

COMBAT Commission Meeting
January 8, 2019, 1:30-3:30pm
Downtown Courthouse, 415 E. 12th Street, Kansas City, MO
Legislative Chambers
Minutes

Present:

James Witteman, Jr.
Keith Querry
Mark Bryant
Gene Morgan
Dr. Joseph Spalitto
Larry Beaty
Dr. Kelvin Walls
Lanna Ultican

Also Present:

Vince Ortega, COMBAT
Jean Peters Baker, JACO Prosecutor
Jay Hayden, County Counselor's Office
Major Helen Burke, KCPD
Jennifer Dameron, JACO Prosecutor's Office
Ashley Burke, Assistant to County Executive Office
Jane Cavanaugh, Legislative Aid
Theresa Galvin, JACO Legislator
Dan Cummings, Drug Task Force
Celestine Williams, Deputy Auditor
LaTasha Bunting, COMBAT

The meeting was called to order at 1:38 PM.

Additions to Agenda:

An update from the Gene Porter meeting will be added to the agenda.

Larry Beaty motioned to approve November minutes; Keith Querry seconded; motion passed.

Jean Peters Baker Report/Update

Jean Peters Baker would like COMBAT to do some PSA's on Medical Marijuana. She wants to do one on driving under the influence and another one on keeping edibles away from kids. The Medical Marijuana law went into effect on December 6, however, Jean Peters Baker doesn't know what this means yet.

Reports from Ex-Officio Drug Commission Members

Major Helen Burke from KCPD reported on the end of the year stats. Last year, 666 grams of Cocaine was purchased, 1,116 grams of Heroin was purchased, 9,327 grams of Meth was purchased, and 3,937 grams of Marijuana was purchased. Last year, 31,478 grams of Cocaine was seized, 10,555 grams of Heroin was seized, 174,633 grams of Meth was seized, and 1 million grams of Marijuana was seized. There were 481 search warrants, 200 narcotic arrests, 6 Meth labs, 448 firearms recover, and 136 homicides of the year. Of those 136 homicides, drugs were a contributing factor and it was usually Marijuana. There were 4 homicides today.

Dan Cummings from the Drug Task Force reported that violent crime is not their area of expertise. They have 79 new investigations, 25% of them involve violence or violent offenders.

In 29 separate cases, they recovered firearms. 59% of cases involved violence or firearms. 42% of cases prosecuted involved violent offenders. They have a drug related/violence case in Independence. They located 4 suspects and made 4 arrests. There was a homicide case in Blue Springs and an individual was arrested. Dan stated that the Drug Task Force is able to locate, find, and surveillance people. They have recovered 1.2 million of drugs from an individual. They have identified 6 suspects. They have an informant. She's helping law enforcement now. She's a confidential informant and she has signed an agreement. If she violates her agreement, she will go to jail.

Chairman Jim Witteman asked Jean, Dan, and Helen if they are collaborating in the states. All of them replied yes. Jim Witteman wants a report on this. Jean Peters Baker also mentioned that 31 states has some form of legalized Marijuana and under 10 states have it for full recreational.

Old Business:

There was no old business.

New Business:

Deputy Director and Other Positions Update

Vince and Jean Peters Baker went through 25 applications for the Deputy Director position. They interviewed 3 people and they are going to interview 2 more people. They are looking at mid-February to hire the new Deputy Director and they hope to have the person chosen by the end of January. Vince will also post the Community Marketing Administrator position for 2 weeks. He plans on hiring them at the end of February. He also plans on hiring 3 Community Engagement Monitors. They will be part-time, contract employees.

BKD and State Audit

Vince has a meeting with BKD this Thursday for the audit/introductory.

Vince also met with Tessa for the state audit. They will be doing a performance audit on policies, procedures and processes. They will also be looking at the administration and structure of COMBAT. The state audit was requested by the County Executive and the Legislators. They are going to start with COMBAT and they will give recommendations on how to improve COMBAT.

Meeting with Dr. Jomella Watson Thompson

Vince stated that the meeting with Dr. Jomella Watson Thompson had a good dialogue on how to work collaboratively on the hotspot initiatives. Vince would like to identify chronic youth and track community indicators. He would like to track 30-50 families/youth. He would like them to do a mental health assessment and direct them to services. Dr. Jomella Watson Thompson and Vince would like to work on COMBAT staff infrastructure.

Grant Software

Tammie Jordan is working on the grant software, however, there are some bugs.

PDMP Update

Teesha Miller has resigned from PDMP as of recently. Frank Thompson, the Deputy Director with the Health Department stated that the focus has gone to Medical Marijuana and not on Opioids/PDMP. Jean Peters Baker and Vince do not plan to fill the vacant position.

Prevention Renewal Application

The Prevention Renewal Application are posted. The applications are due back on February 8th. COMBAT staff is currently reviewing the Treatment, AVSI, and Grant Match renewal applications.

Gene Porter Meeting Update

There was a violent crime reduction forum with Gene Porter. They would like to target the top 25/50 offenders. Most of the people at the meeting were COMBAT agencies. Some of them were offended by the profiling at the beginning of the meeting.

Discussions:

There were no discussions.

Announcements:

The next Drug Commission meeting is on Tuesday, March 12th at the Jackson County Courthouse.

Meeting adjourned at 2:45 PM.