### Minutes of the

### Criminal Justice Coordinating Council

**Wednesday, December 10, 2014**

### State Bar of Georgia

**Atlanta, GA**

**Members Present Staff Present**

Brad Bryant Betty Barnard

Braxton Cotton Nathan Branscome

Brian DiNapoli Deborah Brownlee

Charley English Jacqueline Bunn

Chairman Andy Fuller Kristy Carter

Drew Ferguson\* Steven Hatfield

Vernon Keenan Kristina Martin

Liz Housman\* Quincie McKibben

Janis Mangum\* Robert Thornton

Marla Moore Samantha Wolf

Avery Niles\* Shontel Wright

Brian Rickman

Travis Sakrison

Jay Sanders

Juliette Scales

Arnold Smith

Todd Ashley for Chuck Spahos

George Turner

Jeff Wigington\*

**Guests**

^Assistant Chief Luther Reynolds

*\*Via conference call*

*+ Alternate*

*^ Guests*

**Welcome and Call to Order**

Judge Andy Fuller called the meeting to order at 11:05 a.m. and Deborah Brownlee called the roll.

Judge Fuller called for a motion to approve the minutes of the September 15, 2014, Council Meeting. Deputy Director Steven Hatfield made a motion to have those minutes tabled for revisions. The motion was seconded by Ms. Marla Moore, and the Council voted unanimously to table the Minutes pending a review by Staff.

**Criminal Justice Grants Committee Report** – Criminal Justice Subcommittee Chair Mr. Charley English

The Criminal Justice Grants Committee met on December 4, 2014. The six recommendations considered were:

1. Local Byrne JAG Awards - It was recommended that the Local Regional Drug Office be awarded $359,412.00, and the rest of the multi-jurisdictional task force be awarded level funding for a total amount of $3,189,000.;
2. There was a request to fund the Department of Corrections at $1, 047,400.00. There were continuation awards for the Department of Driver Services, the Georgia Public Safety Training Center and the Georgia Information Sharing and Analysis Center in the amount of $1,745,443.;
3. Sex Offender Registration and Notification Act (“SORNA”) - It was recommended to make an award to 27 Sheriff’s Offices to purchase live scan machines with palm print capability. The recommended award amount was $471,960.
4. Byrne Innovative Communities Grant - It was recommended that Hall County’s RSAT program be funded at $47,496, Clayton County’s program at $75,000, and DeKalb County’s GRP program at $75,000. The total award recommendation was $197,496. The stipulation was added for these local programs share the information collected with the appropriate state partner agency;
5. Veterans Treatment Courts - The Committee recommended making awards from this funding for the Appalachian Judicial Circuit, Chatham County, Cobb County, Coweta County, Hall County State Court, Hall County Health Veterans Track, Macon Judicial Circuit and Muscogee County, each receiving $162,500 for a total of $1,300,000; and
6. Juvenile Accountability Block Grant - The Committee recommended level funding for Fulton and DeKalb Counties. Fulton County would receive $14,839 and DeKalb County would receive $17,474. These funds help fund GED programs in conjunction with the juvenile courts.

After a review of the Subcommittee’s recommendations, Judge Fuller opened the floor for discussion. Thereafter, Commissioner Avery Niles made a motion to adopt the Criminal Justice Grants Committee’s recommendations, Brad Bryant seconded and the motion was carried by all present, with two exceptions. Colonel Arnold Smith abstained as a member of one of the recipient agencies and Judge Juliette Scales abstained concerning the grant for Fulton County Juvenile Court.

**Victim Assistance Grants Committee Report** – Victim Assistance Subcommittee Chair Chief George Turner

The Committee met on December 8, 2014 to consider grant recommendations proposed by staff. The Committee recommended the following:

1. Sexual Assault Mini Grant Program – Six programs were recommended for funding under the Sexual Assault Mini Grants: Battered Women’s Shelters, Inc., HODAC Piedmont Rape Crises Center, Ruscus University Help Service and YMCA of Northwest, Georgia for a total amount of $86,436.
2. Family Violence Prevention and Service Act Domestic Violence Mini Grant Program – Seven programs were recommended for funding under this solicitation: Jewish Family and Career Services, Northeast Council on Domestic Violence, Safe House of Augusta, Ser Familia, Wayne County Protective Agency and Project Safe at the requested amount and North Georgia Mountain Crises Network at an adjusted amount of $226,667. There was also a FVPSA award in the amount of $50,000 for GCADV to provide training and support for domestic violence shelters across the state.

A motion to accept the Committee’s report was made by Mr. Jay Sanders, the motion was seconded by Mr. Braxton Cotton. The motion was carried unanimously.

**Agency Report** – Executive Director Jacqueline Bunn

Director Bunn stated that she has assigned a CJCC staff member to conduct some research on the status of the pre-trial process in Georgia. Additional details will be shared in the coming months. CJCC staff is preparing for the upcoming legislative session. Details regarding CJCC’s legislation will be shared at the next Council meeting.

**Grants and Policy Division Report (“Grants”)** – Division Director Robert Thornton

Robert announced that Kristy Carter has been promoted to the position of Program Director. This has enabled CJCC to more effectively divide up the Victim Assistance Unit. Kristy will handle the majority of the programs that transferred from the Governor’s Office of Children and Families (“GOCF”). The Grants and Policy Division has developed a VAWA implementation plan. The plan is revisited annually and a new plan is developed every three years to help direct how CJCC spends funds throughout the state. That meeting was held the prior week. The meeting was very well attended by many of CJCC’s partners.

Mr. Thornton mentioned several competitive grants were awarded from the Federal Government to CJCC this year. Shontel Wright attended a meeting in Washington, DC for the Grant to Encourage Arrest Policies and Enforcement of Protection Orders Program. This grant is to encourage arrest policies and to provide additional support specifically to sexual assault response teams. CJCC received six other competitive grants.

CJCC also received the maximum award for the Veterans Treatment Court Grant (along with the State of Tennessee). The Council has approved the recommendation for funding for that grant and CJCC staff has met with staff from the various courts in an effort to begin launch of those programs. The federal funds will support ancillary partnerships. The Accountability Court Funding Committee was able to provide support for personnel in those courts.

**Victims Services Division Report (“VSD”) -** Program Manager Kristina Martin on behalf of Division Director Nicole Jenkins

Ms. Martin reported that approximately 4,500 applications were received. Approximately 1,700 were for victim’s compensation applications. Approximately 1,600 were for forensic interviews. Approximately $150,000 has been paid on the forensic interviews, which was just implemented on July 1, 2014. The total payout to date for victim assistance is approximately $7,300,000. VSD is currently able to reach a decision on a claim within 22 days, provided all of the documentation has been submitted.

Ms. Martin stated that the Board reviewed 77 claims on appeal. Fourteen were remanded back to staff for processing, 51 were affirmed, five were tabled, pending the submission of additional documentation and there were seven subrogation requests.

Ms. Martin reported on the kickoff of Regional Reconnect Training. To date VSD staff has conducted training in three cities, Newnan, Dallas, and Dalton, GA. With those three trainings, staff has trained over 100 participants. There are 10 more training sessions scheduled throughout the state with 335 individuals currently registered. Ms. Martin said there is a link on the CJCC website for those who would like to attend one of the sessions. The majority of registrants are advocates, however many of the registrants are from DFCS, the Department of Aging Services, and directors and CEO’s of various agencies, and hospitals, law enforcement staff, and counselors registered. P.O.S.T. credit for law enforcement is offered.

**Unfinished Business**

None.

**New Business – Deputy Director Steven Hatfield**

The Juvenile Justice Delinquency Prevention and Treatment Programs RFP was released on October 6, 2014. These recommended grants are federally supported by funds that transferred from GOCF. The funds are directed to preventive measures for youth with initial involvement in the juvenile justice system. The goal for the offering is to compliment the Juvenile Justice Incentive Grant program which targets the juvenile population with a medium to high risk of recidivism. Originally, $836,000 was identified for this RFP. However, 23 proposals were received at the close of the RFP for a total request of approximately $2,000,000. There were some challenges in deciding on which grants to award since the service provider was the same on approximately nine of the applications. In order to assist with this decision, we sought and received approval from the Governor’s Office as well as the Juvenile Justice Funding Committee. It was important for all recommendations to be in line with the juvenile justice reform efforts. The recommendations for funding were as follows:

* 1. Clayton County - $100,000 to serve 75 youth using the in-home therapy model, Family Keys.
  2. Newton County - $64,050 to serve 30 youth using Botvin Life Skills and Strengthening Families.
  3. Macon-Bibb County - $80,740 to serve 30 youth using Botvin Life Skills and the Big Brothers Big Sisters mentoring program.
  4. Columbia County - $80,240 to serve50 youth with a Teen Peer Court and wraparound services.
  5. Troup County - $74,400 to serve 24 youth using Thinking for a Change.
  6. City of Dublin - $80,694 to serve 100 youth with a Teen Peer Court and also using wraparound services.
  7. Forsyth County - $32,000 to serve 100 youth with a Teen Peer Court.
  8. Sumter County - $62,104 to serve 200 youth with Positive Action and Nurturing Parents.
  9. Gwinnett County - $99,945 to serve 30 youth with Thinking for a Change, Aggression Replacement Training, 7 Challenges, and wraparound services.
  10. Douglas County - $54,000 to serve 50 youth with Strengthening Families and Positive Action.
  11. Chatham County - $72,000 to serve 24 youth with Strengthening Families.
  12. Columbus Consolidated Government - $72,000 to serve 24 youth with Strengthening Families.
  13. Glynn County - $72,000 to serve 24 youth with Strengthening Families.
  14. Fayette County - $72,000 to serve 24 youth with Strengthening Families.
  15. Rockdale County - $72,000 to serve 24 youth with Strengthening Families.
  16. Coweta County - $72,000 to serve 24 youth with Strengthening Families.
  17. Cherokee County - $72,000 to serve 24 youth with Strengthening Families.
  18. Lowndes County - $72,000 to serve 24 youth with Strengthening Families.

In total, eighteen applications were recommended for funding. Out of those eighteen applications, eight of them had requested to partner with Evidence Based Associates in order to deliver the Strengthening Families or another service. By working with the Department of Juvenile Justice and the Juvenile Justice Funding Committee, we were able to request that all eight use the Strengthening Families program to serve 24 youth at a reduced case rate. We were able to request the reduced case rate because the partnership with the Department of Juvenile Justice allowed transportation for each grant to be taken care of by their agency.

Henry County also applied for an award under this solicitation. However, based on the at-risk, juvenile population in Henry County, it was recommended to instead, award them an extra $100,000 on their Juvenile Justice Incentive Grant in order to begin using Functional Family Therapy. This was recommended based on their population of youth at higher risk for recidivism and under the advisement of the Juvenile Justice Funding Committee.

Four other applicants applied for funding under the solicitation (Augusta-Richmond County, Carroll County, Pickens County, and Paulding County), but their applications were not recommended for funding. Their applications were not as strong in evidence-based programming as the other applicants and their proposed programs were unable to be found on CrimeSolutions.gov—a requirement of the solicitation.

Since nineteen (including Henry County), of the twenty-three applicants were recommended for funding, the Juvenile Justice Unit was able use to reserve funds to make the awards. The total amount recommended for funding was $1,304,173.

During discussion, Mr. Braxton Cotton asked if a match was required for the grant. Deputy Director Hatfield responded that a match was not required. Mr. Cotton mentioned he was curious because of the sustainability of the programs since the funding stream was not guaranteed outside of the first year.

After discussing the merits of these programs, Mr. Cotton offered commendation to CJCC for the work being done in the management of the various grants.

Commissioner Niles also advised the Council that the Juvenile Justice Funding Committee is in agreement with all recommendations by the Juvenile Justice Unit.

At that time, Commissioner Niles made a motion to accept the recommendations on all nineteen awards as stated, and Mr. Brad Bryant seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

**Other Business**

At the conclusion of the items on the agenda, Mr. Braxton Cotton opened a discussion about the use of body cameras for law enforcement. Mr. Cotton commented that it is his desire to make funding available for body cameras for all law enforcement. There was some ensuing discussion that the City of Atlanta is currently exploring funding opportunities for this type of program. Mr. Cotton also asked CJCC to see if there were any available funding opportunities that could provide the cameras.

Chief George Turner also stated that he had been contacted by a lobbyist who had heard President Obama and the United States Attorney General say that over $2 Million dollars was being allotted by the Federal government for body cameras and training at the local level. Although, the process for how those funds will be distributed has not yet been determined. Chief Turner mentioned the City of Atlanta plans to use asset forfeiture funds right now and then, later, request reimbursement from the federal government based on the President’s announcement.

The topic of reentry was then addressed. Mr. Braxton Cotton mentioned he had recently visited the Floyd County Correctional Institute to speak with them about their reentry programming. Mr. Cotton also expressed his desire for CJCC to look for ways to provide reentry funding. Mr. Robert Thornton replied that CJCC would work with Jay Sanders to see what opportunities there may be. Mr. Thornton also mentioned that the grant for Hall County approved earlier during the meeting is for reentry services.

At that time, Chief George Turner introduced his visitor, Assistant Chief Luther Reynolds of Montgomery County, Maryland and mentioned he was being shadowed by the Assistant Chief.

Mr. Brad Bryant then spoke about directing funding to mentoring over the next four years.

Ms. Marla Moore discussed the foster care program and the lack of adequate foster parents. Ms. Moore expressed interest in assistance for those programs.

Judge Andy Fuller encouraged Executive Director Bunn to follow up with the comments and concerns expressed by the Council members and provide a report at the next meeting. Judge Fuller expressed a desire to have a representative from one of CJCC’s funded programs to give feedback.

Judge Fuller also thanked Executive Director Bunn for the hard work and quality presentations given at the meeting. Judge Fuller welcomed members of the public and called for any comments. Chief Turner’s visitor, Assistant Chief Luther Reynolds, commented on what a pleasure it was to be able to attend the Council Meeting and complimented Chief Turner.

Mr. Cotton made a motion to adjourn, Chief George Turner seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved and the meeting adjourned at 12:10 p.m.

Approved Date