



STATE OF MINNESOTA

# Violent Crime Coordinating Council

c/o Department of Public Safety, Office of Justice Programs  
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*Chief Dana Waldron, Chair - Asst. Chief Ken Reed, Vice-Chair*

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## **MEETING MINUTES FOR 2/9/11 OF THE VIOLENT CRIME COORDINATING COUNCIL (VCCC)**

**Council members in attendance:** Carol Kayser, Assistant U.S. Attorney (for B. Todd Jones); Cari Gerlicher, DOC Office of Special Investigations; Dave Bjerga, BCA Acting Superintendent; Sheriffs Representatives: Dan Starry (for Bill Hutton), Matt Bostrom, and Rich Stanek; Chiefs of Police Representatives: Michael Goldstein, Scott Gerlicher (for Tim Dolan), Garr Pemberton, and Ken Reed; County Attorney Representatives: Hilary Caligiuri and Benjamin Bejar; Citizen Representatives: Hector Garcia; and David Voigt, Deputy Attorney General;

**Guests:** Kip Carver (HCSO) and Don Rothstein (DOC).

**Office of Justice Program staff:** Bob Bushman- Statewide Coordinator, Sue Perkins - State Program Administrator, Kristin Lail – Grant Manager. **Legal Counsel:** John Gross, Attorney General's Office – excused.

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### **Welcome and Introductions**

Introductions followed by the meeting being called to order at 10:10 a.m. by Vice-Chair Ken Reed. Meeting materials included: agenda, 12/16/10 meeting minutes, VCCC legislative update, 2011 report to the legislature, 2010 summary of marijuana and methamphetamine data, and VCCC committee structure.

Approved 12/16/20 meeting minutes with change in spelling of one name—motion by S. Gerlicher, seconded by Caligiuri. Motion passed.

### **Review of Agenda**

Agenda approved with no changes—motion by Goldstein, seconded by C. Gerlicher. Motion passed.

### **Legislative Update**

Sue Perkins presented legislative update prepared by the DPS Legislative Director. She also noted that the POST Board and MCAA Model Forfeiture Policies have been developed including recommended changes to the forfeiture notification form. The ACLU will likely be proposing a forfeiture modification bill this session. Chief Michael Goldstein presented a summary of SF2725 workgroup on criminal intelligence data. While compromise language was included in the report's recommendations, he is not hopeful for action in this area this session. The Governor's budget is pending and Bob Bushman provided updates on two pending bills addressing synthetic marijuana, such as K2 and Spice. .

Carol Kayser provided an update on the use of the Hobbs Act for federal prosecution of armed robberies when there is a significant criminal history, resulting in a mandatory minimum of 25 years. Operation Exile also continues, focusing on gangs in the City of Minneapolis. Rich Stanek inquired about status of the Twin cities Safe Streets initiative. Kayser replied that there is new leadership and future funding is unclear but there are ongoing active investigations in progress on both sides of the river.

### **BCA implementation of ACCISS system**

Dave Bjerga provided an overview of the ACCISS case management system recently implemented at the BCA and DOC and MNJAC. He noted that the search capabilities and deconfliction modules might benefit task forces across the state and that capacity for task forces to come aboard is available. It would cost \$2,600 for each user license. Bushman noted that those task forces with new RMS systems need not switch over, but that several have no system and would greatly benefit. Goldstein noted that the more task forces using it the greater the benefit and noted that an interface could be built between ACCISS and local RMS. Bushman noted that several task forces use the drug track system, but ACCISS is better for evidence management and also has a gang module.

Matt Bostrom then took a few minutes to provide an update on GangNet which is currently hosted by Ramsey County. First, they are sorting through all data and paper files to confirm the reliability and accuracy of gang identification information. Second, data from local agencies will likely be returned to the referring investigators for review and confirmation. Since the Gang Strike Force had a separate ORI, he recommends reclassifying with an ORI from the originating agency. Hilary Caligiuri noted that the GangNet information is valuable and used in prosecutions, regardless of the status of the Gang Strike Force, by introducing information from individual investigators. The Gang Pointer system is no longer being populated by Gang Net and more than 500 files were purged in 2010. This topic will be included in the work of the VCCC data subcommittee. In the meantime, Ramsey County will take calls and conduct searches for outstate task forces.

### **2011 Annual Report/Plan for 2010 Statistical Report**

Sue Perkins highlighted the contents of the 2/1/2011 annual report to the legislature from the Commissioner of the Department of Public Safety including audits of task forces, audits of investigative data, and activities and goals of the VCCC. While it is no longer a statutory requirement to include task force performance data in the annual report, DPS believes it is important and OJP staff will continue collecting and analyzing TF data. 2010 report data will be presented at the next VCCC meeting.

### **Recruitment of citizen members**

Sue Perkins provided an update on the legislative mandate to recruit citizen members of the VCCC through the Councils of Color. She welcomed Hector Garcia and noted that they had not yet identified a recommended representative from the Council on Black Minnesotans or the Council on Asian/Pacific Islander. Hector Garcia suggested other methods for engagement. David Voight noted that the Attorney General's meetings with the Councils of Color are sparsely attended and agreed that a representative from the Attorney General's office would attend the next meeting of the council executive directors. In the meantime, VCCC members were encouraged to recommend community members that are currently engaged in advisory boards within their local agencies.

### **2011 Auditing Plan**

Sue Perkins next proposed a VCCC action that supports an agreement between OJP and the Office of the State Auditor in conducting statutorily prescribed audits. A motion to this effect was made by Goldstein, seconded by Bostrom. Motion passed.

### **Committee Membership and Goals**

Vice Chair Reed next reviewed the proposed subcommittee structure, including 1) Data Criteria and Data Sharing; 2) Governance and Legislation; and 3) Professional Standards and Accountability—motion by Bostrom, seconded by Benjamin Bejar. Motion passed. Reed then opened discussion to the membership and duties of each subcommittee.

Hilary Caligiuri suggested that monitoring task force operations is really the bottom line responsibility of the VCCC rather than the task for a subcommittee. Perkins suggested that a smaller group could probe deeper into the review materials rather than providing extensive paperwork to the larger group. Hilary Caligiuri made a motion to add a fourth committee entitled “audits” with members committed to a thorough and thoughtful review of monitoring of task force activities and performance measures. Seconded by Cari Gerlicher. Motion passed. **Members volunteered to serve as follows:**

**Data:** Bostrom, Goldstein, Bejar & Voight

**Governance:** Reed, Dolan, & Carver (for Stanek)

**Accountability:** C. Gerlicher, Garcia, Caligiuri & Bjerga

**Audit:** Waldron, Hutton, Pemberton & Bartsh

OJP will send list of committees out and can provide staff support. All committees should meet at least once, by phone or in person, before the April VCCC meeting to discuss and confirm subcommittee duties and work plan.

Benjamin Bejar clarified that the new statute does not require the VCCC to make recommendations on funding amounts. Perkins noted that while it wasn’t a requirement of the body, former Commissioner Campion had noted that the advisory opinions of the VCCC on funding would be considered.

#### **Updates from the Statewide Coordinator**

Bob Bushman provided an overview of task force trends, including meth labs and seizures, prescription drug diversion and escalation of violence on tribal lands. In planning for the 2011 task force monitoring site visits, he proposed having task force commanders participate as a peer review process. Cari Gerlicher voiced concerns about reluctance to ask tough questions and suggested that former task force commanders or staff from VCCC member agencies may be utilized. Bushman clarified that it is helpful to have another set of eyes and ears in the interview, but that all scoring and recommendations would be done by OJP staff. Site visits will likely be conducted through the summer and be completed by the fall.

MCAA will be hosting a “Top Gun” narcotics investigation and prosecution training in the twin cities in March with additional trainings in Bemidji and Mankato later in the spring. It has been several years since this training was offered and participants are looking forward to it.

Task Force Commanders training held in January in Alexandria was well attended and included presentations from MNJAC, DOC on Native American gangs and a roundtable on case trends. They also provide a CD with sample forms, the CI packet and information on Rachel’s Law for informant management.

Bushman attended a recent narcotics meeting in Washington DC, discussing future funding for the Byrne/JAG program, National Guard Counter Drug Program, RISS and congressional earmarks. He also reported on the DEA prescription drug “turn-back program” and plans for disposal of seized drugs. While some are trucked to Fargo or St. Louis, BCA continues to work with MPCA and 3M on a site in Minnesota. Red Wing continues to take leafy substances for disposal.

#### **New Business**

Next meeting will be on Wednesday, April 13 at the DOC from 1000 hours to 1230 hours. New DPS Commissioner Ramona Dohman will be invited. No other new business identified.

**Meeting Adjourned at 12:25**

**Respectfully Submitted By:** Kristin Lail, OJP