

Drug Commission Meeting
February 13, 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

Also Present:

Vince Ortega, COMBAT
Jean Peters Baker, JACO Prosecutor
Michael Mansur, Prosecutor's Office
Jay Haden, County Counselor's Office
David Bosworth, KCPD
Helen Burke, KCPD
Theresa Galvin, County Legislator
Brittany Brown, Legislative Aide
Jaime Masters, Chief of Health Services
Ashley Burke, Assistant to County Executive Office
Celestine Williams, Deputy Auditor
Tammie, Jordan, COMBAT
LaTasha Bunting, COMBAT

The meeting was called to order at 1:30 PM.

Additions to Agenda:

There were no additions to the agenda.

Gene Morgan moved to approve the December minutes; Dr. Joseph Spalitto seconded; motion passed.

Jean Peters Baker - COMBAT Organizational Update

Jean Peters Baker stated that the lawsuit is proceeding. Her name has been added to the lawsuit. She will follow whatever the court rules.

The Prosecutor's Office has a new victim/witness support effort with Ad Hoc Group Against Crime. The new program will help victims and witnesses of gun violence. They will publicly announce it in a week or two. It will focus on non-fatal shooting victims and it will substantially change how they address victims and witnesses in the city who experience intimidation. There were 500 cases of non-fatal shootings in 2017. Jean Peters Baker stated that program will let the people know that Jackson County cares and that we're here to help and offer services. It will also provide in-house counseling services to people with trauma. She said thanks to COMBAT and Jackson County Legislator, Alfred Jordan, they're able to do this.

Reports from Ex-Officio Drug Commission Members

David Bosworth with KCPD introduced himself and Major Helen Burke, commander of the Narcotics and Vice Department. David is in charge of the Investigation Bureau. He reported that Meth lab responses were down, and that there were 136 lbs. of Cocaine recovered in 2017 (up 44% from 2016), 583 firearms recovered in 2017, and 5,414 interdictions in 2017.

The Drug Task Force had nothing to report. Dan Cummings is currently on vacation.

Old Business:

2018 Revised RFP Timeline

Vince Ortega briefly went over the revised RFP Timeline. The RFP's were posted on February 2nd and they are due back on February 27th. After the due back date, the COMBAT staff will go over compliance issues. Then, we will send them out to the reviewers on March 5th as well as send them to the Drug Commissioners. Vince is hoping to expedite one of the weeks on the timeline if everyone is agreeable. Awards letters should be sent out on May 1. We are 2 months behind schedule in the process. Chairman Jim Witteman asked what EPC means. Vince responded that it means Executive Policy Committee and that it's a meeting that will include Alfred Jordan, Dan Tarwater, and Jean. Jim Witteman asked if there were any contracts out still. Vince responded that nobody has contracts right now and that the 2018 contracts will go from January 1 to December 31. COMBAT normally funds the first quarter knowing that there will be a delay. Jean Peters Baker and Vince would like to meet with the agencies sometime after the February 27th deadline to ask the agencies that wish to attend what they like to see different in the process, what we can improve on or do better, and what we do well. Vince mentioned how both the Purchasing Department Request for Proposals and the COMBAT Funding applications are on the COMBAT website making it easier for agencies to complete it.

The Drug Commissioners would like historical data on how much we've funded the agency before within 3-5 years. They would also like to know about any problems going on with any of the COMBAT agencies. Jim Witteman asked how we're advertising the RFP's to new agencies and getting their attention. Vince explained that we have sent the COMBAT RFP notifications out via email and through several different social media sites.

Grant Software Product Update

Vince told the Drug Commissioners that he and Tammie have been looking into using grant software with the Greater Kansas City Community Foundation to streamline the process. It's called "GIFTS online" and it's a web based application. It's all encompassing, it will help the application process, the review process, and the budgeting and finance component become more effective and efficient. They charge extra to measure outcomes. It will cost \$5,000-\$7,000 annually to keep up the software and manage updates.

Jim Witteman asked what we were doing now. We are processing paper, utilizing U.S. mail, hard copy files, etc. This grant software would save the COMBAT staff time. Jean Peters Baker also mentioned that it would be a smart way to go and that it would raise COMBAT's level of

professionalism. There will be plenty of Cloud space for us to keep all of the data and information. Currently, we keep the information in boxes at the Records Center. Gene Morgan asked if it was off the shelf software and it is. There's no deadline on using the software and they are willing to change it to whatever COMBAT needs. This Thursday, there's a meeting with them for a demo at 1:30 PM. They can start in a couple weeks but it will take months to perfect. Lanna Ultican asked how long is COMBAT required to keep old records. Vince responded that we are required to keep the records for 5 years. Jim Witteman asked if it will help with all of it, and it will. It will help with the RFP process and all the other mechanisms that go along with it. Jim Witteman asked if the Drug Commissioners will have access to this information and they will. Jean Peters Baker stated that the Cloud is a secure environment and that it will have a secure login in order to access the data.

New Business:

New Drug Commissioner

Jim Witteman welcomed the new drug commissioner, Larry Beaty. Larry Beaty introduced himself. He has been a resident of Jackson County for 71 years and has worked with addictions and corrections for 40 years. He appreciates being on board.

Gene Morgan asked if there has been any progress on selecting a new COMBAT Director. Jean Peters Baker stated that there has been no progress on selecting a new COMBAT Director. She's still waiting on the court orders. Jean Peters Baker stated that it may take up to three months to find a new Director.

Announcements:

There were no announcements.

Meeting adjourned at 2:07 PM.