

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

School Safety and Security Committee Meeting

October 30, 2018

MINUTES

Members/Designees: Chairman Charles Ramsey, Member
Mr. Derin Myers, Designee for Chairman Ramsey
Senator James Brewster, Member
Ms. Nikki Bricker, Member
Representative Donna Bullock, Member
Acting Commissioner Lt. Colonel Robert Evanchick, Member
Director Richard Flinn, Jr., Member
Mr. Mike Hurley, Member
Mr. Mike Kelly, Member (via phone)
Senator Wayne Langerholc, Member
Representative Jason Ortity, Member (by phone)
Dr. Gennaro "Jamie" Piraino, Member (by phone)
Mr. Joseph Regan, Member (by phone)
David Volkman, Designee for Sec. Rivera

Staff:
Pamela Bennett
Danielle Chubb
Kathy Clarke
Christina Cosgrove-Rooks
Chris Epoca
Theresa Ford
Michael Fowler
Charles Gartside
Nancy Heisler
Kirsten Kenyon
Geoff Kolchin
Katherine Meyers
Dan Oneufer
Mike Pennington
Bryan Perry
Beth Romero
Debra Sandifer
Shawn Seler
Lindsay Vaughan
Jackie Weaknecht

Guests:

Chloe Bohm, Rep. Markosek's Office/PA House of
Representatives' Appropriations Committee
Sean Brandon, PA House of Representatives' Appropriations
Committee (by phone)
Benjamin Clear, PA House of Representatives
Gwenn Dando, Sen. Langerholc's Office
Jim Miliausras, PA Senate
Mike Deery, Sen. Hughes' Office
Brian Krause, Vulnerability Solutions Group (VSG)
Jenna McCarthy, Malady & Wooten
Chad R. Vinansky, Mid Valley School District
Vicki Wilken, Sen. Browne's Office

I. Call to Order and Adoption of Minutes

- Call to Order
 - Chairman Ramsey called the meeting to order at 1:00 PM
 - Opened with a moment of silence in honor of those lost in the senseless tragedy and violence at the Tree of Life Synagogue in Pittsburgh
 - Welcomed participants and guests, including those participating by phone
 - A quorum of members was established
- Review and adoption of the minutes from the September 26th meeting

Motion to approve the minutes

- Motion was made by Senator Brewster and seconded by Senator Langerholc
- There was no discussion or public comment
- The minutes were approved by unanimous vote.

II. Consideration of the School Safety and Security Grant Program Part A: Meritorious Applications – PCCD Acting Executive Director Derin Myers

- Mr. Myers began with recognition of all the PCCD staff who have worked so diligently on all aspects of this grant program
 - Responded to 400+ questions and processed 700 registrations
 - The help desk fielded 800 phone calls and responded to 700 emails and 400 voice mails
 - From October 12 to present, staff have reviewed 496 applications, compared them with PDE grants, provided comment and gave notice of insufficiencies
 - Staff were asked to stand and were applauded by the Committee and guests
- Received 496 Part A applications totaling \$12.4 million, each will receive \$25,000
 - 76 submitted under Act 44's Category #12 (security technology & equipment), 16% included #13 (identification systems), and 15% were security applications
 - The majority included things clearly identified in the Act, but there were some unique requests that staff are also recommending for approval
 - Page 3 of the summary has a short list of items being recommended as ineligible; if the Committee agrees will ask districts to resubmit their applications
 - Remaining pages in the summary includes the grant number and name for each district and categories they selected for the \$25,000 award
- Recommend that the 496 applications be approved today, and will ask the districts who submitted something that was not approved to resubmit
- Clarified that the school board approval required under #12 of the legislation does not need to be an official board motion
- Are able to provide advance payments for the \$25,000 part A amount
- About 50 districts requested funding for risk and vulnerability assessments, which they can request from the PA State Police (PSP), but can amend their applications to spend funds in other categories if they wish to try to receive priority on the waiting list

Motion to approve the 496 applications received requesting \$12.4 million in School Safety and Security funds, pending the resolution of outstanding programmatic and fiscal concerns

- Motion made by Sen. Brewster, seconded by Mr. Flinn
- Ms. Bricker, Mr. Hurley and Mr. Piraino abstained
- No further discussion ensued
- The motion was approved by unanimous vote.

III. Grant Program “Part B” Update – PCCD Acting Executive Director Derin Myers

- Received 663 applications by October 12th requesting a total of \$330 million
 - 534 applicants included Part B, for \$313 million in funding
 - There’s only a balance of \$40 million to entertain the \$313 million in requests
 - Will be a lot of work to go from the \$313 million requested to the \$40 million in available funds, will come back with some ideas on how to do that
- Reviewed map of counties indicating how much was submitted in each county; several counties did not submit for Part B
 - Reviewed percentage for the 6 top categories and the lowest categories; #12 was the highest percentage requested (18), for technology overall
 - Noted the difference in dollar values requested and that district size did not always correlate with the size of the request
- There has been a lot of discussion and questions regarding partial requests
 - It would be difficult to prioritize items, and funding at a partial level would be very challenging
 - It may be important to ask districts to prioritize and rank their requests when they resubmit information
- Need to pursue the use of paid experts to review the applications; there is some cost, but have funds in budget to do that

IV. Community Violence Reduction Funding Workgroup Update – PCCD staff Mike Pennington

- Had a good first meeting on 10/27, discussed scope and framework
- Discussed general parameters, including length of grants, who would be eligible, time to implement, any ceiling limits on the funding amounts, how to get the funds to the communities that need it most, and how to get the word out
- Want to have data-driven approaches to funding and identify any data that should be highlighted so it shows targeting for funds
- Also want to select programs that are grounded in research, though not exclusively evidence-based programs, as don’t want to be too limiting
- Timeline
 - Next Workgroup meeting is Monday, 11/5
 - Goal to present a funding framework at the Committee’s November meeting, and open it for applications in December for implementation no later than May
- A Committee member commented on the importance of keeping local government involved (mayors, borough/township supervisors, etc.), not just at the county-level (as the county is not the local level)

V. School Survey Update – PCCD staff Kirsten Kenyon

- Reviewed a PowerPoint presentation overview of the preliminary results thus far
- Committee member commented that it was a great presentation, looking forward to the final report and more detailed reports on communication within the school
- Noted that an all-hazards plan is required by law, but not all districts reported having one; they are also supposed to work with county emergency planning, but there's no audit/review to monitor or enforce

VI. Vendor Registry Update and Demonstration – PCCD Acting Executive Director Derin Myers and consultant Dan Oneufer

- The registry went live on October 24, and is advertised on PCCD's home page
- Mr. Oneufer reviewed what's on the provider registry website
 - FAQ section
 - Registry application for providers
 - Opening information includes requirements, documentation needed, etc.
 - Once they click submit, it goes into PCCD's administrative portal for review, and can reach out to them for additional info/credentials if needed
 - Provider registry – schools can go here to see a listing of providers in the area to consider for their needs
- Completed provider registrations will be shared with the Committee for approval
 - Have had 13 enter information thus far
 - Will consider registrants at the November 28th meeting
 - Alternative option of the Committee delegating the authority to PCCD
 - PCCD staff would review and approve/disapprove applications
 - PCCD would bring all information relative to those decisions to the Committee
 - Benefit of more timely notice to districts, but would be sharing with the Committee after the fact

Motion to delegate provider registration review and approval/disapproval of applications to PCCD staff

- Motion made by Rep. Bullock, seconded by Dr. Volkman
- No further discussion ensued
- The motion passed unanimously.

VII. General Updates and Discussion

- Issue brought to PCCD's attention by the Sheriffs' Association
 - Unclear role of active Sheriffs/Deputy Sheriffs in Act 44, as the language does not clearly identify active sheriffs/deputy sheriffs as being eligible to serve as school resource officers
 - The Act does specify law enforcement officers, but in Pennsylvania it's unclear whether or not sheriffs/deputy sheriffs are considered law enforcement officers, as it varies by location

- Would like to speak with legislators and staff on the Committee's behalf to amend that language to include Sheriffs and deputy sheriffs if there is an opportunity to revise the Act; there were no objections

VIII. Member Updates

- Mr. Hurley shared an update from last week's PA Association of School Business Officials (PASBO) school safety conference regarding two items that were discussed among the membership:
 - Communication going to superintendents but not being shared in a timely manner with school resource officers regarding the Safe2Say Program, asked if there's a way to send information directly to school resource folks
 - Mr. Myers responded that PCCD has the information
 - It's not institutionalized yet, but will follow up on that
 - There was significant discussion regarding the 3-hour mandated training for school employees, looking for guidance in what type of training is to be provided
 - Mr. Myers responded that there have been preliminary conversations among the state agencies (PDE, PA Emergency Management Agency, and PSP)
 - Working on getting this training included under Act 48 so teachers can receive credit
- Dr. Volkman offered related updates from PDE
 - PDE is developing a course for administrators on protocols in the training
 - Dr. Volkman and Secretary Rivera have been meeting with groups throughout the fall, and school districts are concerned about releasing their PSP RVAT assessments as part of the survey response. The assessments indicate that they are confidential.
 - In addition, there are concerns regarding the long wait time for assessments by PSP (one district said had to wait a year)
 - Dr. Volkman indicated that schools are reassured, understanding that the assessments are not subject to being released through the Right to Know Law
- Lieutenant Colonel Robert Evanchick indicated that he would look into both issues within PSP and provide further guidance.

IX. Public Comment – None offered.

X. Adjournment

- The next meetings are scheduled for November 28th and January 30th

Motion to adjourn the meeting

- The motion was made by Sen. Langerholc and seconded by Dr. Volkman
- The meeting was adjourned by unanimous vote at 2:23 PM