

**Drug Commission Meeting**  
**May 15, 2018, 1:30-3:30pm**  
**Downtown Courthouse, 415 E. 12<sup>th</sup> 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  
Jay Haden, County Counselor's Office  
Major Helen Burke, KCPD  
Chief Bryon Price, Drug Task Force  
Theresa Galvin, County Legislator  
Ashley Burke, Assistant to County Executive Office  
Celestine Williams, Deputy Auditor  
Crissy Wooderson, Auditor  
Carri Ellis, Journey to New Life  
Tammie, Jordan, COMBAT  
LaTasha Bunting, COMBAT

The meeting was called to order at 1:35 PM.

**Additions to Agenda:**

There were no additions to the agenda.

Keith Querry motioned to approve April 10<sup>th</sup> minutes; Gene Morgan seconded; motion passed.  
Keith Querry motioned to approve April 13<sup>th</sup> minutes; Gene Morgan seconded; motion passed.

**Reports from Ex-Officio Drug Commission Members**

Major Helen Burke with KCPD reported that KCPD has been really busy. They have had nine overdose deaths on Opiates and 4 of them were resuscitated. They also recently had a Drug Take Back. They are seeing an increase in liquid THC and edibles.

Chief Byron Price with the Drug Task Force reported that the JAG grants are being reviewed.

**Old Business:**

**COMBAT AVSI Funding Recommendations**

Vince briefly explained the different agencies recommended for AVSI funding. Gene Morgan asked if any of the agencies work with high risk or re-entry. Vince responded that Sisters in Christ, Ad Hoc Group Against Crime, Dismas House, and Morningstar does. Chairman Jim Witteman asked how COMBAT staff came up with the recommended funding amounts and Vince replied that they were based on their scores.

Mark Bryant motioned to approve the funding of amount of \$242,000 in Anti-Violence recommendations, Gene Morgan seconded, motion passed.

### **COMBAT Financial Audit**

Jean Peters Baker would like to do a financial audit of COMBAT. She thinks it would be very informative. She stated that the state auditor would be 15 months out to do one for COMBAT. Jim Witteman expressed a desire for a financial audit of COMBAT to know where COMBAT money is going. Keith Query asked when the last time we did a financial audit of COMBAT. Jean Peters Baker stated that there was one done under Mike Sanders but she hasn't seen the finished product of it. Larry Beaty asked what the approximate amount for the financial audit will be. Jean Peters Baker replied approximately \$400,000 for a performance and financial audit. Mark Bryant asked why there is a sudden need for a financial audit of COMBAT and what the catalyst was. Jean Peters Baker stated that there was no catalyst for it and that this financial audit comes from staff, Jim, and herself. She will do some research on how much this audit will cost. Mark Bryant would like to see the last audit and to see how much it cost. He's against the audit if it's a comfort audit just because there's a change/transition of power of COMBAT but if there's a catalyst for this then he agrees with it. Melesa Johnson stated that she didn't think that the taxpayers should have to pay for this financial audit especially to the tune of \$400,000. Mark Bryant and Jim Witteman asked why the annual audit wasn't being done. Vince didn't know.

Jim Witteman stated that there's funding done outside of the normal process and without Drug Commissioners knowledge. There's funding through Outside Agencies. Crissy Wooderson, a Jackson County auditor, briefly explained the process for Outside Agency funding. Keith Query asked if the Outside Agencies and COMBAT agencies overlap and she said yes. However, they are not necessarily funding the same thing. Vince stated that there were 4 agencies that received Outside Agency funding, MOCSA, SCLC, Peer Court, and Westside CAN. Vince also mentioned hiring contract employees for site visits trained by the staff. Tammie is trained at this.

### **New Business:**

#### **Raytown and Independence Hot Spot Strategy Discussion**

Vince discussed the Raytown and Independence hotspot strategies. He mentioned how there aren't any COMBAT agencies in these areas. He spoke with the Chief of the Independence Police Department and will schedule a meeting with him about the Hawthorne Complex. He also spoke with the Chief in Raytown and he will schedule a meeting as well. Jim Witteman said that it seems odd that there are no agencies in Raytown. Gene Morgan stated that we would have to be prepared to fund these initiatives. All Drug Commissioners are interested in this.

### **Announcements:**

The next Drug Commission meeting is on Tuesday, June 19th.

Meeting adjourned at 2:42 PM.