



STATE OF MINNESOTA

Violent Crime Coordinating Council

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St. Paul Asst. Chief Ken Reed, Chair ; Duluth Chief Gordon Ramsay, Vice- Chair

MEETING MINUTES FOR 12/14/11 OF THE VIOLENT CRIME COORDINATING COUNCIL (VCCC)

Council members in attendance: David Voigt, Deputy Attorney General ; Cari Gerlicher, DOC Office of Special Investigations; Dave Bjerga, BCA (for Wade Setter); Chris Benson, White Earth Police Department; Sheriffs Representatives: Bill Hutton, Matt Bostrom, Jim Jensen (for Rodney Bartsh) and Kip Carver (for Rich Stanek); Chiefs of Police Representatives: Michael Goldstein, Janee' Harteau (for Tim Dolan), Gordon Ramsey and Ken Reed; County Attorney Representatives: Hilary Caligiuri and Ben Bejar ; Citizen Representatives: Hector Garcia and Melvin Carter.

Guests: DPS Commissioner Mona Dohman and Asst. Commissioner Mark Dunaski

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

Welcome and Introductions

Introductions followed by the meeting being called to order at 10:04 a.m. by Vice-Chair Ken Reed.

Sheriff Jim Jensen from Dodge County was the designee for Sheriff Rodney Bartsh, who is resigning from the council. The Minnesota Sheriff's Association will make a formal appointment to replace Sheriff Bartsh prior to the next meeting.

Meeting materials included: agenda, 11/3/11 meeting minutes, a revised Guidelines Manual and selected task force statistical information.

Action on 11/3/11 meeting minutes: motion and second to approve with no changes. Motion passed.

Action on 12/14/11 agenda: motion and second to approve with no changes. Motion passed.

Vacant Council Position

There is a vacant citizen position on the council and a recommendation from the Asian and Pacific Islanders Council has never been made despite several attempts to solicit candidates. Sue Perkins noted that Kevin Vang, from the Hmong 18 Clan Council had expressed interest in serving on the council as a citizen representative. Mr. Vang had participated in the strategic planning retreat. A motion was made and seconded to ask Mr. Vang to submit a request to serve and the request would be forwarded to the commissioner of public safety.

Discussion ensued. Melvin Carter reported that after the forum held at the MLK Center; a representative from the NAACP also expressed interest in serving. It was determined that the Governance Committee would determine a meaningful way for Mr. Jeff Martin to participate given his interest and expertise.

The original motion was called and it passed.

Discussion of Letter of Support for CLAC

Hector Garcia requested that the Council send a letter to the Legislative Sunset Advisory Commission that addresses the contributions made to the council by the Chicano Latino Affairs Council (CLAC). David Voigt advised that it was not appropriate for an advisory council created in statute to formally advise a legislative commission. He noted that it would be appropriate for the Council to issue a letter to CLAC detailing their contribution to the Council and thanking them for their effort.

Motion made and seconded to have a letter sent by Chair Reed to CLAC executive director, Hector Garcia, noting their contribution. Motion passed.

OJP Updates

Perkins reported that most of the 2012 task force funding decisions had been made, but that the process was not yet complete (and decisions not yet public) as there were currently appeals under review. She noted that most task forces received small reductions in funding and that reductions were based upon reviewer recommendations and a formula that took into account changes in task force personnel participation.

Perkins reported that the external financial audits of task forces had begun. The audits are to be "Agreed Upon Procedure" audits completed by Office of the State Auditor with the costs being borne by OJP from funds awarded by the legislature.

Statewide Coordinator Bob Bushman reported that all 2011 task force report cards had been completed. He summarized the findings. Council members expressed concern that these reviews had not yet been made available to them and that communication of the reports should not be delayed pending compliance on the part of the Grantee. Bob stated that they would be sent out immediately and that they would be contained on a disk mailed to council members.

Bob also updated the council on the use of the RISSafe system.

COMMITTEE REPORTS & DISCUSSION

Data Criteria and Data Sharing Committee:

Chief Goldstein reported on the two additional forums held in Minneapolis and St. Paul. The St. Paul forum held at the MLK Center was particularly well attended. Some community members would like to have additional forums scheduled.

The question now is how to proceed. Goldstein said the matter needs to be resolved so he anticipates that the committee will come up with a draft; it will be reviewed and approved by the Council; it will be posted for written public comment and then after final consideration, a recommendation will be sent to the commissioner of public safety.

Caligiuri noted that the council has to be prepared to explain the purpose of gang criteria and clear up misperceptions related to how the data is used and who has access to the data. Garcia noted that his past experience in working citizen-enforcement issues out through the use of a "community roundtable" process could be helpful for this issue. Others noted the importance of facilitating respectful community connections as a part of the work of the task forces and of the Council. Melvin Carter spoke to the historical tensions between people of color and law enforcement. If database tools are created they need to be accurate and fair and actively prevent or solve crime as the community is not as interested in successful prosecutions and officer safety issue.

Goldstein stated that the community has made some good points that should be looked at in terms of a gang database. He noted the issues of parental notification for minors added to the database, the issue of whether or not the information should be classified as “private” and the risks involved with criteria based upon “association”.

Caligiuri spoke to the need to meet the specific duty to recommend criteria to the commissioner and if additional input is needed related to the overall topic area then it might require a “beefed up” Data Committee. Chair Reed spoke to the need for the committee to draft criteria and work on a “communication strategy” as well.

Motion made and seconded to task the Data Committee to continue the formation of draft gang criteria taking into account the community input and to develop a strategy to further engage the community in the process by considering the “community roundtable” format as well as the expertise and resources of the Councils of Color. Motion passed.

Professional Standards:

Cari Gerlicher reviewed the proposed changes to the Guidelines Manual. Each change was read and discussed and in some cases, additional changes were proposed by Council members. Motion made and seconded to accept the revised Guidelines manual with the additional changes agreed to at the meeting. Motion passed.

Governance and Legislative Committee:

The Governance Committee was to present a draft of the tactical plan from the strategy retreat for consideration by the Council of the next steps. Due to time constraints, this topic was tabled until the February 8, 2012 meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

None

Meeting Adjourned: 1:10 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted By: Sue Perkins, OJP