

Justice Assistance Council Meeting – Minutes

August 27, 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), Chief Robert Moulton, Major Chris Grotton, Francine Stark, Elizabeth Ward Saxl, Sheriff Jeff Trafton, Chief Jack Peck, Stephanie Anderson, Janet Joyeux, Richard Murphy for Heather Putnam

Guests: Milton Champion, Executive Director, Maine DPS Gambling Control Unit, Robert Chicoria

**Attendees by
Telcon:** Ted Glessner

Absent: John Rogers, Colin O’Neil, Ryan Thornell

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

Chief Moulton made a motion to accept the last meeting minutes.

Elizabeth seconded the motion.

A vote was held and the JAC voted to accept the Meeting Minutes of April 09, 2018. Richard Murphy abstained from the vote.

Agenda item: VAWA STOP Grant

Presenters Tracy Poulin

General Discussion:

We received 15 proposals from the June RFP. All of them have been reviewed by the subcommittees and have been prepared for discussion. Of note is the FY 18 Federal Award has not been made as of this writing. Current information is the award will be made at the end of September. The expected award is \$1,008,674 with some additional funding from residual balances from FY 15, FY 16, and FY 17.

Victim Services

General: Great committee performing very good work. The quality of submissions was quite good this time.

Caring Unlimited: Requesting a portion of the salaries of some staff. \$50,210 requested and the subcommittee recommends full funding.

Family Violence Project: Requesting funding for a community based advocate as a continuation grant. High quality proposal. Requested \$54,895 and the subcommittee recommends partial funding of \$22,892 for a five-month period of performance. This partial funding is intended to align the project's period of performance with other proposals.

Partners for Peace: Requesting funding for a position who will work internally at the Bangor Police Department. Innovative proposal that overall was very good. \$32,216 requested and the subcommittee recommends full funding.

Sexual Assault Support Services of Midcoast Maine (SASSMM): Requesting funding for a dedicated Knox and Waldo Counties Sexual Assault Response Team (SART) Advocate. Requested \$44,515 and the subcommittee recommends partial funding of \$14,838 for a four-month period of performance. This partial funding is intended to align the project's period of performance with other proposals.

Through These Doors (formerly Family Crisis Services): Requesting funding for an advocate working with incarcerated women. Requested \$45,877 and the subcommittee recommends partial funding of \$22,939 for a six-month period of performance. This partial funding is intended to align the project's period of performance with other proposals.

Safe Voices: Requesting funding for an outreach advocate for Franklin County. \$40,000 requested and the subcommittee recommends full funding.

Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Services (SAPRS): Requesting funding for a Sex Trafficking and Exploitation Advocate who will work with people who are identified as being survivors of sex trafficking and exploitation, and with people who are identified as possibly currently being sex trafficked or exploited. Very well done proposal. \$29,307 requested and the subcommittee recommends full funding.

Coastal Health Care Alliance: Requesting funding to support training six new Sexual Assault Nurse Examiners (SANEs), strengthening and expanding the capacity of the Coastal SANE Program to ensure improved access to core health care services for survivors of sexual assault and domestic/dating violence in Maine's rural Waldo, Knox and Lincoln counties; and skilled collection, documentation and provision of forensic evidence, \$29,220 requested and the subcommittee recommends full funding.

Sexual Assault Response Services of Southern Maine (SARSSM): Requesting funding for a continuation of the existing Sexual Assault Crisis and Support Hotline Enhanced Services. This hotline is state-wide and has improved over time. Requested \$94,990 but unfortunately, the Victim Services category of the Stop grant has insufficient funding for this proposal. The subcommittee recommends forwarding this proposal to the Discretionary subcommittee for action.

Pine Tree Legal Assistance, Inc.: Requesting funding for a paralegal who will support 4 staff attorneys who help victims of interpersonal violence. Requested \$100,201 but unfortunately, the Victim Services category of the Stop grant has insufficient funding for this proposal. The subcommittee recommends forwarding this proposal to the Discretionary subcommittee for action.

This will leave a balance of \$53,129 in Victim Services but approximately \$30,000 need to be reserved to meet the culturally specific set-aside.

Chief Moulton made a motion to accept the Victim Services sub-committee's recommendations.

Chief Peck seconded the motion.

A vote was held and the JAC voted to accept the Victim Services subcommittee recommendations. Marty McIntyre and Richard Murphy abstained from the vote.

Prosecution

Prosecutorial District IV: This was the only proposal received in the Prosecution category. District IV is requesting partial funding for a Sexual Assault and Domestic Violence (SADV) Prosecutor and a SADV Investigator. Requested \$109,120. The subcommittee reports that this proposal had many questions that remained unanswered from previous years programs JAC recommendations. The explanations of the Program Objectives are inadequate and vague. Most importantly, the proposed SADV Investigator is not a sworn officer. This was an issue with last year's proposal and was to be addressed in the current proposal. Unfortunately, the chosen individual was unable to pass the physical at Maine's Criminal Justice Academy to become a sworn officer. The subcommittee had previously granted an approval last year to allow the individual an extra year to qualify to the Academy. Because of this, the subcommittee recommends that this proposal not be funded.

Chief Peck made a motion to accept the Prosecution sub-committee's recommendation not to fund Prosecutorial District IV's proposal.

Sheriff Trafton seconded the motion.

A vote was held and the JAC voted to accept the Prosecution subcommittee recommendation. Stephanie Anderson and Richard Murphy abstained from the vote.

Law Enforcement

There were 3 proposals received in the Law Enforcement category.

Lewiston Police Department: Requesting funding for a continuation of the existing Proactive Response Team (PRT) Domestic Violence Initiative that is staffed by 2 sworn officers and a domestic violence coordinator. Very well crafted proposal. \$40,355 requested with a provided \$39,977 match. The subcommittee recommends full funding.

Cumberland County Sheriff's Office: Requesting funding for a continuation of the existing Enhanced Police Intervention Collaboration (EPIC) First Responder Program. The EPIC staff provides support and advocacy services to victims of Domestic violence, dating violence, stalking and human trafficking through follow-up services to law enforcement partners. Very well written proposal with a good timeline. \$59,402 requested with a provided \$44,574 match. The subcommittee recommends full funding.

Penobscot Nation Department of Social Services: Requesting funding for a Tribal Law Enforcement Domestic Violence & Sexual Assault Investigator. This is the first time this agency has requested STOP funding and they are starting off very well. There were some minor deficiencies in the proposal but these can all be settled during the award process. This is an evidence based program. \$46,107 requested with no match required. The subcommittee recommends full funding.

Janet made a motion to accept the Law Enforcement sub-committee's recommendations.

Elizabeth seconded the motion.

A vote was held and the JAC voted to accept the Law Enforcement subcommittee recommendations. Richard Murphy abstained from the vote.

Courts

Maine Judicial Branch, Administrative Office of the Courts: This was the only proposal received in the Courts category. The Administrative Office of the Courts is requesting funding for the translation

The required Quarterly Progress Reports from the subrecipients allows the JAC to review progress (or lack of progress). The administrative burden has greatly increased over time because of new and revised federal requirements. The State grant system allows for the longer time period. At this point it is not desired to obligate future Federal funds that have not been awarded.

Chief Peck made a motion to allow for up to an 18-month period of performance for new program and those programs who must hire additional staff.

Sheriff Trafton seconded the motion.

A vote was held and the JAC voted to allow up to an 18-month period of performance for new programs and those programs who must hire additional staff. Richard Murphy abstained from the vote.

A discussion began that the JAC should form a subcommittee to further investigate subgrants period of performance issues and requirements. This subcommittee would report its findings and recommendations at the next scheduled JAC meeting on December 10, 2018. An email will be sent to all JAC members requesting that those interested in being on the subcommittee contact Tracy Poulin.

New Business Thank You Letter

Presenter: Marty McIntyre

Marty read a letter from the York County Prosecutor's Office (District I). In the letter the Office stated that York County had decided to fully fund the efforts for a Victim/Witness Advocate to provide direct criminal justices services to victims of Domestic Violence in York County. The letter continued in expressing its thanks for the JAC STOP funding for this program on behalf of the citizens of York County

New Business Second STOP RFP

Presenter: Tracy Poulin

A second STOP RFP is expected to be required for approximately \$664,650. This funding is from unused FY 18 funds and residual FY 17 funds. Authorization is requested from the JAC to issue the second RFP in September 2018.

Elizabeth made a motion to allow the issue of the second RFP in September 2018.

Sheriff Trafton seconded the motion.

A vote was held and the JAC voted to a allow the issue of the second RFP in September 2018. Richard Murphy abstained from the vote.

The same evaluation committees will be used for the second RFP.

New Business RSAT RFP

Presenter: Tracy Poulin

An RSAT RFP is expected to be required for approximately \$142,000 in FY 18 funds and some remaining FY 17 funds. This funding is a significant increase from previous RSAT awards. Authorization is requested from the JAC to issue the RSAT RFP in September 2018.

Elizabeth made a motion to allow the issue of the RSAT RFP in September 2018.

Sheriff Trafton seconded the motion.

A vote was held and the JAC voted to allow the issue of the RSAT RFP in September 2018. Richard Murphy abstained from the vote.

New Business Byrne JAG Funding**Presenter:** Tracy Poulin

Tracy noted that no state, territory, or government organization has received FY 17 Byrne JAG funds. DPS did receive the award letter in June. Release of funds is expected in late September.

The FY 18 Byrne JAG application has been submitted. The Federal application process was less than 30 days. The State of Maine has been approved for the National Instant Criminal Background Check System (NICS). NICS is designed to determine if prospective firearms or explosives buyers' name and birth year match those of a person who is not eligible to buy. Some local jurisdictions are not yet approved for NICS.

A large portion of Byrne JAG state award is earmarked for the MDEA to fund six agents from local law enforcement agencies. There are currently 49 positions in the MDEA. The remainder are state funded. As noted at previous meeting, the JAC believes that the MDEA should be totally state funded at this time.

It was requested that the JAC approve the current plan to release approximately \$246,000 to other local agencies by RFP.

Elizabeth made a motion to allow the issue of an RFP to the current plan for approximately \$246,000.

Stephanie seconded the motion.

A vote was held and the JAC voted to allow the issue of an RFP to the current plan for approximately \$246,000. Richard Murphy abstained from the vote.

New Business Coverdell Application**Presenter:** Tracy Poulin

The Federal Government has release the FY 18 Coverdell Application. There is a very encouraging increase in funding for FY 18. The total funding is expected to be approximately \$278,000; an increase of over \$150,000 from FY 17. There is a strong emphasis on opioids this year. Further details will be forthcoming.

Meeting adjourned at 11:00AM