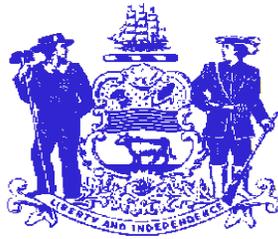


Approved 9/14/14



STATE OF DELAWARE  
EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT  
CRIMINAL JUSTICE COUNCIL  
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**Summary Minutes  
Criminal Justice Council  
Victims Advisory Committee  
Thursday, March 27, 2014  
2:00PM-3:30PM**

**The Delaware Economic Development Office (DEDO) - Conference Room  
10<sup>th</sup> Floor -Carvel State Office Building  
820 N. French St.  
Wilmington, DE 19801**

**Committee Members:** Hon. Robert Coupe (Chair); Debra Reed (DSP Victims Center); Hon. Jennifer Ranji (DSCYF); Carol Post (DCADV); Ashley Tucker (AOC); DAG Patricia Daily Lewis (DOJ); Lisa Minutola, Esq (OPD); Susan Baldwin (US Attorney's Office); Eleanor Torres (DVCC);

**CJC Staff:** Maureen Monagle (CJC Coordinator); Kathleen Kelley (CJ Planner); Christian Kervick (Interim Executive Director)

**Public Attendees:** none in attendance

The agenda items were discussed in the following order:

- 1. Welcome and Introductions**
- 2. Approval of the minutes from meeting held September 11, 2013**  
The minutes were approved as submitted.
- 3. Family Violence Prevention & Services Formula Grant Program:**
  - **Update:**  
Maureen reported that as of the date of the meeting, all of the FFY2013 FVPSA funds were awarded. For the past several years, the CJC has experienced difficulties with one

of the subgrantees following the grant conditions. The past few grant cycles, People's Place II, Inc., has not only had difficulties fully expending the federal award; they have experienced problems with almost not meeting the required Match. This usually results in last quarter de-obligating/re-obligating the funds to ensure they are appropriately spent and no money returned. This not only places a burden on CJC staff, it also places a burden on the other shelter program to spend the money appropriately and meet the match on the last minute increase.

Prior to the start of this current grant (start date 10/1/13), the CJC and DOJ came to an agreement. FVPSA funded shelter programs will use the DOJ Domestic Violence money (State funds) as match on their FVPSA subgrants. This will be applied to the shelter programs. The Community-Based programs may apply in-kind or other non-state or non-federal funded programs as match.

Prior to awarding FFY2013 subgrants, the CJC staff met with People's Place II staff to discuss the continued concerns. They were informed they are considered a CJC High-Risk subgrantee (they are not under a federal high-risk list; this is strictly related to CJC grants). The CJC awarded the PPII shelter grants at 50% of the approved amount. The remaining 50% would be released upon successful two quarters of operations and reports. CJC staff will update the Committee on any change of status of this subgrantee.

- **FFY2014 Federal Application:**

Maureen informed the Committee that the FFY2014 FVPSA application was submitted.

This will be the third year of a three year plan. No changes were made to the plan.

The plan includes the distribution of the 70% for "Immediate Emergency Shelter" to the 5 domestic violence shelters; and the 25% for the "Community-Based Services" will continue. This amount also includes the continuation of the trauma-informed training that the Delaware Coalition Against Domestic Violence has done.

No expected time frame of for the award or the State's allocation. We usually are notified during the summer.

#### **4. VOCA-Assistance Formula Grant Program:**

- **Update:**

Maureen informed the Committee members that in December 2013, the CJC participated in an emergency meeting about rape crisis. It was discovered that for a period of 4-5 months, rape crisis hotline calls were being outsourced/diverted to a crisis call center in Ohio. This was a decision made by ContactLifeline due to a critical shortage in rape crisis volunteers and high staff turnover. ContactLifeline is the only rape crisis for the State, operating in all three-counties.

CJC Grant Monitors did perform on-site visits, none of the federal funds (VOCA, STOP or SASP) were used to pay for the contracted time to Ohio.

ContactLifeline is going thru another transition of leadership. The Executive Director left in December. The interim Executive Director took his position prior to the end of the year. This will be the 4<sup>th</sup> transition of leadership in the agency since long time Executive Director, Pat Tedford, retired five years ago.

CJC will continue to monitor rape crisis services.

- **FFY2014 VOCA-Assistance Allocations:**

As of the date of this meeting, OVC has not released the allocations for the FFY2014 award. Once the CJC receives the allocation, the solicitation should be released for competitive bid.

Hopefully, the allocations will be released with enough time to allow for a solicitation, concept review and VSAC meeting. The FFY2014 VOCA recommendations should be presented to the Criminal Justice Council during the June 16<sup>th</sup> or September 16<sup>th</sup> meetings.

#### **5. Strategic Planning:**

Maureen explained that OVC released proposed changes to the guidelines that could change how the VOCA-Victims Assistance grant can be utilized. Some changes would significantly impact the allowable/unallowable uses of VOCA-VA funds. For this reason, strategic planning with this Committee was not done.

CJC staff has been involved in some of the discussions with OVC with regards to the proposed changes. The changes were posted for public comment in the Federal Register, August 2013.

Maureen provided the Committee with a summary of the changes. Most of the proposed changes improves/enhances the program and the direct services to victims of crime. Key changes may be made to some of the definitions of victimization (ex: child abuse could include children exposed to violence and child pornography). Proposed changes include possibility for “alternative therapy/healing, “services to incarcerated individuals, etc. Expands underserved victimization to include victims of child pornography, child victims of sex trafficking, and LGBTQ victims.

The other significant proposed change, that would impact programs in Delaware, is OVC is proposing a mandatory competitive requirement for subgrantees.”All subawards for victims’ assistance project funded by VOCA should re-compete at least every five years.”

As of the date of this meeting, CJC did not hear of the final guidelines. Staff is not sure if they will be effective with the FFY2014 award, or if it will allow time for States to adjust to changes by FFY2015.

If changes will be applied to FFY2015, CJC will hold a planning day for this Committee to do strategic planning for the VOCA program.

If the changes will be applied to the FFY2014 award, CJC would seek guidance from OVC on programs that would be seeking funding beyond 5 years. More information will be shared with the Committee as the CJC receives it.

Susan Baldwin had concerns about the training/technical assistance that would have to be offered to subgrantees. These changes are significant. CJC should consider outreach to programs. Maureen confirmed she’d be informing the various task forces and subgrantees on proposed changes.

Approved 9/14/14

**6. Other/Public Comment:**

No comments made at this time.

Without anything further to discuss, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Maureen Monagle  
CJC Coordinator