



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, April 12, 2023

Hybrid meeting was held at the Minnesota Bureau of Criminal Apprehension and WebEx.

VCCC members and representatives: Mike Martin, Scott Hable, Drew Evans, David Hester, Dan Starry, Paul Ford, Jim Novak, John Littlewolf, Alan Slaughter, Andy Dunne, John Gross, David Voigt, Hao Nguyen, Shane Baker, Rick Palaia, and Jeff Kirchoff

OJP staff, speakers and partners: Kent Bailey, Aaron Krenz, Kate Weeks, Ken Sass, Kristin Lail, Allison Hostrawser and Derek Schuldt.

Chair Mike Martin called the meeting to order at 11:03 a.m. and welcomed members, partners and staff.

Motion by Paul Ford, second by Andy Dunne to approve minutes from the 2/8/23 meeting. The motion passed.

Motion by Scott Hable, second by Aaron Krenz to approve the 4/12/23 agenda. Kristin Lail noted that the gang presentation was removed from the agenda. The motion passed.

Statewide Coordinator Update

Statewide Gang and Drug Coordinator Ken Sass reported on a critical incident in the CEE-VI VCET. Shane Baker confirmed that the task force officer was doing okay. Sass noted that there had been four critical incidents involving VCETs in the past year. He provided an overview of the peer review site visit process where a commander from a different VCET joins him for an on-site operational review. They are scheduled through the summer. He has also been talking with several Police Chiefs and Sheriffs about potential partnerships for the 2024-25 VCET grant application.

VCET Grant Update

Grant Administrator Kristin Lail encouraged VCCC members to complete the OJP JAG survey, noting that about \$600,000 in JAG funds are used to support VCETs annually. She next reviewed the 2024-25 RFP timeline noting that the RFP would be issued in July and there would be two application workshops. Applications will be due in early September, then scored and discussed in two review groups. Funding recommendations will be forwarded to the DPS Commissioner in October and awards announced. New grants will start on January 1, 2024.

Ken Sass provided an overview of the VCET Criteria, noting difference from statutory certification requirements reviewed during site visits. He recommended the following underlined change to #2:

*VCET must have at least 3 full-time officers assigned. **Multi-county VCET's must have officers assigned full time from at least two separate counties** and co-location of the VCET officers is strongly preferred. There can also be additional full-time, part-time or liaison officers assigned.*

Motion by Dan Starry, second by Paul Ford to approve the 2024-25 VCET criteria with the recommended change. The motion passed. Ken Sass will follow up with those potential applicants impacted by this change.

Anoka-Hennepin VCET Presentation

Anoka County Lt. Derek Schuldt highlighted the operations of the Anoka-Hennepin Narcotics and Violent Crime Task Force, which has 13 investigators, two team leaders and an administrative assistant. Investigators are from the Anoka County Sheriff's Office and Police Departments in the cities of Anoka, Blaine, Champlin Park, Columbia Heights, Coon Rapids, Fridley, Maple Grove, Ramsey and Rogers. He summarized the increase in fentanyl pills and gun seizures noting the VCET's increased focus on violent crimes. He also commented on the difficulty in developing confidential informants.

Schuldt highlighted some of the funding challenges in managing this large team. Task Force vehicle leases, GPS tracking, fuel, maintenance and insurance have all increased significantly in recent years. Anoka County also receives a HIDTA grant and coordinates resources with VCET grant.

Legislative Update

Kate Weeks highlighted a few of the pending bills associated with VCETs, including HF25 which addressed case clearance. She noted that there were a lot of moving pieces and some significant differences between house and senate bills that will need to be negotiated in the conference committee. Drew Evans summarized the BCA funding request and noted that they would provide an update at the June VCCC meeting after the legislature had adjourned.

Partner Updates

The VCCC members and partners provided updates from the U.S. Attorney's Office, Minnesota National Guard Counter Drug Program, HIDTA, BCA and Attorney General's Office and the Council for Minnesotans of African Heritage.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:20, followed by lunch for those attending in person.

NEXT MEETING: Wednesday, June 14, 2023 at the Bureau of Criminal Apprehension.