



# COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

## *Department of Criminal Justice Services*

The Honorable Jackson H. Miller  
Director

Tracy Louise Winn Banks, Esq.  
Chief Deputy Director

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### **Criminal Justice Services Board Grants Committee Meeting**

June 2, 2022

#### ***Members Present***

Chief Craig Branch, Chair  
\*Ms. Angie Carrera  
Mr. Edward Macon  
Mr. Dave Johnson  
\*Dr. Sesha Moon  
Ms. Ebony Clark

#### ***Members of the public***

#### **I. Call to Order**

Chief Craig Branch called the meeting to order at 12:26 PM

#### **II. Roll Call**

Chief Branch asked Ms. DeAndrea Williams to conduct the Roll Call. Ms. Williams stated there was a quorum with four members present. Ms. Angie Carrera and Dr. Sesha Moon participated through electronic communication pursuant to Virginia Code 2.2-3708.2(1)(b) due to a personal nature. Ms. Carrera joined in from Manassas Park, VA and Dr. Moon joined in from Springfield, VA.

#### **III. Introductions**

Chief Branch introduced the Director (Jackson Miller) and Chief Deputy Director (Tracy Louise Winn Banks, Esq.) to the CJSB Grants Committee.

#### **IV. Approval of Minutes from Last Meeting**

Chief Branch called for a corrections, deletions, and/or additions to the minutes from the March 3, 2022 meeting. A motion was made by Dave Johnson to approve the minutes and was seconded by Eddie Macon.

## **V. Grant Review**

### **A. Victims Services**

#### **Victim Witness Grant Program – Year 2 – Manager – Victims Services, Kristina Vadas**

The purpose of the Victim Witness Grant Program (VWGP) is to provide financial support to local victim/witness programs and statewide victim assistance programs designed to provide direct services, information, and assistance required by Virginia's Crime Victim and Witness Rights Act.

The VWGP will begin year two of a two-year grant cycle in SFY 2023. This grant program is supported primarily with federal Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) funds, as well as state general and special funds.

For SFY 2023, DCJS staff proposes awards totaling \$19,257,236 to 113 continuation grantees for SFY 2023 VWGP funding.

As a reminder, in December 2021, the CJSB awarded an 18-month grant in the amount of \$118,348 to the County of Rappahannock to start a new victim/witness program. Since this was already approved, it is not included in the above totals, and a vote is not required.

A motion was made by Dave Johnson, seconded by Edward Macon. The motion passed unanimously. Recusals are noted in the attachment to the minutes.

#### **Victim Services Grant Program**

##### **Hospital-Based Violence Intervention Program – Manager – Victims Services, Kristina Vadas**

Hospital Based Violence Intervention Program (HVIP), awarded to the Virginia Hospital and Healthcare Association Foundation, will begin the second year of a two-year grant cycle in SFY 2023. This grant program is supported with federal Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) funds; pursuant to the VOCA Fix Act, there is no subgrantee match requirement. The primary purpose of this grant program is to support hospital-based violence intervention services for victims of community-based violence and gun violence.

For SFY 2023, DCJS staff proposes an award totaling \$1,705,657 in federal VOCA funds. This award is equal to the current SFY 2022 award amount.

A motion was made by Dave Johnson, seconded by Edward Macon. The motion passed unanimously. Recusals are noted in the attachment to the minutes.

##### **Southside Center for Violence Prevention (Discussion) – Manager – Victims Services, Kristina Vadas**

Southside Center for Violence Prevention (SCVP) is a nonprofit sexual and domestic violence agency serving Southside Virginia, which includes Farmville, Prince Edward County, and several surrounding localities.

During the March 3<sup>rd</sup> Grants Committee meeting, Tom Fitzpatrick, former Programs and Services Division Director, informed you about concerns with SCVP, and as you know, the CJSB voted to rescind SCVP's American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) grant award during the March 17<sup>th</sup> meeting.

DCJS has had ongoing, long-term concerns about this agency for many years; however, substantial programmatic and financial concerns were documented following a DCJS onsite visit in 2020.

Since the 2020 site visit, DCJS staff have provided extensive assistance and support to SCVP. We have also collaborated with other state partners, including the Virginia Department of Social Services and the Virginia Sexual & Domestic Violence Action Alliance, in attempts to sustain and bolster this agency.

Of note recently, SCVP has not been adequately staffed since November 2021. Beginning in September 2021, all but one staff person (the executive director) resigned from the organization. Subsequently, a chain reaction of events occurred that made DCJS staff very concerned for wellness and safety of victims served by SCVP.

Earlier this year, DCJS staff initiated a Corrective Action Plan (CAP) process. SCVP did respond to the CAP; however, their responses were inadequate, and corrective actions were not satisfactorily completed.

Additionally, DCJS staff made the decision to put a hold or "freeze" on all other funding to SCVP due to a specific event reported to us (and confirmed by SCVP) in which there was potential harm to a victim. This funding hold was effective as of March 29, 2022.

It is important to note that SCVP has been unable to meet the grant goals and objectives that they outlined in their original Victims Services Grant Program (VSGP) application to us, which of course, is what the CJSB based its initial grant award approval on. For reference, their original VSGP 24-month award totaled \$818,305, but to date for SFY 2022, they have requested reimbursement of only \$216,780.59. In their grant application, they estimated that they would serve 75-100 victims per year, but to date this fiscal year, they have reported serving a total of 50 victims.

Concerns about this agency persist. DCJS staff have identified continued programmatic issues, and both by SCVP's own account, and accounts of other service providers in the community, SCVP is not adequately serving victims. There continues to be a lack of adherence to protocols and practices that ensures that victims are appropriately served.

Prior to this meeting, Victims Services staff met with Director Miller and Chief Deputy Director Banks about this agency, and they both agreed to bring their concerns to the Grants Committee.

As a result, DCJS staff propose ending all funding to this organization by terminating their Victims Services Grant Program award. DCJS determined that there is a risk to victims in

the SCVP community, and there is a risk to DCJS as the State Administering Agency of Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) funding. It is not in the agency's best interest to continue funding this organization.

Additional supporting information for termination of funding:

- SCVP does not currently meet the VOCA eligibility criteria as cited in the VOCA Rule and VSGP grant application guidelines:
  - *Eligible applicants must demonstrate a record of providing effective direct services to crime victims. In accordance with the federal VOCA Rule, a program has demonstrated a record of effective services when, for example, it demonstrates the support and approval of its direct services by the community, its history of providing direct services in a cost-effective manner, and the breadth or depth of financial support from sources other than the Crime Victims Fund.*
  - *VOCA eligible agencies must promote, within the community being served, a coordination of public and private efforts to serve and aid crime victims, and provide program information to the majority of agencies that assist with victims of crime in the service delivery area.*
- As the State Administering Agency of VOCA funds, DCJS and the CJSB have sole discretion to terminate a subaward for lack of compliance (per our DOJ Office for Victims of Crime Program Manager, Frederick Rogers).

If funding is terminated:

- DCJS staff will work with SCVP to complete any necessary close-out processes.
- DCJS will reimburse SCVP for any grant-related expenses through March 29, 2022, the date of the hold on funds.
- DCJS staff will work with our state partners, the Virginia Department of Social Services and the Virginia Sexual & Domestic Violence Action Alliance, on determining other/additional options for victim services in SCVP's area.
- DCJS will work to mitigate the impact of this decision on victims of crime, to the extent that we can.

A motion was made by Dave Johnson, seconded by Edward Macon. The motion passed unanimously. Recusals are noted in the attachment to the minutes.

#### **Arlington Restorative Justice Program (Discussion) – Manager – Victims Services, Kristina Vadas**

Previously, the CJSB awarded a Victims Services Grant Program (VSGP) award and an American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) award to the County of Arlington to support a new restorative justice program housed in the Office of the Commonwealth's Attorney.

According to their VSGP grant application:

*The Office of the Commonwealth's Attorney proposes the development and launch of county-wide restorative justice program providing direct services to victim survivors of crime in the community, and direct services to victim survivors of crime and harm on*

*select APS [Arlington Public Schools] campuses. Direct services may include listening circles, community circles, healing and harm reduction circles, conferences, conflict resolution circles, victim/offender dialogues and circles of support and accountability. It's anticipated 400 victim survivors may be served in the first fiscal year and 800 in the second fiscal year. This project will build on the work of Restorative Arlington.*

After the first year of this project, the County has decided to transition the County unit implementing this grant into a legally-separate non-profit entity, Restorative Arlington. The County will remain the primary subgrantee, but is requesting to initiate a new second-tier subgrantee relationship with the nonprofit entity. The nonprofit has a designated 501(c)(3) status from the IRS. Approval of this change is pending based on Restorative Arlington successfully registering in SAM.gov, receiving a Unique Entity Identifier (UEI) number, and the initiation of a written second-tier subgrantee agreement between the County of Arlington and Restorative Arlington.

DCJS staff proposes that this change be approved, pending the successful completion of required items by Restorative Arlington.

A motion was made by Dave Johnson, seconded by Edward Macon. The motion passed unanimously. Recusals are noted in the attachment to the minutes.

## **B. Juvenile and Child Welfare Section**

### **Community Based Gun Violence Intervention Grant Program – Supervisor, Juvenile and Child Welfare, Greg Hopkins**

The primary purpose of this Funding Opportunity is to support the implementation of strategies that will result in reducing gun violence and gang activity in Virginia. This was a competitive, **two-phase solicitation** open to Virginia localities and non-profit organizations that demonstrate in their application collaboration with key stakeholders and a commitment to the implementation of promising practices that have been shown to be effective in reducing gun violence.

Eligible applicants included:

- Local government agencies (law enforcement, criminal justice, and human services agencies).
- Non-profit organizations providing human services and/or criminal justice services.

A total of 8.6 million was requested for funding with a total of 2.5 million available for funding. A total of 35 applications, 8 from local government entities, 3 from universities and 24 from non-profit/community-based organizations. In the solicitation we provided resources and information on promising programs for replication were received. Two webinars were conducted to assist applicants with the CBGVIP application process.

Since this was a two phased solicitation we had two rounds of reviews. For the first round, two members of the Henrico County Police Department, 2 internal DCJS staff, and a

representative from Cities United reviewed grant applications. For the second round a representative from the Virginia State Police, one internal DCJS staff, VA Attorney General's Office, and a representative from the VCU Clark Hill Institute reviewed grant applications. Applicants were directed to focus on at least one of the following three elements: Prevention, Intervention and Enforcement. The nexus to gun violence and geographic location also played a significant role in the review process.

After the two rounds of careful consideration and discussion we were able to recommend funding 22 grant applications, 8 local government entities, 3 universities and 11 community based organizations.

If the budget allocating funds directly to Norfolk and Portsmouth is signed by the Governor, our recommendation is NOT to fund those two grants, and instead fund three additional applicants, and increase the award amounts to six others, as shown in the color-coded spreadsheet.

DCJS staff recommended the committee make a contingency recommendation to the full Board: to go with the original plan if the budget for some reason ends up not including Norfolk and Portsmouth, and if the budget is signed go with the color-coded plan. We anticipate that the budget will be signed before the CJSB meeting so we'd know which set of recommendations to present to the full board.

A motion was made by Dave Johnson, seconded by Edward Macon. The motion passed unanimously. Recusals are noted in the attachment to the minutes.

### **Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Grant Program – Juvenile Justice Program Analyst, Ed Holmes**

As some of you may recall, the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act requires that we have an advisory committee that meets specific composition requirements as designated by the Act. In Virginia, the Advisory Committee on Juvenile Justice and Prevention (ACJJP) is the committee designated by the COV to serve that function. Through the Act, we are required to give that committee an opportunity to review and comment on JJDP grants. For this reason, our advisory committee essentially performs the work of the Grants Committee for JJDP grants.

On April 19, 2022, the ACJJP met and reviewed the 13 new grants before it, and has made recommendations for funding. These recommendations will be included in the packet that you all consider at Board meeting next week. You have in front of you an overall summary of those 13 grant recommendations.

No action was required from the committee, but DCJS wanted to call it to your attention, and offer the opportunity to ask questions.

### **Child Advocacy Center Grant Program - VDSS – Manager, Juvenile and Child Welfare, Laurel Marks**

For many years, DCJS has awarded VOCA funds to the Virginia Department of Social Services (VDSS) to supplement the state funding appropriated in VDSS' budget. While this award goes to VDSS for direct support to CAC programs, we continue to have monitoring responsibility and we work collaboratively with VDSS in their support of CACs.

With this award, 19 local CAC programs will receive funding to support child and youth victims of crime.

A Children's Advocacy Center (CAC) is a child-focused, facility-based program where representatives from many disciplines meet to discuss and make decisions about investigation, treatment, intervention, and prosecution of child abuse cases. The main priority of a CAC is to provide a child victim with services for treatment and healing while working with key stakeholders to prevent further victimization of children.

The request before the committee is for \$4,430,582.00 in federal Victims of Crime Act funds. No match is required for FY23.

A motion was made by Dave Johnson, seconded by Edward Macon. The motion passed unanimously. Recusals are noted in the attachment to the minutes.

### **C. Adult Justice Programs**

#### **Residential Substance Abuse Treatment Grant Program - Manager – Adult Justice Programs, Jennifer MacArthur**

DCJS receives federal funding through the Residential Substance Abuse Treatment (RSAT) for Prisoners Grant Program. These funds will provide evidence-based residential traditional treatment or Medication-Assisted Treatment (MAT) services in local and regional jails. MAT is the use of medications, coupled with counseling and behavioral therapies, to primarily treat addictions to opiates.

New, competitive applicants for FY23 were required to demonstrate strong collaboration between a local or regional jail and a community service provider to increase the effectiveness of aftercare services. Priority was given to small/medium, rural jails; however, DCJS only received three applications. The City of Hampton Sheriff's Office, Franklin County Sheriff's Office (MAT) and George Mason University Partners will utilize the funding to implement MAT collaboration programs. Hampton Sheriff's Office and Franklin County Sheriff's Office were awarded RSAT Planning Grants for FY22. Hampton Sheriff's Office will complete its program planning and move into implementation during FY23. These applications were reviewed by two internal reviewers and one external reviewer.

An additional four facilities applied for continuation funding. The Western Virginia Regional Jail requested continuation funds to enhance their MAT program. Norfolk Sheriff's Office, Newport News Sheriff's Office, and Henrico Sheriff's Office have requested continuations of their implementation funding for MAT programs at level funding from FY22. These applications were reviewed by two DCJS internal reviewers.

RSAT funds do require a 25% local match. The request before the committee is for \$670,146 in federal RSAT funds and \$223,382 in required match, for a total of \$893,528 for the seven applicants.

A motion was made by Dave Johnson, seconded by Ebony Clark. The motion passed unanimously. Recusals are noted in the attachment to the minutes.

#### **D. Virginia Center for School and Campus Safety**

##### **School Resource Officer/ School Security Officer Incentive Grant Program – Division Director – Virginia Center for School and Campus Safety, Donna Michaelis**

The proposed budget for the School Resource Officer – School Security Officer Incentive Grant Program for FY23 totals \$4,444,510 in state funds for SROs and \$392,715 for SSOs. This includes the funding of 60 continuation and 16 new grants, which funds a total of 86 SRO positions and 15 SSO positions in school divisions throughout the Commonwealth.

If approved, the grants can be awarded for a maximum period of 4 years (48 months), but reviewed annually for program compliance and budgeting. Continuation grantees will be funded for the balance of the 4 years, based on their current funding year.

This budget funds all of the eligible continuation grants and 16 out of 19 new applications.

Two of the new applications were ineligible and one was incomplete. Another new application meets criteria at a reduced level because unallowable expenses were requested.

The proposed state budget states, "...the Department shall waive all matching requirements for grant recipients awarded funds the first year." If this language is included in the budget signed by the Governor, we will ask CJSB approved applicants to revise their budgets accordingly.

##### **Additional information:**

- Not recommending:
  - Prince Edward (SRO)- ineligible
    - Supplanting Concerns: requested grant to help with funding for existing SROs.
  - Westmorland (SRO)- ineligible
    - Requested funding for the position that exceeded 4 years of grant funding.
  - Petersburg Public Schools (SRO & SSO)- incomplete application
    - Did not complete itemized budget sections (specifically Personnel and Employee Fringe Benefits) and unable to determine if request was allowable or reasonable.
    - Did not provide adequate information to determine a need.
    - Did not provide adequate information to determine if the application was for an SRO, SSO or both.



- Reduced:
  - South Boston- reduced level
    - Requested state funding for equipment, which is not allowed under the grant program.

A motion was made by Dave Johnson, seconded by Edward Macon. The motion passed unanimously. Recusals are noted in the attachment to the minutes.

## **E. Law Enforcement**

### **Peer Supported Critical Incident Stress Management Grant Program – Law Enforcement Training and Grants Supervisor, Acting Manager, Tracy Matthews**

The proposed budget for the Peer-Support Critical Incident Stress Management Grant Program for FY23 totals \$300,000, funding 2 grantees. This a continuation grant, in the second year of a four (4) year cycle. The grant period for these awards would be from July 1, 2022 – June 30, 2023.

The grants support nonprofit organizations to provide post-critical incident seminars and peer-supported critical incident stress management programs to law enforcement agencies and their staffs.

A motion was made by Dave Johnson, seconded by Ebony Clark. The motion passed unanimously. Recusals are noted in the attachment to the minutes.

### **Hate Crimes Grant Program – Law Enforcement Training and Grants Supervisor, Acting Manager, Tracy Matthews**

The proposed budget for the Combatting Hate Crimes Grant Program for FY23, totaling \$44,500, which will provide funding for one (1) grantee. This is the third roll out of this funding. The funding supports localities, who have or will partner with non-profit organizations or institutions that have been targets of or are at risk of being targeted for hate crimes. This was the only application received for this funding opportunity.

If approved, staff will work with this grantee to revise and resubmit their budget to ensure the target population for this grant will benefit directly from the proposed project.

This is a one-time award to this locality, scheduled to end on March 30, 2023, unless additional funding is made available in future budget cycles.

The agency has plans to release another solicitation in the near future, to utilize the remaining funding allocated for this program.

A motion was made by Dave Johnson, seconded by Angie Carrera. The motion passed unanimously. Recusals are noted in the attachment to the minutes.

### **Project Safe Neighborhoods – Law Enforcement Training and Grants Supervisor, Acting Manager, Tracy Matthews**

In 2021, DCJS became the Fiscal Agent for the Federal Office of Justice Program's (OJP), Project Safe Neighborhoods (PSN) Grant Program. The programmatic activities of this project is overseen by the United States Attorneys Office's of the Eastern and Western Districts of Virginia. The program focuses on providing strategic approaches to addressing crimes associated with gun and gang violence.

The grant recommendations is the result of a solicitation/funding opportunity from the Eastern District of Virginia. The budget for these awards total \$244,440.

The U.S. Attorney's Office convened a review committee and voted on the submitted applications. The recommendations of the committee are then presented to the federal program monitor for final approval. No vote is required by this committee. As the fiscal agent, DCJS is responsible for the overall supervision of the funding and overseeing the federal reporting on the grants

**VI. Old Business**

No Old Business was brought forth at this meeting.

**VII. New Business**

No New Business was brought forth at this meeting.

**VIII. Public Comment**

There was no public comment.

**IX. Announcements**

Chief Branch announced that the date for the next meeting was September 29, 2022.

**X. Adjourn**

The meeting adjourned at 1:36 pm. A motion was made by Edward Macon, seconded by Dave Johnson. The motion passed unanimously.

**Attachment A: Recusals**

**Dr. Sesha Moon**

Southside Center for Violence Prevention

**Chief Craig Branch**

<b>VWGP -- Subcommittee Recommendations (VICT)</b>		
<b>Application ID</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Jurisdiction</b>
1279	Caroline	County Government
1069	Culpeper	County Government
1178	Fredericksburg	City Government
1406	Orange County	County Government
1230	Spotsylvania	County Government
1194	Stafford	County Government
<b>SRO -- Subcommittee Recommendations</b>		
<b>Application ID</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Jurisdiction</b>
469410	Caroline	County Government
473037	Spotsylvania	County Government
472848	Fredericksburg	City Government