

BRIAN P. KEMP
GOVERNOR



JAY NEAL
DIRECTOR

Minutes

Full Council Meeting
Monday, March 15, 2021 | 10:30 A.M.
Conference Line: 1-470-645-0776 | Pin: 85078392#

Attendees

The following members were present via conference call: Chairman Ron Freeman, Vice Chairwoman Sonja Fillingame, Director Mike Ayers, Ms. Lauren Bell, Ms. Jacqueline Bunn, Chief Bruce Carlisle, Director Cynthia Clanton*, Mr. Chris Clark, Director Rachel Davidson, Mr. Brian DiNapoli, Chief Downer-McKinney, Commissioner Liz Hausmann, Mr. Joe Hood, Judge Lisa Jones, Mr. Russell Lewis, Assistant Commissioner Scott Maurer, Assistant Director John Melvin, Commissioner Tyrone Oliver, Director Pete Skandalakis, Ms. Stacey Suber-Drake, Mayor Jim Thornton, and Commissioner Timothy Ward.

The following Criminal Justice Coordinating Council (CJCC) staff members were present via conference call: Executive Director Jay Neal, Deputy Director Steven Hatfield, Robert Thornton, Kristy Carter, Rachel Kilgore, Laura Thompson, Mia Smith, Nathan Branscome, Amy Hutsell, Dannielle Lewis, Britney Campbell, Liz Flowers, Natalie Williams, and Stephanie Mikkelsen.

*Director Clanton joined mid-meeting as indicated in the minutes below.

Welcome and Call to Order, *Chairman Ron Freeman*

Chairman Ron Freeman called the meeting to order at 10:34 AM. Ms. Rachel Kilgore called the roll, and a quorum was confirmed. Next, Chairman Freeman welcomed newly appointed Council member Chief Downer-McKinney, who now fills the previously vacant position of Chief Erica Shields. He then called for a review of the minutes of the December 8, 2020 meeting. Mayor Jim Thornton made a motion to approve the minutes; Assistant Director John Melvin seconded, and the motion carried.

Criminal Justice Grants Committee Recommendations, *Mr. Robert Thornton*

Mr. Robert Thornton then presented the Criminal Justice Grants Committee's recommendations from their meeting on Thursday, March 4, 2021:

- I. ***Residential Substance Abuse Treatment Grant Program*** - At the December 8, 2020, full Council meeting, \$100,000 was set aside, *but not yet awarded*, for new RSAT applicant Washington County to allow for the resolution of programmatic and budgetary concerns. Since that time, Washington County officials resolved these issues

and completed a funding risk assessment without any notable issues. It is the recommendation of the Criminal Justice Grants Committee that the Washington County project be funding, using RSAT grant funds, in the amount of \$100,000.

- II. Regarding the **Juvenile Justice Incentive Grant Program** - As of February 18, 2021, CJCC received a total of \$378,912 in voluntary deobligations on current JJIG awards. In order to reallocate these deobligated funds, the Committee recommended the following:

Recommendations for Reallocations		Costs
EBA-Therapist Support Training	The purpose of the training is to provide effective and creative strategies that FFT therapists can use to address barriers, balance person/work lives, and manage stress.	\$1,380
EBA-Advanced Supervisor Training	The purpose of the training is to provide clinical and innovative strategies for managing the utilization of tele-platforms for FFT therapist. Additionally, it will provide best practices to enhance the supervisor's role while supporting their teams.	\$9,200
CSI-Coping with Grief Training	The purpose of the training is to train MST supervisors on how to identify teams' needs and address staff or participants experiencing difficulties coping with grief and loss during COVID-19.	\$5,000
CSI-Advanced Supervisor Training	The purpose of the training is to provide clinical and innovative strategies for managing the utilization of tele-platforms for MST therapist. Additionally, it will provide best practices to enhance the supervisor's role while supporting their teams.	\$4,800
CVIOG-Incentive Grant Assistance	Funds for New Grantees	\$228,532*
	Peer Learning / EBP Trainings	
	Technical Assistance for Grantee Needs	

*This includes the 10% administration costs required on all CVIOG state contracts.

- III. The next recommendation of the Committee was regarding the ***Title II Formula Grant Program, which*** enables Georgia to maintain compliance with the core protections outlined by the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act (JJDP):
- a. Racial and Ethnic Disparities (RED) Technical Assistance in the amount of \$55,000. This project will allow for local juvenile justice stakeholders across the state to receive RED technical assistance. The assistance will include data support – such as analysis of juvenile data, creation of visualizations, and gaps and resource analysis - and policy support – looking at local policies using a RED lens. Additionally, a training video will be created regarding best practices with justice involved youth that entities can have access to. The project will allocate \$40,000 to the Georgia Statistical Analysis Center for data support and \$15,000 policy support and training video.
- IV. The final recommendation from the Committee was regarding the Juvenile Delinquency Prevention Grant Program. In 2020, CJCC received an award of \$1,000,000 from the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention. The JDP Program provides funding for Strengthening Families Program to service youth at-risk of entering the juvenile justice system. CJCC has funding to provide for six awards, up to \$20,000 in the first year and 30,000 each year after, for five years. Priority consideration was given to rural communities. CJCC released the grant opportunity on January 8, 2021 and the opportunity was closed on February 5, 2021. CJCC received 11 applications totaling \$217,272. The total amount available to allocate is \$120,000. The Criminal Justice Grants Committee recommended funding the following Juvenile Delinquency Prevention Grant Program allocations:

Applicant	Rural / Non-Rural	Projected Youth Served	Type of Service	Requested Amount	Recommended Amount
Augusta-Richmond	Non-Rural	N/A	N/A	\$20,000	\$0
City of Wadley (Jefferson)	Rural	24	In-Person	\$20,000	\$20,000
Douglas	Non-Rural	20	Virtual	\$20,000	\$20,000
Fayette	Non-Rural	10	Virtual	\$20,000	\$0
Glynn	Non-Rural	24	In-Person / Virtual	\$17,120	\$0
Henry	Non-Rural	30	In-Person	\$19,995	\$0
Jones	Rural	10	In-person	\$19,997	\$19,997
Lowndes	Non-Rural	12	In-Person / Virtual	\$20,160	\$0
Pike	Rural	10	Virtual	\$20,000	\$20,000

Spalding	Non-Rural	10	Virtual	\$20,000	\$20,000
Troup	Non-Rural	10	Virtual	\$20,000	\$20,000
Total		160		\$217,272	\$119,997

With no additional questions or comments, Chairman Freeman asked for a motion regarding the Committee’s recommendations. Director Pete Skandalakis motioned to accept all recommendations; Mayor Jim Thornton seconded, and the motion carried.

Finally, during that same March 4, 2021 meeting, the Criminal Justice Grants Committee commissioned juvenile justice staff to research further information regarding the Carl Vinson Institute of Government’s (CVIIOG) ability and capacity to conduct a study on the impact of HB272 on the Incentive Grant. CVIIOG confirmed that they would be able to conduct a research study on the impact of the raise the age on the Incentive Grant if awarded additional funds. The project was estimated to cost \$130,000. If approved, the reallocation of the remaining deobligations would be utilized.

Recommendation: Award to CVIIOG a total of \$358,532 (including the previously approved awards above), to include a report (with an estimated cost of \$130,000) on the impact of HB272 on the Incentive Grant program. The report will estimate the impact on key operational components of the program on both the statewide and grantee levels.

Following Ms. Mikkelsen’s presentation, Chairman Freeman asked Council members if there were any comments or questions regarding the Committee’s recommendations. Both Mr. Hood and Commissioner Liz Hausmann shared their opposition to the idea of “raising the age,” but believed the study would prove to be beneficial. Chairman Freeman noted the same. Mr. Hood made a motion to accept the recommendations as presented; Commissioner Tyrone Oliver seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

Victim Assistance Grants Committee Recommendations; Ms. Kristy Carter

Next, Ms. Kristy Carter presented the following recommendations on behalf of the Victim Assistance Grants Committee:

- I. Regarding the **FY2020 Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) Grant Program (Federal funds) Appeals: Recommended Award Total - \$35,000**
 - a. CJCC released the competitive FY2020 VAWA funding opportunity on September 30, 2020. The Council approved Committee award recommendations in December 2020. Awarded agencies will be eligible annually for continued funding at the amount awarded through December 31, 2023. CJCC received two appeals regarding the FY2020 VAWA grant program.
 - i. **DeKalb County District Attorney’s Office:** The agency submitted two FY2020 VAWA applications for funding. The total amount requested was \$214,825 and the Council initially approved funding at \$20,000 to support

a Blueprint for Safety project. The second application requested funds to continue support for a Domestic Violence/Sexual Assault Investigator position. After reviewing the appeal and working with subrecipient, the agency's priority is to continue the position and appeals to increase the award by \$35,000 for a total award of \$55,000. Committee recommends awarding an additional \$35,000 to continue support of the investigator position.

- ii. **Georgia Network to End Sexual Assault:** The original amount requested was \$286,216 and the Council initially approved funding at \$166,179. GNEA appeals to increase the award by \$58,921 to \$225,000. In December 2020, staff recommended increasing GNEA's award to accommodate the underserved victims project and the PREA project, but to discontinue funding for the law enforcement training project. A letter of support for the application was originally submitted by the Sheriff's Association, but CJCC received communication by the Sheriff's Association rescinding their support. Committee does not recommend additional funding for the request of a new position outside of the original application project scope and request.

II. Regarding FY2020 Sexual Assault Services Program (SASP) Grant Program (Federal funds) Appeals: CJCC released the competitive FY2020 SASP funding opportunity on September 30, 2020. The Council approved Committee award recommendations in December 2020. Awarded agencies will be eligible annually for continued funding at the amount awarded through December 31, 2023. CJCC received one appeal for the FY2020 SASP grant program.

- a. **ACC SANE:** The original amount requested was \$82,850 and the Council initially approved FY18 VOCA funding at \$30,750 to partially meet the request. ACC SANE appeals to increase the one-time award by \$30,000 to support a full-time clinical coordinator position. ACC SANE indicates that a nurse was hired to fill the position with part time hours and raised the pay to be more commensurate with the employee's qualifications. The agency states that the decision has served the program well and was made with the intention that if/when SASP funding ended, or if it became necessary to make the position full time, they could do so with the annual contribution made by local hospitals. The agency states that it needs the full-time position to support on-going service needs, but that the local hospital has had to suspend charitable contributions and sponsorships for the time being due to COVID-19. The applicant requests the increase of one-time FY18 VOCA funds to support the salary of the Clinical Coordinator through September 30, 2021, at which time, the financial climate may improve, and the hospital may be able to provide support for the position. Committee recommends funding the project an additional one-time award of \$30,000 to support the salary of a full-time Clinical Coordinator.

III. Regarding the Victims of Crime Act Assistance (VOCA) Formula Grant Program, Recommended Award Total - \$344,500. The Victim Assistance Division has assessed the status of VOCA FY2018 funds that expire September 30, 2021. Based on

deobligations from agencies that have experienced delays in hiring, implementing their projects and other unforeseeable challenges, the VAD has determined that \$556,690 is available to award for identified projects and priorities.

- a. Family Justice Center Initiative: CJCC launched Georgia's Statewide Family Justice Center Initiative to provide funding and technical assistance to 3 pilot communities to plan and open fully functioning family justice centers in July 2020. We are the third state in the nation to launch such an initiative, and we have shaped our initiative to closely resemble Tennessee's, who has successfully opened over 12 family justice centers under a similar funding and technical assistance structure since 2013. Since the project launch, CJCC and pilot sites have been working with the Alliance for Hope to provide targeted technical assistance. Committee **recommends awarding \$10,000 to each pilot site (Battered Women's Shelter, Crisis Line & Safe House, and the Cobb County District Attorney's Office)** to contract with the Alliance for Hope to assist sites with strategic planning.
- b. Human Trafficking Awareness Campaign and Intervention Services:
 - i. Social Media Awareness Campaign: CJCC in partnership with the Governor's Office has strategized utilizing a social media advertising campaign to target and effectively reach the entire state of Georgia to improve awareness of human trafficking and the comprehensive hotline, 1-866-ENDHTGA, launched October 2020. The social media advertisements will deliver high impressions and utilize geospatial technology to target areas identified as "hot spots" to improve awareness and access to specialized services. The advertisements will be posted in English and Spanish. Target social media sites will include YouTube, Snapchat, Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, and TikTok. OVC is supportive of the project and the effort to target youth and underserved victims with technology. **Award Recommendation: \$102,000**
 - ii. END HT GA Billboard Campaign: CJCC, in partnership with the Governor's Office, has strategized utilizing bulletins and posters to target and effectively reach the entire state of Georgia to improve awareness of human trafficking and the comprehensive hotline, 1-866-ENDHTGA, launched October 2020. The bulletins will deliver high impressions and target locations to improve awareness in metro areas as well as interstates and high traffic secondary arteries. The bulletins will provide excellent coverage and deliver a prominent message to the public. Target markets may include: Atlanta, Rome, Athens/Gainesville, Augusta, Savannah, Brunswick, St Mary's, Macon (Mid GA), Warner Robins, Forsyth, Columbus, Statesboro, Milledgeville, Albany, Tifton, Valdosta and all surrounding areas to these markets. CJCC intends to release a request for proposals to implement the billboard awareness campaign and would follow all procurement policies. OVC is supportive of the project. **Award Recommendation: Up to \$132,500**
 - iii. See Something Say Something Application Expansion: In an effort to meet victims where they are, and to utilize means of communication preferable to the target population, CJCC with the support of the Governor's Office recommends including a text option for the comprehensive hotline, 1-866-

ENDHTGA, launched October 2020. CJCC has been working to navigate the best way to implement the expansion. CJCC has met with the GISAC Unit at GBI to explore options regarding the See Something Send Something application. GBI will meet with their vendor to seek a proposal to amend the current contract to meet the request. Committee recommends setting aside \$50,000 to award GBI to support the expansion of a text option for ENDHTGA once a formal proposal is received. **Award Recommendation: \$50,000**

- c. *See FY2020 SASP Appeal - Committee recommends funding the project an additional one-time award of \$30,000 to support the salary of a full-time Clinical Coordinator for ACC SANE. **Award Recommendation: \$30,000**

After hearing the recommendations of the VA Grants Committee, Chairman Freeman asked for a motion. Director Mike Ayers motioned to accept all recommendations as presented, and Vice Chairwoman Sonja Fillingame seconded. The motion carried.

*Note - Director Cynthia Clanton joined the meeting via conference call at this time.

Finally, Ms. Carter presented an update regarding the FFY2021 VOCA Grant Program - Deposits to the Crime Victims Fund (CVF) fluctuates from year to year, and beginning in FFY2018, the CVF began to experience a drastic decline in deposits; from an average of \$2.418 billion in deposits from FFY2007 to 2017 to \$444.8 million in received in deposits in FFY2018. Based on the recent years award activity and the uncertain feedback received from the Office for Victims of Crime (OVC), this trend of low deposits to the CVF is expected to continue for FFY2020 and FFY2021. As a result, CJCC anticipates a continuance of reductions in its annual VOCA award for FFY2021 and FFY2022. In efforts to mitigate the harmful effects that a potential 41.92% decrease in funding would cause to victim service providers in FFY2022, and the victims they serve, CJCC believes that implementing a tiered method of decreasing VOCA subgrant awards will allow agencies to plan, and gradually make any necessary adjustments to their current agency budgets to accommodate the variable decline in VOCA funding.

Adjourn

With no further business, Chairman Freeman thanked everyone for being in attendance. He recognized the work being done by each of the Committees and then called for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Vice Chair Fillingame made the motion; Director Skandalakis seconded, and the motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 11:18 AM.

Approval

Sonja Fillingame
Vice Chairwoman Sonja Fillingame

Date