

IOWA LAW ENFORCEMENT ACADEMY UPDATE

By Melissa Henderson, ILEA Academy Council



There were several waivers requested from officers/reserves that were granted for short extensions. One thing to keep in mind that we discussed is making new police applicants meet all of the qualifications to include the physical requirements, and medical requirements (eye test, hearing etc) prior to them being hired and starting an academy.

Russ Rigdon the attorney with ILEA has been reviewing the 501 Iowa Administrative Code Chapters 1,2,3,6,7,8,10 and 16. He along with a committee have been reviewing the code and making some changes. Some of the major changes they have been working on is updating the academy curriculum and hours necessary for the long and short academies along with the chapter pertaining to "moral turpitude". They are trying to make some clarifications, so it is easier for agencies to make determinations on hiring standards and when an officer is involved in conduct that is "contrary to justice, honesty, or good morals". Some other changes under review pertain to waivers, minimum requirements to attend short academies, decertification, and updates to the mandatory reporter training. I will discuss this in a separate paragraph. The changes were not voted on due to some more changes that were necessary and will hopefully be complete by next council meeting.

Mandatory Reporting training has changed. Here is an email I received noting the changes and the link to go to take the new training. I have had all of my recruits in our academy take this new training and it has gone very well.

On May 8, 2019 Governor Reynolds signed into law HF731, making changes on how mandatory reporting training is provided. Beginning July 1, 2019 the Iowa Department of Human Services (DHS) will take over the responsibilities for mandatory reporting training. There will be a two-hour child abuse and a two hour dependent adult abuse available on the DHS website free of charge. This will be the only approved training allowed in Iowa and the only way to receive the training. There are changes in how often you need to take the training, instead of every five years it is now every three years. The webpage and training will be available on July 1, 2019. Any current approval/provider numbers issued through the Iowa Department of Public Health (IDPH) will be void after June 30, 2019. IDPH will not be renewing any approval/provider numbers due to this change. If you recently have taken mandatory reporting training from an approved provider with a current curriculum your certificate is valid 5 years past the date of the training. All questions will need to go to DHS after June 30, 2019. The Public Health website is located at: <https://dhs.iowa.gov/child-welfare/mandatoryreporter>

Some changes were made to costs of classes at ILEA. There is an equation to how they came up with the totals for these trainings. That document will be available for review.

ILEA Director Judy Bradshaw along with Assistant Directors Buck and Ingrisano (new Assistant Director) reported on the current academy classes. The current classes are 286th and 287th Basic who are set to graduate on August 16th, 2019. Asst. Director Ingrisano was just hired and is a retired FBI agent most recently from the Omaha Division, Des Moines RA. He will be handling some academy duties however will mostly focus on specialty schools and re-certification schools. The academy classes are going well and are on track to graduate. This is the first class with the new living arrangements and new classrooms. They have lost a few in the academies however the issues were departmental issues and

the reasons were not discussed. They said for the most part things are going very well. They will need to build in more time for travel. The recruits don't know any different and during the past counseling sessions with the recruits they had positive feedback. The living arrangements have had a few issues. They have two more classes, 288th and 289th which are both full starting August 26th. They will have classes in January 2020 and again in April 2020. These academies will be at their current facilities.

Building updates; The company, Invision/DCI Group were supposed to be at the council meeting to present on the ILEA building remodel. They did not show up due to a conflict however plan to be at the October meeting. Director Bradshaw said they still were on schedule and they have regular meetings to discuss the progress. The plan is still to move in July 2020. Obviously with any building project they plan on having some issues. The facility has been gutted and they hope to start building soon. I will provide a further update on the building progress after our next meeting.

As I mentioned before ILEA has been re-working the ILEA curriculum. They are planning to update hours, classes and instructors. They have recently hired new instructors. Bryan Michelsen was hired this spring and had retired as a Sergeant from ISP out of District 3. Some of his specialties will include Motor Vehicle Law, Verbal Defense and 8 other classes. He will also assist with SFST/OWI, Driving, and traffic stops. He will also be the Community Outreach Instructor and is charged with researching and coordinating specialty schools. Keith Varner was just hired as a new instructor. He was an 8-year officer with ISU Police Department. He will be the primary instructor of SFST, OWI, Driving, Bike Patrol and Crime Scene Photography. ILEA is also looking to hire another instructor who will focus on a new ILEA eLearning program. They hope to have a full online training component for officers in the State of Iowa. They are also planning to hire a new jail instructor to fill the position that Rusty Ringler held. He was hired by DPS. I have had conversations with the new Asst. Director Ingrisano about holding re-certifications in the eastern side of the state. We are still in the discussion stage but hopefully will be able to host some re-certs in our area.

The council has a new committee to review some dated decertification's. The council has closed several cases and ILEA is making it a priority to get caught up on some old cases. Assistant Director Buck has been working hard on these cases.

I would like to remind everyone ILEA is trying to keep up to date on their website. The council agendas and minutes are posted once they are approved. Here is the link; <https://ileatraining.org/default.aspx/MenuItemID/287/MenuGroup/Home.htm>

I have really enjoyed my time so far on the council. I have attended every meeting since my appointment in December. I feel I have raised some relevant concerns regarding curriculum, in-service training and some of our concerns with the training at ILEA. I ask you to contact me if you have any questions or concerns. Please let me know if there is anything you would like me to address. Because we host our own academy, I have almost weekly contact with someone at ILEA. I have encountered numerous issues with consistency regarding how things are being done and how they have been done in the past. They have been very receptive to our advice and making things more consistent.

Please let me know if I can clarify anything or answer any other questions I have not addressed.

Melissa Henderson is the ISPA representative on the ILEA Academy Council. Officer Henderson is the Training Coordinator for the Cedar Rapids Police Department, serving since 1994.