

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

School Safety and Security Committee Meeting

April 30, 2019

MINUTES

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

Executive Session
Designees: Hannah Barrick (per Mike Hurley)
Sean Brandon (per Representative Bullock)
Gwenn Dando (per Senator Langerholc)
Mike Deery (per Senator Brewster)
Vicki Wilken (per Senator Langerholc)
Christine Seitz (per Representative Ortitay)

Staff: Jeff Blystone
Lindsay Busko
Danielle Chubb
Christina Cosgrove-Rooks
Angela Crater
Chris Epoca
Rich Finley
Kirsten Kenyon
Samantha Koch
Geoff Kolchin
Michael Pennington
Debra Sandifer
Tiana Smith

Guests:

Erika Brunelle, PA State Education Association (PSEA)
Rick Carpenter, Information Network Associates, Inc. (INA)
Angela Fitterer, PA Department of Education (PDE)
Julie Kane, PA Department of Education (PDE)
Brian Krause, Vulnerability Solutions Group (VSG)
Carol Kuntz, PA Department of Education (PDE)
Jenna McCarthy, Malady & Wooten
Megan McDonough, PA School Boards Association (PSBA)
John Sancenito, Information Network Associates, Inc. (INA)
Matt Shields, Central York School District (CYSD)

I. Call to Order and Adoption of Minutes

- Call to Order
 - Mr. Myers called the meeting to order at 1:05 PM and welcomed those in attendance and on the phone; a quorum of members was established.
 - Announced that binders are for Executive Summary for Part B. A few schools are not included but will be rectified. These materials are confidential.
- Review and adoption of the minutes from the January 30th meeting.

Motion to approve the minutes

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

II. Chairman's Updates

- Personnel
 - Mr. Myers indicated PCCD is making progress in filling positions as approved by the Bureau of Operations (BO). Three positions have been approved and filled thus far. PCCD reposted the Manager position which will be closing in next few days.
- PCCD Testimony before House and Senate Appropriations Committees
 - Mr. Myers provided an update on PCCD's participation in the FY19-20 Budget Hearings. He noted that PCCD is not typically asked to provide budget testimony but was asked to participate this year due to School Safety efforts. He noted that the Senate inquired on the "arming of security guards" (security guards, resource officers, police officers).
- Conflict of Interest by Chief Counsel Debra Sandifer
 - PCCD policy is derived from the Pennsylvania Public Official and Employee Ethics Act, prohibition and exceptions. The prohibition is that you cannot use your authority to influence for yourself, family or business entity. This includes "the appearance of" a conflict of interest. The exceptions are that by abstaining, there would be no expert available to provide specific facts or info necessary to the committee OR if abstaining from vote destroys the quorum, you would still vote.

III. Executive Session

- In order to review the School Safety and Security Program Grants, Part B: Competitive Applications and to hear updates regarding the Safe2Say initiative, the Committee entered Executive Session to maintain the confidentiality of the potentially sensitive information.

Motion to enter Executive Session

- A motion to enter Executive Session was made by Mr. Hurley and seconded by Mr. Vereb.
- 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.

Motion to exit Executive Session

- A motion to exit Executive Session was made by Mr. Volkman and seconded by Rep. Ortity.
- There was no discussion and the motion passed unanimously.

Motion to approve the competitive grant applications reviewed in Executive Session

- Mr. Myers stated that approved funding would be made immediately available instead of via invoicing and reimbursement to help eliminate any issues involving cash flow.
 - A motion to approve the 234 School Safety and Security Grant Program applications totaling not more than \$40 million was made by Rep. Ortity and seconded by Mr. Vereb.
 - Prior to the vote, Dr. Piraino expressed concern on behalf of all the school districts across the Commonwealth about picking winners and losers as it pertains to school safety and security.
 - The following members indicated a potential conflict with the vote and chose to abstain:
 - Senator James Bruster – specifically McKeesport School District
 - Ms. Janice Bart – specifically Dubois School District
 - Mr. Mike Hurley
 - Major James Degnan
 - Mr. Mike Kelly
 - Senator Wayne Langerholc – specifically Richland School District
 - The motion passed unanimously.

IV. Review and Approval of Community Violence Prevention/Reduction Grants

- \$7.5 Million, 12.5% of school safety funding, was set aside for this grant program. Eligible entities were municipalities, counties, institutions of higher education, and community-based organizations. Applicants were eligible for a maximum award of \$350,000 for up to 2 years. 123 applications requesting \$35.3 Million were received and reviewed.
 - A motion to approve 25 applications not exceeding \$7.5M, was made by Mr. Hurley and seconded by Mr. Vereb.
 - The motion passed unanimously.

V. School Safety and Security Grant Program Timeline Discussion

- A timeline was presented and dates reflected coordination with PDE's School Safety grant program. PCCD anticipates opening a funding announcement in September/October 2019 with reviewing and scoring occurring in December/January 2020. Awards would be made in February/March 2020. Mr. Kelly asked that funding goals be shared with schools so they are aware of the funding timelines.

VI. Assessor Registry Updates

- Packet includes information on 9 individuals that have been approved as assessment vendors since the last meeting.
- Total approved assessment vendors: 72
 - Physical assessments: 59
 - Behavioral Health assessments: 10
 - Both: 3
 - 56 outstanding requests
 - 21 nonresponsive for requests for additional information
 - 26 submitted without support
- PCCD is starting to build an inventory of approved vendors and will continue providing updates to the Committee.

VII. Member Updates – None offered

VIII. Public Comment – None offered

IX. Adjournment

- Next meeting is July 30, 2019

Motion to adjourn the meeting

- The motion was made by Ms. Bart and seconded by Mr. Vereb.
- The meeting was adjourned by unanimous vote at 3:02 PM.