



STATE OF MINNESOTA

Violent Crime Coordinating Council

c/o Department of Public Safety, Office of Justice Programs

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Ramsey County Undersheriff Mike Martin, Chair

Renville County Sheriff Scott Hable, Vice-Chair

MINUTES of Violent Crime Coordinating Council Meeting – Wednesday, October 11, 2023

Meeting was held in-person at the Minnesota Bureau of Criminal Apprehension Auditorium with no hybrid WebEx option.

Chair Mike Martin called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m. and welcomed VCET Advisory Board Chairs, VCCC Members, partner agency representatives and staff.

Motion by Jeff Tate, second by Drew Evans to approve minutes from the 8/9/23 meeting. The motion passed.

Motion by Scott Hable, second by Jeff Tate to approve the 10/11/23 agenda. The motion passed.

VCET Guidelines for Advisory Board Chairs

Mike Martin highlighted areas in the Guidelines Manual for VCET advisory board chairs. He also discussed recent changes in informant management and possible legislative changes. John Gross referenced a PowerPoint presentation available to attendees on Open Meeting Laws, noting that VCET Advisory Boards should follow Open Meeting guidelines, as does the VCCC.

Statewide Coordinator Update

Statewide Gang and Drug Coordinator Ken Sass reported that VCET peer review site visits were complete noting they reviewed more than 70 confidential informant(CI) and case files. He documented 8 times that a contact was not noted in the CI log; 8 times that a driver's license record was not included in a CI file and 5 times a photo was not included in a CI file. He also checked for documentation of continuing suitability to serve as a CI in the files and has already conducted follow-up checks and training for those VCETs that had missing information.

Upcoming trainings include Search Warrant Training in Crow Wing County at the end of the month and 2-day Constitutional Policing in St. Cloud in December.

Sass reminded Board Chairs to conduct regular audits of confidential buy funds and provided a sample reconciliation form. He also reminded them about the BCA Anti-Heroin Task Force grant which can provide reimbursement for overtime and buy funds in cases involving opioids.

VCET Grant Update

Grant Administrator Kristin Lail reported that 21 VCET applications were received (one disbanded and one new applicant) and were reviewed this week by three panels of law enforcement professionals without direct connections to any current VCET program.

OJP expects to announce awards in November with two-year grants starting on 1/1/24. A new grant program for Intensive Comprehensive Peace Officer Education and Training (ICPOET) was funded by the legislature. There will be more information at the December VCCC meeting.

She also welcomed Mille Lacs Band Tribal Police Deputy Chief Derrick Naumann as the new VCCC representative from the Minnesota Indian Affairs Council, pending approval from their Council later this month.

Partner Updates

Kent Bailey reported that HIDTA is funding a gun crime analyst in the Hennepin County CISA unit. He also noted that a federal partner will be assuming the Vice Chair position of the North Central HIDTA oversight board.

Drew Evans reported updates from the BCA forensic science lab including the purchase of 3 additional NIBIN instruments for examining firearms. He also announced additional resources and staff coming for the Drug Chemistry Section, noting that agencies should let them know if they have a case that needs to be rushed.

Aaron Krenz announced that Derek Bronson was being deployed and Eric Meyer would be the new Coordinator for the Counter Drug Program.

The VCCC business meeting was adjourned at 11:46 and additional speakers on Constitutional Policing and the BCA Drug Crimes & Overdose Dashboard followed after lunch.

NEXT MEETING: Wednesday, December 13, 2023 11am – noon via WebEx.