



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

December 1, 2022

Members Present

Chief Craig Branch, Chair
* Ebony Clark
Officer Bennie Evans, Jr.
Sheriff Brian Heatt
Maria Jankowski
Edward Macon
Abbey Philips

I. Call to Order

Chief Craig Branch called the meeting to order at 12:15 PM

II. Roll Call

Chief Branch asked Ms. DeAndrea Williams to conduct the Roll Call. Ms. Williams stated there was a quorum with six members present. Ebony Clark participated through electronic communication pursuant to Virginia Code 2.2-3708.2(1)(b) due to a personal nature.

III. Introductions

Chief Branch officially welcomed any guests or/agency dignitaries and opened the floor for any brief remarks. One virtual attendee was present from The Humanic Project.

IV. Approval of Minutes from Last Meeting

Chief Branch called for corrections, deletions, and/or additions to the minutes from the September 29, 2022, meeting. A motion was made by Maria Jankowski to approve the minutes with noted corrections presented by Ebony Clark and was seconded by Edward Macon.

V. Grant Review

a. Operation Ceasefire Fund – Juvenile and Child Welfare Section, Greg Hopkins

The Operation Ceasefire Fund was created by the Virginia General Assembly in Chapter 2 of the Acts of Assembly of the 2022 Special Session 1. This funding source “shall be used solely for the purposes of implementing violent crime reduction strategies, providing training for law-enforcement officers and prosecutors, providing equipment for law enforcement agencies, and awarding grants to organizations such as state and local law-enforcement agencies, local attorneys for the Commonwealth, localities, social services providers, and nonprofit organizations that are engaged in group violence intervention efforts. For the purposes of subsection N.2. of this item, ‘group violence intervention’ means comprehensive law enforcement, prosecutorial, and community-based initiatives, substantially similar to Operation Ceasefire as implemented in Boston, Massachusetts and the Gang Reduction Programs implemented in Richmond and Los Angeles, California, which are documented by the Department of Justice and are carried out between members of law enforcement, members of the community, and social services providers.”

DCJS received 30 applications including two for the state agency portion of \$2,600,000, totaling \$9,869,134.00.

After much discussion, a motion was made by Maria Jankowski, seconded by Edward Macon. The motion passed. The motion was opposed by Abbey Philips and Ebony Clark. Recusals are noted in the attachment to the minutes.

b. Virginia Firearm Violence Intervention and Prevention Fund (FVIPF) – Virginia Hospital Violence Intervention and Prevention Initiative – Victims Services Section, Anya Shaffer

The purpose of the Hospital-Based Violence Intervention and Prevention Program (HVIP) is to continue and expand HVIP programs to provide services to victims of violent crime with the goal of reducing future incidences of violence-related injuries and homicides. HVIPs are multidisciplinary programs that combine the efforts of medical staff with trusted community-based partners to provide safety planning, services, and trauma-informed care to victims injured in gun violence and their families.

The Virginia Hospital and Healthcare Association Foundation (VHHAF) responded to the Hospital-Based Violence Intervention and Prevention Program Guidelines and Application to support HVIP programs in six Virginia Hospitals, Sentara Norfolk General (Norfolk), Riverside (Newport News), Virginia Commonwealth University (Richmond), Children’s Hospital of the King’s Daughters (Norfolk), Carilion Roanoke (Roanoke), and Bon Secours Southside (Petersburg). They were the only applicant.

If awarded, the HVIP will begin a 24-month grant cycle in SFY 2024. This grant program would be supported with FVIPF funding and would run from July 1, 2023-June 30, 2025. For the 24-month award period, VHHAF requested a total of \$5,000,000. After much discussion, a motion was made by Edward Macon, seconded by Ebony Clark. The motion passed unanimously. Recusals are noted in the attachment to the minutes.

c. Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention – Juvenile and Child Welfare Section, Ed Holmes

The 2023 Juvenile Justice One-Time Grant Program provides federal funds through the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (JJDP) Act Title II Formula Grants Program available to local units of government, state agencies, juvenile detention centers for one-time requests. The goal of this funding initiative is to provide applicants with an opportunity to request funds to enhance existing juvenile justice programs or projects, including initiatives to reduce youth gun violence. Funds awarded for this initiative may only be utilized for Consultants, Travel, Subsistence, Equipment, and/or Supplies and Other Expenses. Awards were considered on a competitive basis, and applicants were required address all the key components outlined in these grant guidelines to be eligible for consideration.

The Advisory Committee on Juvenile Justice, by virtue of the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act, must have the opportunity to review and comment on the applications received. They met November 18, 2022, to review the 12 applications received and to make recommendations on funding. Those recommendations will be presented to the full Criminal Justice Services Board on December 8.

The ACJJP recommended approval of ten one-time grants, denial of one one-time grant, and approval of one two-year DCJS in-house grant.

This information was presented for information purposes only.

d. Sexual Assault Services Program – Victim Services Section, Andi Martin

The purpose of the Sexual Assault Services Program (SASP) is to support the establishment, maintenance, and expansion of rape crisis centers and other nongovernmental or tribal programs and projects to assist individuals who have been victimized by sexual assault. Funds may be used for the provision of direct services. SASP funding originates from the Federal Office on Violence Against Women.

For Calendar Year 2023, DCJS staff requested approval to award \$667,576 in federal SASP funds to 26 sexual assault service providers.

After much discussion, a motion was made by Abbey Philips, seconded by Edward Macon. The motion passed unanimously. Recusals are noted in the attachment to the minutes.

e. Virginia Sexual and Domestic Violence Victim Fund – Victim Services Section, Kristina Vadas

The Virginia Sexual and Domestic Violence Victim Fund (VSDVVF) is a state special fund that was established by the Virginia General Assembly in 2004. The purpose of the VSDVVF is to address domestic violence, sexual violence, sexual abuse, stalking, and family abuse through victim services and prosecution efforts. Effective July 1, 2022, § 9.1-116.1 of the Code of Virginia was amended and reenacted to include the availability of funding for sexual assault service providers and hospitals for the purpose of funding the cost of salaries and equipment for sexual assault forensic examiners, sexual assault nurse examiners, and pediatric sexual assault nurse examiners. Over the 18-month period of January 1, 2023, through June 30, 2024, approximately \$1,000,000 has been allocated to support projects dedicated to providing sexual assault forensic examinations for victims of sexual assault.

This was newly established competitive funding opportunity. In total, DCJS received 13 applications. All the applications received a preliminary review to assess eligibility to apply by the Grant Program Coordinator. One applicant was ineligible to apply for funding. Twelve (12) eligible applications were then reviewed as a part of a competitive grant review process by review teams comprised of non-DCJS/external reviewers and DCJS staff. Reviewers considered demonstrated need, geographic location, budget justification, cost-effectiveness of proposed projects, and the availability of competitive funds when conducting their reviews. Reviewers also prioritized budgetary items that focused primarily on direct services for victims of sexual violence.

The requests for funds from the applicants exceeded the funds available for this grant program. Thus, applicants receiving a score of less than 50 points were not recommended for funding. The remaining projects each received a reduction of 4.25% from their recommended funding amounts. DCJS staff requested approval to fund nine (9) projects for the 18-month period (1/1/2023-6/30/2024), totaling \$998,750, using State General Funds allocated for this purpose.

After much discussion, a motion was made by Abbey Philips, seconded by Edward Macon. The motion passed unanimously. Recusals are noted in the attachment to the minutes.

f. Improving the Criminal Justice Response Grant Program – Victim Services Section, Kristina Vadas

The Improving Criminal Justice Response (ICJR) to Domestic Violence, Dating Violence, Sexual Assault, and Stalking Grant Program, administered by the Federal Office on Violence Against Women, was awarded to DCJS in the amount of \$1,000,000 for a three-year grant period. DCJS is the state administering agency for ICJR, in partnership with the Office of the Attorney General, the Virginia Poverty Law Center, the Virginia Sexual and Domestic Violence Action Alliance, and the Virginia Victim Assistance Network. During this three-year award, funding will allow the ICJR partnership to provide technical assistance and training on best practices in sexual and domestic violence response and victim advocacy.

DCJS staff requested approval to award \$693,347 in federal ICJR funds to four agency partners.

After much discussion, a motion was made by Edward Macon, seconded by Officer Bennie Evans, Jr. The motion passed unanimously. Recusals are noted in the attachment to the minutes.

g. Hate Crimes Grant Program – Law Enforcement Grants and Programs Section, Tracy Matthews

The funding for the Hate Crimes Grant Program (HCGP) 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. The proposed budget applications totaled \$372,238 in State General funds. This included the funding of three new grants to support projects in Alexandria, Fairfax, and Virginia Beach. These are one-time awards to each locality, scheduled to end on September 30, 2023 (unless additional funding is made available in future budget cycles). DCJS has plans to release another funding opportunity in the near future to utilize the remaining funding of \$1,127,762 allocated for this program. This budget does not include the funding of two applications: Fairfax County Public Schools and Pittsylvania County.

The Hate Crimes Program Funding Opportunity allows for only one application per locality to be submitted. Since Fairfax County submitted two applications, priority was given to the application that more closely aligns with the goals of the program.

After much discussion, a motion was made by Edward Macon, seconded by Officer Bennie Evans, Jr. The motion passed unanimously. Recusals are noted in the attachment to the minutes.

h. Law Enforcement ARPA – Law Enforcement Grants and Programs Section, Tracy Matthews

Grants to localities with high violence crime rates

The focus area for this grant opportunity is for the purchase of equipment related to real time infrastructure and technology to support law enforcement response to violent crime. The total amount for funding is \$7,425,846.00. This funding opportunity was open to 12 eligible cities that were deemed to have been disproportionately affected by violent crime as reflected in the 2021 Incident Based Reporting (IBR) data. The cities that were identified were Chesapeake, Danville, Emporia, Hampton, Lynchburg, Martinsville, Newport News, Norfolk, Petersburg, Portsmouth, Richmond, and Roanoke. These grants have an anticipated grant period of January 1, 2023 - June 30, 2023. This was a non-competitive grant process; however, all grant applications were reviewed, and reviewers' recommendations were considered when recommended funding was determined.

After much discussion, a motion was made by Edward Macon, seconded by Sheriff Brian Hieatt. The motion passed. The motion was opposed by Abbey Philips and Ebony Clark. Recusals are noted in the attachment to the minutes.

Option V Out of State Lateral Program Academy

Option V Academy's offer an abbreviated law enforcement training academy to officers sworn or previously sworn in other states that would like to become a sworn officer in Virginia. The proposed budget of \$148,600 in ARPA funding would make awards to two localities (the cities of Fairfax and Virginia Beach) and would fund a total of 3 Option V Academy classes. These grants have an anticipated grant period of January 1, 2023 - June 30, 2023. This was a non-competitive grant process; however, all grant applications were reviewed, and reviewers' recommendations were taken into account when recommended funding was determined.

After much discussion, a motion was made by Edward Macon, seconded by Officer Bennie Evans, Jr. The motion passed. The motion was opposed by Ebony Clark. Recusals are noted in the attachment to the minutes.

Regional Criminal Justice Academy – Equipment

This budget funds computer and classroom related supplies for online testing and provides funding for requested firearm training scenario simulators for the 11 Regional Criminal Justice Academies throughout the Commonwealth. The proposed budget for this funding opportunity totals \$2,366,260 in ARPA funding. These grants would be awarded for a maximum period of 6 months unless the approved time is extended. The anticipated grant period is January 1, 2023 - June 30, 2023. This was a non-competitive grant process; however, all grant applications were reviewed, and reviewers' recommendations were considered when recommended funding was determined.

After much discussion, a motion was made by Edward Macon, seconded by Sheriff Brian Hieatt. The motion passed. The motion was opposed by Ebony Clark. Recusals are noted in the attachment to the minutes.

VI. Old Business

Victims Services Section Manager, Kristina Vadas provided an updated on the Arlington Restorative Justice Program:

At this time, the request for Arlington County to subaward grant funding to the nonprofit Restorative Arlington – which originally brought this matter before the CJSB last spring – has been withdrawn. Arlington County sent two letters since the October CJSB meeting (in response to DCJS requests for information). The first indicated that they no longer intend to subaward grant funding to Restorative Arlington. The second confirmed this decision and stated that they are still figuring out how they will meet the grant goals and objectives during the remaining seven months of the grant period. Questions still remain about several programmatic matters, as outlined in a letter DCJS sent to Arlington County.

The agency must still determine if the project, as currently structured, meets Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) requirements for restorative justice activities. These include ensuring the following:

- The safety and security of the victim.
- The cost versus the benefit or therapeutic value to the victim.
- The procedures for ensuring that participation of the victim and offenders are voluntary, and that the nature of the meeting is clear.
- The provision of appropriate support and accompaniment for the victim.
- Appropriate debriefing opportunities for the victim after the meeting; and the credentials of the facilitators.

VII. New Business

No New Business was brought forth at this meeting.

VIII. Public Comment

No Public Comment was brought forth at this meeting; however, Board member Ebony Clark asked for consideration for accessibility for the meetings noting transparency and communication. In addition, Board member Abby Phillips requested to receive all Grant Committee documents for review at least 24 hours in advance.

IX. Announcements

Chief Branch announced that the date for the next meeting was TBD.

X. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 1:30 pm. A motion was made by Edward Macon, seconded by Officer Bennie Evans, Jr. The motion passed unanimously.

Attachment A: Recusals

Chief Craig Branch		
JJDP – One Time	503985	Orange County
SASP	500838	Rapp. Council Against Sexual Assault
VSDVVF	501983	Mary Washington Healthcare
LE ARPA – Regional CJA Equipment	504754	Rappahannock Reg. CJA
Officer Bennie Evans, Jr.		
JJDP – One Time	502677	Alexandria
SASP	500368	Alexandria
HCGP	504254	Alexandria
LE ARPA – Regional CJA Equipment	504395	Northern Virginia CJA