



STATE OF MINNESOTA

# Violent Crime Coordinating Council

c/o Department of Public Safety, Office of Justice Programs  
445 Minnesota Street, Suite 2300  
St. Paul, Minnesota 55101-1515  
Voice: 651-201-7350 – Fax: 651-284-3317

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

---

## **MEETING MINUTES FOR 8/10/2011 OF THE VIOLENT CRIME COORDINATING COUNCIL (VCCC)**

**Council members in attendance:** U.S. Attorney B. Todd Jones; David Voigt, Deputy Attorney General ; Don Rothstein (for 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, Rodney Bartsh and Kip Carver (for Rich Stanek); Chiefs of Police Representatives: Michael Goldstein, Tim Dolan, Gordon Ramsey and Ken Reed; County Attorney Representative: Andrew LeFevour (for Hilary Caligiuri) and Jennifer Nelson (for Ben Bejar) ; Citizen Representatives: Manuel Guerrero and Melvin Carter.

**Guests:** Hector Garcia (CLAC) and Dan Moren (DEA)

**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 10:05 a.m. by Vice-Chair Ken Reed.

Meeting materials included: agenda, 6/15/11 meeting minutes, List of 2011 grants, packet containing draft material related to public forum to be held on September 22, 2011 and copies of 2010 RFP's.

**Action** on 6/15/11 meeting minutes: motion by Jones and second by Goldstein to approve with no changes. Motion passed.

**Action** on 8/10/11 agenda: motion by Goldstein and second by Bartsh to approve with no changes. Motion passed.

### **Elections**

Chair Dana Waldron has stepped down from his position on the VCCC and the Minnesota Chiefs Association has recommended Duluth Police Chief Gordon Ramsey. Vice Chair Ken Reed is currently serving as Acting Chair. Goldstein nominated Reed to take over the Chair position, and since he represents a metro agency, that the Vice Chair should be selected from greater Minnesota. Carver seconded and the motion passed. Bartsh nominated Ramsey as Vice Chair, Goldstein seconded, and motion passed.

### **Recruitment for 2 Council Positions**

Perkins noted that the representative from the Indian Affairs Council had stepped down and they were still seeking a representative from the Asian Pacific Islanders Council. Voigt noted that the Attorney General's staff have spoken with these councils, but have not met. He noted that the statute does not require membership but consultation, which is done regularly. Reed confirmed that VCCC agendas and minute are regularly sent to the Councils of Color.

Voigt also suggested that members recommend a few community leaders that can be reviewed and approved by the Councils of Color, then forwarded to the DPS Commissioner for appointment. Lefevour requested a fact sheet about VCCC member responsibilities and Perkins agreed to send out a copy of the materials.

### **Legislative & DPS Update**

Perkins reported there were smaller cuts than expected in the DPS state budget and presented funding recommendations for amendments to current grants, including a 7% cut to grants without gang officers and 7% or \$5,000/gang officer (whichever is larger) for grants with gang officers. She noted that the final page of the funding recommendations includes a summary of the progression of funding, noting decreases in both state and federal funding. There is \$4.5 million projected for 2012 with is an increase from the previous projection of \$3 million. Moren asked why Safe Streets funding was included in the Minneapolis and St. Paul grants and Jones commented on the likely decrease in Byrne funding. Reed recommended continued work with professional organizations to support Byrne at federal level. Goldstein suggested discussing Safe Streets with the metro/greater Minnesota split in the next round of funding. Perkins noted that the DPS Commissioner makes final funding decisions.

Reed met with DPS Commissioner on public forum for gang criteria and the statewide strategy retreats and she plans to attend both meetings. She is comfortable with the progress and direction of the VCCC.

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

Bushman reported on the following activities:

- Completed 7 task force site visits and addressed deficiencies and corrections
- Plan to complete the rest before the end of the RFP process
- Preparing for the worst case scenario, several task forces have developed a per capita funding model
- Coordinated 2-week DEA Narcotics school at BCA
- Planning for bi-annual narcotics supervisor training

### **2012 RFP Draft**

Perkins distributed a draft RFP for review and comment. Reed noted that there was discussion at the previous meeting of some task forces shutting down if there was a significant reduction in state funding. Bushman reported that about 1/3 had funds to continue through the end of 2011, 1/3 could locally fund operations for 1 year and 1/3 could continue for 18 months or longer. He also reported that all task forces were able to bridge the gap in funding during the state government shutdown. Perkins noted that amendments through the end of the year will be back dated to 7/1/2011. Reed asked if any task forces planned a significant downsizing or merger, and Perkins said any such changes would likely be discussed with OJP staff.

She noted that second quarter reports included great narratives trending more toward violent crimes, felonies, gun cases and robbery rings. Bushman noted the increase in heroin statewide as well as continuation of prescription drug problem. Jones noted that the prevalence of oxy analogs often leads to opium use and Moren noted the uptick in synthetic drugs. Perkins noted the White Earth Substance Abuse Summit at end of August and NCJA Tribal Training at Mystic Lake at the end of September.

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS & DISCUSSION**

### **Data Criteria and Data Sharing Committee:**

Goldstein will be meeting with the new BCA Superintendent about a statewide system to track violent offenders that is compatible with the current BCA database and gang component. Bjerga noted that the current consolidation of IT systems with the Office of Enterprise Technology (MNJIS) must first be completed.

The public meeting is scheduled for Thursday, September 22<sup>nd</sup> for feedback on expanding the current gang criteria to organized and violent crime. Invitations have been sent to all members of the SF2725 group to make a brief presentation. There may be deletions or additions to the current criteria. Perkins will send out a package with an invitation letter, current criteria and directions to the meeting space. Goldstein confirmed that 2725 had a public hearing, but this is different because it is focused on only on the criteria. Bostrom confirmed that Ramsey County is closing down the GangNet system, but agreed with 2725 that there is a place for a statewide database and need to determine the structure, housing and audit procedures.

Rothstein recommended inviting presenters from the 2725 meetings and Reed asked that members forward any other recommendations to Perkins or Goldstein. Carter noted that the location was not very accessible, but Reed noted that it was selected for location between Minneapolis and St. Paul with space for 50 or more and free parking. He also noted that it was a neutral location, not associated with any particular law enforcement agency or community organization. Lefevour asked about the format and Reed noted that there would not be an open mic or sign up list for speakers, only presentations by invited speakers and posted on the website for public comment.

Reed asked all VCCC members to plan to attend the 9/22 meeting. Perkins followed up with more information on the St. Thomas Study on criminal intelligence databases and report to the legislature in 2010. It can be found on in the Legislative Reference Library and BCA websites. She will provide members with the link.

#### **Governance and Legislative Committee:**

Perkins noted that a VCCC strategic planning retreat should be completed before the next legislative session. They plan to include DHS drug trends, task force commander presentations and DEA on day 1 with a facilitated strategy session and budget planning on day 2. Dr. Bill Carter has been recommended as a facilitator because of his familiarity with the Minnesota legislature and knowledge of law enforcement issues, but they are open to any other recommendations. Bartsh noted that they could also review data from past strategies and Reed suggested that task force quarterly report data will also be helpful. The group agreed to pursue the dates of November 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> for the strategic planning session and OJP will get bids for locations and pay the costs.

Garcia pointed out that a new governor's group is being established at DHS and the VCCC could make a connection. He also suggested that the INS roundtable has been effective in reducing problems with immigration issues and that VCCC may want to consider developing a similar method to regularly share information with community representatives.

#### **Professional Standards:**

Caliguri has drafted task force guidelines for review and comment. These include changes to administrative forfeitures and reference impartial policing. The Committee has made some slight revisions to the task force policies and procedures manual that are ready for circulation and review.

#### **Audit Committee:**

This ad hoc committee will only be convened needed to monitor task forces and funding issues. Since Waldron stepped down a new Chair is needed and additional committee members. Bartsh nominated Duluth Chief Gordon Ramsey and Hutton Seconded. The motions passed. Any others interested in serving on this committee should contact Reed.

#### **2012 RFP Process**

The key question for this RFP is whether to set aside funds for gang officer positions as part of the application to stop funding them. Bartsh recommended no significant changes in RFP for 2012 and consider changes for 2013 from the strategic planning process. Bushman suggested removing the gang officer designation and separate reporting requirements. Reed agreed that all task forces should focus on violent crimes and move

away from only drugs and gangs. Goldstein suggested that the metro and statewide grants should all have the same requirements. Perkins clarified that starting in 2006, gang officers responsible for inputting gang intelligence in the GangNet system, which is no longer operational.

Bushman stated that task forces should have flexibility to respond to local needs and cases, such as shootings, firearm, etc. Reed noted that the legislature should address a change in the statutory gang/drug language to violent crime during the next session. Bartsh noted that there is some resistance in rural areas to the violent crime, since it can be perceived as a more metro issue and suggested using the term drugs and violent crimes. Goldstein reiterated that the significant changes in the 2011 RFP for Metro agencies, while others are still operating as drug task forces. He recommended using the same umbrella terms (609.11) so it is not confusing for the politicians. Reed agreed that the plan is to standardize across the state. Perkins noted that the draft RFP refers to multijurisdictional drug and violent crime task forces. A motion to have the draft will be sent to the governance subcommittee to review was moved by Bartsh, seconded by Dolan and approved. Perkins will do this by mid September.

Perkins also reiterated the three main tasks for the VCCC this fall including 1) issuing the 2012 RFP to task forces, 2) the data group meeting on 9/22, and 3) the strategic planning retreat on 11/2-3. Members agreed to include a brief VCCC business meeting and subcommittee reports during the retreat rather than scheduling a separate meeting.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **GangNet Closeout**

Bostrom note that Ramsey County issued a last call message about GangNet shutting down through the chief's and sheriff's associations and received several follow-up calls. He was surprised that it became a news item with coverage on NPR and thanked partner agencies for voicing their support. Perkins noted that the BCA pointer file is also winding down with regular purging of files. Bjerga noted that it is down to 1/3 of the original size from 2700 to 1700 and likely down to 1000 in the next purging process. Perkins noted that the group should also take another look at the statute that created the pointer file.

Reed noted that if one agency identifies an individual meeting 3 or more of the current gang criteria, new files could still be input into the pointer system. There is just no longer GangNet to bridge the data between two or more law enforcement agencies. Bjerga noted that there is no longer an analyst to review and verify data in the pointer system. Rothstein noted that 90 percent of those individuals in the pointer system who are incarcerated will be released at some point in the future and it would be helpful to maintain the gang data. Bostrom reiterated that nothing precludes an agency from directly inputting data in to the pointer system. Bushman noted that there must be convictions noted and that past analysts found many errors in files submitted directly by law enforcement agencies. Rothstein noted that DOC continues to use MOCIC.

### **DEA Update**

Moren provided a few updates from the DEA.

- There is COPS funding for lab clean up of small shake & bake labs.
- The prescription drug take back program is scheduled for the end of the month for the Metro and Southern Minnesota. They are also collected by PCA in Mankato, Rochester and Fargo.
- Law enforcement are encouraged to use the RISS-SAFE telephone number deconfliction tool DICE.

No other new business identified. Reed closed with thanks to all members for taking time from their busy schedules to attend VCCC meetings and recognition of the progress that has been made.

**Meeting Adjourned at 12:38**

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