



STATE OF DELAWARE  
EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT  
CRIMINAL JUSTICE COUNCIL  
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**Summary Minutes  
Criminal Justice Council  
Victims Services Advisory Committee  
August 18, 2016**

**Conference Room 300  
Department of Corrections  
Administration Building  
245 McKee Rd  
Dover, DE 19904**

**Committee Members:** Hon. Robert Coupe (Chair); Hon. Carla Benson-Green (DSCYF); DAG Renee Hrivnak (*proxy for Cari Chapman*, DOJ); Cara Sawyer (VCAP); Ellie Torres (DVCC); Sue Ryan (*proxy for Sue Ryan*, DCADV); Katie Coombes (AOC); Matt Rubincam (*proxy for Lisa Minutola*, OPD); Jay Lynch (DHSS); Susan Alfree (USAO-Delaware District);

**CJC Staff:** Maureen Monagle (CJC Coordinator);

**Public Attendees:** Chereilyn Homlish (People's Place II, Inc.); Jason Stoehr (CLASI); Heidi Collier (public); Erin Connelly (DOC); Claudia Pena Porretti (LACC, Inc)

The agenda items were discussed in the following order:

- 1. Approval of the minutes from meeting held May 2, 2016**  
The minutes were approved as submitted.

- 2. Old Business: Revised Applications pending under FFY2015 VOCA-VA:**

During the Committee meeting in May, the VSAC voted to ask three applicants to submit revised applications to address some of the comments and questions raised during the competitive review. The agencies are new to the VOCA program; some would be new CJC subgrantees.

Maureen explained that each agency received a summary of the review. Individual meetings were held with CJC staff to discuss any questions or concerns raised

during the competitive review. Each agency was given time to revise their applications. The revised applications were forwarded to the VSAC prior to this meeting.

The agencies asked to submit revised applications were:

- Family Counseling Center of St. Paul's (revised application for \$216,724.00).
- Kind to Kids Foundation (revised application for \$53,040.00)
- Supporting Kidds, a subsidiary of Children & Families First (revised application for \$380,929.00)

Maureen explained the CJC did not reconvene the Review Team since these applicants were selected and invited to submit revisions. CJC staff reviewed the revisions. Staff did not report any concerns with the revisions. Maureen reminded the committee of the current available balance of \$667,363.00. There is enough funding available to support all three programs, should the Committee vote to recommend all three.

The Committee members discussed the proposals. The Supporting Kidds application was recognized for an outstanding program. Their goals and objectives are directly related to the needs in the communities. Commissioner Coupe noted the same about the Kind to Kids proposal. There was recognition for the focus helping these child victims with skills to build healthy relationships.

Marianne Kennville-Moore noted the DCADV can provide technical assistance. Maureen said the CJC would not make that a special condition to receive technical assistance from a specific agency. The CJC can, however, let that program know that technical assistance can be available.

A motion was made to recommend the three revised programs for funding. The motion was seconded. Without further discussion, the motion carried unanimously.

This motion leaves a balance of \$16,670.00 of the FFY2015 award. This federal grant ends 9/30/18. CJC staff is not concerned with that balance at this time.

### **3. Federal Program Updates:**

- **FFY2014 VOCA-Assistance** (update- funding for school-based programs):

During the Committee meeting in May, the VSAC was informed of a recent de-obligation of a new program in the underserved category. Due to challenges with implementation, the LACC returned the funding. This action caused a balance in the FFY2014 VOCA grant; and placed the CJC at risk of not meeting the required 10% in the underserved victimization category. VSAC directed staff to invite schools to apply for funding for school-based victims services programming to implement/enhance programs to support victims of bullying, an underserved victimization. The VSAC selected schools within the City of Wilmington and Dover as the targeted areas.

Maureen contacted John Sadowski, the Secretary of Education's designee on the Criminal Justice Council. Mr. Sadowski was very helpful in disseminating the VOCA-Victims Assistance information to the school districts within the targeted communities. A meeting was arranged for June 9<sup>th</sup>. The Christina School District was the only school district that participated. No other districts expressed interest.

The meeting on June 9<sup>th</sup> was an information meeting. CJC Staff provided background on the VOCA-VA program; allowable costs and activities; and provided guidance on direct services programs. The schools were asked to submit concept papers, detailing the individual programs. Maureen was hoping staff could forward the proposals to the Committee in time for this meeting.

CJC staff received the schools' proposals. Each proposal had unique concerns, making the programs unallowable under VOCA (example provided was the programs were trying to address homelessness. While this may be a circumstance that may make a child at risk for bullying, "homelessness" is not victimization). Staff explained that another meeting was held on August 17<sup>th</sup> (the day before this Committee meeting). Maureen reported that several issues came up during this meeting with the schools. The principals of the schools brought up different incidents, issues and needs identified during the last school year. Working with the schools, Maureen allowed the schools to include survivors of homicide, victims of gang violence, etc. These crimes/victimizations still fall within the federal required "Underserved" category.

The schools have been directed to revise their programs. They should be submitted to the CJC by September 1<sup>st</sup>. Once received, CJC staff will forward them directly to the VSAC for review. Staff acknowledged the quick turnaround time; but it was the only realistic way of working with the interested schools. As of the date of this meeting, there were three elementary schools in Christina School District that are working on proposals.

There were no further questions on the school-based programs.

The second item under the FFY2014 VOCA-VA grant was a program modification needing committee's approval. The Children's Advocacy Center, Inc. has the "Expanded Services" program that is currently operating for the 10<sup>th</sup> year under FFY14 VOCA-VA. The CAC was recently approved for a new program under FFY15 (shifting the Forensic Interviewers under one subgrants). The shifting of one of the forensic interviewers to the new create created a balance on the continuation grant. Staff had a letter from the CAC requesting to use the remaining balance to re-start the Caregiver Assistance Program. Maureen explained this was a project originally implemented with SASP funds. The CJC had to stop funding that due to changes implemented by OVW. The CJC has not funded the Caregiver Assistance Program for almost two years.

Mariann Kennville-Moore expressed her concerns that she heard that program was not successful. It was her understanding that the CAC could not get people to attend the groups. Maureen could not confirm that information. Maureen stated again that the only reason the CJC stopped funding was due to changes made by OVW, making the CAC ineligible for SASP funding.

Maureen confirmed that if the VSAC approved this modification, this would still be considered a continuation program. The augmentation does not change the scope enough for this to be considered “new.”

A motion was made to recommend the three revised programs for funding. The motion was seconded. Without further discussion, the motion carried unanimously.

- **FFY2015 VOCA-Assistance:**

The approval of the CAC’s modification would continue with the funding obligated for 12<sup>th</sup> year of funding under the FY15 VOCA-VA.

As stated during the discussion under agenda #2, there is a small balance of \$16,670.00.

- **FFY2016 VOCA-Assistance** (pending award from OVC):

Maureen reported the CJC’s application is still pending awards from OVC. As of the date of this meeting, the CJC does not have the award. Staff explained the delay could be for two reasons,

First, there have been changes in the state formula allocation amounts. The CJC was originally informed Delaware’s initial allocation was \$6,966,897.00. Last month, the states were notified of a revision. OVC received concurrence from Congress to reprogram \$40 million of compensation funds, that were originally include in the assistance funds. The revised VOCA-Victims Assistance formula allocation for Delaware is \$6,874,658.00.

The second possible reason for the delay could be due to the very recent approval of the revisions to the VOCA guidelines. The new guidelines are in effect with federal awards issued after August 8<sup>th</sup>. Staff explained any existing or continuing voca subgrants will continue to operate as agreed upon. The new guidelines do not apply to existing awards, but for anything funded with FFY2016 and beyond. The changes are significant enough they would require specific solicitations and in-depth planning and consideration by the Council and the Committee. Staff will try to prepare a side-by-side comparison for a future meeting.

As of the funding recommendations, staff explained that new FY15 projects have to be obligated the third year. Maureen was not able to provide the exact amount that should be obligated in time for this meeting.

Maureen expressed concern of the delays and the possible impact for projects that will be ending on 9/30/16. The Committee could consider extending an additional “courtesy” year for those “4<sup>th</sup> year & beyond” programs. It will still leave a large balance to solicit for competitive new programs. The Chair expressed concern for not feeling comfortable enough to make that recommendation without knowing exactly what is being funded and what impact the programs have. Maureen said she can have something prepared for the Committee before the meeting on September 8<sup>th</sup>.

Susan Alfree asked if the programs that were not selected under FY2015 could apply again. CJC staff said yes. All applicants received their score and comments from the review. The hope would be that applicants read the comments

and questions. Those should be considered when submitting for future solicitations.

**4. Family Violence Prevention & Services Act Grant Program:**

- **Discussion FFY2016 FVPSA Grant:** CJC reported the FVPSA award has now been revised three times. The most recent revision changed the State's award amount to \$802,069.00. This is a very small increase from what was given to the Committee during the May meeting. The change would alter the amounts distributed to the 5 DV Shelter programs slightly. The change would also affect the amount for Community-Based Services. The CJC received three applications in response to the competitive solicitation. The Review Team will be meeting the following week to score and discuss.

Maureen prepared the VSAC for a possible re-posting of the solicitation. CJC staff had very preliminary readings of the proposals. CJC is not sure they are appropriate under FVPSA. Maureen reminded that the review will take place the following week. The Committee will receive the scores and comments immediately after.

The funding recommendations should be presented to the Criminal Justice Council in September.

**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