



STATE OF MINNESOTA

Violent Crime Coordinating Council

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

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Washington County Chief Deputy Brian Mueller, Chair

Sartell Police Chief Jim Hughes, Vice Chair

Violent Crime Coordinating Council Meeting Agenda – Wednesday, February 12th

Minnesota Department of Corrections – Afton Room, Main Level - 1450 Energy Park Dr. – St. Paul

MEETING OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Members: Andy Dunne, Richard Dusterhoft, David Voigt, John Melvin, Scott Hable, Mike Martin, Brian Mueller, Pat King, Jeff Tate, Bruce Folkens, John Littlewolf, Drew Evans, and John Gross.

DPS staff: Kate Weeks, Tricia Hummel, Brian Marquart, Kristin Lail and Allison Scott.

Speakers/Guests: Amber Brennan, Sasha Cotton, Chris Melton, Mark Uner, Axel Henry and Kelly Quenemoen

Meeting Materials:

- 2/12/20 VCCC Agenda
- 12/1/19 Meeting Minutes
- 2/12/20 Statewide Commander Report
- 2014-2019 VCET Data Report
- 2020 VCCC Committees
- 2020 Meeting Schedule

Welcome, introductions and announcements

Chair Brian Mueller called the meeting to order at 10:07a.m. VCCC members and guests introduced themselves.

M/S/P Voigt/Dunne to approve minutes from 12/11/19 meeting.

M/S/P Hable/Martin to approve the 2/12/20 meeting Agenda.

Committee Updates

Mueller reported that the Law Enforcement Coalition is tracking bills on forfeiture, confidential informant management and marijuana thresholds. A marijuana legalization bill is also pending.

The BCA has a bonding proposal to open a forensic science lab in the Mankato area.

The Office of Justice Programs is beginning the recruitment process for the Statewide Gang and Drug Coordinator position. Drew Evans highlighted the importance of holding VCETs accountable, maintaining professionalism, and building partnerships. Members of the VCCC Governance Committee may serve on the interview panel.

Evans noted that suggested changes to the Guidelines manual recommended in 2019 site visits would be reviewed by the Professional Standards Committee updated for the 2020 audits.

There was no update from the Community Engagement Subcommittee.

Partner Updates

The U.S. Attorney's office commented on case review process and the Attorney General's Office is seeking funding to expand the criminal prosecution division to work on homicide and violent gang cases. Members noted VCET staffing changes, increases in fentanyl overdoses, and local community outreach initiatives, such as "Know the Truth."

Statewide Commander Update

Brian Marquart presented a summary of the preliminary 2019 VCET data noting continued increases in seizures of methamphetamine, marijuana concentrates, fentanyl-laced drugs and fake oxy pills, which had resulted in many overdoses and deaths. He also pointed out an increase in the number of gun seizures. Members noted that the twins cities have become a hub for cartel drug trafficking and that more long-term users were involved in committing other crimes. Evans suggested that a public information campaign on dangers of opioid overdoses, similar to the Office of Traffic Safety seatbelt and distracted driving media, could help save lives.

Project Safe Neighborhood (PSN): Minneapolis Group Violence Intervention GVI

Amber Brennan provided an overview of the federal PSN program coordinated through U.S. Attorney's Offices. She noted that OJP had an open RFP for sub-grant programs and had copies available. Sasha Cotton then introduced the GVI model, developed by the National Network for Safe Communities at John Jay College. It is a data-driven collaborative strategy to reduce homicides and shootings. GVI supports 1) focused law enforcement, 2) moral engagement with offenders, and 3) help as a moral and practical obligation. **The** Minneapolis program, started in 2017, first examined data indicating that most serious crime was driven by a small number of offenders. Outcomes include a reduction in gang-member involved non-fatal shootings and an increase in social services focused on keeping clients safe, alive and free. Minneapolis has also convened a Community Moral Voice Work Group comprised of individual community members involved in training and community awareness events in gun violence hot spots.

Dakota County Task Force Presentation

Chris Melton provided an overview the Dakota County Drug Force comprised of 14 investigators from 13 agencies. Agents are located in an off-site facility that includes space for the countywide property room, National Guard analyst, support staff and K-9. He provided several case studies noting investigative targets and techniques; arrests and charges; and seizures of drug and firearms. Dakota County is building a new Safety and Mental Health Alternative Response Training (SMART) Center that will also house the Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) and Electronic Crimes Task Force. Marquart noted that the task force advisory board had recently discussed body cams, which are used by several of the participating agencies and decided on gun-mounted cameras.

VCET Update

Kristin Lail announced that OJP had executed all of the 2020 VCET grants and completed all desk reviews and closeouts of 2019 grants. They will be working with Alliant Consulting again next year to conduct operational reviews of all 21 VCETs this summer. The revised 2020 committee list and meeting schedule is included in meeting materials.

M/S/P Evans/Tate to adjourn the meeting at 1:00 p.m.

Next Meeting:

The April 8th VCCC meeting was canceled because of the statewide COVID-19 shutdown. The VCCC Executive Committee met via conference call in May to plan for a virtual meeting on June 10th via Microsoft Teams.