



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

Department of Criminal Justice Services

The Honorable Jackson H. Miller
Director

Tracy Louise Winn Banks, Esq.
Chief Deputy Director

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MINUTES

Criminal Justice Services Board

March 13, 2025

Patrick Henry Building
1111 East Broad Street
Richmond, VA 23219
East Reading Room

Members Present

Sheriff C. O. Balderson
Ms. Mary Biggs
Chief Craig Branch, Chair
Ms. Ebony Clark (Virtual)
Ms. Holly Cline for The Hon.
Chadwick Dotson
Ms. Robin Deiulio
Officer Bennie Evans, Jr. (Virtual)
Delegate Phil Hernandez
Sheriff Brian Hieatt
Ms. Maria Jankowski
Mr. Jagdish Katyal
Judge Joseph Lindsey
Mr. Edward M. Macon
LTC Kirk Marlowe for Colonel Matt
Hanley
D. Bradley Marshall, Esq.
Ms. Renee Maxey
The Hon. Russell McGuire
The Hon. Bryan Porter, Vice-Chair
Delegate Briana Sewell (Virtual)

Members Present (Cont'd)

Superintendent William Smith
Ms. Theo Stamos
Mr. James Towey for
Ms. Amy Floriano
Ms. Ashley Waddell
Mr. Anthony Williams
Chief Ryan Zuidema

Members Absent

Senator Lamont Bagby
Sheriff Michael Chapman
Chief Maggie DeBoard
Dr. Sesha Joi Moon
Senator Mark Peake
The Hon. Patricia West

I. Call to Order

Chairman Craig Branch called the meeting of the Criminal Justice Services Board (CJSB) to order at 11:05 a.m. A quorum of the Board was present.

Ms. Ebony Clark participated through electronic communication pursuant to *Virginia Code* § 2.2-3708.2(A)(1)(b) due to her principal residence location being further than 60 miles from the meeting location.

Ms. Robin Deulio participated through electronic communication pursuant to *Virginia Code* § 2.2-3708.2(A)(1)(b) due to her principal residence location being further than 60 miles from the meeting location.

Officer Bennie Evans participated through electronic communication pursuant to *Virginia Code* § 2.2-3708.2(A)(1)(b) due to his principal residence location being further than 60 miles from the meeting location.

Mr. Bradley Marshall participated through electronic communication pursuant to *Virginia Code* § 2.2-3708.2(A)(1)(b) due to his principal residence location being further than 60 miles from the meeting location.

Mr. Rusty McGuire participated through electronic communication pursuant to *Virginia Code* § 2.2-3708.2(A)(1)(b) due to being on vacation in Florida.

Delegate Briana Sewell participated through electronic communication pursuant to *Virginia Code* § 2.2-3708.2(A)(1)(b) due to her principal residence location being further than 60 miles from the meeting location.

II. Approval of Minutes

Ms. Mary Biggs made the motion, seconded by Judge Joseph Lindsey to accept the minutes of the December 5, 2025, meeting of the CJSB. The motion passed unanimously.

III. Director's Report

Mr. John Colligan, Division Director of Finance and Administration with the Virginia Department of Criminal Justice Services (DCJS), gave an overview of items of interest from the agency as Director Miller and Chief Deputy Banks were not able to attend the meeting.

Division of Programs and Services

- The Division of Programs and Services has launched PSLP, the new case management and reporting system for local probation and pretrial services agencies. Local agencies and existing data are being migrated to the new system one-by-one. The roll out process has allowed our team and the developers to stop along the way and make certain fixes before continuing.
- DCJS VCART Program staff have been communicating with the Victim Witness Program Coordinator for Albemarle County in response to the recent shooting at a Harris Teeter store in Crozet. DCJS is coordinating with her to develop a response plan to assist with the community's recovery.
- The Office of Safer Communities recently facilitated focused sessions among grantee groups to discuss shared experiences, solutions, and best practices. These have been well received and are expected to continue quarterly.

- This year marks the 30th anniversary of the Virginia Crime Victims and Witness Rights Act, as well as the Comprehensive Community Corrections Act and Pretrial Services Act. Staff are working on plans to recognize these significant milestones.

Division of Licensure and Regulatory Services

- As previously reported, the Division of Licensure and Regulatory Services launched its new credential management system, Lotus, on December 13th. Although much of the system is working well, the data transfer from the previous system to Lotus was difficult, resulting in errors for some private security constituents. In order to keep security credential holders working, DCJS has extended credential validity through March 31. Agency staff have been working closely with the vendor to resolve these issues and to handle constituent inquiries.

Division of Public Safety Training and the Virginia Center for School and Campus Safety

- The Violent Crime Conference will be held May 28-30, 2025, at the Inn at Virginia Tech. This conference is a collaborative partnership between DCJS, DJJ, DOC, and the OAG.
- The second annual First Responder Wellness Conference, is scheduled for September 9-12, 2025, in Norfolk, Virginia, and is open to all disciplines (fire, law enforcement, dispatchers, and EMS personnel).
- The Governor has issued a proclamation for March 24-28, 2025, which is “First Responder Wellness Week”. This week focuses on promoting the well-being of first responders, offering resources, support, and community to help them thrive in their careers, both physically and mentally. The team has scheduled a series of webinars each day that week focusing on a different aspect of wellness.
- The School Safety Training Forum is holding its 25th annual nationally recognized conference July 28-30, 2025, in Hampton, VA. The VCSCS was established in the *Code of Virginia* in 2000 and has become a leading school safety center in the nation.
- Regional Threat Assessment Team Forums will be held in October 2025 for K-12 and higher education threat assessment teams.
- A series of webinars focusing on Crisis Management: Before, During, and After will be held throughout March and April.

Active Attack Program

- Since 2021, the Active Attack Training team has delivered 423 CRCC (civilian response and casualty care) courses and 87 law enforcement courses serving over 10,500 civilians and first responders. Currently, requests for active attack training are scheduled through the end of 2025 and into 2026.

Law Enforcement Grants

- ARPA grants were successfully completed, with 330 grants closed, distributing 99.5% of funding. Only 3 grants remain to be closed by 6/30/2025.
- SRO and SSO continuation grant solicitations are open.
- Hate Crimes and Office of First Responder Wellness grant solicitations are open and closing next week.

Division of Law Enforcement

The Law Enforcement Division has been busy with a number of issues including expanding accreditation, developing lesson plans, and complying with decertification changes as they happen. In April, DCJS will be sponsoring the academy director's conference.

The 38 Academies in Virginia have routinely tried to gather every year in the spring. This year, for the first time ever, DCJS is sponsoring this gathering and taking an active role in communicating with academies and helping develop the best training for the future of the criminal justice profession.

Federal Grant Funds

There has been much talk in the news about federal grant funding. As of now the core justice grant funds coming through DCJS to Virginia have not been restricted or otherwise impacted. There is one federal grant, the "Improving Criminal Justice Response" program, that has had the FFY25 continuation grant removed from the DOJ website, so DCJS isn't currently able to apply for these funds. As always, DCJS is engaged with federal grant monitors on this grant and all others to make sure it is provided current information. If something changes, appropriate action based on the circumstances will be taken

IV. Committee Reports

Prior to reporting from these committees, Chief Branch turned over the Chair duties to the Vice-Chair of the Criminal Justice Services Board, Mr. Bryan Porter.

Committee on Training (COT)

The COT met at 10:00 a.m., on March 13, 2025. COT Chair, Superintendent William Smith gave a report, which included the certification of the County of York as a Certified Crime Prevention Community.

The motion was made by Superintendent Smith and seconded by Ms. Biggs to approve the County of York as a Certified Crime Prevention Community. The motion passed unanimously.

Proposed revisions to the Compulsory Minimum Training Standards for Law Enforcement and Jail Officers were approved by the COT.

Executive Committee

The Executive Committee met on January 16, 2025, and voted to approve of DCJS' Recommendation for Reconsideration of the Hate Crime Grant request for Roanoke City in the amount of \$150,000.

Additionally, the Executive Committee also heard the decertification appeals of:

- **Mr. Raymond Anderson**, formerly with the Portsmouth Police Department. The Executive Committee voted to sustain the decertification of Mr. Anderson.
- **Mr. Farhan Shahzad**, formerly with the Falls Church Police Department. The Executive Committee voted to sustain the decertification of Mr. Shahzad.
- **Mr. Jeremy Gardner**, formerly with the Bedford County Sheriff's Office. The Executive Committee voted to reinstate the eligibility for certification of Mr. Gardner.
- **Mr. John Fitzgerald**, formerly with the Rockbridge County Sheriff's Office. The Executive Committee voted to reinstate the eligibility for certification of Mr. Fitzgerald.

The Executive Committee met on January 17, 2025, to hear decertification appeals of:

- **Ms. Tashina Mail.** Remanded for Findings from the Richmond City Circuit Court. Committee determined no additional hearing was needed; Findings provided for referral back to Richmond City Circuit Court.
- **Mr. Ethan Apffel,** formerly with the Fauquier County Sheriff's Office. The Executive Committee voted to reinstate the eligibility for certification of Mr. Apffel.
- **Mr. Logan Beach,** formerly with the Nelson County Sheriff's Office. The Executive Committee voted to sustain the decertification of Mr. Beach.
- **Mr. Owen Johnson,** formerly with the VCU Police Department. The Executive Committee voted to sustain the decertification of Mr. Johnson.

The Executive Committee met on February 14, 2025, and voted to approve the 2024 Grant Application for Byrne/JAG funding from the Department of Justice.

The Executive Committee also heard the decertification appeals of:

- **Mr. Michael Nyantakyi,** formerly with the Richmond City Police Department. The Executive Committee voted to sustain the decertification of Mr. Nyantakyi.
- **Mr. Christian Rivas,** formerly with the Henrico County Sheriff's Office. The Executive Committee voted to reinstate the eligibility for certification of Mr. Rivas.
- **Mr. Moses Blakey,** formerly with the Virginia State Police. The appeal has been continued to a later date.

Grants Committee Report

The Grants Committee met on February 27, 2025, at 11am, and made the following recommendations:

Addiction Recovery Grant Program Funding: The Grants Committee approved funding in the amount of **\$153,600**, in state funds, for **4 awards**.

Byrne/Justice Assistance Program – State Agencies LE Equipment: The Grants Committee approved funding in the amount of **\$446,957**, in federal funds, for **6 awards**.

Byrne/Justice Assistance Program – Sheriff's Offices LE Equipment: The Grants Committee approved funding in the amount of **\$430,054 in federal funds with \$143,348 local match totaling \$573,402**, for **14 awards**.

Children's Justice Act One Time Funding: The Grants Committee approved funding in the amount of **\$380,078**, in federal funds, for **25 awards**.

Drive to Work Grant Program: The Grants Committee approved funding in the amount of **\$150,000**, in state funds and JAG federal funds, for **1 award**.

Marcus Alert Grant Program Funding: The Grants Committee approved funding in the amount of **\$608,596**, in state funds, for **12 awards**.

Operation Ceasefire Grant Funding: The Grants Committee approved funding in the amount of **\$4,937,467**, in state funds, for **55 awards**. **It was noted that these figures are slightly different than**

those in the original handout as only 55 applications were approved, not 56 as originally stated, and the dollar amount approved was \$600 more than what was originally stated (\$4,936,867).

School Safety Personnel Grant Program: The Grants Committee approved funding in the amount of **\$1,887,100 in state funds with \$926,852 local match totaling \$2,813,952, for 12 awards.**

A motion was made by Ms. Biggs and seconded by Ms. Renee Maxey to approve these grants as recommended by the Grants Committee. The motion passed unanimously.

Recusals: Ms. Biggs for the CITMA grant for the Town of Blacksburg and the OCGP grant for Montgomery County, Chief Branch for the CITMA grant for Spotsylvania County, CHJA grant for Culpeper County, the OCGP grants for Culpeper County, the City of Fredericksburg, Orange County and Spotsylvania County, Judge Chadwick Dotson for BJAG grant for the Department of Corrections, Ms. Amy Floriano for the BJAG grant for the Department of Juvenile Justice, Sheriff Brian Hieatt for the OCGP grant for Tazewell County, Judge Joseph Lindsey for the ARGP grant for the City of Norfolk, and the BJAG grant for the City of Norfolk, Mr. Anthony Williams for the BJAG grant for the City of Petersburg, and the OCGP grant for the City of Petersburg, Chief Ryan Zuidema for the BJAG grant for the City of Lynchburg, the OCGP grant for the City of Lynchburg, and the SSP grant for the City of Lynchburg.

After completing these reports, Vice-Chair Porter turned the meeting back over to the Chairman, Chief Branch.

Private Security Services Advisory Board (PSSAB) Report

Ms. Corinne Mastronardi gave an update from the PSSAB which met on March 5, 2025, at 10:00 a.m.

- Five candidates submitted their names for consideration for the position of vice-chair, and the board elected Mr. Chris Stuart. Mr. Stuart is a private security business representative from Top Guard security and was previously serving as the PSSAB's secretary.
- Mr. Robert Lamour was appointed as the new secretary. Mr. Lamour is a personal protection specialist representative from ProtoctorScope Security Solutions.
- The next PSSAB meeting will be April 30, 2025, at 10:00 at the Richmond Police Training Academy.

V. Legislative Updates

Ms. Tracey Jenkins, Division Director of Programs and Services of the Department of Criminal Justice Services gave an update from the last General Assembly session.

VI. Old Business

There was no old business to discuss.

VII. New Business

There was no new business to discuss.

VIII. Public Comment

Ms. Robin Bostic, Director of King William and King and Queen Counties Victim/Witness Assistance Program spoke to the Board members and asked that the Victim/Witness Assistance Program be split into a two-county program.

There was some discussion related to Ms. Bostic's request. It was noted that DCJS will be reaching out to victim/witness programs to request their submissions for continuation grants in June. The issues with funding are widespread - federal VOCA grant funding has been cut in half since 2019. The General Assembly has provided some additional general funds, but it has been a struggle to maintain programs and not cut funding any more than is necessary. This is not the only program having problems with funding.

After hearing Ms. Bostic's request, a motion was made by Sheriff Balderson and seconded by Superintendent Smith to give priority to this request to split the combined Victim/Witness programs of King William and King and Queen Counties into two individual programs and recommend to DCJS that they provide additional funding to these programs. The motion was unanimously approved.

X. Next Meeting

The next Criminal Justice Services Board (CJSB) Meeting will take place in the East Reading Room of the Patrick Henry Building on May 8, 2025, at 11:00 a.m.

XI. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 11:54 a.m.