

Justice Assistance Council Meeting – Minutes

January 08, 2018 9:00 AM
Fallen Heroes Conference Room
Department of Public Safety
45 Commerce Drive
Augusta Maine 04333

Meeting called by: Marty McIntyre

Type of meeting: Council Meeting

Facilitator: Tracy Poulin

Attendees: Marty McIntyre (chair), John Rogers, Ted Glessner, Lisa Marchese, Heather Putnam, Commissioner John Morris, Major Chris Grotton, Francine Stark, Elizabeth Ward Saxl, Sheriff Jeff Trafton, Chief Jack Peck, Colin O’Neil, Stephanie Anderson, Ryan Thornell, Major Chris Grotton

Guests: Janet Joyeux, Robert Chicoria

Attendees by Telcon: Chief Robert Moulton

Absent: Ted Glessner

Minutes

Agenda item: Roll Call

Presenter: Marty McIntyre

Agenda item: Minutes of last meeting

Presenter: Marty McIntyre

Marty asked if there was any discussion on the last meeting minutes.

There was no discussion

Meeting Minutes of September 11, 2017 were accepted

Agenda item: VAWA STOP Grant Applications in response to Second RFP 201709161

Presenters: Tracy Poulin and Robert Chicoria

Discussion:

Financials: Tracy Poulin

- This second STOP RFP totaled \$338,204.51
- Required to set-aside 20% of the entire award amount for proposals that meaningfully address Sexual Assault. At the funding level awarded that equals \$216,925.00.
- Required to set-aside 10% of the Victim Services amount is to be distributed to culturally specific community based organizations (\$29,006.00)
- Culturally specific set-aside has been met in Committee’s recommendations

Applications: Robert Chicoria

The committee reviewed each application very carefully.

- **Maine Coalition to End Domestic Violence**
 - Consultants to develop the Maine Domestic Abuse Homicide Review Panel Biennial Report
 - Requested \$4,000.00
 - Category of funding not selected
 - No Federal or Maine purpose areas selected
 - No 501c3 documentation (tax-exempt nonprofit organization)
 - Recommend requested funding less the \$300.00 for cover page art design, net \$3,700.00
- **Maine Coalition Against Sexual Assault (MECASA)**
 - Collaborative Partnership to Serve Transgender Survivors of Sexual Assault
 - Requested \$7624.00
 - Innovative partnership with Maine Transnet
 - Will serve transgender community – and underserved population
 - Addresses an area of the 2017-2020 STOP Implementation Plan not currently served
 - Recommend full funding at \$7624.00
- **Pine Tree Legal Assistance**
 - Civil Legal Aid Project – Maintain and enhance civil legal aid to survivors of domestic and sexual violence with a full-time paralegal
 - Requested \$89,352.00
 - Currently funded by United Way but continued funding is in question
 - Real need for the position
 - Recommend full funding at \$89,352.00
- **Prosecutorial District I (York County)**
 - Sexual Assault Crimes Prosecutor – Will work daily in the courtroom litigating sexual assault crime cases, will consult and collaborate with SARSSM and all York county police department and the state police
 - Requested \$93,948.00 with \$36,570.00 match
 - Overall sustainability plan good but conflicts with work plan
 - Focus appears to be on training but no work hours provided for outlined tasks
 - No baselines provided to establish need
 - Support letters indicate the District is losing a Domestic Violence Prosecutor
 - Committee recommends full funding at \$93,948.00
- **Sexual Assault Support Services of Midcoast Maine (SASSMM)**
 - Knox/Waldo Counties Sexual Assault Response Team Advocate (SART) - Build, coordinate and enhance relationships with individuals and organizations across various systems that respond to sexual violence
 - Requested \$43,099.00
 - Strong letters of support
 - Good executive summary
 - Local area businesses and camps consulted
 - Recommend full funding at \$43,099.00
- **Sexual Assault Response Services of Southern Maine (SARSSM)**
 - Sexual Assault Crisis and Support Hotline Enhanced Services – Maintain and enhance the existing Hotline services with live support increasing from 2 0.75 FTEs advocates to 2 full-time advocates and developing texting/chat services to support survivors of sexual assault.
 - Requested \$23,074.00
 - Recommend full funding at \$23,074.00
- **Sexual Assault Response Services of Southern Maine (SARSSM)**

- Sexual Assault Response Team Advocate (SART) – To provide high quality advocacy and support for victims of sexual assault in York and Cumberland counties and expand services specializing in anti-trafficking for at-risk teens
- Requested \$48,261.00 for five (5) calendar quarters to “align with grant sequence”
- My Life, My Choice is a good prevention model
- Recommended funding for one (1) calendar quarter with opportunity to reapply in next fiscal year to align with actual grant sequence \$9,654
- **United Somali Women**
 - New Mainer Domestic Violence and Sexual Initiative Continuation – funding for two 0.75 FTE multilingual Domestic Violence Victim Advocates and one .25 FTE Coordinator
 - Requested \$104,735.00
 - Advocates would be in general Portland and Lewiston areas
 - Committee spent a lot of effort in reviewing this application
 - Insufficient backup for expenses
 - Recommended for partial funding at \$33,963.00 with stipulations about bookkeeper access and a monthly meeting with a DPS representative
- **United Somali Women**
 - Female Genital Mutilation, Services and Education – Funding for one .75 FTE Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) Victim Advocate
 - Requested \$35,913.00
 - Committee spent a lot of effort in reviewing this application
 - Program description is very unclear
 - Program need not documented
 - Committee did not recommend funding for this effort at this time

Discussion

Marty asked if there were any questions

There was some discussion if the JAC would want to accept the committee’s recommendations or vote on each proposal separately.

Stephanie Anderson made a motion to vote on each proposal separately, Seconded by Chief Jack Peck, The JAC voted unanimously to vote on each proposal separately.

Voting:

Francine Stark, Elizabeth Ward-Saxl and Lisa Marchese abstained from all votes

- **Maine Coalition to End Domestic Violence**
 - Consultants to develop the Maine Domestic Abuse Homicide Review Panel Biennial Report
Stephanie Anderson made a motion to accept the Committee’s recommendation to fund the proposal at \$3,700.00. Motion was seconded by Chief Jack Peck. The Motion carried unanimously.
- **Maine Coalition Against Sexual Assault (MECASA)**
 - Collaborative Partnership to Serve Transgender Survivors of Sexual Assault
Stephanie Anderson made a motion to accept the Committee’s recommendation to fund the proposal at \$7,624.00. Motion was seconded by Chief Jack Peck. The Motion carried unanimously.
- **Pine Tree Legal Services**
 - Civil Legal Aid Project

Stephanie Anderson made a motion to accept the Committee's recommendation to fund the proposal at \$89,352.00. Motion was seconded by Chief Jack Peck. The Motion carried unanimously.

- **Prosecutorial District I**

- Sexual Assault Crimes Prosecutor

Stephanie Anderson made a motion to deny the Committee's recommendation to fund the proposal. Motion was seconded by Chief Jack Peck. There was some discussion that ensued. It was mentioned that this position does not appear to be full-time legal work. There was also discussion that there was no data to document the need for a Sexual Assault Prosecutor position. The motion was brought to a vote. The Motion to deny the Committee's recommendation carried unanimously.

- **Sexual Assault Support Services of Midcoast Maine (SASSMM)**

- Knox/Waldo Counties Sexual Assault Response Team Advocate (SART)
- Requested \$43,099.00
- Strong letters of support
- Good examples and executive summary
- Local businesses and summer camps consulted, lots of discussion with partner agencies

Stephanie Anderson made a motion to accept the Committee's recommendation to fund the proposal at \$43,099.00. Motion was seconded by John Rogers. The Motion carried unanimously.

- **Sexual Assault Response Services of Southern Maine (SARSSM)**

- Sexual Assault Crisis and Support Hotline Enhanced Services
- Requested \$23,074.00
- Adding more hours of live support
- Piloting texting services

John Rogers made a motion to accept the Committee's recommendation to fund the proposal at \$23,074.00. Motion was seconded by Nick Snyder. The Motion carried unanimously.

- **Sexual Assault Response Services of Southern Maine (SARSSM)**

- Sexual Assault Response Team Advocate (SART)
- Requested \$48,261.00 for five (5) calendar quarters to "align with grant sequence"
- Cumberland and York Counties
- Committee recommends \$9,654 for one quarter

John Rogers made a motion to accept the Committee's recommendation to fund the proposal at \$9,654 for one quarter. Motion was seconded by Chief Jack Peck. The Motion carried unanimously.

- **United Somali Women**

- New Mainer Domestic Violence and Sexual Initiative Continuation
- Requested \$104,735.00
- No baseline numbers
- Insufficient backup for expenses
- Committee recommends \$33,963 with stipulations

Colin O'Neil made a motion to accept the Committee's recommendation to fund the proposal at \$33,963 with stipulations. Motion was seconded by Heather Putnam. The Motion carried unanimously.

Old Business

Presenter: Marty McIntyre

- **Maine Judicial Branch – Enhancing Domestic Violence Dockets**
 - Open item from September 11, 2017 meeting
 - Requested am revised \$61,095.00 and we removed \$8,422 for the ACTV program
 - ACTV participation of great concern. Not an evidence based practice. Victim Safety concerns. JAC decided not to fund this portion of the application.
 - General discussion ensued:
 - ACTV portion of proposal only pays for study, no additional protection for victims
 - Concern expressed that the ACTV program may be approaching the Domestic Violence issue from the wrong angle
 - Additional concern that the ACTV program would not involve victim service providers
 - ACTV program receiving a lot of criticism from Victim Services Organizations
 - Marty stated that an additional vote was not required if the JAC did not want to fund the ACTV program.

New Business

Presenter: Marty McIntyre

- **Marty introduced a discussion on the OTHER Budget Worksheet**
 - Marty recommended that the JAC develop guidelines for expenses that are entered into the OTHER Budget Worksheet. There has been an increase in the variety of items such as rent, electricity, general office supplies etc.
 - Discussion was tabled until the April meeting
- **Remaining funds**
 - There was some discussion on what happens with the remaining funds that were not awarded. If the remaining funds exceeded \$50,000.00 another RFP would be solicited
 - Remaining funds are:
 - Court – \$34,631.00
 - Prosecution - \$127,737.56
 - Law enforcement – \$71,147.28
 - Remaining funds subject to change because of changes in prior year residual funds
 - Emphasis needs to be on meaningfully addressing Sexual Assault to ensure Federal mandatory set-aside is met

Stephanie Anderson made a motion to solicit a third RFP for the remaining funds with an emphasis on meaningfully addressing Sexual Assault. Motion was seconded by Elizabeth Ward-Saxl. The Motion carried unanimously.

- **Funds still not released by Federal Government**
 - FY 2017 STOP funding has not been released pending approval of the Maine STOP Implementation Plan
 - Should happen shortly
 - FT 2017 Byrne-JAG funding has not been released
 - Affects all states
 - Unknown when funds will be released
- **Future Meeting Schedule**
 - All meetings will begin at 9:00AM
 - All meetings will be held at the Fallen Heroes Conference Room, Department of Public Safety, 45 Commerce Drive, Augusta, Maine 04333
 - April 9, 2018

- September 10, 2018
- December 10, 2018

Meeting adjourned at 11:30AM