Approved 3/11/15

STATE OF DELAWARE
EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT
CRIMINAL JUSTICE COUNCIL
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# Summary Minutes
# Criminal Justice Council
# Victims Advisory Committee
# September 4, 2014
# 2:00PM-4:00PM

**3rd Floor Conference Room (Room 301)**
**Administration Building**
**Delaware Health and Social Services**
**Herman Holloway Campus**
1901 North Du Pont Highway
New Castle, DE 19720

**Committee Members:** Hon. Robert Coupe (Chair); Debra Reed (DSP Victims Center); Carol Post (DCADV); Lisa Minutola, Esq (OPD); DAG Patricia Daily Lewis (DOJ); DAG Lisa Ogden (VCAP); Eleanor Torres (*DVCC*); Cara Sawyer (*proxy for Hon. Jennifer Ranji*, DSCYF); Ashley Tucker (*proxy for Hon. Patricia Griffin*, AOC)

**CJC Staff**: Maureen Monagle (CJC Coordinator); Kathleen Kelley (CJ Planner);

**Public Attendees:** Deanna Jason (CHILD Inc.); Cherelyn Homlish (People's Place II, Inc); Tim Collins

The agenda items were discussed in the following order:

1. **Approval of the minutes from meeting held March 27, 2014**
   The minutes were approved as submitted.

2. **Family Violence Prevention & Services Formula Grant Program:**
   - **FFY2014 FVPSA- VOTE RE:**
     Maureen reported that the CJC received the State's FFY2014 award. The final amount for Delaware's allocation is $778,262. The funds must be distributed in the following

manner: 5% for CJC Administration; 70% for "Immediate Emergency Shelter" to the 5 domestic violence shelters; and 25% for the "Community-Based Services" programs to continue. The plan also included the continuation of the trauma-informed training that is organized and offered through the Delaware Coalition Against Domestic Violence (DCADV).

Maureen provided the committee with the breakouts according to the formula. The shelters would each receive a small increase from the previous year. The community-based programs and the DCADV are recommended to continue at the same levels. This leaves an unobligated balance of $7,583 for community-based programs. CJC staff is aware a staffing change within CHILD Inc's "DFS Liaison Beech Street" program has created a need for additional funds to support a newly hired FT Liaison. Staff's recommendation for the balance is to increase the Beech Street program with the remaining balance.

Lisa Minutola made a motion to approve staffs' recommendations for the distribution of the FVPSA award. Lisa Ogden seconded. Motion was approved unanimously.

3. **VOCA-Assistance Formula Grant Program:**

The CJC released a competitive solicitation for the FFY2014 VOCA-Assistance grant, immediately upon receipt of the State's award. This competitive solication was made available for new programs and programs seeking "4th Year & Beyond" funding. The CJC received twelve applications.

A review was held with the Review Team. The summary notes and average scores were sent to the Committee prior to this meeting.

- **FFY2014 VOCA-Assistance (Federal award: $1,739,622):**

The CJC retains 5% for Administration ($86,981).

$354,230 of the total award is already obligated for continuation programs.

- The following programs are obligated funds to continue the 2nd year of a project:
  - Wilmington Police Department~ "Youth Victims Advocate" ($28,686)
  - Delaware Center for Justice, Inc~ "Elderly Victims Services" ($67,366)
- The following programs are obligated funds to continue the 3rd year of a project:
  - People's Place II, Inc~ "Advocacy Services for DV Survivors" ($123,287)
  - CHILD Inc. ~ "Community Based Services for DV Victims"($65,764)
  - SOAR, Inc. ~ "Recovery Services for Victims of Sex Crimes" ($69,127)

The remaining balance ( was published in the solicitation

4. **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.

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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.

5. **Other/Public Comment:**

No comments made at this time.

Without anything further to discuss, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,
Maureen Monagle
CJC Coordinator