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STATE OF NEBRASKA

NEBRASKA COMMISSION ON LAW ENFORCEMENT AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE

(Nebraska Crime Commission)

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Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) Crime Commission Grant Review

Meeting Minutes

September 26, 2016, 11:00 a.m. CDT

The Crime Commission Grant Review Committee of the Nebraska Commission on Law Enforcement and Criminal Justice met September 26, 2016 at 11:00 a.m. CDT immediately following the JAG Review at the Nebraska State Office Building, Crime Commission conference room, 5th floor, 301 Centennial Mall South, Lincoln, Nebraska.

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 11:00 a.m. CDT by Weysan Dun, Chairperson.

II. Open Meetings Law Advisement

Duns announced this meeting is subject to the Nebraska Open meetings Act and was duly given and published in compliance with the Open meetings Act. Duns reminded the committee that an e-mail notification was sent to all applicants of this year's VOCA grant program. Duns also informed the committee that public comments will be accepted at the end of the meeting and a copy of the Open Meeting Act is posted.

III. Roll Call

Members Present: Tim Dempsey, Candice Batton, Ray Norris, Michelle Schindler, Weysan Dun

Staff Present: Lisa Stamm, Merry Wills, Kristy Nguyen, Kellie Rabenhorst, Maria Zutavern, Jeanette Greer

Public Members: Dawn Conley, Amy Holmes, Michelle Patterson, Lori Gottylys, Corrie Kietty, Sarah Hanify, Mikayla Tremain

IV. Introductions

Duns stated that he appreciated everyone for participating in the Grant Review. Duns had each member introduce themselves and identify the agency that they represent. Duns reminded those who may be part of an application or those who it would be a conflict of interest to refrain from providing information and if the grant application would influence the agency they represent to please abstain from providing additional information unless requested by the group and will need to abstain from voting for the grant and indicate the grant number during the vote. Duns also reminded the committee that this is an open meeting and public comments are welcomed however, they will need to wait until the committee has made all funding recommendations.

V. VOCA Background and Purpose

Rabenhorst provided a brief overview of VOCA. Rabenhorst noted that the funds for VOCA came from two pots of money: State and Federal Victims of Crime Act (VOCA fund). Rabenhorst informed the committee that for FY2016, VOCA will be receiving \$13,278,442. Rabenhorst stated that of that amount, \$12,614,450 will be for Aid. Rabenhorst also noted that State fund is \$52,559.00. Rabenhorst indicated that Victims of Crime Act fund are not tax dollars but are funds collected from fines associate with federal crimes. Rabenhorst also noted that the primary purpose of VOCA funds is to support provision of services to crime victims, direct services to individual crime victims at no cost to the victim.

Rabenhorst informed the committee on the new rule for VOCA funds that became effective beginning of August, 2016. Rabenhorst explained that under the new rules, VOCA funds can be awarded on a non-competitive and a competitive basis. Rabenhorst noted that OVC has directed states that recipients who have long-standing and proven track records of service to communities should be given preference.

Rabenhorst informed the committee that the FY2016 total aid available is \$16,688,424. This included \$12,614,450 from FY 2016 federal VOCA grant fund, \$52,559 from FY2016 State fund, \$4,021,415 in carryover of 2015 funding and approximately \$1.5 million in a program deobligation of 2015.

VI. Review and Recommendations for 2016 VOCA Grant Applications

Rabenhorst informed the committee that this is the second year of the three year grant cycle. Rabenhorst noted that this review will only be making recommendations for year two of funding. Rabenhorst also stated that 27 applications met the criteria for non-competitive continuation funds that do not need to go through full review process.

Rabenhorst informed the committee that the staff review took place on August 18th, 2016 and consisted of five members of the Grant Division team: Merry Wills, Maria Zutavern, Jeanette Greer, Lisa Stamm, herself and Ivy Svoboda, the Executive Director of the Nebraska CAC Alliance.

Rabenhorst informed the committee that the requests totaling \$10,442,750, the staff review team is recommending \$9,565,491. Rabenhorst reviewed comments from the Staff Review team that are summarized on the summary comment sheets for applications. There was a discussion among the committee about funding levels and distribution amounts. There was a brief discussion on updating Operating Instruction #10 and the use of the remaining funds.

Duns invited a motion to accept the recommendations and revisions as set forth by the Grant Review Committee for the recommended amounts.

Motion

A motion was made by Schindler and seconded by Batton to accept the recommendations and revisions as set forth by the Grant Review Committee for the recommended amounts. Voting in favor of the motion: Dempsey (abstained #16-VA-249), Batton (abstained #16-VA-216) Norris, Schindler. Motion carried.

VII. Old Business

No old business at this time.

VIII. New Business

No new business at this time.

IX. Public Comment

Dawn Conley provided comment on Heartland Family Service's program and stated that she appreciated the committee members' work and time.

X. Adjournment

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 2:02 p.m. C.D.T

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Kristy Nguyen', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Huong (Kristy) Nguyen
Support Assistant, Grant Division