

DCJS Grants Committee Meeting

March 13, 2018

Richmond, VA

The meeting was called to order at 11:00 AM by Ms. Cookie Scott. Members in attendance were:

Ms. Angie Carrera, Citizen Representative
Ms. Francine Horne, Victims of Crime Representative
Mr. David Johnson, Executive Director, Virginia Indigent Defense Commission
Mr. Edward Macon, Assistant Executive Secretary, Supreme Court of Virginia
Mr. Bobby Russell, Superintendent, Western Virginia Regional Jail
Ms. N.H. 'Cookie' Scott, Deputy Director of Administration, Virginia Department of Corrections
Chief Jim Williams, Staunton Police Department

Newly-appointed DCJS Director Shannon Dion made some opening remarks and expressed her appreciation for the Committee and their work.

New Byrne Justice Assistance Grants (JAG) Review

Mr. Albert Stokes, Acting Manager of DCJS Grants Administration, explained that DCJS had \$1.5 million in federal funds that would expire on September 30, 2018 if unused. A solicitation was issued on January 26, 2018 inviting localities, state agencies, regional criminal justice training academies and 501(c)(3) non-profit law enforcement associations to apply for funding. The deadline to submit applications was February 23, 2018.

The solicitation explained that grants to be funded are one-time, six-month duration grants with no matching funds required. These grants cannot be extended and will not be eligible for continuation. The funding categories of the grant solicitation were: general law enforcement equipment, crime analysis technology and equipment, law enforcement specialty training and certification, general law enforcement training, officer wellness, law enforcement staff recruitment and retention, opioid crisis-naloxone treatment kits, and community safety in high-risk neighborhoods.

DCJS received an overwhelming response of 249 applications (from 182 organizations), totaling \$8,278,590 in requested funding. All applications were reviewed by agency staff and 40 applications were recommended for the full amount of funding requested, totaling \$1,321,320.

Mr. Stokes explained that those applicants denied funding will receive letters explaining the reason(s) for denial. He also announced that several regional grant trainings are being planned to assist grantees with learning more about the grant and application process. The trainings will be announced on the DCJS website and notice will be sent out to grantee program directors. Mr. Russell suggested that training notice also be sent to the Virginia Sheriffs' Association and Virginia Association of Chiefs of Police.

Internal Grant Award Overview – Public Safety Training

Ms. Donna Michaelis, Manager of the DCJS Virginia Center for School and Campus Safety, explained that the Center has a long history of providing training and resources on criminal justice-related issues not only to law enforcement, but to school division personnel. Many of these state-of-the-art trainings and resources are often copied or imitated by other state school safety centers and federal agencies.

Ms. Michaelis then explained that the Center's general funds that are used for training and resources have been reduced by over 50% in recent years due to budget cuts, and additional grant funds available through asset forfeiture funding have been depleted. DCJS is requesting an internal grant award in the amount of \$233,900 to continue to offer a wide range of trainings and conferences to address legislative mandates, issues of concern, and Governor's initiatives in the course of six months.

Training/conference topics would include: threat assessment teams, legal issues, domestic extremism and hate groups, responding to civil disturbances, school climate, and student support. The number of trainings may vary, depending on the availability of presenters and the demands of the constituency.

Based on discussion and the information provided, a motion was made by Mr. Russell and seconded by Chief Williams that the full Criminal Justice Services Board accept the Committee's recommendation and approve the 40 applications totaling \$1,321,320. There were no oppositions. Recusals came from Ms. Scott (Virginia Department of Corrections), Chief Williams (City of Staunton), and Mr. Russell (City of Salem, Roanoke County and Franklin County).

A motion was then made by Chief Williams and seconded by Mr. Johnson that the full Criminal Justice Services Board accept the Committee's recommendation and approve the DCJS internal grant award totaling \$233,900 for the purpose of public safety training by the Virginia Center for School and Campus Safety. There were no oppositions or recusals.

To ensure that all available Byrne-JAG funds are used to support criminal justice agencies in Virginia, a motion was made by Mr. Macon and seconded by Ms. Carrera that Director Dion request the Criminal Justice Services Board authorize any remaining funding, that would otherwise expire by September 30, 2018, be made available to DCJS to provide training to local and state law enforcement agencies. DCJS will report to the full Board at its September meeting on the trainings that were held, the cost of the trainings, and the attendance numbers.

Other Business

Mr. Stokes explained that, under Grant #18-A4221AD11, which was approved at the December 2017 Criminal Justice Services Board meeting, DCJS originally funded the Hampton Roads Regional Criminal Justice Academy \$30,099 for technology upgrades. DCJS mistakenly understood a cost of \$11,699 to be an extended warranty contract, which is unallowable; the cost was in fact for IT support and is allowable. DCJS wishes to restore the \$11,699 and fund the grant for a total of \$41,798. The Academy will be notified of this change following Grants Committee and Criminal Justice Services Board consideration.

A motion was then made by Chief Williams and seconded by Mr. Russell that the full Criminal Justice Services Board accept DCJS' recommendation to amend the award to the Hampton Roads Regional Criminal Justice Academy. There were no oppositions or recusals.

The meeting adjourned at 11:40 AM.