

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
PENNSYLVANIA COMMISSION ON CRIME AND DELINQUENCY
3101 North Front Street, Harrisburg, PA

School Safety and Security Committee Meeting

January 26, 2022

MINUTES

Members/Designees: Mr. Derin Myers, Designee for Chairman Ramsey
Ms. Janice Bart, Member
Senator James Brewster, Member
Representative Donna Bullock, Member
Ms. Nikki Bricker Cameron, Member
Ms. Tanoa Fagan, Designee for Acting Secretary Snead
Mr. Mike Hurley, Member
Mr. Mike Kelly, Member
Dr. Scott Kuren, Designee for Secretary Ortega
Mr. Randy Padfield, Member
Dr. Kathleen Reeves, Member
Ms. Wendy Robison, Member
Mr. Jonathan Ross, Member
Dr. Helena Tuleya-Payne, Member
Mr. Mike Vereb, Designee for Josh Shapiro

Staff:

Pamela Bennett	Carol Kuntz
Lindsay Busko	Crystal Lauver
Rolanda Chung	Roi Ligon
Chris Epoca	Diane Morgan
Lynn Fidler	Mike Pennington
Kirsten Kenyon	Foday Turay
Rebecca Kiehl	Shaun White
Samantha Koch	

Guests:

Aaron Vanetta, RESPONSEology Consulting and Safety Solutions, LLC
Lt. Patrick A. Beaver, PA State Police
Jonathan Berger, PA School Board Association (PSBA)
Mike Deery, PA Senate
Bradley Keen, PA House Democrats
Dan Muroff, Mission Government Relations
Christine Seitz, PA House of Representatives
Stephen St. Vincent, PA Office of Attorney General
Jeffrey Thomas, PA Emergency Management Agency
Vicki Wilken, PA Senate

I. Call to Order of the January 26, 2022 Meeting and Adoption of Minutes

Mr. Myers called the meeting to order at 1:02 PM and welcomed participants. A quorum of members was established. Mr. Myers noted that the minutes from the December 1, 2021 meeting were part of the packet of materials made available prior to today's meeting.

Motion to approve the minutes from the December 1, 2021 meeting as submitted

Motion: Brewster. **Seconded:** Bart. **Abstentions:** None. **Not Present for Vote:** Reeves & Ross. **Aye Votes:** 12, **Nay Votes:** 0. **Motion Adopted**

II. Violence Intervention and Prevention (VIP) Grants, FY 2021-22

Round 2 Recommendations

Mr. Myers reviewed a PowerPoint presentation covering the Round 2 Recommendations. He began with a brief recap of the VIP application review and award recommendations process to date, starting with the announcement on September 3, 2021 of the availability of \$24 million in VIP grant funds. After being reviewed for eligibility and other factors, 40 of the initial 340 requests received for funding were endorsed and subsequently approved by the School Safety and Security Committee (SSSC) during the December 1, 2021 meeting. Approved applicants were then notified of their selection and provided instructions and technical assistance (TA) to submit their formal application through Egrants.

Mr. Myers related that PCCD staff conducted further outreach and review of potential 'Round 2' VIP projects during December. This included requests to clarify aspects of their funding request and coordination with partners in the City of Philadelphia's Office of Violence Prevention to understand the scope of the city's investments in VIP applicants that were also recommended for their Anti-Violence Community Expansion Grants. Mr. Myers stated that these efforts assisted in identifying the forthcoming group of 'Round 2' recommended projects.

Mr. Myers also reviewed the available funding levels. Of the \$30 million in state VIP funds appropriated to PCCD, approximately \$4.8 million was used to augment support for viable FY2021 Gun Violence Reduction Grants with another \$15.7 million committed to support the 40 projects recommended in 'Round 1'. The SSSC set aside \$750,000 to support technical assistance efforts, leaving approximately \$8.7 million available for 'Round 2' grants. Mr. Myers apprised members of a new development, that an additional \$15 million in federal funds was announced to augment viable VIP projects, bringing the total available funding for 'Round 2' VIP to nearly \$24 million.

Mr. Myers presented the VIP 'Round 2' preliminary recommendations for 25 projects totaling \$24.2 million, noting that staff will work with projects to resolve any differences. This brings the full number of FY2021 VIP grants to 65 projects for a grand total of \$39.5 million. He showed a list of the recommended projects identifying their location and the grant's amount and focus supporting a wide range of interventions and programs. He noted that the numbers are what was requested but anticipates that some budgets will decrease and the amount available will increase slightly due to adjustments along the way, so while significant reductions are not anticipated, that possibility will be communicated to applicants.

Mr. Myers showed the geographic distribution of the recommended projects as well as the location of funding requests in response to a member's question. He continued the presentation by offering the perspective of the categorical breakdown of programs in three areas of focus: Intervention (short-term), Prevention (medium term), and Transformation (long-term). Mr. Myers noted that all the programs and projects supported by the 2021 VIP grants would be considered Intervention (16) or Prevention (49) investments, showing details of each category.

Motion to approve the 25 Violence Intervention and Prevention applications for a total not to exceed the remaining available balance of state VIP funding and \$15 million in federal funding which currently totals \$23,742,603, pending the resolution of any outstanding programmatic or and/or fiscal issues

Motion: Hurley. **Seconded:** Brewster. **Abstentions:** Reeves. **Not Present for Vote:** None. **Aye Votes:** 13, **Nay Votes:** 0. **Motion Adopted**

Proposed VIP Technical Assistance Project Funding Announcement Framework

Mr. Myers invited Samantha Koch to present the next portion of the PowerPoint presentation reviewing the proposed framework and approach for utilizing the VIP Technical Assistance Set-Aside. Ms. Koch referenced the proposed funding framework document available for consideration in the meeting materials.

For context, Ms. Koch noted the previous discussion at the December meeting of setting aside a portion of the VIP funds to create a competitive solicitation to support TA and capacity building supports and coordination of a Statewide Community of Practice (CoP), a strategy endorsed by the Special Council on Gun Violence. She said that having a qualified entity that can provide culturally competent services and supports to grass roots organizations would be a sound investment in the long term future of these efforts. Ms. Koch noted the past success with using this external TA provider model with threat assessment team training.

Ms. Koch shared that the VIP workgroup met to create and vet a funding framework for this solicitation and reviewed some of the primary aspects, including the goals, objectives and deliverables; eligibility criteria, including requisite areas of experience and expertise; the funding announcement structure, scoring criteria, and timeline; and identification of any updates needed prior to releasing competitive Funding Announcement in Egrants. She also touched on the rationale behind the Statewide CoP model and the value of this initiative in facilitating opportunities for capacity and coalition building, peer support, and the sharing of promising practices, as well as helping to inform the state's work and decision making process, noting that the launch of this Statewide CoP is anticipated by July 1, 2022.

Ms. Koch provided an overview of the funding framework. She shared the availability of up to \$750,000 in state funds to support the design, launch, and management of the new VIP technical assistance project that would be a cooperative grant agreement due to the substantial involvement of PCCD in the project. She stated that the proposal is for a 24-month project with a start date of May 1, 2022 and an end date of April 30, 2024.

Ms. Koch reviewed the eligibility criteria for a qualified provider, noting that applicants should have the experience, expertise, and credibility to design, launch, and deliver high-quality, relevant TA and learning resources for groups working on the front lines of community violence intervention. She then covered the key deliverables of what the TA provider would be doing, focused on the planning, implementing and documenting delivery of TA and the Statewide CoP.

Ms. Koch summarized details of the application structure of categories and scoring and reviewed the proposed project timeline from the opening of the competitive funding announcement on January 27, 2022 to the conclusion of the funded project on April 30, 2024. In response to a member's question, Ms. Koch clarified the anticipation of awarding the grant to one provider, though she acknowledged that the recipient will likely need to collaborate with other partners at the local, state, or even national level along the way.

Motion to adopt the Violence Intervention and Prevention Technical Assistance Funding Announcement Framework

Motion: Tuleya-Payne. **Seconded:** Bullock. **Abstentions:** None. **Not Present for Vote:** None. **Aye Votes:** 14, **Nay Votes:** 0. **Motion Adopted**

III. School Safety and Security Personnel Training Standards Review

Mr. Myers invited Carol Kuntz to share the proposed modifications to the School Security Personnel (SSP) Training. Ms. Kuntz provided some background to the training standards, referencing their basis in Act 67 of 2019 and Article XIII-C of the PA Public School Code. She noted that Section 1315-C of the PA Public School Code states that PA Department of

Education (PDE), PA State Police (PSP) and PCCD are to periodically reassess the training requirements for all school security personnel, including the Basic School Resource Officer Course offered through NASRO, and that the Commission is to approve any changes. Ms. Kuntz informed Committee members that the three agencies met in 2021 and have proposed revisions to the Standards for the Committee's consideration. She referenced two documents in the meeting materials and asked for Committee members' input on the drafted revisions.

Ms. Kuntz stated that the first document, the School Security Personnel Training Updates, provides an overview of the history of this program and its development. Ms. Kuntz noted that seven providers have been approved offer this training and the document shows the number of courses offered and participants over the past 3 years. She added that a monitoring process was initiated in July 2020 to ensure the integrity of the training.

Ms. Kuntz reviewed the second document, a chart showing the current standards, proposed changes, and rationale for the modifications. She said that the Revisions further define the information and provide more details on the topics. It also includes the School Security Guard (SSG), particularly as differentiated from the School Resource Officer (SRO) or School Police Officer (SPO). Ms. Kuntz said the proposed revisions also add a new section focused on trauma and trauma-informed education.

Ms. Kuntz responded to questions and feedback provided by members, including the participation of SSP in ongoing professional development, the sections on developmental stages, and de-escalation skills training. She also confirmed that training will be accessible both in person and virtually. Ms. Kuntz concluded this portion by noting that the next step will be to present these standards before the Commission in March for their consideration. If adopted by the Commission, PCCD staff will update the website with this information and notify the seven training vendors to amend their curriculum accordingly within 9 months.

IV. Assessor Registry Update and Criteria Review

Ms. Kuntz provided some context, referencing the basis in Section 1304-B of the PA Public School Code for the Committee to review the criteria at least every three years and make revisions as needed and the discussion at the December meeting of the pending review and proposed revisions for consideration. The two workgroups that that initially assisted in the development of the registry criteria were reconvened to conduct this review, and she thanked the Committee members that participated.

Ms. Kuntz noted the chart included in the meeting materials outlining the current and proposed criteria and the rationale for the changes. She clarified that the revised criteria will only apply to applicants moving forward and not affect any previously approved. Ms. Kuntz reviewed the changes proposed in the document and clarified the background and rationale. She concurred with a member's suggestion for the future (post-pandemic) to ask the originally registered assessors how many assessments they have done and if they are still actively doing assessments to ensure an active list of assessors.

Ms. Kuntz mentioned the Physical Assessor Criteria Workgroup's discussion of having approved assessors with extensive experience serve as mentors for newly approved assessors who may only have a year or two of experience. She noted that this was not included in the recommended changes to allow time for input from Committee members and internal discussion of how this could be verifiably implemented. Ms. Kuntz invited Committee members to send their thoughts or comments about this to her.

Motion to adopt the changes of the Behavioral Health/Student Assistance and Physical Assessor Criteria used to approve individuals to PCCD's School Safety Assessor Registry

Motion: Bart. **Seconded:** Tuleya-Payne. **Abstentions:** Hurley. **Not Present for Vote:** Fagan. **Aye Votes:** 12, **Nay Votes:** 0. **Motion Adopted**

V. General Updates

Mr. Myers noted that while there are several general updates regarding the status of current grants, the Assessor Registry and the K-12 Threat Assessment Training, in an effort to respect members' time since the meeting is running a bit late, PCCD staff will send those updates out in writing.

VI. Member Updates/Comments/Questions

None offered

VII. Public Comment

Mr. Myers invited any public comment however none was offered.

VIII. Adjournment

Mr. Myers stated that the next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, April 27, 2022 at 1:00 PM, noting the anticipated consideration of a VIP Technical Assistance provider and a presentation on PAYS during that meeting. Mr. Myers thanked everyone for their time and participation to the discussion. Following the vote, the meeting adjourned at 2:10 PM.

Motion to adjourn

Motion: Vereb. **Seconded:** Bullock. **Abstentions:** None. **Not Present for Vote:** Fagan. **Aye Votes:** 13; **Nay Votes:** 0. **Motion Adopted**