

Drug Commission Meeting
February 21, 2017, 1:30-3:30pm
Downtown Courthouse, 415 E. 12th Street, Kansas City, MO
Legislative Chambers
Minutes

Present:

Gene Morgan
Keith Querry
Lanna Ultican
James Witteman, Jr.
Gloria Fisher

Also Present:

Stacey Daniels-Young
Vince Ortega
Laci Beavers
Joan Dickey
LaTasha Bunting
Sgt. Gary Tucker, Drug Task Force
Sgt. Mike Rigot, Drug Task Force
Vanessa Huston, GIS Developer
Chief Byron Price, Chair of Drug Task Force
Tedi Rowland, County Counselor's Office
Jay Haden, County Counselor's Office

The meeting was called to order at 1:30 PM. It began with the Crime Mapping presentation so the IT representatives can return to other duties.

Crime Mapping

Vince Ortega introduced Vanessa Huston from the Jackson County IT department, who works on GIS (Geographic Information Systems) with GIS to the Drug Commission. She presented an outline of the COMBAT Violent Crime Hotspot Mapping project, explaining how it started, where it is now, and where it is going. Crime Mapping started with a map of an intersection with a circle around it. There are weekly meetings with COMBAT and GIS staff, a standardized GIS methodology, GIS has begun writing Standard Operating Procedures, and there's a contact person within each law enforcement agency. GIS collects data on Part 1 Violent Crimes (homicide, aggravated assaults, rape/sexual assault and robbery) from Blue Springs, Grain Valley, Grandview, Independence, Kansas City, Lee's Summit, Lone Jack, Oak Grove, Raytown, Sugar Creek, and Jackson County Sheriff's Department.

Currently, the hurdles are with the data management since there are different crime code standards (NIBRS v. UCR), address cleanup, geocoding addresses is time consuming, and most agencies are not capturing X/Y data or it's inaccurate. The hotspot analysis uses hot/cold spots to tell where an area has a high or low count of crime clusters, and individual crime points are aggregated into city blocks. Grouping Analysis tries to find natural clusters in the data. The maps can also show socioeconomic traits like HS dropout rate, unemployment rate, education level, median income, and population density, etc. Additional refinement includes research options for better data collection at the law enforcement agency level (capturing X,Y), continue

refining web mapping application based upon feedback, expand into 3D analysis, and schedule a meeting between COMBAT and ESRI regarding additional analysis options, data sharing, and dissemination of results. Vanessa then showed a crime map of Manheim Park to illustrate how dynamic the system is (representatives of Manheim Park had come into the COMBAT office to report suspected drug crime and shootings). Vanessa also gave a description of the area from one of her resources.

Gloria Fisher mentioned that access to transportation and access to healthcare are some more variables to look at. Commissioner Gene Morgan asked where the socioeconomic traits came from and if it was public information. Vanessa stated that the information comes from ESRI, GIS software, and that it is public information.

Vince asked the law enforcement representatives who were present what other suggestions they have for what else should be collected for the database. Chief Price of Oak Grove mentioned that access to schools, businesses, tax records, utility bills, and liquor stores would be nice to track, and Sgt. Gary Tucker of Independence mentioned that it would be nice to track relatives or associates.

Commissioner Gene Morgan asked will there be another meeting. Vince said yes, after there's a meeting with ESRI and the Chiefs of Police and their crime analysts, where Vince plans to ask the Chiefs of Police what else do they need and what they are looking for. He would also like to have secure portals for law enforcement and another portal for the public to access.

Commissioner Gene Morgan asked how crime mapping is used with COMBAT. Stacey stated that the hotspot crime maps help with setting up neighborhood initiatives to reduce crime such as the initiatives in South Kansas City and Northeast Kansas City. Then, COMBAT gathers data to see if violent crime goes down.

Commissioner Gene Morgan mentioned perhaps using Vanessa's presentation once a month to show neighborhoods, which could be used for their initiatives. Vince stated that we could invite them to the staff meetings. Commissioner Gene Morgan also mentioned that the city gathers Neighborhood Association presidents to meet once or twice a year for a dinner/luncheon at a restaurant where Vanessa can give a presentation, and Keith Query mentioned that the Independence Neighborhood Watch meets the first Tuesday of every month at 7pm.

Jim Witteman asked if this was live and Vanessa stated that the link is shared with everyone, but the data on the COMBAT website is not live. Stacey stated that we could post the new crime map that is more current on COMBAT's website. Vince mentioned that Northeast Kansas City was the number 1 Violent Crime Hotspot and that COMBAT has started an initiative in that area (the second meeting will be at the Northeast Chamber of Commerce and NOVA will be involved).

Jim Witteman moved to approve the January minutes; Lanna Ultican second; motion passed.

Reports from Ex-Officio Drug Commission Members

Chief Byron Price Chairman of the Drug Task Force, thanked the Drug Commissioners for supporting the Drug Task Force. He presented highlights from the 2016 Annual Report. There were 21 investigative personnel in the Taskforce: Blue Springs has 3, Grain Valley has 1, Grandview has 2, Independence has 4, Lee's Summit has 2, Oak Grove has 1, Sheriff has 1, Sugar Creek has 1, DEA has 1, and the National Guard has 1. A total value of 5,218,000 of control substances was seized in 2016 as well as 27 long guns and 51 hand guns, and \$136,000 in cash was recovered.

There was a brief discussion about how search warrants are enacted. Sgt. Gary Tucker stated 10 seconds are given after a knock at the door before the police kick in the door, involving 10-14 detectives. They usually take place in the morning with little resistance. The search warrants aren't filmed, however, there may be a debriefing about it afterwards. Sgt. Tucker stated that they are mandated to report injuries. He brought a picture of a gun with a long tube, describing it as a homemade silencer. Commissioner Gene Morgan asked about 2016 complaints, they were described as are tips coming from hotlines, both COMBAT and smaller units. They also receive tips on their Facebook page. He mentioned that Grandview doesn't have a drug unit, which is reflected by the greater number of calls regarding that area. Keith Query asked if all complaints are valid, and was told that this is not the case.

Old Business: There was no Old Business.

New Business:

Stacey formally introduced, LaTasha Bunting as the new Executive Assistant for COMBAT.

2017 D.A.R.E. Allocations

Stacey requested \$1,215,279 for D.A.R.E. allocations. This will cover D.A.R.E. classes and, in keeping with the language used in the November 2016 renewal, other law enforcement school based projects/curriculums. The request covers nine jurisdictions – Blue Springs, Grain Valley, Grandview, Independence, Kansas City, Lee's Summit, Oak Grove, Sugar Creek, and the Sheriff Department. The schools also do classes such as Keeping It Real and G.R.E.A.T. There will be a meeting with the D.A.R.E. officers and Chiefs to discuss what the new language means (the Prosecutor has asked to be a part of this meeting). Stacey stated that she would like to see more school based projects addressing gang initiatives and projects on marijuana and opiates. For example, in 2016 Kansas City conducted D.A.R.E. at some of the Raytown Schools. Vince stated that the Raytown Police Dept. doesn't have the personnel or manpower to devote to such classes.

Commissioner Gene Morgan asked what some of the reported incidents were. Vince stated that the incidents include assault, possession, counseling sessions, breaking up a fight, stealing, as well as other things. There are 20 different categories of incidents that the department can reflect participating in at schools, in addition to, teaching required curricula.

2017 Treatment Requested Funding

Next, Stacey discussed the 2017 Treatment requested funding. Some things that Stacey highlighted were: Benilde Hall's award will be combined with their Grant Match request under Treatment, there were several agencies with unexpended funds from 2016 that were being extended into 2017 (reflected in reduced number of recommended awards), and that there were three new programs requested: COPS, Empowerment for Change, and Sisters in Christ. Sisters in Christ is doing transitional living for women; COPS is doing transitional living as well but have specifically requested funding for a professional Substance Abuse counselor. The Prosecutor has spoken to COMBAT about the concern around reduced transitional housing funding in Missouri. Therefore, Stacey suggests that funds not recommended for expenditure at this time be held to see if funding for transitional living is needed later. Keith Query asked if COMBAT is familiar with the new agencies requesting funding. Stacey mentioned that Joan worked with COPS, Sisters in Christ has applied before, and Joan has recently visited the two for which COMBAT is recommending funding. Jim Witteman was concerned about the low score on the COPS application. Stacey believes that the program will be strengthened with a counselor and COMBAT staff would have to work closely with them. The lady has the clients work and attend group meetings, drug testing, and counseling. COPS is for men and Dan advocated for it. COMBAT will do site visits at both agencies to make sure they are doing what they say they are going to do.

Stacey told the Commissioners that she and Joan will be visiting Journey to New Life. It's an organization by nuns, who take in females from prison.

Keith Query motioned to accept the 2017 Treatment requested funding; Gloria Fisher second; motion passed.

2017 Grant Match Requested Funding

Stacey presented the 2017 Grant Match recommended funding. Stacey explained why some programs were recommended for lower or no funding. Although Whatsoever had scores below the minimum score for funding of 75, they are recommended for Probationary funding with Technical Assistance since they are in a high crime area with few resources for children. KC Mothers in Charge, which received a contract from COMBAT last year, is recommended for funding as a Grant Match program.

Jim asked why Arts Tech is not recommended for Grant Match funding. Stacey stated that they submitted a new proposal since their existing program was more than five years old, but what they submitted was very disjointed and confusing, so it received low scores. Since they are a Prevention program eligible for renewal, they will still probably receive adequate funding through Prevention and the Anti-Violence Special Initiative, especially on their work with youth involved in the NOVA program and those who have been suspended.

Gloria asked about the problem with the Palestine Senior Citizens proposal. While the program was submitted as a violence prevention, it is more a safety program for those at the Activity Center and teaches self-defense to seniors, not a violence prevention program. It is the same program they have submitted in the past, with similar feedback.

Jim Witteman motioned to approve the recommendation for 2017 Grant Match requested funding; Lanna Ultican second; motion passed.

Anti-Violence Special Initiative Recommendations (AVSI) for 2017

Lastly, Stacey presented the Anti-Violence Special Initiative recommendations for 2017. There are seven remaining AVSI agencies and the total amount recommended is \$325,000. Stacey highlighted the successes and enhancements of the programs that remain from the original 16 AVSI programs. Gloria was happy to see that COMBAT is funding Center for Conflict Resolution.

Commissioner Morgan asked Stacey to explain the Dismas House AVSI program. Stacey stated that Dismas House works with perpetrators of violence and those referred from probation or parole. They provide substance abuse counseling and do total assessment for family needs, and they would like to start working with teens.

After a question from Commissioner Witteman regarding the increase for Ad Hoc, Stacey reduced their recommendation from \$70,000 to \$60,000. The total amount requested for AVSI programs is \$315,000. Gloria motioned to accept the Anti-Violence Special Initiative recommendations for 2017 as amended; Lanna Ultican second; motion passed.

DARE and other Law Enforcement School Programs

Vince will schedule a meeting with DARE officers and possibly police chiefs to explain the changes to the language that affects these programs, and will include Prosecutor Jean Peters Baker. Keith Query motioned to approve the DARE 2017 allocations; Lanna Ultican second; motion passed.

Announcements:

The next meeting will be March 14, 2017 in the Legislative Chambers.

Meeting adjourned at 3:08 PM.