### Minutes of the

### Criminal Justice Coordinating Council

**Wednesday, April 29, 2015**

### State Bar of Georgia

**Atlanta, GA**

**Members Present Staff Present**

Brad Bryant Deborah Brownlee

Jim Butterworth\* Jacqueline Bunn

Brian DiNapoli\* Aisha Ford

Chairman Andy Fuller Steven Hatfield

Vernon Keenan\* Juanisha Lawson

Marla Moore Kristina Martin

Avery Niles Quincie McKibben

Brian Rickman\* Stephen Palmer

Jay Sanders\* Aaron Sayama

Juliette Scales Robert Thornton

Chuck Spahos Samantha Wolf

George Turner

Bryan Tyson

Jeff Wigington\*

**Guests**

^Jennifer Thomas

^Jenny Aszman

^Taylor Tabb

^Debra Nesbit

*\*Via conference call*

*+ Alternate*

*^ Guests*

**Welcome and Call to Order**

Chairman Andy Fuller called the meeting to order at 9:40 a.m., and Deborah Brownlee called the roll.

Chairman Fuller called for a motion to approve the minutes of the December 10, 2014 meeting. Ms. Marla Moore made a motion to approve the minutes. Commissioner Avery Niles seconded, and the motion was unanimously carried. Chairman Fuller called for a motion to approve the September 15, 2014 minutes which were tabled at the previous meeting. Ms. Marla Moore made a motion to approve the minutes. Commissioner Avery Niles seconded, and the motion was unanimously carried.

**Committee Reports**

**Victims’ Compensation Board Report**

*By Juanisha Lawson on behalf of Melanie Harris*

Ms. Lawson reported that the Victims Compensation Appeals hearing was held on March 17, 2015. There were 76 claims overturned. The Board reviewed 18 claims, two claims were remanded, 15 claims were affirmed, and one subrogation waiver request was made.

2. The Violence Against Women Act (VAWA)

3. Sexual Assault Services Program (SASP)

**Criminal Justice Grants Committee Report**

*By Robert Thornton*

Mr. Thornton reported that the Criminal Justice Grants Committee met on April 28, 2015. The staff recommended the denial of McDonough County’s appeal for a Byrne Innovative Communities Grant. Staff recommended approval of $311,000 of Byrne JAG funds for the Prosecuting Attorneys’ Council to support the implementation of a statewide gang prosecution and investigative case management platform. Staff recommended approval of $10,000 in Byrne JAG funds for the CJCC’s Statistical Analysis Center to conduct analysis for the City of Newnan’s community response to rising gang violence.

Judge Fuller called for a motion to approve the Criminal Justice Grants Committee Report. Jay Sanders made a motion, Commissioner Niles seconded, and the motion was unanimously carried.

**Victim Assistance Grants Committee Report**

*By Chief George Turner*

Chief Turner thanked Robert Thornton and the staff for preparing the report prior to the April 28, 2015 meeting. The Committee approved the following continuation grants:

1. The Victims of Crime Act (VOCA)

4. Penetrative Health block Grant

5. Family Violence Prevention and Service Act (FVPSA)

6. Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children and (CESEC)

7. Family Violence and Sexual Assault Program (FVSAP)

Mr. Thornton reported on a VOCA grant received in the amount of $13 million per year. This will increase allocations for better services to crime victims and to victims who may not receive services in some parts of the state. That grant is funded on the federal level by the Crime Victims Fund. Those are not tax payer dollars. The fund in part, came from large white collar crimes which have resulted in multi-million dollar fines. This fund has grown to over $12 billion. Every year Congress puts a cap on the fund of approximately $750 million that can be spent each year. This year there were deposits of over $3 billion, and the cap was increased to approximately $3.2 million. This means the amount that is awarded throughout the country is put into a formula, and we expect to receive $55 to $60 million dollars this year. We are not sure what next year’s cap will be, thus, we are going to take our time spending the funds to ensure they are spread over the three-year cycle. The end result will be that our grants under the VOCA Grant Program will be almost doubled this year. The Committee recommended that the continuation grants be approved. CJCC will get the $13 million approved to assure those programs receive continued funding. Mr. Thornton stated that the Victim Assistance Unit is planning to host a series of 10 community conversations around the state. Three have taken place and seven will commence over the next one and one-half months. CJCC staff is going out to the communities assessing needs in order to better craft an RFP and bring recommendations to the Council for funding. CJCC staff has had conversations so far in Forsyth, Augusta and Blairsville. A list of the upcoming venues was provided. The staff has been very diligent in their efforts. Mr. Thornton stated that the staff is researching the idea of developing a survey for our partners to determine the needs.

Chief Turner stated that the Committee approved a scholarship for the Georgia Commission on Family Violence Annual Conference for Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Advocates for the following grants:

1. VOCA - $12,000 for 48 Sexual Assault Advocates

2. FVPSA - $30,000 for 122 Domestic Violence Advocates

3. Georgia Coalition Against Domestic Violence - $15,000 to support a training website.

All of the grants approved were attached to the packet provided to the Council. Chief Turner made a motion to approve the recommendations of the Committee, and Commissioner Niles seconded the motion. The Committee was asked to approve the allocations as well as give staff authority to make the awards once the applications are received – as long as there is no change in the amounts sought. This will remove the need to come back to the Council for award approvals. Ms. Marla Moore, Administrative Offices of the Courts, abstained from the vote. Judge Fuller amended the motion to include Mr. Thornton’s additions. Commissioner Niles seconded the amendment, and the motion (with the amendments) was carried unanimously.

**Accountability Court Funding Committee Report**

*By Deputy Director, Steven Hatfield*

Mr. Hatfield stated that the Funding Committee met but did not make their final decision; therefore, no motion was needed. The Committee met in Athens, Georgia the previous week. The Committee reviewed all of the applications submitted for the Accountability Court grants. There is a projection for 12 new courts next year, and CJCC plans to increase that number throughout the year. Mr. Hatfield stated that the funding committee is doing a great job. He introduced a member of that Committee, Ms. Debra Nesbit. Ms. Nesbit is with the Association of County Commissioners of Georgia. Ms. Nesbit provides a great deal of insight for the courts. Commissioner Niles also serves on the funding committee and is an asset. There is an appropriation for the next fiscal year for a transportation grant to the Accountability Courts. Transportation is one of the main issues. The CJCC website contains a solicitation for transportation grants that will be due by May 22, 2015. The Committee will review the applications in June and make the final decisions along with the Department of Corrections. The Department of Corrections has a position that is helping to analyze what is going to be best for each court. There may be bus service in the metro counties, such as MARTA. In the more rural areas, there may be a need for vans from DOC or the county. The Committee is planning to present additional information as well as a list of the awards at the next Council Meeting.

**Juvenile Justice Funding Committee Report**

*By Robert Thornton on behalf of Joe Hood*

Mr. Thornton reported an RFP for funding for the Juvenile Justice Incentive Grant Program has been released and is due on May 4, 2015.

**Agency Report**

*By Executive Director, Jacqueline Bunn*

Director Bunn gave an update on legislation pertinent to CJCC. CJCC sponsored two pieces of legislation. Director Bunn acknowledged Deputy Director, Steven Hatfield, Finance Director Nathan Branscome and Division Director, Robert Thornton for their contributions in making this year’s session a success for CJCC. Both pieces of Agency legislation passed a week before sine die. SB 79 was sponsored by Senator Renee Unterman. This bill adds immediate step relations to the list of those eligible to receive compensation benefits and doubles the amount of funeral benefits from $3,000 to $6,000. HB 263 was sponsored by Representative Christian Coomer. This bill will ensure that CJCC has the necessary authority to effectively and efficiently administer funds received from the Office of Juvenile Justice Delinquency and Prevention and the funds appropriated by the State Legislature for the Family Violence Services Program. These responsibilities transferred from the Governor’s Office of Children and Families last year. Also of note for the Session, were SR7 and SB8. These pieces of legislation relate to the Safe Harbor concept whereby victims of sex trafficking are not treated as criminals. Both were sponsored by Senator Renee Unterman. This legislation expands and improves a prosecutor’s ability to pursue sex offenders with new venue provisions and creates a victims services fund to be used to provide rehabilitative services as child victims of sexual exploitation are identified. HB 328 amends several criminal statutes. This was sponsored by Representatives Powell and Coomer. Part 5 is of particular significance to CJCC because it creates a Council of Accountability Court Judges to establish standards for the various courts. CJCC is charged with providing technical services and ensuring compliance with all of the legal requirements. The language transfers personnel, equipment and facilities previously housed at AOC to CJCC.

Director Bunn also spoke about her trip to Washington, DC to attend a National Criminal Justice Association Board meeting. While in Washington, Director Bunn took the opportunity to meet with members of the Georgia Delegation to share information about CJCC and encourage our Congressmen to sign on to “Dear Colleagues” letters that were circulating on the Hill in support of the Byrne Justice Assistance Grant. Over the last few years, the Byrne Justice Assistance Grant has diminished substantially. Director Bunn met with aides for Senator Isakson, Senator Purdue, Congressman Graves and Congressman Collins. Director Bunn had a face-to-face meeting with Congressman Sanford Bishop. Director Bunn reports that both Senators and four Congressmen signed the letters in support of this grant. Others indicated they were unable to sign because of their seats on the Appropriations Committee. These letters are a significant way for members of Congress to express their support for particular programs to the Appropriations Committee at the beginning of the annual funding cycle. Both letters thanked the Chair and ranking members of the Appropriations sub-committees with jurisdiction over these programs for their strong support in the past and asked for continued funding in the 2016 fiscal year funding cycle. Neither letter asked for a particular dollar amount. Instead, they describe the critical purposes of the programs and asked the committees to maintain the funding. Having traveled across the state, this has been a huge concern for stakeholders.

At the last meeting, Director Bunn mentioned to the Council that CJCC would begin exploring the status of pre-trial in Georgia. On April 8, 2015, CJCC hosted a Pre-Trial Round Table to discuss current practices across the state in pre-trial detention and what procedures could be put in place to extend Governor Deal’s criminal justice reforms in this area. The Prosecuting Attorneys’ Council, Fulton County Pre-Trial Services, Georgia Association of Chiefs of Police, Administrative Offices of the Courts, Applied Research Services, Georgia Public Defenders Standards Council and DeKalb County Pre-Trial Services all sent representatives to this round table. From this round table discussion, we heard that local, county led programs have proven successful and are indeed reducing the population of offenders held in pre-trial detention. Fulton County was able to provide a comprehensive overview of their program and its successes. Applied Research Service provided significant detail and information on the use of validated risk assessments used to determine offender eligibility for release and their trial date. The Prosecuting Attorneys’ Council and Georgia Association of Chiefs of Police were able to speak to the law enforcement and legal issues that may arise from the widespread use of pre-trial programs and the rigid adherence to a validated risk assessment tool that may curtail judicial discretion. Additionally, extensive time was devoted to understanding how Accountability Court programs can work more closely with pre-trial services to tailor court programs. In the coming months, CJCC is looking forward to continuing this discussion with a variety of stakeholders at the national, state and local levels. CJCC will continue to keep the Council apprised of this research project. If the Council needs to consider funding for any kind of pilot programs in the future, staff will help identify those.

CJCC has also undertaken a Strategic Plan. The Governor’s Office of Planning and Budget has provided each state agency with the option of revamping their strategic plan to more closely align with the agency’s goals and objectives. To this end, the executive staff held a retreat where we worked diligently to identify long term goals for CJCC, and we discussed how we could meet those goals. CJCC is continuously evolving to meet the needs of this state. In a few years, the agency has grown significantly. It has expanded with services and staffing. As such, this is an opportune time to take an internal assessment of the agency and an external assessment of the needs of the state to establish long term goals and objectives. Director Bunn asked that the Council assist CJCC in its efforts by participating in a short SAC Division survey. The SAC Division is developing the survey and plans to send it out via email by mid-May. The purpose of this survey will be to obtain feedback on our work as an agency and identify gaps in services based on your expertise. It is very important that our Council’s feedback is embodied in the agency’s strategic plan. This short survey will present the most time-efficient but direct opportunity to obtain the Council’s input.

Director Bunn also spoke about her attendance at the CASA Conference Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon and Noble Winter CEO Symposium, held at the OMNI Hotel in Atlanta. Director Bunn highlighted the Victims Services Division led Multi-State Agency Victim Service partnership and the Sixth Annual Statewide Kick-off of National Crime Victims’ Rights Week. Ms. Jenkins’ Division was ably led by Program Director, Kristina Martin along with Ms. Dannielle Lewis and Ms. Shanon Pouelsen. A copy of the souvenir booklet was provided. At the event, CJCC honored Senator Renee Unterman for her tireless efforts on behalf of victims. Director Bunn congratulated all who were instrumental in making this event a success and urged members to peruse the booklets to gain a greater appreciation for how much hard work goes into this event each year.

Director Bunn mentioned the Rule Changes proposed by the agency concerning the Victims’ Compensation Board. A Public Hearing was held on April 23, 2015 relating to the statutory changes made. At the next Compensation Board meeting, the rules can be adopted in final form.

Mr. Hatfield informed the Council that CJCC has added three new members to the Council this fiscal year. Steven also spoke about CJCC’s rapid growth and updated the Council on our ability to locate additional space in the building. CJCC is in the process of remodeling this space to accommodate needs of the staff. With the increase in VOCA funding, CJCC will need to hire more staff to go out to visit our new sub-grantees and process all of their requests. CJCC is planning the completion of this project by mid-July. Mr. Hatfield expressed CJCC’s excitement at being able to support the state in a greater capacity.

**Grants and Policy Division Report**

*By Robert Thornton*

Mr. Thornton stated that the hard work of the staff at CJCC is instrumental in the growth of this agency. Staff have gained the trust of the Federal Government to increase grant funding and appropriations for programs. Based on feedback requested by Mr. Cotton at the last meeting, staff conducted some initial research into re-entry in Georgia. CJCC currently funds two re-entry programs, one in Hall County and one in Rockdale County. These are locally based jail re-entry programs that target offenders that are being released back into their communities. These programs also show a commitment to addressing the underlying factors that have led them to criminal behavior and show a strong investment. These programs are leveraging the funds they receive from federal grants with both public and private funds. Both programs are in the infant stages, and grant funding was recently approved. The CJCC staff will continue their efforts to assess what works best as well as lending technical assistance to ensure success. Staff has also researched the issue of body cameras for law enforcement. Body cameras are being used in some instances in an effort to improve relations between law enforcement and the community. Some jurisdictions have purchased body cameras, but they have discovered concerns with privacy need to be addressed. There are also concerns with how policies and procedures differ between law enforcement agencies. There is a tremendous amount of data collected. Thus, the challenge is how to store this data as well as how to manage the evidence collected. In response to these issues, several states are starting to propose legislative requirements for law enforcement agencies related to use of body cameras. In December of 2014, President Obama proposed $263 million for the purchase of body cameras around the nation. To date, we have not located the funding source. However, CJCC staff will continue to research this issue. A grant released in 2014 that included $700,000 for the purchase of body cameras was forwarded to the Association of County Commissioners. The Community Oriented Policing Services Division (“COPS”) has released research with recommendations for local agencies on how to create protocols and procedures in the use of body cameras. Staff will provide that link to the Council.

Mr. Thornton announced that CJCC has entered into a contract for the implementation of a victim assistance training system. With the increase in the VOCA grant as well as a training grant, we are preparing for an academy next year. We want to ensure victim assistance funds supporting new personnel across the state, training resources.

Mr. Thornton also announced that CJCC is partnering with the National Criminal Justice Association for their national conference that will be held in August in Atlanta. Registration forms were provided to the members. This is a partnership between NCJA, the Justice Research and Statistics Association, and the IGIS Institute. This is a national meeting for various law enforcement, court, and community practitioners to discuss criminal justice issues and policies. Mr. Thornton extended an offer to assist any Council Members who may be interested in attending the conference with registration fees of $445.00 for members and $495.00 for non-members. Mr. Thornton expressed CJCC’s desire to have a good representation from Georgia, especially the Council Members. On August 5, the final day of the conference, CJCC will host a one-day grant management training session. This is a new endeavor to bring that training to the conference this year, since grant professionals attend.

CJCC is also working on a Sexual Assault Kit Initiative grant. The $2 million grant would address un-submitted Sexual Assault Kits. CJCC is researching this issue in Georgia with the intention of applying for that program. One million dollars can be used to actually test the kits the other million can be used for ancillary services such as victims’ services, prosecution, and law enforcement. Two pilot sites, in Detroit, Michigan and Houston, Texas found that (while testing was funded) many other issues were identified. This led to the grant funding additional services. Additionally, a federal grant received last year will help with technical assistance for sexual assault response teams. Those teams are required by statute in each judicial circuit. It was discovered that the effectiveness of those teams in each circuit may differ, and since there is no statewide support for those programs. That grant will be to establish a state expert committee. The core partners have begun meeting to establish protocols and establish responsibilities for law enforcement, victim service providers and healthcare providers.

Mr. Thornton discussed the positions that CJCC is attempting fill. The Grant staff has begun the interview process for Grant Specialists as well as some planning positions.

Mr. Chuck Spahos stated that there is a great deal of helpful information that was obtained by the Prosecuting Attorneys’ Council that could help with the data with reference to the sexual assault programs.

**Victims Services Division Report**

*By Juanisha Lawson on behalf of Nicole Jenkins*

Ms. Lawson reported that the Victims Services Division (VSD) is continuing with its regional trainings throughout the state. To date, 13 sessions have been completed. Several staff members attended the South-Eastern Regional Conference in Charleston, South Carolina in May. VSD paid out $14.8 million in compensation to victims thus far. VSD has received 3,100 applications for compensation and 2,800 applications for forensic interviews. Mr. Hatfield stated that CJCC is adding staff in the VSD as well. A shift in focus will cause the 2,800 forensic interview applications to double, thus, requiring additional positions are needed.

Chairman Fuller said on the progress has been made in the efforts throughout the State of Georgia to eradicate family violence. While it is unfortunate to hear about fatalities in domestic violence cases, the Council appreciates the reports on efforts to reduce these instances of violence.

**Georgia Coalition Against Domestic Violence Presentation**

*By Ms. Taylor Tabb and Ms. Jenny Azsman*

The Commission’s 2014 Annual Report was distributed to the Council.

Ms. Taylor Tabb presented information about the Georgia Domestic Violence Fatality Review Project. This initiative has been funded by CJCC via the Stop VAWA grant for the past 11 years. Ms. Tabb expressed her appreciation to CJCC for their support of this project. As the project has evolved over the years, CJCC has always been willing to hear concerns. This project is a 50/50 collaboration between Georgia Coalition Against Domestic Violence and the Georgia Commission on Family Violence. The funding allows two full time State Life Coordinators. Since 2004, Ms. Tabb and Ms. Azsman have been traveling around the state, working with multi-disciplinary teams to identify domestic violence related deaths. The team’s focus is on the dynamics and interactions of the families rather than on the actual deaths. This allows them to administer training and make recommendations on how resources can assist. The Coalition reviewed approximately 100 cases in 22 different communities. The fatality reviews reveal where the gaps are in a particular community. This identifies what can be done in the various communities. Ms. Tabb and Ms. Azsman compile the global and statewide recommendations and aggregate them into the Annual Report. This report is able to answer questions with real numbers. Each report contains recommendations which assist the Coalition with moving toward change. These reports are distributed statewide to judges, law enforcement officers, prosecutors, family violence and prevention programs, etc. A survey was conducted to assess this report’s usefulness. From the survey, the Coalition learned the report is used as a training tool in communities and as continuing education for staff. The report is also used to support legislative agendas.

Ms. Azsman stated that in the report, they highlighted both challenges and successes that the various domestic violence programs have faced and what is being implemented to overcome those challenges. The Coalition also advises those who are interested in doing similar work in their communities. Ms. Azsman stated that because of the success of this project, they have been invited to join the National Fatality Review Initiative at their conference in Florida in June 2015. Both Ms. Tabb and Ms. Azsman will be conducting workshops at that conference.

Chairman Fuller extended the Council’s appreciation for the Fatality Review presentation.

**Unfinished Business**

None.

**New Business**

*Director Bunn*

Director Bunn introduced new Council Member, Mr. Bryon Tyson of the Public Defender’s Standards Council. Mr. Tyson stated that he joined the agency on April 6, 2015, and he is looking forward to serving.

*Robert Thornton*

Mr. Thornton discussed a grant that CJCC has been re-awarded from the Office of Juvenile Justice and Prevention. This grant is due to the transfer from the Governor’s Office of Children and Families to CJCC. Approximately $105,000 of those funds need to be reallocated. CJCC will be identifying some equipment needed in order to utilize those funds prior to the June 30, 2015 deadline. Funds will be used to purchase computer supplies for education transition centers in Georgia. These centers help youth stay on track to graduate and return to their communities ready to re-enroll in traditional schools. The funds will also support various technology needs in classrooms and computer labs at those centers.

Mr. Chuck Spahos made a motion to approve the reallocation of $105,000. Marla Moore seconded the motion. The motion was carried unanimously.

Chairman Fuller recognized Ms. Marla Moore. Ms. Moore announced that this would be her last meeting due to her retirement. Ms. Moore gave commendations to CJCC for all of the exceptional work that has been done. Ms. Moore stated that she had spoken with Colonel Arnold Smith, who is also retiring.

Chairman Fuller spoke on the importance of the County Commissioners and the dilemmas faced when personnel are hired with grant funds since the funding may dissipate.

Mr. Steven Hatfield introduced Mr. Jim Butterworth (who was attending by phone.) Mr. Butterworth replaced Charley English on the Council.

Thereafter, Chairman Fuller adjourned the meeting at 10:51 a.m.

Approved Date