



STATE OF MINNESOTA

Violent Crime Coordinating Council

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

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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, June 8, 2022

Meeting was held via WebEx

VCCC members and representatives: Andy Dunne, Drew Evans, Thomas Smith, Jeff Tate, Jim Hughes, Hao Nguyen, James Novak, John Littlewolf, David Voigt, Mike Martin, Shane Baker, Amelia Huffman, Linda Sloan and Dan Starry.

OJP staff and partners: Angela vonTrytek, Sean Donahue, Aaron Krenz, Ken Sass, Kate Weeks and Kristin Lail

Chair Jim Hughes called the meeting to order at 10:02 a.m. and welcomed members and staff.

Motion by Andy Dunne, second by Jeff Tate to approve minutes from the April 13th meeting. The motion passed. Motion by Mike Martin, second by Dan Starry to approve the June 8th agenda. The motion passed.

Legislative Update

BCA Superintendent Drew Evans stated that discussions continue with legislators on public safety issued should there be a special session. Proposals for crime reduction strategies included bonding funds, prevention programs, intervention work and law enforcement. DPS Assistant Commissioner Tom Smith added that they were cautiously optimistic and that gun control is the primary topic they are discussing.

Statewide Coordinator Update

Statewide Gang and Drug Coordinator Ken Sass presented proposed changes to the Guidelines Manual updating the match the POST board model policy on confidential informants. Mike Martin made a motion to approve the additions to the VCET Guidelines Manual and Hao Nguyen seconded. The motion carried.

Sass also reported that 14 or 20 Alliant audit reports were complete with no finding so far other than minor recordkeeping issues and he will followed up with those commanders. He continues to work with BCA on no-knock warrant reporting. The MNSANI Can-Am conference in May was well attended with several good national speakers. He is planning a fall VCET leadership training.

VCET Grant Update

Grant Administrator Kristin Lail reported that the VCET grants have been busy with Alliant Operational reviews and OJP Desk Reviews. All grantees are required to provide detailed

documentation on staffing and purchasing with grant fund and fiscal agencies are responsible for maintaining documentation on funds passed through to partner agencies. First quarter progress reports are in with enhanced detail on fentanyl powder and pills.

Partner Updates

- DPS appreciates all hard work of local law enforcement and working to get state funds from the legislature to support anti-crime initiatives.
- US Attorney's Office announced that Andy Luger was confirmed and a priority will be guns, gangs and car jackings. A new violent crime section will focus on more complex, proactive and organization cases. Allen Slaughter is the Chief of the Drug Section who will be attending VCCC meetings with Andy Dunne.
- BCA continues work on no-knock warrant reporting and clarification on tracking pursuits. The anti-heroin task force continues and has funding available for overtime and heroin and opioid investigations.
- DOC warrant sweep in May was very successful resulting in 214 arrests and seizure of five guns. They thanked VCETs for their assistance across the state.
- The National Guard Counter Drug Program is providing training for analyst on Ion scanners and welcomed VCCC members to attend.
- The Council for Minnesotans of African Heritage noted community concerns about increased violence over the summer and welcomes partnerships with VCCC agencies.
- The DEA reported continued mutual efforts with local partners and that the summer surge of cases was picking up.

Chair Hughes adjourned the VCCC meeting at 11 a.m.

NEXT MEETING: Wednesday, August 10, 2022 at 11am, planned for in-person at BCA with lunch following. WebEx option will also be available.