



STATE OF MINNESOTA

Violent Crime Coordinating Council

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Sartell Police Chief Jim Hughes, Chair
Ramsey County Undersheriff Mike Martin, Vice-Chair

MINUTES of Violent Crime Coordinating Council Meeting – Wednesday, October 12, 2022

Meeting was held at the Minnesota Department of Corrections, Afton Conference Room

VCCC members and representatives: Mike Martin, Scott Hable, , Jim Hughes, Drew Evans, Thomas Smith, David Voight, David Hester, Hao Nguyen, Jim Novak, Allen Slaughter, Andy Dunne, John Melvin and John Gross.

OJP staff and partners: Rick Moldenhauer, Sean Donahue, Christopher Hage, Aaron Krenz, Ken Sass, Kristin Lail and Allison Hostrawser

VCET Advisory Board Chairs: Rodney Bartsh, JD Carlson, Sarah Halverson, Mike Mastin, Brian Smith and James Tadman.

Chair Jim Hughes called the meeting to order at 10:12 a.m. and welcomed members, VCET Advisory Board Chairs and staff.

Motion by Andy Dunne, second by Mike Martin to approve minutes from the 8/10/22 meeting. The motion passed.

Motion by Scott Habel, second by JD Carlson to approve the 10/12/22 agenda. The motion passed.

Board Chair Update

Chair Hughes reviewed VCET Advisory Board responsibilities and noted relevant sections of the Operating Procedures and Guidelines Manual. OJP recommends that Board Chairs conduct periodic audits of VCET buy funds to document a history of compliance, record keeping and process validation.

Statewide Coordinator Update

Statewide Gang and Drug Coordinator Ken Sass thanked VCET leaders for filling vacant positions. He and Kristin will provide orientation training for the new Commanders and admin staff on-site. He provided an overview of VCET data for the first half of 2022, highlighting a significant cocaine seizure and new tracking of fentanyl pills and powder.

Sass continues to meet regularly with THC Edible Cross Agency group and connects law enforcement with the Board of Pharmacy and AGED. Most common concerns are labeling and THC levels exceeding the amount allowed in the new state law.

OJP will be hosting STORM Command & Control training in December, the Commander Conference in March and will begin Peer Review site visits again in April of 2023.

VCET Grant Update

Grant Administrator Kristin Lail reported that all VCET grants are operating in good standing. 2022 is the first year that OJP executed two year grants up front rather than a 1-year grant with a year extension. OJP will be providing additional guidance for commanders and admin staff on financial desk reviews at the 2023 Camp Ripley training. The next RFP will be out in the fall of 2023 for 2024 – 2025.

DPS Update

Assistant Commissioner Tom Smith thanked law enforcement leaders for their dedication to keeping Minnesota safe. He encouraged attendees to look into a new Peer to Peer training that DPS designed to develop peer support counselors across the state. Smith highlighted workgroup on THC Edibles and provided a contact at the Alcohol and Gambling Enforcement Division (AGED). He also talked about the gun lock distribution project noting that there were more than 30,000 distributed at the state fair and through the state chief's and sheriff's associations. A gun safety media campaign will also be rolled out in the spring of 2023. Smith acknowledged that many criminal justice initiatives were left on the table at the end of the last legislative session and they will be working with new leadership to support legislation that supports law enforcement.

Gang Update

Vice Chair Mike Martin provided an overview of the history of the gang criteria, limitations in the data system, and how gang experts are used in court testimony. Drew Evans noted that the state database is reviewed annually and individuals are removed if there are no new convictions for a period of time. There are currently 37 individuals in the state system. VCCC members were asked to review the gang criteria to determine if any additions or changes are needed. Kristin will also send this out to VCET Commanders for review and feedback. At the December meeting, the VCCC will vote on the gang criteria for the next two years.

Chair Hughes adjourned the VCCC business meeting at 11am and the joint meeting with VCET Advisory Board Chairs continued with presentations on SUD Treatment /Admission Trends, Drug Overdose Death Investigations and Partner Updates. Copies of DHS presentation will be forwarded after the meeting.

NEXT MEETING: Wednesday, December 14, 2022 online via WebEx.