

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

**School Safety and Security Committee Meeting**

November 28, 2018

MINUTES

**Members/Designees:** Mr. Derin Myers, Designee for Chairman Ramsey  
Chairman Charles Ramsey, Member (by phone)  
Ms. Janice Bart, Member  
Ms. Tara Breitsprecher, Designee for Secretary Miller (by phone)  
Senator James Brewster, Member  
Ms. Nikki Bricker, Member  
Representative Donna Bullock, Member (by phone)  
Major James Degnan, Designee for Lt. Col. Evanchick  
Director Richard Flinn, Jr., Member  
Mr. Mike Hurley, Member, (by phone)  
Mr. Mike Kelly, Member (by phone)  
Carol Kuntz, PA Department of Education (PDE), Representative  
Senator Wayne Langerholc, Member (by phone)  
Representative Jason Ortity, Member (by phone)  
Dr. Gennaro "Jamie" Piraino, Member (by phone)  
Mr. Joseph Regan, Member (by phone)  
Dr. Helena Tuleya-Payne, Member (by phone)  
Mr. Mike Vereb, Member (by phone)

**Staff:** Pamela Bennett  
Lori Ann Black  
Danielle Chubb  
Kathy Clarke  
Chris Epoca  
Kirsten Kenyon  
Geoff Kolchin  
Don Numer  
John Pfau  
Debra Sandifer  
Lindsay Vaughan

**Guests:**

Andrew Barnes, Governor's Office  
Chloe Bohm, Rep. Markosek's Office/PA House of Representatives'  
Appropriations Committee  
Sean Brandon, PA House of Representatives' Appropriations  
Committee  
Rick Carpenter, Information Network Associates, Inc. (INA)  
Benjamin Clear, Pa House of Representatives  
Gwenn Dando, Sen. Langerholc's Office  
Mike Deery, Sen. Hughes' Office  
Lisa Felix, PA Senate Democratic Caucus  
Tim Joyce, Sen. Brewster's Office  
Brian Krause, Vulnerability Solutions Group (VSG)  
Sean McAleer, PA Catholic Conference  
Jenna McCarthy, Malady & Wooten  
Megan McDonough, PA School Boards Association (PSBA)  
John Sancenito, Information Network Associates, Inc. (INA)  
Samantha Snyder, PA Department of Education

## I. Call to Order and Adoption of Minutes

- Call to Order
  - Mr. Myers called the meeting to order at 1:03 PM
  - Welcomed participants and guests, including those participating by phone
  - A quorum of members was established
- Welcomed new Committee member Janice Bart
  - She is the strategic security expert called for in Act 44 and completes our membership
  - Gave a brief introduction and overview of her background and experience
- Review and adoption of the minutes from the October 30<sup>th</sup> meeting

### **Motion to approve the minutes**

- Motion was made by Mr. Flinn and seconded by Major Degnan
- There was no discussion or public comment
- The minutes were approved by unanimous vote

## II. Community Violence Reduction Funding Framework Adoption – PCCD staff Geoff Kolchin

- Mr. Kolchin and Mr. Mike Pennington coordinated the Workgroup's effort
- Workgroup met three times and developed the framework
- Reviewed the framework with the Committee for the \$7.5 million in funding available to address community violence, as provided in the handout
  - Issuing for up to a two-year period for up to \$350,000 per applicant
    - Applications could come in for a smaller amount or shorter time period
    - Amount allows ability to fund more grants throughout the Commonwealth
  - Reviewed eligible applicants and activities, which came directly from Act 44
  - Reviewed the timeline
    - Plan to open the funding announcement next week, no later than 12/7/18
    - Announcement will be open for 2 months, until 2/7/19, which gives time for potential applicants to develop partnerships, especially over the holidays
    - Will review and score applications in March
    - Will present recommended applications to the Committee at the 4/30/19 meeting for approval
    - Tentative start date of May 1 for implementation of approved applications
  - Reviewed the components and scoring of applications
    - Executive Summary – Looking at the goal of the project, deliverables, and community they are to serve; want to ensure representation from throughout the Commonwealth
    - Applicant Overview – Looking for a brief description, past experience around violence prevention, and other stakeholders or partnerships
    - Statement of the Problem – Looking for what type of violence they want to address, how the problem is defined, what type of data to determine, what has been tried previously

- Project Design and implementation
  - Looking at the short and long-term goals, how the project will address the identified problem, activities to be conducted and who doing, what the project will accomplish, and number to be impacted
  - Letters of support are not required, but looking to see if any provided are from the community
  - Including a timeline is not mandatory but is a good idea
  - Financial management – don't want to be replacing existing funding or current efforts
- Impact and outcomes – Looking at how it's being measured, how they will collect and report on data and with whom it will be shared; what is the anticipated impact if awarded the funding
- Budget detail – Looking for up to a two-year comprehensive budget
- Responded to questions and comments from Committee members
  - Like the emphasis on impact and outcomes
  - Question if it's possible to get 100 points without letters of support or other documentation – yes, there are no separate points for letters
  - Since applicants would be external, hoped that the school district would be an appropriate source of recommendation
  - Noted that outcomes are sometimes difficult to measure as looking for no death, no shootings, etc.
    - Concern of recognizing that effectiveness can't be determined by the absence of death, shootings, or other violence
    - Mr. Kolchin responded that they are looking at process measures, number of events, number of those impacted, also short and long-term outcomes, recognizing the relatively short timeframe and so looking at the impact on the overall safety and reduction of violence within the community and changes within the target population
  - In response to a question, Mr. Kolchin confirmed that there would be a similar process to what was in place for the Part A grants, with a separate email account set up for responding to questions about this funding announcement
  - Noted the importance of sharing the \$7.5 million among all and not just in the larger urban areas
  - Questioned if districts that applied earlier for Part B for one of the 21 programs that overlap with community violence prevention could collaborate with a community partner and revise their application, response that in the letters about Part A they could include language suggesting that and that school districts interested in doing so could resubmit their applications

**Motion to approve the Community Violence Reduction Funding Framework as presented**

- Motion made by Sen. Brewster, seconded by Ms. Kuntz
- Had some discussion about the last point, and included the following additional language into the funding announcement: *Community Violence Prevention/Reduction applicants may collaborate with their local school entities that may have made application under the School Safety Program*

*Grant funding announcement which closed on October 12, 2018 to coordinate their prevention efforts.*

- The motion, inclusive of the additional language, was unanimously approved

### **III. Vendor Registry Update – PCCD Acting Executive Director Derin Myers**

- Received 63 validated applications thus far, of which 45 indicated they could conduct physical safety and security assessments, nine identified that they could perform behavioral health assessments, and nine stated that they could do both
- Packet includes information on 18 recommended vendors, 16 for physical and two for behavioral health assessments, representing 17 different organizations
- An additional 45 individuals are in review
  - Are engaged in discussion with 23
  - The other 22 did not submit substantial information or did not respond to our requests for additional information
- Registry is working fine, with the approved individuals coming up in searches

### **IV. General Updates and Discussion – PCCD Acting Executive Director Derin Myers**

- A snapshot of survey responses received thus far
  - Tracking the number of responses received; have a few more days before the November 30<sup>th</sup> deadline so anticipate more coming in
  - Though there are likely some duplicates, have gotten 522 completed survey responses out of 778 school entities – a 67% response rate
    - 387 of 500 school districts (77%)
    - 66 of 165 charter schools (40%)
    - 49 of 73 career and technical centers (67%)
    - 19 of 29 Intermediate Units (IUs) (66%)
    - 1 of 12 Private Residential Rehabilitation Institutions (PRRIs) (8%)
  - Of those received, 221 included documentation of a historical school safety and security assessment that had been completed
  - Able to identify who has not responded by the deadline and plan to send them a written request to complete the survey
  - Not much lead time to get more folks in before the report is done
  - Can't tie completing the survey to the funding, as that was not in Act 44
  - Anticipate sending out in January some examples of what the finding report to the schools might look like, will also include recommendations for resources
  - Noted that the legislation is clear that the data collected as part of the survey is protected from the Right to Know Law
  - Question raised for ongoing consideration, of how to connect school safety and security coordinators with the county emergency planning folks, perhaps through PEMA, PCCD or PDE
- Funding for Part A
  - 496 applications
    - Some need to submit more information or signature page (100)
    - Applications that were reviewed and identified issues, school districts responded and returned (53)

- Grants that were awarded (343) – school districts can start implementation
- Have made 117 payments so far, takes about 30 days to see funds in the recipients' accounts
- Four school districts did not submit an application
  - Did outreach with all 4 districts
    - Successfully reached two, who indicated interest but did not follow through with submitting anything consistent with a meritorious application
    - Even after outreach did not receive anything to present to the Committee for consideration
  - Question if that information was shared with the Secretary of Education; may want to ask for a statement as to why they didn't apply
    - PDE has been in touch with those school districts and have been working with them
    - The idea of the statement as to why not applying has merit, perhaps something like, "We are aware of this grant opportunity and are choosing not to participate"

**V. Member Updates – None offered**

**VI. Public Comment – None offered**

**VII. Adjournment**

- Noted the 2019 meeting schedule included in the agenda, all for 1:00 – 3:00 PM
  - Wednesday, January 30 – will look to finalize reports to school districts and finalize feedback on applications
  - Tuesday, April 30
  - Tuesday, July 30
  - Wednesday, October 30

**Motion to adjourn the meeting**

- The motion was made by Director Flinn and seconded by Major Degnan
- The meeting was adjourned by unanimous vote at 1:56?? PM