



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

Department of Criminal Justice Services

The Honorable Jackson H. Miller
Director

Tracy Louise Winn Banks, Esq.
Chief Deputy Director

Washington Building
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Criminal Justice Services Board Grants Committee Meeting

June 1, 2023

Members Present

Chief Craig Branch, Chair
Ebony Clark
* Officer Bennie Evans, Jr.
* Sheriff Brian Hieatt
Maria Jankowski
Edward Macon
Abbey Philips

Members of the Public Present

Sydnee Pottebaum, Senate Finance
and Appropriations Committee

I. Call to Order

Chief Craig Branch called the meeting to order at 11:05 AM

II. Roll Call

Chief Branch asked Ms. Cassandra Bullock to conduct the Roll Call. Ms. Bullock stated there was a quorum with five members present. Officer Bennie Evans, Jr. and Sheriff Brian Hieatt joined virtually in accordance with Virginia Code 2.2-3708.2(1)(b).

III. Introductions

Chief Branch opened the floor for any brief remarks. DCJS' Director, Jackson Miller officially welcomed guests and agency staff.

IV. Approval of Minutes from Last Meeting

Chief Branch called for corrections, deletions, and/or additions to the minutes from the May 2, 2023, meeting. A motion was made by Edward Macon to approve the minutes and was seconded by Ebony Clark.

V. Grant Review (Chief Branch informed the SRO Grant Program was removed from the agenda).

- a. American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) – Child Advocacy Centers (CAC) Grant Program – Juvenile and Child Welfare Section, Jenna Foster**

The purpose of the ARPA-Children’s Advocacy Center Mental Health Supports funding is to provide one-time financial assistance to Children’s Advocacy Centers (CACs) to promote mental health and healing for child victims of crime and their families, and staff training. Children’s Advocacy Centers (CACs) are community-based, child-friendly, and trauma-informed organizations that coordinate a multidisciplinary response to child maltreatment allegations. CACs deliver a best practice model that bring together, often in one location, child protective services investigators, law enforcement, forensic interviewers, prosecutors, family advocates, and medical and mental health professionals to provide a coordinated, comprehensive response to victims and their caregivers. CACs have found success providing a safe, neutral environment for children and their families where the child’s well-being is a priority. There are 19 fully functioning CACs in Virginia. All CACs were invited to apply for these funds; of the 19, 12 accepted the invitation to apply.

For fiscal year 2024, DCJS staff received and reviewed 12 applications. All applications were deemed adequate for approved funding. Zero applications were denied.

For state fiscal year 2024, DCJS staff requests approval to award \$173,294 in ARPA funds to 12 local Children’s Advocacy Centers (CAC) in Virginia.

DCJS staff request approval to fund 12 projects for the 12-month period (07/01/2023 - 06/30/2024) totaling \$173,294, using ARPA funds allocated for child treatment related to crime victimization.

A motion was made by Maria Jankowski, seconded by Edward Macon. The motion passed unanimously. Recusals are noted in the attachment to the minutes.

b. American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) – Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) Expansion – Juvenile and Child Welfare Section, Melissa O’Neill

The Department of Criminal Justice Services (DCJS) administers funds designated for the purpose of supporting Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) programs as grants to non-profit organizations and local units of government. DCJS invited CASA programs considering expansion of CASA services to previously unserved areas in the Commonwealth to submit a Letter of Interest indicating the organization’s readiness and ability to expand services. DCJS evaluated the Letters of Interest received and invited the programs who demonstrated readiness to implement expansion projects to complete a full application for funding. The CASA expansion funding will be available through the federal American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) for FY24 (July 1, 2023 – June 30, 2024).

For Fiscal Year 2024, DCJS staff requested approval to award \$343,124 federal ARPA funds to 3 local CASA programs. There were no applications denied funding. Under this solicitation, eligible applicants include only those invited to apply based on previously submitted letters of intent.

DCJS staff requested approval to fund 3 CASA programs expansion grants for the 12-month period 7/1/2023-6/30/2024, totaling \$343,124, Federal ARPA funds.

A motion was made by Maria Jankowski, seconded by Edward Macon. The motion passed unanimously. Recusals are noted in the attachment to the minutes.

c. American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) – Victims Services Grant Program (VSGP) Action Alliance – Victim Services Section, Kristina Vadas

Since State Fiscal Year 2022, American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding has been allocated to DCJS to support services to victims of crime, especially for services to victims of sexual and domestic violence. One of the recipients of this funding is the Virginia Sexual and Domestic Violence Action Alliance (Alliance), a statewide nonprofit coalition of sexual and domestic violence agencies and survivors. ARPA funding currently supports the Alliance’s operation of the toll-free, statewide family violence and sexual assault hotline, as well as a legal services program for survivors.

For State Fiscal Year (SFY) 2024, DCJS plans to extend the Alliance’s current ARPA award through June 30, 2024, and DCJS staff requested approval to increase the award amount by \$67,500 for SFY 2024.

The purpose of this additional funding is for the Alliance to establish a full spectrum of sexual and domestic violence services in the southside Virginia area. This area encompasses a 12-county area previously served by an agency that recently closed, and includes Amelia, Brunswick, Buckingham, Charlotte, Cumberland, Dinwiddie, Halifax, Lunenburg, Mecklenburg, Nottoway, Powhatan, and Prince Edward Counties. Currently, these localities have few or no sexual and domestic violence services available.

DCJS staff requested approval to increase the Alliance’s ARPA grant award amount by \$67,500, for a total award of \$499,517, using ARPA funds allocated for this purpose.

After much discussion, a motion was made by Maria Jankowski, seconded by Abbey Philips. The motion passed unanimously. Recusals are noted in the attachment to the minutes.

d. American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) – Telehealth Programs in Rural Communities – Juvenile and Child Welfare Section, Jenna Foster

The purpose of the ARPA-Telehealth 2.0 funding is to support a phase two of pilot Telehealth project by the Virginia Commonwealth University funded through DCJS with VOCA funds in 2020. The original pilot funded the creation of telehealth sites in two rural areas, and the development of a Telehealth Process Document. Two new sites in rural communities with an increased need for child and adult forensic services were identified as good candidates for Phase 2 of the Telehealth pilot. They were invited to apply for this funding opportunity. The two new sites will test the original Telehealth Process Document that was created by VCU.

For fiscal year 2024, DCJS staff requested approval to award \$280,000 in ARPA funds to two local programs in Virginia: Valley Urgent Care and Highlands Community Services Board (in partnership with the Highlands CAC program). Both applications were deemed adequate for approved funding.

DCJS staff requested approval to fund two projects for the 12-month period (07/01/2023 - 06/30/2024) totaling \$280,000.00, using ARPA funds allocated for child treatment related to crime victimization.

A motion was made by Abbey Phillips seconded by Ebony Clark. The motion passed unanimously. Recusals are noted in the attachment to the minutes.

e. Byrne Justice Assistance Grant Program (JAG) – Law Enforcement Grants and Programs Section, Tracy Matthews

The Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) program is the leading source of federal justice funding to state and local jurisdictions. The JAG Program provides states, tribes, and local governments with critical funding necessary to support a range of program areas including law enforcement, prosecution, indigent defense, courts, crime prevention and education, corrections and community corrections, drug treatment and enforcement, planning, evaluation, technology improvement, crime victim and witness initiatives, mental health programs and related law enforcement and corrections programs, including behavioral programs and crisis intervention teams, and implementation of state crisis intervention court proceedings and related programs or initiatives including, but not limited to, mental health courts, drug courts, veterans courts, and extreme risk protection order programs.

The current awards will provide funding and support personnel for critical training initiatives for law enforcement throughout the Commonwealth.

DCJS submitted two applications for FY24, totaling \$1,295,580. The first grant, the JAG Law Enforcement and Active Attack Grant Program, for \$647,580, would support personnel and provide specific law enforcement training to law enforcement agencies and criminal justice professionals throughout Virginia. The second grant, the JAG Office of First Responder Wellness Grant Program, for \$648,000, would support personnel and resources dedicated to first responder wellness training and programming.

The grant period for these awards would be from July 1, 2023 – June 30, 2024.

No applications were denied.

DCJS staff requested approval to fund 2 awards, totaling \$1,295,580 through the FY 2024 Byrne Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) for DCJS to provide law enforcement training throughout the Commonwealth.

After much discussion, a motion was made by Edward Macon, seconded by Maria Jankowski. The motion passed unanimously. Recusals are noted in the attachment to the minutes.

f. Peer-Support Critical Incident Stress Management Grant Program (CISM) – Law Enforcement Grants and Programs Section, Tracy Matthews

The Peer-Support Critical Incident Stress Management Grant Program for FY24, makes state funds available to support nonprofit organizations providing post-critical incident seminars and peer-supported critical incident stress management programs to law enforcement agencies and their staffs.

DCJS received two applications for FY243, totaling \$300,000. This a continuation grant, in the third year of a four (4) year cycle, originally awarded for FY22. The grant period for these awards would be from July 1, 2023 – June 30, 2024.

No applications were denied.

DCJS staff requested approval to fund 2 awards, totaling \$300,000 through the Peer-Supported Critical Incident Stress Management Grant Program.

After much discussion, a motion was made by Ebony Clark, seconded by Sheriff Brian Hieatt. The motion passed unanimously. Recusals are noted in the attachment to the minutes.

g. Virginia Domestic Violence Victim Fund Grant Program (VSDVVF) – Victim Services Section, Kristina Vadas

The purpose of the Virginia Sexual and Domestic Violence Victim Fund (VSDVVF) Grant Program is to make funds available to local prosecutors for the cost of attorneys and/or to further dedicate resources to prosecute felonies and misdemeanors involving domestic violence, sexual violence, sexual abuse, stalking, and family abuse. In addition, this grant program supports projects that provide services to victims of and/or children affected by sexual violence, domestic violence, stalking, and family abuse within victim-serving organizations. This grant program is supported by state funds and was established in Code of Virginia § 9.1-116.1.

For State Fiscal Year (SFY) 2024, the VSDVVF funding opportunity was designed so that grant application reviewers could conduct a comprehensive evaluation of long-standing VSDVVF projects. The funding opportunity was only open to current SFY 2023 VSDVVF grant recipients. Grant applications received a thorough review and scoring based on elements indicated within the grant application guidelines. DCJS received 43 eligible applications with requests totaling \$1,785,303.

Due to the availability of funding, there are no applicants recommended for denial of funding.

DCJS staff requested approval to fund 43 projects for the 12-month period (7/1/2023–6/30/2024), totaling \$1,785,303, using State General Funds and Virginia Sexual and Domestic Violence Victim Fund (special funds) allocated for this purpose.

After much discussion, a motion was made by Edward Macon, seconded by Abbey Phillips. The motion passed unanimously. Recusals are noted in the attachment to the minutes.

h. Victim Witness Grant Program – Continuations (VWGP) – Victim Services Section, Kristina Vadas

The purpose of the Victim Witness Grant Program (VWGP) is to provide financial support to local and statewide victim assistance programs. These programs provide direct services, information, and assistance to victims of crime as required by the Code of Virginia. The majority of funding for this grant program comes from federal Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) funds administered to DCJS by the U.S. Department of Justice’s Office for Victims of Crime. In addition to federal funds, State General Funds and Virginia Crime Victim-Witness Special Funds also support this grant program.

For State Fiscal Year (SFY) 2024, DCJS staff request approval for a 12-month continuation of 114 current VWGP awards, totaling \$18,049,364.

Since SFY 2024 will be a continuation grant year, there are no applicants recommended for denial of funding. DCJS staff continue to monitor all grant recipients for compliance with state and federal rules and grant conditions. To date, all current VWGP recipients remain in fiscal and programmatic compliance and are recommended for funding.

DCJS staff requested approval to fund 114 projects for the 12-month period (7/1/2023–6/30/2024), totaling \$18,049,364. This is comprised of VOCA funds (\$11,918,066), State General Funds (\$943,700), and Virginia Crime Victim-Witness Special Funds (\$5,187,598) allocated for this purpose.

After much discussion, a motion was made by Ebony Clark, seconded by Edward Macon. The motion passed unanimously. Recusals are noted in the attachment to the minutes.

i. Victim of Crime Act (VOCA) Department of Social Services (DSS) Child Advocacy Centers Grant Program – Juvenile and Child Welfare Section, Jenna Foster

The purpose of the VOCA-Children’s Advocacy Center funding is to provide pass-through funding to the Virginia Department of Social Services (VDSS) to support Virginia Children’s Advocacy Centers (CACs) and the children, youth, and families they serve. Funds will support the delivery of VOCA allowable services statewide provided by CACs that are certified by the National Children’s Alliance, including VOCA allowable specialized treatment and direct services for victims of child abuse in Virginia.

For fiscal year 2024, all VOCA-funded grantees received notice of a 10% reduction to their continuation grant amount. The amount that VDSS was invited to apply for was \$3,987,534.

DCJS staff requested approval to award \$3,987,524.00 in federal VOCA funds to one state agency, VDSS, to continue to provide funding to 19 local Children's Advocacy Centers (CAC) in Virginia.

DCJS staff requested approval to fund one (1) project (VDSS) for the 12-month period (07/01/2023 - 06/30/2024) totaling \$3,987,524.00, using federal VOCA funds allocated for this purpose.

After much discussion, a motion was made by Edward Macon, seconded by Abbey Phillips. The motion passed unanimously. Recusals are noted in the attachment to the minutes.

VI. Old Business

No Old Business was brought forth at this meeting.

VII. New Business

No New Business was brought forth at this meeting.

VIII. Public Comment

No Public Comment was brought forth at this meeting.

IX. Announcements

Chief Branch announced the future meeting dates: September 28, 2023; and November 20, 2023, at 11am at DCJS.

X. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 11:51am. A motion was made by Maria Jankowski, seconded by Ebony Clark. The motion passed unanimously.

Attachment "A"

Chief Craig Branch		
Virginia Sexual and Domestic Violence Victim Fund		
	511641	Caroline
	511261	Empowerhouse (Formerly Rapp Council on DV)
	512629	Fredericksburg
	513051	Rapp. Council Against Sexual Assault
	513208	Sexual Assault Resp. & Awareness, Inc.
	513131	Spotsylvania
	513034	Stafford
Victim Witness Grant Program		
		1002 Carroll
		1069 Culpeper
		1036 Frederick
		1406 Orange County
		1230 Spotsylvania
		1194 Stafford
Ebony Clark		
ARPA-Victims Services Grant Program (Action Alliance)		
	22-A3476ARRF	Virginia Sexual & Dom Violence Action Alliance
Sheriff Brian Hiatt		
Virginia Sexual and Domestic Violence Victim Fund		
	513360	Tazewell County
Victim Witness Grant Program		
		1044 Tazewell County