Jail Academy Course Descriptions

The Minnesota Sheriffs' Association and the Jail Standardized Training Committee, consisting of representatives from County Jails throughout the state, have developed the Jail Training Academy. Attendees may choose to attend the full academy, currently 10 days, or just those courses that fit their training needs. Below is a description of the courses.

Week 1 Days 1-2

Interpersonal Communications: 16-hour course. The course is a National Institute of Corrections 2-day communication training program, designed to develop and refine skills for communicating and effectively managing detainees and the general public. The goal of the course is to provide participants with the knowledge, skills and attitudes to professionally and effectively communicate in a detention setting.

Week 1 Days 3-5

Inmate Supervision: 24-hour course. This course is a modified version of the National Institute of Correction's 'How to Run a Direct Supervision Housing Unit' curriculum, altered to include all jail facilities within the state. It is a 3-day training program to develop and refine skills for managing a correctional housing unit. Participants will be provided with the knowledge, skills and attitudes to <u>best</u> manage a correctional housing unit. The skills learned will include leadership, decision making, conflict management, problem solving, planning and goal setting, and specific behavior management skills.

Week 2 Day 1

Crisis Intervention Techniques: 8-hour course. This training provides a basic overview of mental illness: schizophrenia and psychotic disorders, mood disorders, cognitive disorders, and personality and substance disorders. We will look at the causes and nature of the illnesses, typical patterns of behavior and common medications, and guidelines for officer response. Participants will gain hands on experience how to help them deal with those suffering from a mental health crisis. Live actors will portray situations that students will respond to.

Week 2 Day 2
Security Threat Groups: 2-hour course. Participants will be provided with the knowledge to identify and manage security threat groups. The course will cover the following topics: Security Threat groups of Minnesota; gang identifiers that are typical inside Minnesota Jails such as how they wear jail clothing, tattoos, graffiti, and photographs in the mail; Gang Nations, People vs. Folk, crips vs. bloods, Nortenos vs. Surenos. Staff and gang member interaction. How STG's adversely affect correctional facilities will also be discussed.

Corrections Wellness- 2- hour course which gives an overview of the importance of taking care of your personal health and well being as you begin your career in corrections.

Inmate Searches: 4-hour course. The course teaches about contraband typically found in correctional facilities, how that contraband gets into facilities, and how to find contraband in the jail. The course covers how to properly complete a pat search and strip search. The laws of body cavity searches, as well as who can

authorize and who can conduct the search will be covered. How to complete a cell and dayroom search will also be discussed.

Week 2 Days 3-5
Use of Force: 24-hour course of lecture and hands-on instruction. The course will provide participants with the knowledge, skills and confidence to professionally and properly control a resistive, combative subject. The course will cover legal and liability issues, how stress affects the body, and how to navigate through a use of force continuum. The course will also cover hand cuffing, leg shackles, belly belts and other restraints found in corrections. Defensive tactics, blocks, escapes, control techniques, cell extractions, team control techniques, Taser familiarization and chemical restraints will also be covered. This course was put together by use of force experts and instructors and reviewed by the use of force attorney of Minnesota Counties Insurance Trust.

Online Jail Academy Courses-
Students will be given instructions to complete the training online.

Introduction to Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA): Online course. The purpose of this training is to educate students in preventing inappropriate relationships and misconduct through education, direction and supervision. This training aims to ensure the understanding of inappropriate relationships and misconduct, make staff aware of their own vulnerability, and assist in identifying and addressing risk areas.

Report Writing: Online Course. This curriculum is designed to develop and refine skills in the basics of writing clear, concise and professional reports. It will provide participants with the knowledge and skills to effectively communicate in writing. Objectives of this course are: the purpose of reports; how to take good notes; how to organize reports; the 11 key elements of quality reports and the legal aspects of a report.

Cultural Diversity for Corrections: Online Course. The purpose of this training is to instruct corrections and detention officers on the issues that surround cultural and social lifestyles within a correctional setting. Students will learn the differences between the terms race, ethnicity, culture, teaching definitions and examples of prejudice and discrimination. This course will introduce characteristics and communication styles of predominant subcultures in correctional facilities. Stereotypes and sensitivities of these subcultures as well as how to deal with each of them will also be covered.

Suicide Awareness: Online Course. This course will increase suicide awareness and give tools to corrections staff to recognize, reduce and prevent suicides in jail. This interactive class covers crisis situations, manipulation, communication skills, suicide prevention screening guidelines and active listening techniques.

Basics of Criminal Law and Procedure: 4-hour course. Corrections staff are an essential element of an effective criminal justice system, but to understand their roles, officers need to know the basics of the criminal law and prosecution process. This segment addresses basic concepts and definitions in criminal law as well as elements of the constitution and rules of procedures that most directly impact the duties of custody and other jail staff. This course will also address data practices issues. Corrections staff routinely collects, receives and distributes a great amount of information about inmates. This data is protected and regulated by state and even federal laws. Violation of these laws by giving out too little or too much data can result in major civil liability to the officer and the agency, and, in some cases, can lead to loss of employment and even criminal prosecution. This segment covers the terms and definitions of data practices and discusses in-depth the special status of data in correctional facilities, security issues and other legal safeguards.