

Drug Commission Meeting
April 10, 2018, 1:30-3:30pm
Downtown Courthouse, 415 E. 12th Street, Kansas City, MO
Legislative Chambers
Minutes

Present:

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

Also Present:

Vince Ortega, COMBAT
Jay Haden, County Counselor's Office
Major Helen Burke, KCPD
Chief Bryon Price, Drug Task Force
Dan Cummings, Drug Task Force
Ashley Burke, Assistant to County Executive Office
Brittany Brown, Legislative Aide
Tammie, Jordan, COMBAT
LaTasha Bunting, COMBAT

The meeting was called to order at 1:36 PM.

Additions to Agenda:

There were no additions to the agenda.

Keith Querry moved to approve the March minutes; Mark Bryant seconded; motion passed.

Reports from Ex-Officio Drug Commission Members

Major Helen Burke with KCPD reported some stats for January-March. She stated that there were 127 purchases made and 203 attempted purchases. This quarter 206 grams of Cocaine, 144 grams of Heroin, 255 grams of Methamphetamine, and 390 grams of Marijuana were seized. The weight of narcotics actually seized 6,272 of Cocaine, 1,604 of Heroin, 13,908 of Methamphetamine, and 362,976 of Marijuana were seized. There were 109 search warrants and 110 arrests as well as 1 Meth lab response.

Chief Byron Price with the Drug Task Force reported that they have updated their MOU and that all agencies have signed it. The Drug Task Force has received the Unit of the Year award from the Missouri Narcotics Officers Association. Chairman Jim Witteman congratulated them on receiving the award.

Old Business:

2018 COMBAT Agency Funding Recommendations

Vince Ortega stated that the funding recommendations to this point were based strictly on the scores of the evaluators. These are not the final recommendations. He was not pleased with the evaluators. He explained that sometimes the evaluators don't know the agencies and the

recommendations don't reflect the agency's performance/work. Also, he mentioned that some agencies have professional grant writers while others do not. Any discrepancy of 25 points between the evaluators on the same program was sent to a third evaluator. COMBAT staff used the 2 highest scores from the evaluators. Vince explained that he and Jean Peters Baker will go over the recommendations on Thursday and explained how he would like to do weighted values instead. COMBAT staff should have the final recommendations by Friday. He also asked the Drug Commissioners for their recommendations. Vince plans on having the final recommendations next Tuesday to give to the Legislators. Jim Witteman stated that he was a little disappointed that the COMBAT staff didn't have the final recommendations today. He acknowledged that the COMBAT staff has been working hard but he explained that in the past Stacey came up with the recommendations and the Drug Commissioners would give their recommendations. Vince responded that this year was different since the entire process was transparent and the intent was to involve the Drug Commission more than just vote on COMBAT recommendations. He also stated that the numbers weren't far off and that it's about 90% correct. Vince also explained that the new agencies are highlighted in yellow and will be funded out of AVSI. COMBAT staff evaluated new agencies based on site visits, what's documented, and their scores. There was \$3.5 million requested for Prevention and COMBAT can only fund \$1.5 million.

There was a brief discussion on whether or not the scores should be weighted or not. Jim Witteman explained that he had some concerns about manipulating numbers based on how well agencies are doing just because COMBAT staff has seen them before and suggested that we stick with the independent evaluators' scores. He explained that he would be fine with incorporating the money left over by agencies in the final recommendations. Vince explained how the numbers don't tell the whole story and used Westside CAN Center as an example. Westside CAN is a good agency but scored low with the evaluators. He would like weighted values on the evaluators' scores, the COMBAT staff suggestions (based on their program reports, performance, etc.), the Drug Commission's recommendations. Melesa Johnson explained that the evaluators' scores will have to tell the whole story because COMBAT may go into a slippery slope if we stray from that. Dr. Kelvin Walls explained that a quantitative score about how much money is going to the program/budget, output, and how people like the quality of the work may be beneficial. He also stated that he wants COMBAT to fund people doing a great job and not fund those who are not doing a great job. Mark Bryant stated that COMBAT staff should add a score that transcends the number based on COMBAT's staff insight. Melesa again warned that by not sticking with the independent evaluators scores, COMBAT staff would have to go to every agency to get a current, accurate score of their program.

Keith Querry motioned to have a meeting on Friday, April 13th from 1-3 PM at the County Courthouse in Independence; Gene Morgan seconded; motion passed.

New Business:

There was no new business.

Announcements:

The next Drug Commission meeting is on Friday, April 13th.

Meeting adjourned at 3:15 PM.