



STATE OF DELAWARE
EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT
CRIMINAL JUSTICE COUNCIL
STATE OFFICE BUILDING – 10th FLOOR
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**Summary Minutes
Criminal Justice Council
Victims Advisory Committee
March 11, 2015
2:00PM-4:00PM**

**Delaware Economic Development Office (DEDO)- Conference Room
10th Floor- Carvel State Office Building
820 N. French Street
Wilmington, DE 19801**

Committee Members: Hon. Robert Coupe (Chair); Debra Reed (Vice Chair, DSP Victims Center); Matt Rubincam (*proxy for Lisa Minutola*, OPD); Susan Alfree (USAO); DAG Lisa Ogden (VCAP); DAG Patricia Daily Lewis (DOJ); Eleanor Torres (*DVCC*); Mariann Kenville-Moore (DCADV); Hon. Jennifer Ranji (DSCYF); Ashley Tucker (*proxy for Hon. Patricia Griffin*, AOC)

CJC Staff: Maureen Monagle (CJC Coordinator); Kathleen Kelley (CJ Planner); Chris Kervick (Executive Director); Scott McLaren (Deputy Director)

Public Attendees: Stephani Hamilton (WPD); Stephanie Traynor (Aquilla of Delaware); Kelly Wetzel (Aquilla of Delaware)

The agenda items were discussed in the following order:

- 1. Approval of the minutes from meeting held September 4, 2014**
The minutes were approved as submitted.
- 2. Family Violence Prevention & Services Formula Grant Program:**
 - FFY2015FVPSA- Update:**
Maureen reported that the FVPSA office released the solicitation in December; the state's application was submitted in January. The application stated the funds will continue to be distributed according to federal requirements (5% for CJC Administration; 70% for

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

As of the date of this meeting, the State has not received notice of the formula allocation. Staff anticipates the notice sometime in the spring.

The FVSPSA grant will be reviewed by the Committee, recommendations should be presented to the CJC in the fall.

3. VOCA-Assistance Formula Grant Program:

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

The Committee made funding decisions in September 2014. An unobligated balance remained. The State is under the 10% required for services to child abuse and services to underserved victims of crime. Staff prepared two solicitations for the Committee to review.

The solicitation for new programs to serve victims of child abuse was approved. The amount made available is \$117,943.

There was more discussion during the review of the solicitation for underserved victims. Mariann Kennville-Moore asked about the groups the committee previously identified as “underserved.” Those groups include immigrant victims of crime and individuals with disabilities. Maureen explained that identifying those groups as underserved may give them priority in scoring. It may not necessarily meet the federal requirement which is the OVC identified crimes/victimizations. Those crimes/victimizations include services to survivors of homicide, assault, adults molested as children, victims of DUI/DWI, etc. For this solicitation, if an organization applied to provide services to victims of domestic violence who have disabilities, or who are non-English speaking/immigrant victims, that does not help the State meet the federal requirement for the underserved crimes. That program, that funding would be applied to the domestic violence category, which the State already exceeds. The services under this solicitation have to respond to the OVC identified crimes/victimizations.

CJC staff also mentioned the recent report of the Wilmington Crime Commission. The Committee could release the solicitation to respond to the needs in the high-crime zip codes of 19801, 19802 and 19805. There was concern that this may prevent someone in other zip codes from applying. The recommendation was made to give those zip codes priority with bonus points in the scoring process, but not make it a requirement. With this recommendation, the Underserved solicitation was approved for release.

- **FFY2015 VOCA-Assistance (update and discussion):**

Maureen informed the Committee that when Congress passed the FFY2015 federal budget, they did so with a significant increase in the Crime Victims Fund. As of the date of this meeting, OVC has yet to inform the states of the impact to the VOCA-Assistance Formula Grant, but the CJC is prepared for a significant increase. Estimates/scenarios have the Assistance grants being doubled or quadrupled. There are still many decisions that have to be made before the Assistant grant receives the amounts, but the State is prepared for a significant increase.

With the increase, there will also be significant audit and financial accountability changes. CJC staff is concerned how these changes may impact current VOCA subgrantees. One of the concerns is the reporting timeframe and accountability. The other concern, with the increase, is the ability to meet match. Some NPO subgrantees are challenged with meeting the non-federal match as it is. This increase may be problematic for agencies.

There will also be changes to the programmatic reporting. Those changes have yet to be finalized. OVC is working with State Administering Agencies to come to an agreement on the changes. Some of the questions will be changed, more reporting will be required, and the time frame will be shorter (they are moving away from an annual report). Again, Staff shared concerns. Some subgrantees have difficulty meeting the deadline on the annual report, despite staffs' reminding them, and it being a special condition. More will come as OVC finalizes the program report. Staff stressed to the Committee that it will be different.

- **Strategic Planning meeting (spring date TBD):**

Staff stressed the importance of strategic planning, especially with this anticipated increase. A survey was created (via surveymonkey) was sent to providers to assess needs/gaps the providers are seeing in the field. The survey will be open for another month. That information will be shared with the Committee.

The Committee should hold a strategic planning meeting. Staff recommended the Spring. The date that was selected was May 6th. CJC staff will find a location and will invite key stakeholders. The information discussed should help this Committee formulate a plan for the next round of VOCA funding. Staff will email the Committee a save the date for the planning meeting.

4. Public Comment:

Ms. Traynor and Ms. Wetzel from Aquila of Delaware introduced themselves. Aquila works with treating individuals with substance abuse and mental health. Aquila provides intensive outpatient services. They can meet with the clients in home, etc. Referrals can be self-referrals, schools, etc. They have seen an increase in the disclosures of abuse and trauma from the clients they serve. They are looking to partner with victims service agencies/providers. They have been working closely with the Wilmington Police Department Victims Services.

No other comments were made at this time.

Without anything further to discuss, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,
Maureen Monagle
CJC Coordinator