified in 2011 with the release of the Sixth edition. The impact of this change is minimal due to the fact that the only substantial addition is a segment devoted to Terrorism and the Fire Service. The Committee discussed the overall condition of the Personal Protective equipment, Self Contained Breathing Apparatus, Helmets, Gloves, Nomex hoods and Protective boots that are currently being are five or less years old and are in good condition.

### **POLICE**

The Police Curriculum as currently structured addresses those skill sets needed for a career in Law Enforcement. The curriculum is based on Act 120 (Municipal Police Officers Training) and select college level curriculum and textbooks. All equipment is serviceable.

### **SECURITY**

The Curriculum as structured encompasses the Industry Standards.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS:**

The Committee recommends that Eastern continue to pursue Certification for students through approved State Fire Academies for the following areas:

- Fire Fighter I (NFPA 1001)
- Hazardous Materials Awareness
- Hazardous Materials Operations

The Committee recommends that the Protective Services Program maintain its affiliation with the Bucks County Fire Academy for the above listed Certifications.

The Committee recommends the retention of the Fire Component. The Committee recommends that the Self Contained Breathing Apparatus and Personal Protective Equipment be replaced or repaired as needed.

The Committee recommends that the Protective Services Program contract with Abington Township and Abington Fire Department to set up the use of their portable Cascade system that can respond to requests for on site refills at a yearly cost of \$2,000.00.

The Committee recommends the retention of the Police Component.

The Committee recommends that the four training mats be replaced.

The Committee recommends the retention of the Security Component as it is currently configured.

## **Timelines for implementation of Committee Recommendations**

### **September 2015**

Contract with Abington Township and Abington Fire Department to use their Mobile Cascade system at a yearly cost of \$2,000.00  
Purchase of four training mats at a cost of \$700.00 each.

### **September 2016**

Continue with the contract with a local Fire Department to refill cylinders at approximately \$, 2000.00 per year.

### **September of 2017**

Re-evaluate the Mobile Cascade system option and either continue or revisit Option 2.

Option 2 - Construct room and purchase one Cascade system at an estimated cost of \$60,000.00 more or less. There will be an annual cost for maintenance of approximately \$2,000.00.