

Training Advisory Group Meeting Minutes March 13, 2018 – Albany and Teleconference

Present: Dan Martonis, Cathy Conklin, Gene Monaco, Roger Tibbetts, Denise Trudell, Christine Bannister, Dave Ange, Sean Fitzsimmons, Meg Keleher

Get organized

Statewide Learning Management System (SLMS) Survey Results

The first two Assessment Administration online courses were held using SLMS in May and August of 2017. ORPTS conducted a survey after the two courses to evaluate students' thoughts (primarily of using the new SLMS system) of the online course. The survey had about a 50% response rate and allowed students to express any additional thoughts on the course. Roger stated the results show that 50% of the respondents would prefer classroom training and he would like the survey to evaluate the usefulness of the online class once the concepts are applied back in the office. Cathy is interested to see if they get as much out of the online training as they do in a classroom setting and is particularly interested in these results after the first online Mass Appraisal course is given in the upcoming semester. Sean said the survey concentrated on the technical issues involved with the new SLMS training platform, but future surveys could include more content questions. Results of future surveys will be discussed at the next Training Advisory Group meeting.

Reimbursement Update and Disbursement of Training Funds

An analysis of the current 2017-2018 training reimbursement by trimester and for the preceding four training years shows that the bulk of the reimbursement occurs in the second trimester (August thru November). The third trimester (December thru March) shows that the reimbursement requests over the past 5 training years has been less than the 17% of funds disbursed to the 3rd trimester (averaging less than 10%). It was decided to move 5% from the 3rd trimester to the 2nd trimester where the funds disbursement would now be increased from 33% to 38%. Dave would check with counsel's office if this change would require any change to rules. **UPDATE** – The allocation of training funds by trimester is not referenced in the rules; the change has been updated online and will be applicable for the 2018-19 training year beginning on April 1, 2018.

Fundamentals of Assessment Administration Course

Dave said that ORPTS is looking at offering the Fundamentals of Assessment Administration course in a classroom setting starting around the new appointment time of Fall 2019. The courses would be in the regional offices and taught by ORPTS staff. Roger stated that the Assessors' Association has more qualified teachers and they should co-teach with the ORPTS instructors. Denise mentioned that about 50 assessors met with the Comptroller's Office regarding the OSC's requirements for exemption administration. Denise said that OSC is concentrating on 3 exemptions: Aged, Vets and Agriculture. Anne Sapienza is developing a 1day course for administering the most frequently used exemptions. Roger would like a booklet from OSC with what the requirements are for each exemption. Cathy stated that the exemption portion of the Assessment Administration course is not helpful because it just refers to using the exemption manual. It was discussed that the Fundamentals of Assessment Administration course be reviewed to update the content/usefulness of the course. The group believes the course was last revised in 2007-8. Last time it was revised it was done by a smaller group of ORPTS staff and local officials. The group decided a small group including ORPTS and local officials is appropriate for this review. Roger will provide the name of an assessor for the group. Dave will bring this to ORPTS management.

Next Meeting

The next meeting will be tentatively scheduled for 10:30 am on Tuesday, September 18, 2018.

Possible Agenda Items:

Additional survey results for online training evaluation
Status of Assessment Administration course review
Training Advisory Group Charter

