

Drug Commission Meeting
March 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
Dr. Kelvin Walls

Also Present:

Vince Ortega, COMBAT
Jean Peters Baker, JACO Prosecutor
Jay Haden, County Counselor's Office
Captain Ron Legg, KCPD
Chief Bryon Price, Drug Task Force
Dan Cummings, Drug Task Force
Theresa Galvin, County Legislator
Brittany Brown, Legislative Aide
Jaime Masters, Chief of Health Services
Ashley Burke, Assistant to County Executive Office
Teesha Miller, PDMP Director
Celestine Williams, Deputy Auditor
Tammie, Jordan, COMBAT
LaTasha Bunting, COMBAT

The meeting was called to order at 1:32 PM.

Additions to Agenda:

There were no additions to the agenda.

Dr. Joseph Spalitto moved to approve the February minutes; Keith Querry seconded; motion passed.

Reports from Ex-Officio Drug Commission Members

Deferred Prosecution Program

Captain Ron Legg from KCPD introduced himself. KCPD is currently working on the Deferred Prosecution program with the Jackson County Prosecutor, Jean Peters Baker, First Call and COMBAT with Vince Ortega. They are providing some stats for the program. KCPD would look at individual cases and possibly get them into a treatment program separate from Drug Court. This would make the process a little bit faster. KCPD will hold the case and have open discussions with the prosecutor. Jean Peters Baker stated that the program would be in addition to Drug Court. The idea is to enhance public safety by getting more cases through a treatment center more quickly. Candidates will go into a treatment facility if they met a certain risk assessment

that First Call Client advocate would administer. This program can also be used for people who have overdosed.

Dr. Joseph Spalitto asked if they go through this program would they still have a record. Jean Peters Baker said no, they wouldn't have a record. Then, Dr. Joseph Spalitto asked if they would go into Rehabilitation quickly and the answer was yes.

Captain Ron Legg stated that KCPD will put the case file together, but they will wait for the lab results before submitting the case file. They will hold it for 24 hours, do their interview, put the case file together, and release the individual pending their lab results. However in this case, KCPD would not file the case as long as the arrested individual was in the a treatment program. Conversely if the individual did not or stopped attending treatment the KCPD would submit the case file to the prosecutor's office for filing. Commissioner Larry Beaty stated that it would be a lot quicker than Drug Court. Jean Peters Baker stated that the Drug Court Commissioner is supportive of this program. Vince stated that while the police hold them for 24 hours, First Call will send a client advocate to interview them to see if they are a candidate or in their system currently. Lee's Summit PD is partnering with Re-Discover on a similar program.

Commissioner Mark Bryant asked what protocols determine who qualifies for the Deferred Prosecution. Jean Peters Baker stated that they are still setting up the protocols for this program. They are trying to get other departments to share their risk assessments with them. They want to catch as many people as they can for quicker treatment. She will leave it to the experts to decide the protocols, but she doesn't want to limit the program to one drug. She wants to include all drugs. They want to focus on users and addicts. Mark Bryant asked will you trust in the Treatment provider to give them what they need. Jean Peters Baker stated that they will have parameters too, but she will trust the experts. She also doesn't believe that one treatment size fits all.

Commissioner Jim Witteman asked if there is anything that states what would happen if they got kicked out of the program. Jean Peters Baker replied no, they are still in the early parts of the planning stage. If someone fails their pre-filing diversion, then the case will come to her and they can start fresh at that time. She also added that having defense at the table will help with things. Commissioner Larry Beaty mentioned to make sure to look at the whole picture and to make sure you hold them accountable. Commissioner Mark Bryant stated that this is a livelier approach to this problem. Commissioner Gene Morgan asked what's happening to these clients now. Captain Ron Legg stated that they hold them for 24 hours, bring them in for an interview, if they are a user they will try to get their distributor, put a case file together, put a probable cause statement together, submit it to the Prosecutor, release them, and try to pick them up again. Once the case goes into the Prosecutor's hand, the crime lab does testing of the drug and this can take up to a year to get to Drug Court. It's a lot of lost time and resources. We would like to address their addiction right away.

Chief Bryon Price of the Drug Task Force reported that the Jackson County Drug Task Force has received the unit of the year award from the Missouri Narcotics Officer Association. They are still redoing the MOU as they are still waiting on a few cities. The Drug Task Force is close to completing the JAG grant. Dan Cummings stated that the Drug Task Force received the HIDTA award for Best Cooperative Effort. They also received a state award was for Operation Déjà Vu. Their overtime shot through the roof since there's only 11 of them.

Old Business:

2018 COMBAT Application Update

Vince Ortega gave an update on the 2018 COMBAT applications process. No dates were changed, he just added a couple dates on the timeline. COMBAT received 105 applications this year, 65 of them did not meet compliance. We are currently working with these agencies to assist them through the process. On the 22nd, the COMBAT staff would like to meet with some of the Drug Commissioners to discuss some of the application issues. All of the applications that scored 80 and above will be funded. Those that score below 80 will be discussed with the Drug Commissioners. Jean Peters Baker explained that there were some compliance issues because not all of the boxes from the compliance qualification sheet were checked.

Chairman Jim Witteman asked for clarification on the meetings on the 22nd and the 30th. Vince told him that we would like for him or a delegate to attend the meeting on the 22nd and some of the Drug Commissioners may attend the meeting on the 30th. The meeting on the 30th is with the agencies that applied for COMBAT funds to ask them for feedback on the application process and how we can make it easier or better. Jim Witteman asked County Counselor, Jay Haden, what's quorum for this board. Jay Haden replied 5, up to 4 may attend. Larry Beaty, Dr. Joseph Spalitto, Gene Morgan, and Keith Query agreed to attend the meeting on the 30th. It's at Bruce R. Watkins Cultural Heritage Center at 1:00 PM.

Tammie Jordan explained that we will send the Drug Commissioners a list of summaries in an Excel spreadsheet that will have the summary of the agencies that applied, their scores and reviewers' feedback, requested amount of funding and previous years of funding. Also, we will add the funding that they have received from Jackson County whether it's from the Mental Health Levy, Children's Fund, and other funding. Keith Query asked how many of the 105 applications were new. Tammie Jordan replied that 10 of them were new. Lanna Ultican asked if it was common for people applying for these funds to get money from different departments. Vince stated yes, as well as outside funding. The Drug Commission meeting on April 10th will be the final funding recommendations.

New Business:

Update on Transition

Vince Ortega stated the Jean had invited him to attend the Governing Board meeting of NOVA which includes the KCPD Chief of Police, the Mayor, the US Attorney office, DEA, and the

Prosecutor's Office about COMBAT and that he was well received. He also attended a NoVA community event in the Northeast area. They identify the Northeast area through hotspot mapping. COMBAT funds 12 different agencies in the area. They used COMBAT for social services resources and COMBAT door hangers at the event. Also, COMBAT is now fully involved in the Corrections conversions, to ensure COMBAT funding is not utilized inappropriately.

Announcements:

The next Drug Commission meeting is on Tuesday, April 10th.

Meeting adjourned at 2:25 PM.