



STATE OF DELAWARE
EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT
CRIMINAL JUSTICE COUNCIL
STATE OFFICE BUILDING – 10th FLOOR
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**Summary Minutes
Victims Services Advisory Committee
September 8, 2016
2:00PM-4:00PM**

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

Committee Members: Hon. Robert Coupe (Chair); Deb Reed (Vice-Chair); DAG Cari Chapman (DOJ); Sue Ryan, (DCADV); Cara Sawyer (VCAP); Steve Yeatman (*proxy for Hon. Carla Benson-Green* DSCYF); Lisa Minutola (ODS); Katie Coombes (AOC); Susan Alfree (USAO-Delaware District)

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

Public Attendees: Jason Stoehr (CLASI); Deiana Tyree (CHILD Inc.); Cherelyn Homlish (People's Place II, Inc.);

The agenda items were discussed in the following order:

1. Approval of the minutes from meeting held August 18, 2016

The minutes were approved as submitted.

2. Family Violence Prevention & Services Act Grant Program-

Maureen informed the Committee there was another revision to the formula allocation. Delaware's award is \$802,069.00.

The Committee received a revised spreadsheet of the FVPSA distribution. The 70% that must be used for immediate shelter is \$561,449.00. This changes the distribution amounts to the five domestic violence shelters. Each shelter can now receive \$112,289.00; with the Abriendo Puertas shelter receiving \$112,293.00. The shelters will

continue to utilize the domestic violence funding they receive through Delaware DOJ to ensure they meet their match.

The 25% that should be used for services in the community is now \$200,517.00. The DCADV was previously recommended to continue to receive \$20,000.00 for the 2017 Conference and TA work.

A motion was made to approve the revised amounts distributed to the shelters and to continue the DCADV's Training and TA. Motion was seconded

Prior to this meeting, the CJC released a competitive solicitation for the Community-Based Services. \$180,466 was made available. The CJC received three concepts. The Committee received the Review Team's summary notes and average scores. Only one of the concepts was recommended for funding.

The Committee discussed the submitted proposals, Committee members agreed with concerns and comments offered from the Review Team.

Maureen recommended offering an additional \$10,000.00 to enhance the services to children whose parents are being served under the "Latina Outreach Project" proposed by People's Place II, Inc. If People's Place II, Inc can accept the increase, due to the increased match, CJC staff will make sure it is used towards services and activities with children (more child care staff, implement age appropriate activities for those children witnessing violence in their home, etc).

A motion was made to approve the "Latina Outreach Project" submitted by People's Place II, Inc. The committee directed staff to offer an additional \$10,000.00 to enhance the services to children. The motion was seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

A motion was made to not recommend the concepts submitted by The Delaware Ecumenical Council on Children & Families and Jewish Family Services. The motion was seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

The above motions leaves an unobligated balance of \$118,700.00 in the amount that must go towards Community-Based services.

Maureen did inform the Committee of two agencies that were thinking of submitted a collaborative application to expand services, legal advocacy and outreach to non-English speaking, immigrant victims in Kent & Sussex. CLASI and La Esperanza did reach out to the CJC just before the solicitation closed. Both agencies decided to wait until the VOCA-Assistance Solicitation was open for new programs and services. Maureen could invite those agencies to apply for the balance. The Committee could review these proposals and have any recommendations presented to the Council in December.

The Committee discussed concerns with the federal end date, having the funding primarily granted to agencies with a Kent and Sussex. Staff explained that CJC could justify the need to invest in services in rural Sussex County to expand services and outreach to unserved/underserved communities and marginalized populations. Staff noted a concern with further delay if the committee was to re-issue a competitive solicitation.

A motion was made directing CJC Staff to invite CLASI and La Esperanza to apply for their collaborative projects. Staff will work with the agencies to have proposals submitted for review, and possible recommendation before the December meeting of the Criminal Justice Council. Motion was seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

3. FFY2014 VOCA-VA (funding for school-based programs):

Prior to this meeting, the Committee members were emailed proposals for three school-based victims' services programs (Elbert-Palmer Elementary, Stubbs Elementary and Bayard Middle). The committee members were emailed the proposals with the understanding the proposals were under review by the Acting Superintendent and CFO of Christina School District. Two days before this committee meeting, the CJC staff received an email from the school district indicating it did not want to be a VOCA subgrantee. The school district did acknowledge the need and "loved the idea." They district did not wish to be a subgrantee. They would support other NPO agencies applying for the funding.

CJC staff informed the Committee this could be considered with future funding. If the Committee still wanted to support school-based victims services, it could be done with a targeted solicitation under FFY2016 VOCA.

The decision of the school district leaves an unobligated balance in the FFY2014 VOCA grant. The funding must go to services to meet the underserved category. Staff's recommendations will be outlined in the conversation about continuation funding.

4. FFY2016 VOCA-Victims Assistance (Pending Award from OVC):

CJC staff received the formula allocations for Delaware's FFY2016 VOCA-Assistance Grant Program. As of the date of this meeting, OVC has not issued the awards to the states. CJC is expecting the award for \$6,874,658.00.

Maureen provided the Committee members with a handout of current VOCA subgrant projects. The handout provided information the 15 programs that are automatically obligated third and 4th year of funds; and the 20 programs that may be eligible for "4th year & Beyond" continuation funding. The total amount obligated for the 35 subgrant programs is \$3,625,333.00.

If the Committee wanted to offer non-competitive continuation funding, Maureen recommended 3 of the programs continue under the available balance remaining in FFY2014 VOCA. Staff recommended the following under FFY2014 VOCA:

- (\$55,393.00) LACC's "Victims Advocacy Program for Latino and Wider"
- (\$45,078.00) DOJ's "NCCo Senior Crime Victims Social Worker"
- (\$40,908.00) La Esperanza, Inc "Bilingual Victims Services"

A motion was made to recommend the three identified programs for continuation under the balance available in FFY2014. Motion was seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

The Committee considered the remaining projects for continuation. A motion was made to recommend all remaining subgrants for non-competitive "4th year & beyond" funding at level amounts. The motion was seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Maureen advised the Committee that the funding recommendations will have the federal required categories under the required 10% in child abuse and underserved victimizations; sexual assault services will have just met the requirement by 10.4%; and domestic violence services will be funded at 23.6%.

When the remaining balance is made available with a competitive solicitation for new programs, the Committee and CJC will have to make the child abuse and underserved categories a priority.

5. Revisions to the VOCA-Assistance Guidelines (discussion):

Maureen informed the Committee that OVC did get the VOCA-Assistance guidelines revised. The revisions are effective as of August 8, 2016. This means, any federal awards issued after 8/8/16 will be under the revised guidelines. Any federal awards issued prior to that date, fall under the old guidelines.

Subgrantees will follow the guidelines based on the federal award they are under. Programs that are continuing from previous years are approved to continue the services they were originally approved for. Subgrantees may not change or alter their programs without prior discussion and approval of the CJC.

There are many changes to the guidelines that allow the State Administering Agency some flexibility. The Executive Director of the CJC has not had the opportunity to review the new guidelines fully.

This will require further training and discussion at future meetings.

6. New Business/Other:

Maureen informed the Committee that the CJC received the report from the OIG. The CJC had zero findings in the audit of the VOCA-Assistance Program for the FFY2013, FFY2014, and FFY2015 awards. There was one recommendation made to the CJC in the report. The Executive Director will be responding to the OIG, and working with OJP to discuss the recommendation.

Maureen also informed the Committee that the OIG was awarded an additional \$10million in the FFY16 Crime Victims Fund to continue to audit the VOCA program. The states can expect future audits on the VOCA programs.

7. Other/Public Comment:

No comments made at this time.

Without anything further to discuss, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,
Maureen Monagle
CJC Coordinator