

Approved

**VAWA Implementation Committee
Summary Minutes
November 23, 2015
2:00PM-3:30PM**

**Delaware Department of Justice – Fraud Unit
Conference Room
5th Floor - Carvel State Office Building
820 N. French St.
Wilmington, DE 19801**

Committee Members Present: Hon. Vincent Poppiti (Chair); Stephanie Hamilton; Maria Knoll, Esq.; Hon. Robert Coupe (*via phone*)

CJC Staff Present: Maureen Monagle; Nicole Sund

Public Attendees: Natasha Smith (DVCC); Mariann Kenville-Moore (DCADV)

The agenda items were discussed in the following order:

1. Approval of the minutes from the September 10, 2015 meeting:

The minutes were approved as submitted.

2. 2015 Domestic Violence Fund:

The 2015 Domestic Violence Fund was made competitive. The CJC released the competitive solicitation, making \$91,668.50 available for non-profit agencies to provide legal services for victims of domestic violence.

The CJC received two applications from CLASI and DVLS, totaling \$95,243. Prior to this meeting, the Committee members received copies of the applications, and summary notes with average scores from the Review Team.

CJC staff noted that the amount in requested was \$3,574.50 (3.9%) more than available.

CJC staff provided a few funding options for the Committee to consider. One of the options presented was that both applications, which came within 0.3 point of one another, be reduced by 3.9%. That would allow each program to operate within the limits of proposed budgets. No services would be impacted.

After further discussion of the merits of each application, Maria Knoll made a motion to fund both programs, at 3.9% less than the amount requested. Stephanie Hamilton seconded the motion. No further discussion took place. The motion carried unanimously.

3. FFY2014 STOP PREA Allocation:

As decided during the last meeting, the DOC would be invited to submit an application for a program under the Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA) Allocation. Maureen reminded the Committee, under other federal programs, the PREA Penalty or Reallocation is 5%. Due to the distribution requirements of the STOP Program, the PREA Allocation is 4.75% (cannot include the amount that must go to the Courts). Delaware could not certify 100% compliance within the time frame of the FFY2014 and FFY2015 grants; therefore, 4.75% of the FFY14 STOP Award must be used towards PREA initiatives.

Commissioner Coupe provided an update on the DOC's status with Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA) compliance. DOC completed audits of two facilities; the remaining audits will be completed by the time the Governor has to certify compliance. The Commissioner anticipates the Governor will be able to certify full compliance under the federal standards by May 2016.

Prior to this meeting, the Committee members received an application from DOC, proposing to utilize the PREA funds to start a program in Baylor Women's Correction Institution that would contract a clinician to facilitate psycho-educational groups for victims in Baylor. A concern was raised by one of the Committee members that there was language within the application that could be perceived as victim blaming. Commissioner Coupe addressed the concern, did not believe the application implied that. The CJC staff would make the subgrant project director and PREA Coordinator aware of the concern, to avoid any further confusion or concern.

Maureen reminded the Committee that the decision to recommend this program under FFY14 STOP would continue with obligating funds under the FFY15 STOP Grant. As of the date of this meeting, OVW was working to address concerns with PREA and have the STOP Grant removed from PREA Penalties. In summary, the CJC would only be required to support this program for 2 years.

With no further discussion, Maria Knoll made a motion to approve DOC's application for the PREA Compliance Programming under FY2014 STOP and continue under FY2015 STOP. Stephanie Hamilton seconded the motions. With no further discussion needed, the motion passed unanimously.

4. FFY2015 STOP Continuation Funding:

The CJC received the award for the FFY2015 STOP grant. Delaware's allocation was \$904,496.00.

Maureen provided the Committee with a draft "CJC Standard Form" with the programs that should be considered for continuation funding. The FFY2015 STOP Grant is the second year of the three-year implementation plan.

The programs are all recommended at level amounts, despite a decrease in funding. Maureen highlighted a few items/projects for the Committee to consider. The 5% that must go to the Courts remains unobligated in the draft

form. The CJC just engaged the Courts for the training money that was offered in a formula distribution. The CJC staff recommends the Committee re-assess what the Courts experience or interest is with continuing the court training programs.

The Committee members agreed with that plan.

The other program to highlight as a possible change was the Annual LET Conference funds. After much discussion with DSP and DVCC, the CJC recommends the subgrantee be the DVCC. This recommendation is made to assist the Corporal, head of the DV Unit for DSP being responsible to carry a high case load. The DVCC staff has agreed to be responsible for the coordination of the conference, and the subgrantee. The LET Conference Planning Committee will continue to be Chaired by Cpl Adrienne Owen, with a multidisciplinary planning group. This recommendation is being made with the support/agreement of DSP and DVCC.

An unobligated amount remains in the law enforcement category. This is due to the challenges the DSP Victims Center has experienced with being able to fill a casual/seasonal Victims Service Specialist in Sussex County. Maureen explained the challenges and obstacles with getting FTE positions approved by the Clearinghouse Committee and OMB; as well as the HR difficulties with finding qualified victims service specialists, under the limitations of a casual/seasonal employee.

Maureen indicated there may be options to consider with local law enforcement agencies. She will explore opportunities and report back to the Committee. There may be new initiatives for the law enforcement money, that would fall within the goals of the approved Implementation Plan. Stephanie Hamilton made a motion to approve the draft standard form for continuation programs. Maria Knoll seconded. The motion passed unanimously, with no further discussion.

5. Federal Grant Update:

- **SASP Formula Grant Update:**
 - **FFY2014 (\$272,885):** Federal end date of 7/31/16. Funds fully obligated.

- **STOP Formula Grant Update**
 - **FFY2012 (\$887,639):** End date 6/30/16 (*2nd extension granted*). All funds have been obligated.
 - **FFY2013 (\$869,733):** The CJC received a first extension. The federal end date is 6/30/16.
 - **FFY2014 (\$913,366):** Federal end date is 6/30/16. CJC cannot request an extension until 90 days prior to end. The Committee was made aware of the balance earlier (agenda item #5)

6. New Business:

No new business was introduced at this time.

7. Other/Public Comment:

No public comment was made during this time

Without anything further, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,
Maureen Monagle