

**Minutes of the  
Criminal Justice Coordinating Council  
Wednesday, December 14, 2016  
State Bar of Georgia  
Atlanta, GA**

**Members Present**

Nikki Berger  
Brian DiNapoli\*  
Greg Dozier  
Andy Fuller  
Joe Hood  
Vernon Keenan  
Scott Maurer  
Michael Nail  
Michael O'Connor+  
Harlan Proveaux\*+  
Jay Sanders  
Juliette Scales\*  
Peter Skandalakis\*  
Chuck Spahos  
George Turner  
Bryan Tyson\*  
Thomas Worthy\*

**Staff Present**

Deborah Brownlee  
Kristy Carter  
Aisha Ford  
Steven Hatfield  
Nicole Jenkins  
Kristina Martin  
Jay Neal  
Stephen Palmer  
Nicole Stroud  
Robert Thornton  
Samantha Wolf  
Shontel Wright

**Attorney for the Board**

Tina Piper

**Guests**

Kathy Thornton\*  
Northwest Georgia Crime Center

*\*Via conference call*

*+ Alternate*

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**Welcome and Call to Order**

Chairman Andy Fuller called the meeting to order at 11:00 a.m., and Ms. Deborah Brownlee called the roll. Chairman Fuller called for a review of the Minutes of the September 23, 2016 meeting and a motion to approve the Minutes. Mr. Joe Hood made a motion to approve the minutes, Mr. Chuck Spahos seconded the motion, and the motion unanimously passed.

## **Committee Reports**

*Criminal Justice Grants Committee, Report by Mr. Robert Thornton*

The Criminal Justice Grants Committee met on Friday, December 2, 2016. The following are the recommendations of the Committee:

### **Multi-jurisdictional Drug Task Force Agencies - Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistant Grant (Byrne JAG)**

- The Committee recommends funding in the amount of \$2,938,047, including continuation awards for Pataula Drug Task Forces in the amounts they received in the previous year. The City of Colquitt is recommended to receive a six month award which is one-half of their request, in the amount of \$63,043. (*CJ Comm mtg. Memo says - \$63,042*) to operate Pataula Judicial Circuit Drug Task Force. The Committee voted to allow the Colquitt time to come into compliance with Council requirements, that they have a certain number of agents employed at the Task Force. Commander of the Pataula Task Force, Eric Schwalls was present by teleconference and provided information on behalf of members of the Task Force. At the conclusion of the committee meeting, Commander Schwalls read a letter that he submitted to the Council. Mr. Thornton read the letter. The Committee recommended to allocate the remainder of the funding to be held so that the Council can consider additional funding in June once the first six months of funding expires. Mr. Spahos stated that as long as the items outlined in the letter are accomplished, a recommendation for the additional six months of funding would be forthcoming.

Mr. Thornton said that Commander Schwalls will be providing monthly reports to CJCC on the progress of the Task Force to meet the Council's requirements.

### **Sex Offender Registry Notification Act (SORNA)**

- CJCC received an award in the amount of \$253,874. There is a rolling application process allowing counties to apply for palm print machines for their efforts in registering sex offenders within their jurisdictions. Four grants were received for a total amount of \$54,816. The Committee recommends approval of those grants.

### **Smart Policing Initiative – Byrne JAG**

- CJCC received an award in the amount of \$700,000. This grant is for a project to study gun violence in the city. CJCC will partner with Atlanta Police Department, Grady Memorial Hospital and Applied Research Services (ARS). The grant does not cover travel to meetings that partners are required to attend in Washington, DC. The Committee considered a request to fund that travel in the amount of \$16,410.

Chairman Fuller called for a motion on the Committee's recommendation on the funding of the Multi-Jurisdictional Drug Task Force Agencies Byrne JAG grant in the amount of \$2,938.047. Mr. Hood made the motion, Mr. Jay Sanders seconded the motion and the motion unanimously passed.

Chairman Fuller called for a motion on the Committee's recommendation on the funding of SORNA in the amount of \$54,816. Mr. Sanders made the motion, Mr. Spahos seconded the motion and the motion unanimously passed.

Chairman Fuller called for a motion on the Committee's recommendation on the funding of Smart Policing Initiative – Byrne JAG. Commissioner Greg Dozier made the motion, Mr. Sanders seconded the motion and with an abstention from Chief George Turner, the motion unanimously passed.

*Victim Assistance Grants Committee Report by Mr. Joe Hood*

### **Recommendations for Appeals**

Mr. Joe Hood said that the Victim Assistance Grants Committee met on December 9, 2016. The Committee considered a recommendations and appeals for the Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) grant.

- The Committee recommended adopting all of staff's recommendations on the appeals with a caveat that items where there were budget considerations, that the staff still had concerns regarding statutory/regulatory compliance with the VOCA guidelines, they would have the latitude to work with that sub-grantee to replace those items with appropriate budgetary items that are following Council guidelines. This is in an effort not to further reduce any of the awards or allocations. The Committee requested a special condition on the Atlanta Victim Assistance Award that required a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) be executed with the District Attorney's Office and the Solicitor General's office in each circuit to assist with a seamless transition for each victim advocate. This program will place victim advocates in police precincts for a smooth transition of victim services.

### **Recommendations for Competitive Awards**

- A Child's Voice - the Committee recommends funding in the amount of \$112,304;
- Athens Pastoral Counseling (Child Abuse Counseling) - the Committee recommends funding in the amount of \$107,438;
- Atlanta Legal Aid Grandparent/Relative Caregiver Project - the Committee recommends tabling this item at the time, due to concerns about determining whether the child was victimized. Atlanta Legal Aide has provided adequate documentation to staff of the screening process to assure that referrals to this program are due to child victimization. With this screening in place, the Committee will recommend funding of \$109,238.00;
- Barrow Ministry Village - the Committee recommends funding in the amount of \$41,526.
- Carroll County Child Advocacy Center - the Committee recommends funding in the amount of \$98,427;
- Carroll County CAS - the Committee recommends funding in the amount of \$72,128
- Cherokee County Sheriff's Office - the Committee recommends funding in the amount of \$96,501;

- City of Refuge, Dalton Adult Human Trafficking - the request was for \$314,971. However, the Committee had concerns since this program is not yet up and running, and there are not yet standards in place, therefore, the Committee recommends funding at a reduced amount of \$50,000; there may be an expansion in the future, however, until there are standards in place, the Committee does not recommend funding of the residential portion of the program;
- Coastal Plain CASA - the Committee recommends funding in the amount of \$59,057;
- Family Support Council - the Committee recommends funding in the amount of \$84,606;
- Georgia State University Hotline - the Committee recommends funding in the amount of \$50,558;
- Juvenile Court of Cobb County - the Committee recommends funding in the amount of \$129,626;
- Kennesaw State University Research Service Foundation - the Committee recommends funding in the amount of \$102,946;
- Lookout Mountain CASA - the Committee recommends funding in the amount of \$69,818;
- MACOSH Healing Network for Domestic Violence and Financial Literacy - request was for \$218,750. However, the Committee had concerns about many of the programs that CJCC does not traditionally fund. Staff identified one program for financial literacy for domestic violence victims that fell within funding guidelines, therefore, the Committee recommends funding in the amount of \$30,000. Staff will work with MACOSH as a new applicant and possibly expand funding for services that are consistent with the funding guidelines;
- Pataula Child Advocacy Center - the Committee recommends funding in the amount of \$46,265;
- Prevent Child Abuse Habersham - the Committee recommends funding in the amount of \$74,554;
- Georgia Board of Pardons and Paroles State Office of Victims Services - the original application is in the amount of \$1,972,663. The Committee had concerns that this is an expansion that the Committee does not have enough information to approve the full request at this time. There is a request to double the staff and provide vehicles for that staff for a regional statewide approach for post-conviction notification. Although this is a consolidated effort for the Department of Community Supervision (DCS) and the Department of Corrections (DOC), the group is housed at the Board of Pardons and Paroles (PAP). The Committee has concerns that the statutory requirements for notification rests with the District Attorney's Office. The Committee feels the best approach at this time is to recommend one staff position and ancillary costs for the Board of Pardons and Paroles State Office of Victims Services to coordinate with the Prosecuting Attorneys' Council (PAC) and further expand victim certifications for post notification, and to develop a plan for future services that are in console with PAC. This will prevent duplication of efforts. Therefore, the Committee recommends funding in the amount of \$100,000;
- Tabitha's House - the application is for \$242,508. However, there are no standards in place for adult trafficking and service was not in place at the time of the application. Therefore, the Committee recommends funding in the amount of \$50,000 to provide outreach services;
- The CAC of Thomas County - the Committee recommends funding in the amount of \$109,884;
- Children's Haven - the Committee recommends no funding at this time. The Committee has concerns regarding funding of supervised visitation. Staff may look at this application at a later date once standards are in place to see if they may be able to recommend funding at that time
- The Gateway Center - the Committee recommends funding in the amount of \$198,091;
- Wellspring Living - the application is for \$397,379. The Committee reduced this funding because this provider receives funds from the state. The Committee recommends funding in the amount of \$180,690 to serve the adult human trafficking victims for therapy services.

- youSpark, Child Abuse/Youth Services Center - The Committee recommends funding in the amount of \$84,853.

### **Other Recommendations**

- Savannah Area Emergency Shelter - The Committee recommends funding in the amount of \$69,212;
- An allocation of \$100,000 giving the CJCC Director the authority to make small emergency awards to existing sub grantees from the VOCA Program, not to exceed an individual amount of \$20,000.
- A request from PAC to reallocate funds from three District Attorney-based Victim Witness Assistance Programs to two new Solicitor-based Victim Witness Assistance Programs. The Committee recommends approving this request;
- The transfer of an award from Camden CASA to CASA Glynn in the amount of \$74,998. The Committee recommends approving this request.

Chairman Fuller asked about the origination of the post-conviction program. Mr. Spahos said the program has existed for some time. Mr. Spahos said the Parole Board has statutory requirements for victims' rights regarding notification. This program keeps the victim involved in the process as to whether or not these offenders should be released and if so, under what conditions.

Chairman Fuller called for a motion to approve the recommendations of the Victim Assistance Grants Committee. Mr. Spahos made the motion, Commissioner Dozier seconded the motion. With an abstention of Chief Turner for the Atlanta Victim Assistance and an abstention of Ms. Nikki Berger for the Georgia Center for Child Advocacy, the motion unanimously passed.

Judge Fuller announced that Mr. Hood would now chair the Victim Assistance Committee in place of retiring Chief Turner.

### **Agency Report**

*By Executive Director, Jay Neal*

Director Jay Neal said that it is an honor to serve in this capacity. Director Neal thanked the Council members for their efforts and willingness to serve on the Council. Director Neal said that he met with each member of the CJCC staff for one-on-one discussions. Director Neal said that he has learned that the work done at CJCC spans further than he initially realized. Director Neal complimented the incredible amount of expertise in the CJCC staff. Director Neal said that last year, CJCC distributed approximately \$100 million to grantees and sub grantees, and is poised to distribute approximately \$120 million this fiscal year. Director Neal said he is honored to be a part of the impact that these funding opportunities have made on the State of Georgia.

Director Neal spoke about the CJCC Annual report and how it has helped him to learn more about the agency. Director Neal also talked about the length of the current Report and the possibility of condensing it to more of a summary type report, highlighting the critical points. Director Neal said CJCC has developed a survey for the Annual report that will be sent out to Council members for their

input. The responses will be anonymous. Once the responses are received, that feedback will be used to help staff develop the Report for fiscal year 2016.

Director Neal said that CJCC has launched VICS, the new case management system which allows staff to more efficiently process claims. Director Neal said staff processes approximately 1,500 claims per month. The VICS program will allow CJCC to move to a paperless system so that the issue of sensitive information being passed from one staff member to another will have less chance of being compromised. Director Neal said that CJCC is in the process of identifying and repairing “bugs” in the new system.

Director Neal said he attended the Council of Accountability Court Judges (CACJ) Conference, which hosted approximately 1,100 attendees. Director Neal said he is looking forward to working with the Council of Accountability Court Judges in their service to the citizens of Georgia.

Ms. Clanton commended Director Neal for attending the various conferences. Judge Deal said that the partnership that CJCC has with the Administrative Offices of the Court (AOC) had a great impact on the work of the Council of Accountability Court Judges and helped to make their conference a success.

### **Unfinished Business**

*By Mr. Robert Thornton*

Mr. Thornton said that applicant, Children’s Advocate Center, Lookout Mountain Circuit was tabled in a previous meeting due to some unallowable items requested. Mr. Thornton said that the Committee recommended funding in the amount of \$25,856. Chairman Fuller called for a motion to approve the funding for the Children’s Advocate Center, Mr. Hood made the motion, Mr. Sanders seconded the motion and the motion unanimously passed.

### **New Business**

*By Mr. Joe Hood*

Mr. Hood referenced a document entitled “Proposal to Create the Criminal Justice E-Filing Sub-Committee”. Mr. Hood said that Governor Deal has asked and made a presentation to county officers to seek criminal justice e-filing integration. Mr. Hood said that in coordination with PAC, Public Defenders Council, Office of Planning and Budget (OPB), and the Georgia Technology Authority (GTA), a working group was initiated. The purpose was to go to each judicial circuit to work out an integrated plan starting with the initial arrest through DCS or DOC. This would also involve Georgia Crime Information Center (GCIC) in order to have an appropriate electronic record and moving away from paper processing. Mr. Hood said there are a several state-wide systems currently in place that would facilitate these efforts. PAC has a system called TRACKER. The Public Defenders Council and GCIC has a system and DOC and DCS have a singular system that is used throughout the State. Mr. Carey Miller has been appointed to assist in the coordination of this project. A bond previously awarded to CJCC is being used to fund this project.

Mr. Hood said that there is a new law that requires large IT projects, exceeding \$10,000,000, to have distinct partners such as GTA, OPB and Department of Administrative Services (DOAS) as representatives on the Governance Council.

Director Vernon Keenan asked how long it would take for this project to be funded. Mr. Hood said there would be a rolling pilot. There is a five year time frame for completion. Mr. Peter Skandalakis asked if this project was just relative to E-filing or if it would include the discovery process. Mr. Hood said that depending on the budget, the plan is to include discovery as well.

Chairman Fuller called for a motion to approve the creation of the Criminal Justice E-Filing Sub-Committee. Director Keenan made the motion, Mr. Scott Maurer seconded the motion and the motion unanimously passed. Chairman Fuller asked if the sub-committee would only consist of those stated and asked for the names of the members to be read into the record. Mr. Hood said members would be added as needed. Following are the members currently on the sub-committee:

Carey Miller, Governor's office  
CFO/Director, Theresa McCartney, OPB or her designee  
Director, Terry Fisher, GCIC or her designee  
Director, Cynthia Clanton, Administrative Offices of the Courts (AOC) or her designee  
Commissioner, Michael Nail, DCS or his designee  
Commissioner, Greg Dozier, DOC or his Commissioner  
Director, Chuck Spahos, PAC  
Director, Bryan Tyson, Public Defenders Council  
Director, Calvin Rhodes, GTA  
Commissioner, Sid Johnson, DOAS

Chairman Fuller asked for any questions or comments from members of the audience and asked each person in attendance to state their name.

Joe Hood said that he is now the Deputy Commissioner of the Department of Community Health.

Executive Director Jay Neal announced Chief Turner's retirement and congratulated him on the work with the Atlanta Police Department as well as the work as Chairman of the Victim Assistance Committee. Chief Turner thanked the Council for the opportunity to serve. Judge Fuller asked for a standing ovation for Chief Turner.

Chairman Fuller called for a motion to adjourn, Mr. Spahos made a motion and the meeting was adjourned at 11:57 a.m.