



**Pete Ricketts**  
Governor

## STATE OF NEBRASKA

NEBRASKA COMMISSION ON LAW ENFORCEMENT AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE

*(Nebraska Crime Commission)*

**Darrell Fisher, Executive Director**

301 Centennial Mall South

P.O. Box 94946

Lincoln, Nebraska 68509-4946

Phone (402) 471-2194

FAX (402) 471-2837

## **STOP (VAWA) Formula Grant Program Crime Commission Grant Review**

### **Meeting Minutes**

**March 17, 2016, 9:00 a.m. CDT**

The Crime Commission Grant Review Committee of the Nebraska Commission on Law Enforcement and Criminal Justice met March 17, 2016 at 9:00 a.m. CDT at the Nebraska State Office Building, Crime Commission conference room, 5<sup>th</sup> floor, 301 Centennial Mall South, Lincoln, Nebraska. Notice of this meeting was published March 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2016 in the Lincoln Journal Star and on the Crime Commission website.

#### **I. Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 9 a.m. CDT by John Freudenberg.

#### **II. Roll Call**

**Members present:** Candice Batton, Michelle Schindler, John Freudenberg, Joe Kelly, Weysan Dun

**Members excused:** Fred Ruiz

**Staff present:** Merry Wills, Kristy Nguyen, Lisa Stamm, Kellie Rabenhorst

**Members of the Public:** Mike Nehe, DV Specialist/Probation & Courts

#### **III. Introduction:**

Freudenberg stated that he appreciated everyone for participating in the Grant Review. Freudenberg introduced new member of the Grant Review, Weysan Dun and had each member introduce themselves and identify the agency that they represent. Freudenberg advised the group this meeting is in accordance with the Open meetings Act and it is a public meeting.

#### **IV. Overview of VOCA**

- **Purpose of funds**

Wills provided the purpose of the STOP Formula Grant Program. Wills noted that these funds are to be used to create comprehensive, positive changes in the response of the criminal justice system to victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking and dating violence. Wills stated that the overall outcomes were increased victim safety and increased offender accountability. There was a brief discussion among the committee.

- **Priorities from the 2014 – 2016 STOP State Plan**

Wills had available a copy of the state plan.

- **Review of STOP VAWA allocations**

Wills reported on the required FY 2015 VAWA STOP funding categories and the allocated percent of funds required for each category. Wills provided copies of the listing and the excel spreadsheet was made available for viewing through the overhead projector. Wills stated that the categories were the following: 25% for Law enforcement, 25% for prosecution, 5% to the courts, 30% for victim services of which 10% must go to cultural specific and 15% as discretionary. Wills explained the Prison Rape Elimination Act penalty of \$57,163 is a 4.75% reduction that will be used to assist the state in coming into compliance. Wills stated that the total allocation amount of \$1,033,969 does not include the PREA funds. Wills gave an explanation of the additional allocation requirements; 20% of the overall funds must be dedicated to Meaningful Sexual Assault Services and for Prevention & Education activities a maximum amount allowed for entire state can be no more than 5% or \$60,618.

#### **V. Review of Operating Instructions**

Wills provided a handout on Operating Instruction #10. (Please see attachment 1)

#### **VI. Review and Recommendations for 2015 VOCA Grant Applications**

Freudenberg 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. In addition, they will need to abstain from voting for the grant and may indicate the grant number during the vote. Freudenberg noted this is a public meeting and comments are welcomed however, they will need to wait until the committee has made all funding recommendations.

Wills presented information on the Staff Review. Wills noted that the Staff Review team members consisted of Robert Sanford, Attorney at the NE Coalition to End Sexual and Domestic Violence, Jeanette Greer, Kelly Rabenhorst and herself. Wills reported that 17 grant applications were received and reviewed by the Staff Review team, 16 are recommended for funding and 1 for denial #15-VW-0701 based on OI #10.007.02B and #10.007.02C. Wills stated that there are two pass-through projects; #15-VW-0710 the PREA project and #15-VW-0711 the Courts/Probation project. Wills informed the committee that the total amount available for aid is \$1,091,132 and the requested amount is \$1,519,578. Wills summarized comments on each grant application from the Staff Review team outlined on the draft Summary Comment Sheets. There was discussion among the committee on the comments provided.

Freudenberg invited a motion to accept the recommendations as set forth by the Staff Review team as modified by the Grant Review team.

*Motion*

*A motion was made by Batton and seconded by Kelly to support recommendations from the Staff Review Team as modified by the Grant Review team. Voting in favor of the motion: Kelly (Abstained #15-VW-715), Batton, Schindler, Dun. Motion carried.*

**VII. Public Comment**

There were no members of the public present who wished to address the Grant Review Committee at this time. Freudenberg stated that he appreciated the public members for attending.

**VIII. Adjourned**

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 11: 20 a.m. C.D.T.

Respectfully Submitted,

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

Huong (Kristy) Nguyen  
Staff Assistant I, Grants Division