

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

School Safety and Security Committee Meeting

January 30, 2019

MINUTES

Members/Designees: Mr. Charles Ramsey, Chairman
Mr. Derin Myers, Acting Executive Director
Ms. Janice Bart, Member
Senator James Brewster, Member (by phone)
Ms. Nikki Bricker, Member
Representative Donna Bullock, Member (by phone)
Major James Degnan, Designee for Lt. Col. Evanchick
Mr. Mike Hurley, Member
Senator Wayne Langerholc, Member (by phone)
Representative Jason Ortity, Member
Acting Director David (Randy) Padfield, Member
Dr. Gennaro "Jamie" Piraino, Member
Mr. Joseph Regan, Member
Jeffrey Thomas, Designee for Acting Director Padfield
Dr. Helena Tuleya-Payne, Member
Mr. Mike Vereb, Member
Dr. David Volkman, Designee for Secretary Rivera

Executive Session
Designees: Chloe Bohm (per Representative Bullock)
Hannah Barrick (per Mike Hurley)
Gwenn Dando (per Senator Langerholc)
Vicki Wilken (per Senator Langerholc)
Carol Kuntz (per Secretary Rivera)

Staff: Pamela Bennett
Lori Ann Black
Jeff Blystone
Danielle Chubb
Christina Cosgrove-Rooks
Chris Epoca
Charles Gartside
Kirsten Kenyon
Geoff Kolchin
Robert Orth
Michael Pennington
Debra Sandifer
Lindsay Vaughan

Guests:

Rick Carpenter, Information Network Associates, Inc. (INA)
Brian Krause, Vulnerability Solutions Group (VSG)
Jenna McCarthy, Malady & Wooten
Megan McDonough, PA School Boards Association (PSBA)
John Sancenito, Information Network Associates, Inc. (INA)

I. Call to Order and Adoption of Minutes

- Call to Order
 - Mr. Myers called the meeting to order at 1:00 PM and welcomed those in attendance and on the phone; a quorum of members was established
 - Announced that Dr. Jamie Piraino was named the 2019 PA Superintendent of the Year by the PA Association of School Administrators
 - Noted that the Governor recognized Dr. Piraino for this honor and commented on his accomplishments at a January 17 [press event](#)
 - Mr. Myers congratulated Dr. Piraino on this prestigious award, and he was applauded by those in attendance
- Review and adoption of the minutes from the October 30th meeting

Motion to approve the minutes

- Motion was made by Mr. Vereb and seconded by Dr. Volkman
- There was no discussion or public comment
- The minutes were approved by unanimous vote

II. School Survey and Findings (Executive Session)

- Act 44 requires the Committee review the survey results by January 31, and that they are confidential and not subject to the Right to Know Law
- In order to review the survey results and findings report, and still maintain the confidentiality of the information, the Committee will need to enter Executive Session.

Motion to enter Executive Session

- A motion to enter Executive Session was made by Mr. Piraino and seconded by Ms. Bart
- There was no discussion and the motion passed unanimously
- Mr. Myers asked that everyone other than Committee members, designated PCCD staff and approved Committee member support staff exit the room and wait in the designated area until the Committee returned to regular session
- During Executive Session, the Committee
 - Reviewed the survey responses provided by school entities
 - Focused on whether and how the submitted assessments conformed to the Committee's criteria
 - Discussed the framework for the issuance of finding reports to those school entities that submitted a survey response
 - After discussion the committee returned to regular session

Motion to approve the issuance of findings reports to those schools reviewed in Executive Session, to include the criteria discussed during the session

- A motion to approve the issuance of finding reports, including the criteria discussed, was made by Mr. Vereb and seconded by Dr. Volkman
- PCCD will begin to issue reports immediately, appreciated Kirsten Kenyon and PCCD staff for all their work

III. School Safety and Security Grant Program Update

- Part B: Competitive Applications – Communications to Part B Applicants
 - The total for all the Part B application requests is over \$315 million, but only have approximately \$40 million remaining to award
 - Proposing to give school entities that applied by the 10/12/2018 deadline the opportunity to revise and resubmit their applications
 - Reviewed the drafted communication, hope to issue as soon as possible
 - Covered the timeline - the revision period is not long – only 3 weeks
 - Confident that April 30 is a realistic timeframe to review all the revised requests and make recommendations
 - The crux of the communication is the fourth item, which asks school entities to prioritize their requests according to what is most critical in the context of the amount of money available, focusing on:
 - Why the requested item is needed and how that was determined
 - Why they need additional resources to enhance safety at their school
 - Description of the plan for sustaining recurring costs after funding ends, if applicable
 - There is recognition that there will be a lot of grants proposing really good things that we're just not going to be able to fund; also, won't fund portions of grants, as a general rule
 - Discussion
 - Clarified that the reason for prioritizing is to be able to consider funding what the school districts really need – the school entity needs to identify what their priority is, not for us to pick and choose
 - Suggested being very explicit and direct in encouraging schools to clearly prioritize their request instead of putting out a wish list and risk not getting anything, also to essentially outline all the factors to the schools so they can clearly understand what we're asking to be submitted
 - Concern around the timeline, and with capital efforts, the more you can do outside of student time, the better (i.e. in the summer) – maybe consider for the future when allocating funding for this grant
 - Wondering if the document tends to put the focus primarily on the physical, not the behavioral health aspects of the grant applications
 - Concerned with making school safety a competitive issue; suggested making funding equitable to all school systems in future amendments to this Act, recognizing that school safety is a right
 - Concerned that we're back into the same situation on April 30 on how to reduce the requests by 87%
 - Some requests might appear to be unrealistic to even apply, i.e. \$60,000 for a resource officer and resubmitting for only \$7500;
 - We still might have to prioritize who gets funding because even this effort might not get us close enough to the \$40 million available
 - Seeing the total amount requests should help the legislature when making decisions related to future appropriations
 - There are other ways to support mental health in the schools, i.e. through a training program on evidence-based programs, which could perhaps be built into a school's budget; also the option to use funding over two years, so intensive training for the first year and less intensive the second year

- Want the seven items in the document to be very direct and concise, to guide schools in reviewing their applications
- Suggested a statement emphasizing prioritization; response that we will assume that whatever we get back is the school's priority
- Suggested offering training regarding mental health, MTSS (Multi-Tier System of Supports), etc. – this is the topic that draws people
 - Look at regional trainings and how can we support getting information out in a more coordinated way and be more efficient and less duplicative with resources
 - Some of the need statewide is not knowing where to go for resources or what to do; if you have them, people will come
 - School safety and security is what keeps superintendents, administrators, teachers and parents up at night
 - Many schools don't know what's out there regarding mental health resources, or where to go/how to manage insurance issues
 - Need to break down the barriers that divide us
- PA Dep't. of Education (PDE) provides trainings but differentiated training; also have to help the other superintendents realize how important this is; PDE could look at this being a viable training option for Act 48
- Presented plan for reviewing submissions
 - Reviewed map showing 6 regions, each corresponding to approximately 100 grant applications and to the 29 established intermediate units
 - Each region will have a separate review team, and the school entities in each region will only be competing with the other schools in that region
 - The targeted funding amount for each region is based upon consideration of population and the amount requested as part of the initial grant submission
 - Walked through Region A as an example of how this was done
 - Can go back to applicant and ask how they might adjust application if a lesser amount was available
 - Want to aim for the target allocation and bring back recommendations to the Committee
 - Suggestion to consider a wild card of 5%

Motion to approve the instructions that will be issued to school entities related to the revision process for "Part B" of submitted applications

- A motion was made by Representative Ortitay and seconded by Ms. Bart
- There was no discussion and the motion passed unanimously
- Community Violence/Prevention – General Status Update
 - 131 applications have been started thus far from a diverse set of applicants
 - Applications are due by Thursday, February 7, 2019
 - Scores, along with detailed information about why a score was given, are due in Egrants by Monday, March 18, 2019
 - The final listing of recommended applications will be presented to the Committee at the April 30 meeting
 - Grants will start as soon as all program and fiscal issues have been resolved, but no later than June 1, 2019
- Part A: Meritorious Applications – General Status Update
 - Award letters have been issued to all 496 school districts that applied

- Won't move forward with payment to the 11 schools that have not sent back their signature pages until they are received
- 447 school districts have received their \$25,000 payments
- Four school districts had not submitted an application for the meritorious awards, but on January 28 we received a document from Pequea Valley
 - Believe that it generally conforms to the requirements
 - Want to present to the Committee for approval

Motion to consider what Pequea Valley submitted as a meritorious application and approve an award of \$25,000 to this school district

- A motion to approve the award was made by Dr. Volkman and seconded by Dr. Piraino
- There was no discussion and the motion passed unanimously

IV. Assessor Registry Updates

- Packet includes information on 28 individuals that have been approved as assessment vendors since the last meeting
- Total approved assessment vendors: 47
 - Physical assessments: 38
 - Behavioral Health assessments: 6
 - Both: 3
- Behavioral Health assessment criteria – May want to revisit the criteria in the future, especially given the limited number in that pool
- Other applications in the system: 49
 - Under review: 19
 - Submitted but have not provided documentation or credential information: 25
 - Duplicates: 5
- Starting to build an inventory of approved vendors, will continue providing updates

V. Member Updates – None offered

VI. Public Comment –

- Carol Kuntz, Director of PDE's Office for Safe Schools, reported that they are working with the Intermediate Units to look at doing regional trainings, will be open with equal access

VII. Adjournment

- Next meeting is April 30
- Will consider the awarding of the Part B and the Community Violence Prevention grants, which will total \$47.5 million

Motion to adjourn the meeting

- The motion was made by Mr. Vereb and seconded by Major Degnan
- The meeting was adjourned by unanimous vote at 2:30 PM