

COMBAT Commission Meeting
July 8, 2021, 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM
Zoom Meeting
Minutes

Present:

Larry Beaty
Mark Bryant
Stephanie Burton
Arimeta Dupree
Alfred Jordan
Dr. Joseph Spalitto
Lanna Ultican
Dr. Kelvin Walls
Elizabeth Williams

Also Present:

Vince Ortega, COMBAT
Jean Peters Baker, Jackson County Prosecutor
Dawna J. Shumate, COMBAT
Jennifer Dameron, JACO Prosecutor's Office
Theresa Cass Galvin, Jackson County Legislator
Keron Hopkins, COMBAT
Holli Crowley, COMBAT
Tammie Jordan, COMBAT
Joe Loudon, COMBAT

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 AM.

Minutes Approved:

Alfred Jordan motioned to approve June 10, 2021 and February 11, 2021 meeting minutes as corrected; Dr. Joseph Spalitto seconded; motion passed.

DISCUSSION:

Chairman Mark Bryant suggested the Commission meet more regularly to fulfill its role of setting goals for COMBAT and making recommendations for granting COMBAT funding. He recommended the Commission meet once per month, rather than quarterly, and meet however often as might be necessary to meet the Commission's responsibilities. A schedule of proposed meeting dates is to be set to Commissioners from COMBAT staff.

Chairman Bryant also recommended the Commission engage in a Quality Improvement Effort modeled after the Joint Commission For The Accreditation of Health Care Organizations philosophy that any organization should always be looking for ways to do things better. He wants to explore ways in which COMBAT can make improvements. As an example, he cited devising programs to reduce recidivism.

Staff provided the Commission detailed descriptions of each program currently receiving COMBAT funding. A presentation by COMBAT staff broke down how COMBAT funding was being distributed in 2021, showing the percentages allotted to treatment and prevention programs, law enforcement agencies, Jackson County departments, and the courts (Circuit Court, Family Court and Drug Court). The presentation also included funding amounts provided to outside agencies providing COMBAT Prevention, Treatment, STRIVIN' and Law Enforcement School-Based programs in 2021.

COMBAT staff and Prosecutor Jean Peters Baker noted an emphasis on getting law enforcement agencies to develop programs other than D.A.R.E.—programs that are, unlike D.A.R.E., evidence-based with evidence demonstrating that they are effective. Prosecutor Peters Baker stated that while COMBAT is continuing fund to some D.A.R.E. programming, COMBAT is working with individual police departments to eventually transition to new programs and will eventually no longer continue recommending to the Commission funding for law enforcement school-based initiatives based exclusively on the D.A.R.E. model.

COMBAT staff also provided an overview of all funding requests in 2021, with 99 agencies having applied for '21 funding. The agencies proposed providing services at 362 locations throughout Jackson County. These agencies requested \$12.2 million in funding, and eventually \$9.3 million in recommended funding was allocated.

NEW BUSINESS:

Distribution of COMBAT's Available Undesignated Fund Balance

Prosecutor Peters Baker pointed out this is funding that could be distributed this year but is currently being held in a reserve account. She stressed the need for funding is now and said County Legislator Theresa Cass Galvin had initially recommend allocating these resources in accordance with COMBAT's funding formula. Peters Baker added that any additional funding provided the Prosecutor's Office would, if rules permit, be used to cover a shortfall in the budget for client advocates and social workers to provide services for individuals classified as high-risk. She intends to ask the Kansas City Police Department to match that funding.

Legislator Galvin said the total amount to be distributed is \$895,004.

MOTION:

Commissioner Larry Beaty made a motion to approve the Distribution of COMBAT's Available Undesignated Fund Balance. Commissioner Arimeta Dupree seconded the motion.

The motion was approved 9-0.

ANNOUNCEMENT:

The next COMBAT Commission meeting is Thursday, August 12.

Meeting adjourned at 11:06 AM.