

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
PENNSYLVANIA COMMISSION ON CRIME AND DELINQUENCY
3101 North Front Street, Harrisburg, PA

March 9, 2022 Commission Meeting
MINUTES

Before: Chairman Charles H. Ramsey
Mr. John T. Adams, Commissioner
Reverend Dr. Anne Ard, Commissioner
Ms. Karen Baker, Commissioner
Honorable Bruce R. Beemer, Commissioner
Mr. Mark H. Bergstrom, Commissioner
Honorable Tim Briggs, Commissioner
Mr. Tarik Casteel, Commissioner
Mr. John Delaney, Jr., Commissioner
Mr. Philip Damiani, Commissioner
Ms. Gwen Dando, Designee for Honorable Wayne Langerholc
Mr. Michael J. Deery, Designee for Honorable Vincent Hughes
Honorable Diane Ellis-Marseglia, Commissioner
Colonel Robert Evanchick, Commissioner
Ms. Faith Haeussler, Designee for Ms. Keara Klinepeter
Honorable David W. Heckler, Commissioner
Dr. Gerald Huesken, Designee for Mr. Noe Ortega
Honorable Curtis Jones, Jr., Commissioner
Honorable Timika R. Lane, Commissioner
Ms. Carol L. Lavery, Commissioner
Mr. George Little, Commissioner
Honorable Megan McCarthy King, Commissioner
Mr. Sean T. McGinley, Commissioner
Mr. Geoff Moulton, Commissioner
Commissioner Michael Muldrow, Commissioner
Dr. Edward P. Mulvey, Commissioner
Mr. Kevin J. Schreiber, Commissioner
Ms. Joni Shenck, Designee for Honorable Sheryl DeLozier
Honorable Russell D. Shurtleff, Commissioner
Honorable Jennifer Smith, Commissioner
Mr. Keith B. Snyder, Commissioner
Mr. Richard D. Steele, Commissioner
Mr. R. Kevin Sutter, Commissioner
Mr. Mike Vereb, Commissioner
Ms. Phoenicia D.W. Wallace, Commissioner
Ms. Vicki Wilken, Designee for Honorable Patrick Browne

Guests: Mr. Anthony Glass
Mr. Bradley Keen
Mr. Tanner Widdowson
Ms. Samantha Williams

Staff: Michael Pennington, Executive Director
Sally Barry, Director, Office of Justice Programs
Kathleen Buckley, Director, Office of Victims' Services
Kirsten Kenyon, Director, Office of Research, Evaluation and Strategic Policy Development
Derin Myers, Director, Office of Financial Management and Administration
Debra Sandifer, Chief Counsel
Jeffrey Blystone
Stacie Brendlinger
Lindsay Busko
Kathy Clarke
Christina Cosgrove-Rooks
Chris Epoca
Lynn Fidler
Theresa Ford
James Haas
Nancy Heisler
Heather Hewitt
Rebecca Kiehl
Samantha Koch
Geoffrey Kolchin
Carol Kuntz
Michael Leister
Roi Ligon
David McMeekin
Diane Morgan
John Pfau
Alyssa Subsinsky
Brian Swoyer
Lindsay Vaughan
Jacqueline Weaknecht
Danielle Wilbert
Gregory Young

I. Call to Order

The March 9, 2022 meeting of the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency (PCCD) was called to order at 10:00 a.m. by Chairman Charles Ramsey. Roll call was requested. He informed members that the meeting was being recorded, to which there were no objections.

II. Chairman's Report

Chairman Charles H. Ramsey

- The first order of business was to approve the minutes from the December 8, 2021 meeting.

Motion: Vereb. **Seconded:** Briggs. **Abstentions:** None
Aye Votes: 32 No Votes: 0 Motion Adopted

- Chairman Ramsey opened his report by introducing new Commission member, George Little, Acting Secretary of the Department of Corrections, and designee of Department of Health Acting Secretary Keara Klinepeter, Faith Haeussler.
- March 2022 marks two years since the Special Council on Gun Violence presented its report of findings and recommendations to the Governor and the Commission. Much has changed in the Commonwealth in the time that has passed, but the crisis of gun violence unfortunately persists. The Special Council will reconvene on March 24, 2022 to hear directly from individuals and organizations working on the ground level in their communities to stem the tide of violence and to support survivors in the aftermath of shootings.
- PCCD's School Safety and Security Committee announced a new round of 25 approved projects as part of the FY 2021 Violence Intervention and Prevention Grant Program. These 'Round 2' projects build on the first cohort of VIP grants approved by the Committee in December. Thanks to an infusion of \$15 million in federal American Rescue Plan dollars provided to PCCD in January, PCCD has been able to support approximately \$39 million in VIP grants this year using state and federal funds. The project summaries can be found on PCCD's website under the Gun Violence section in the Criminal Justice tab.
- On January 27, PCCD announced the availability of up to \$750,000 to support a new Violence Intervention and Prevention Technical Assistance Project. This competitive solicitation seeks qualified applicants to design and launch a new Statewide Community of Practice as well as other training, technical assistance, and capacity building resources. The Statewide Community of Practice was a concept recommended by the Special Council on Gun Violence and will connect organizations working on the forefront of community violence intervention with peers, experts, and other supports.
- Governor Wolf called for continued investments in the Violence Intervention and Prevention program as part of his FY 2022-23 budget proposal. PCCD has seen firsthand through its recent solicitations that the demand for high-quality community violence intervention programs is significant. We look forward to continuing to support these critical efforts with the resources at our disposal and will keep Commission members informed of developments in the months ahead.
- The Commission is responsible for adopting standards addressing training for school security personnel. Act 67 of 2019 requires all school police officers, school resource officers, and school security guards to complete the Basic School Resource Officer Course offered by the National Association of School Resource Officers (NASRO) or an equivalent course of instruction approved by the Commission prior to working in a school setting.

On December 11, 2019, the Commission adopted standards for an equivalent course of instruction and delegated authority to PCCD staff to evaluate and approve training providers to offer those courses throughout Pennsylvania. Since that time, seven training providers have been approved to

offer that training in PA and can be found on PCCD's website. Since the passage of the training requirement, over 75 trainings have been held annually, on average, with over 3,700 school safety personnel taking part in those trainings.

In addition to this training requirement, the statute also requires PCCD, in consultation with staff from the PA Department of Education and the PA State Police, to periodically reassess the training. Throughout the summer and fall of 2021, PCCD staff convened a workgroup to that effect, and discussed recommendations to improve the training.

The revised training standards are included as a separate document in the meeting materials. A supplemental document is included comparing the approved standards created in 2019 with the suggested revised edits from 2021, along with the rationale for the change. The School Safety and Security Committee (SSSC) reviewed the suggested changes at its January 26, 2022 meeting and expressed no concerns.

Action Item: Updated School Security Personnel Training Standards

Staff and the SSSC are recommending the approval of the updated school security personnel training standards, to be used by PCCD staff to evaluate and approve vendors offering equivalent course of instruction to the NASRO Basic School Resource Officer Course. If approved, standards will be distributed to all training providers, who will then have up to nine months to update their curriculum accordingly and resubmit it to PCCD for staff review and approval.

Motion: Schreiber. **Seconded:** Jones. **Abstentions:** None.

Aye Votes: 35 No Votes: 0 Motion Adopted

III. Executive Director's Report

Michael Pennington, Executive Director

- Mr. Pennington reported that the 2022 Criminal Justice Advisory Board Conference "Administering Justice in a Changing World" will be held on April 12-13, 2022 at the Penn State State College. This year's conference will bring together criminal justice, behavioral health, and treatment partners for what promises to be an engaging and thought-provoking one and a half-day event. We have an exciting line-up of local experts who will discuss new and reemerging issues impacting our criminal justice and behavioral health systems, providing innovative strategies and collaborative solutions to meet the challenges ahead. We have two nationally known keynote speakers, Dr. Stephanie Covington, who will discuss the growing body of evidence documenting the impact of childhood trauma on health, mental health, addiction, and the risk of criminal-justice involvement, and Dr. Joel Núñez, who will discuss emerging insights into the physical, cognitive, and psycho-social development of adolescents.
- The **Judicial Computer System Financial Audit Committee** formally adopted the final report of the Committee on January 27, which was distributed to the appropriate members of the General Assembly by its January 31 deadline. This Committee was established as part of the FY 21-22 budget to look into the Administrative Office of PA Courts' Judicial Computer System and its funding.

The Committee overwhelmingly agreed that the Judicial Computer System is of critical importance not only to AOPC, but to all partners in the criminal justice system, and as such should be appropriately resourced to ensure its continued operation and maintenance. As part of its recommendations, the Committee suggested that the General Assembly should explore measures to increase the transparency of the JCS Augmentation Account, which supports the system; continue to monitor the balance of the Account; and potentially reconvene the Committee if needed in the future. A full copy of the report is available on PCCD's website.

- The **Task Force on Child Pornography** continues to meet regularly to learn more about the offense of child pornography, including how it is investigated, prosecuted, and treated.

The January meeting included presentations from Mission Kids CAC in Montgomery County on how CACs are involved with victims of child pornography and the differences between adult and juvenile prosecutions, and the Attorney General's Office's Child Predator Section on how cases are prosecuted and charged in Pennsylvania. The February meeting included a presentation on how the Sexual Offender Assessment Board assesses child porn offenders, and Mark Bergstrom provided a detailed summary of related sentencing guidelines.

The next meeting is on April 20, 2022, where they expect to receive a data presentation from PCCD research staff and an overview of county adult probation and parole's policies and procedures in regard to child porn offenders. The ultimate goal of the Task Force is to develop a series of recommendations, based on the feedback received, to improve the application of the law. They expect to host a few more information gathering sessions before turning the information over to the Joint State Government Commission staff to begin drafting the report.

- When PCCD shared its 2021-2025 Strategic Framework to the Commission in December 2020, we shared our commitment that the plan would serve as an active roadmap guiding decisions and tracking progress. PCCD has made progress on several key initiatives in partnership with Advisory Committees, Training Boards, and the Commission. For example, we've championed system-level reforms and policy changes ranging from:
 - Increasing deposits to the Crime Victims Fund through critical federal VOCA fix legislation;
 - Supporting efforts to address racial and ethnic disparities within juvenile and criminal justice and other systems PCCD engages through our Juvenile and Adult R/ED Subcommittees, funding for local R/ED Coordinators, and the R/ED Certificate Program (in partnership with Georgetown University) that included seven counties and a statewide team;
 - Elevating recommendations from the Pennsylvania Juvenile Justice Task Force within our 2021 Plan to the Governor; and
 - Providing testimony during a hearing on comprehensive amendments to Pennsylvania's Child Protective Services Law, leading to passage of legislation providing explicit authorization for law enforcement to share information to support multidisciplinary team investigations of child abuse.

Further, PCCD has taken significant steps to make our funding guidelines and funding announcements more accessible and equitable for potential applicants. Where we can, we are also looking at performance indicators and other outcomes to ensure we are on track with the priorities articulated in our Strategic Framework.

We've also shepherded quite a number of new initiatives over the past year, including:

- Standing up a Basic Training Academy program for county adult probation and parole officers;
- Overseeing a portfolio of nearly \$53 million in Gun Violence Reduction and Violence Intervention and Prevention grants supporting 117 projects across the state;
- Piloting the PA Youth Survey for students in elementary schools;
- Creating new School Safety and Security baseline criteria and monitoring tools; and
- Translating and enhancing communications to victims/survivors to increase accessibility and make information more victim sensitive and less overwhelming.

PCCD is planning to provide more detailed information regarding these and other initiatives within the next agency-wide annual report, which should be released this spring.

- On February 8, Governor Wolf released his proposed 2022-23 budget. The request included level funding for PCCD's regularly occurring programmatic appropriations which include the Office of Safe School Advocate, Improving Adult Probation Services, Intermediate Punishment Programs,

Violence and Delinquency Prevention Programs, and Victims of Juvenile Offenders. These appropriations total approximately \$40 million.

The Governor's proposed budget also includes some expansion of effort in other areas. Our General Government Operations budget was increased to include \$1 million to address reintegration efforts for women completing a period of incarceration and \$1 million to address issues related to indigent defense.

The Violence Intervention and Prevention Program appropriation request saw an increase from \$30 million in 2021 to \$35 million in 2022 and School Safety and Security was included at \$45 million. The non-profit security program appropriation was increased from approximately \$5 million in the prior two years to \$10 million in 2022. We are starting to see significant savings related to the Justice Reinvestment 2 initiative and look forward to approximately \$8 million being available in the upcoming fiscal year.

- In January, excess federal American Rescue Plan funding was announced by the Governor's Office to support another round of **Nonprofit Security Grant Fund Program** grants for 2022.

Act 83 of 2019 established the Nonprofit Security Grant Fund Program within PCCD for the purposes of distributing grant funding to 501(c)(3) organizations who principally serve individuals, groups, or institutions that may be susceptible to or have experienced a hate crime. Applicants are eligible for awards ranging from \$5,000 to \$150,000 for a wide range of physical security enhancements for their facilities.

This will mark the third solicitation in three years for this program. Awards in the past have gone to support churches, synagogues, mosques, and other community organizations that have indicated that their organization or membership was the victim of a hate-crime; clearly justified a credible hate-crime threat to their organization; or served a population clearly susceptible to a hate-crime. More information about this program and previous awards can be found as a separate document in the meeting materials.

Because the funding for the program was just announced in January as a response to a recent surge in bias crimes – and coupled with the strict 90-day review window provided for in Act 83 – PCCD is respectfully requesting that the Commission delegate authority to the Executive Director to approve, with the approval of the PCCD Chairman and the Act 83 review team composed of representatives from the Commission, the Governor's Office of Homeland Security, and the Pennsylvania State Police, up to \$4.5 million in federal American Rescue Plan funding and \$733,450 in state Nonprofit Security Grant funds to support a collective \$5.2 million FY 21-22 Nonprofit Security Grant Fund Program solicitation.

Action Item: Delegation of Authority

Staff and the Chairman are recommending approval to delegate authority to the Executive Director to approve, with the approval of the PCCD Chairman and the Act 83 review team, to support a \$5.2 million FY 21-22 Nonprofit Security Grant Fund Program solicitation.

Motion: Delaney. **Seconded:** Heckler. **Abstentions:** None.

Aye Votes: 35 No Votes: 0 Motion Adopted

IV. County Adult Probation and Parole Advisory Committee Report

Honorable Russell D. Shurtleff

Honorable Timika Lane

Ms. Sally Barry

- Committee Co-chair Judge Russell Shurtleff provided the County Adult Probation and Parole Advisory Committee (CAPPAC) report, which begins on page 1 of the Commission meeting materials. Judge Shurtleff provided brief highlights from the CAPPAC meeting, held on February

10, 2022 via Zoom, and presented two informational updates and one action item for the Commission's consideration.

Action Item: Federal Byrne Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) Funds – Continuation

Staff and the County Adult Probation and Parole Advisory Committee are recommending approval of one application requesting a total not to exceed \$41,453 in Byrne Justice Assistance Grant funds, pending the resolution of any outstanding programmatic and/or fiscal concerns.

Motion: Shurtleff. **Seconded:** Vereb. **Abstentions:** None.

Aye Votes: 35 No Votes: 0 Motion Adopted

V. Victims' Services Advisory Committee Report

Mr. John Delaney

Ms. Kathy Buckley

- Committee Chair John Delaney provided the Victims' Services Advisory Committee (VSAC) report, which begins on page 5 of the Commission meeting materials. Mr. Delaney provided brief highlights from the VSAC meeting, held on February 8, 2022 via Teams, and presented two informational updates. There were no action items for consideration.

VI. Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Committee Report

Mr. Keith Snyder

Ms. Sally Barry, Mr. Geoffrey Kolchin, Mr. Gregory Young

- Committee Chair Keith Snyder provided the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Committee (JJDCP) report, which begins on page 7 of the Commission meeting materials. Mr. Snyder provided brief highlights from the JJDCP meeting, held on February 3, 2022 via Teams, and presented four informational updates. There were no action items for consideration.

VII. Criminal Justice Advisory Committee Report

Mr. Mike Vereb

Ms. Sally Barry and Ms. Jacqueline Weaknecht

- Committee Chair Mike Vereb provided the Criminal Justice Advisory Committee (CJAC) report, which begins on page 9 of the Commission meeting materials. Mr. Vereb provided brief highlights from the CJAC meeting, held on February 9, 2022 via Teams, and presented three informational updates and two action items for the Commission's consideration.

Action Item: Federal Byrne Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) Funds – Continuations

Staff and the Criminal Justice Advisory Committee are recommending approval of four applications requesting a total not to exceed \$346,706 in federal Byrne Justice Assistance Grant funds, pending the resolution of any outstanding programmatic and/or fiscal concerns.

Motion: Vereb. **Seconded:** Ellis-Marseglia. **Abstentions:** None.

Aye Votes: 36 No Votes: 0 Motion Adopted

Action Item: Federal Project Safe Neighborhood Funds

Staff and the Criminal Justice Advisory Committee are recommending approval of five applications requesting a total not to exceed \$159,661 in federal PSN – Western District funds, pending the resolution of any outstanding programmatic and/or fiscal concerns.

Motion: Vereb. **Seconded:** Briggs. **Abstentions:** Mulvey.

Aye Votes: 35 No Votes: 0 Motion Adopted

VIII. Mental Health and Justice Advisory Committee Report

Mr. William Ward

Ms. Sally Barry and Ms. Jacqueline Weaknecht

- Ms. Sally Barry provided the Mental Health and Justice Advisory Committee (MHJAC) report, which begins on page 18 of the Commission meeting materials. Ms. Barry provided brief highlights from the MHJAC meeting, held on February 2, 2022 via Teams. There were no action items for consideration.

IX. Children’s Advocacy Center Advisory Committee Report

Honorable David W. Heckler

Ms. Kirsten Kenyon

Chairman Ramsey noted that there was no report for the Children’s Advocacy Center Advisory Committee. The February 1 meeting was postponed until March 16. An update on action will occur at the June Commission meeting.

X. Constables’ Education and Training Board Report

Mr. John Pfau

Chairman Ramsey noted that there was no report for the Constable’s Education and Training Board other than the material that is included as part of the packet.

XI. Sheriff and Deputy Sheriff Education and Training Board Report

Mr. John Pfau

Chairman Ramsey noted that there was no report for the Sheriff and Deputy Sheriff Education and Training Board other than the material that is included as part of the packet.

XII. Other Business

Councilmember Curtis Jones reported that in Philadelphia, they have completed the “100 Shooter Review”, which is a report that does three things: determines how shooters wind up on the crime scene; determines how the crime gun wound up at the crime scene; and if there are multiple occasions where they pull the trigger, where in the system should we tighten up to keep the public safe. They had the cooperation of the Police Commissioner, the District Attorney, the Defenders Association, and the City of Philadelphia Department of Health. They would like PCCD to review the report, which can be found [here](#).

XIII. Public Voice

Chairman Ramsey invited anyone from the public to address the Commission. There were no members of the public who addressed the Commission.

XIV. Adjournment

Hearing no further comment, Chairman Ramsey asked for a motion for adjournment.

Commissioner Vereb made a motion to adjourn, which was seconded by Commissioner Lavery. The motion carried unanimously, and the meeting concluded at 10:48 a.m.