

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

March 13, 2024 Commission Meeting
MINUTES

Before: Chairman Austin A. Davis
Vice Chairwoman Jennifer Lopez-Cerrato
Honorable John T. Adams, Commissioner
Honorable Bruce R. Beemer, Commissioner
Dr. Debra L. Bogen, Commissioner
Honorable Tim Briggs, Commissioner
Mr. Tarik Casteel, Commissioner
Honorable Kim Berkeley Clark, Commissioner
Ms. Adara Combs, Commissioner
Honorable James Custer, Commissioner
Dr. Latika Davis-Jones, Commissioner
Mr. Michael Deery, Designee for Honorable Vincent Hughes
Honorable Sheryl Delozier, Commissioner
Honorable Diane Ellis-Marseglia, Commissioner
Ms. Suzanne V. Estrella, Commissioner
Ms. Laurel Harry, Commissioner
Mr. David Heckler, Commissioner
Ms. Kirsten Heine, Designee for Honorable Michelle Henry
Ms. Sara Jacobson, Commissioner
Honorable Megan McCarthy King, Commissioner
Dr. Matthew Kleiman, Commissioner
Mr. Eric Kratz, Designee for Honorable Devlin J. Robinson
Honorable Christopher P. Mallios, Jr., Commissioner
Mr. Sean T. McGinley, Commissioner
Commissioner Michael Muldrow, Commissioner
Dr. Edward Mulvey, Commissioner
Dr. Khalid Mumin, Commissioner
Honorable Carolyn Nichols, Commissioner
Colonel Christopher L. Paris, Commissioner
Honorable Rebecca Rynhart, Commissioner
Honorable Russell D. Shurtleff, Commissioner
Mr. Robert Tomassini, Commissioner
Ms. Andrea Tuominen, Commissioner
Mr. James Turner, Commissioner

Guests: Ms. Kirstin Alvanitakis
Ms. Heather Arias
Mr. Matthew Conn
Mr. Andrew Dudziak
Mr. Jason Henry
Dr. Scott Kuren
Ms. Melissa Myers
Ms. Vicki Wilken
Mr. Steven Williams

Staff: Michael Pennington, Executive Director
Sally Barry, Director, Office of Justice Programs
Kathleen Buckley, Director, Office of Victims' Services
Alison Gantz, Director of Communications
Kirsten Kenyon, Director, Office of Research, Evaluation and Strategic Policy Development
Samantha Koch, Director of Policy & Planning
Derin Myers, Director, Office of Financial Management and Administration
Debra Sandifer, Chief Counsel
Robert Ancheff
Jessica Barnett
Jennifer Bowser
Cory Brady
Stacie Brendlinger
Corinne Burr
Kathy Clarke
Christina Cosgrove-Rooks
Amelia Dizo
Leandria Dorsey
Stephen Ekema
Jennifer Ely
Christopher Epoca
James Haas
Nancy Heisler
Stacey Herman
Heather Hewitt
William Jennings
Geoffrey Kolchin
Crystal Lauver
Michael Leister
Jordan Lewis
Joe MacLaughlin
David McMeekin
Heidi Metzger
Zoe Miner
Christopher Murphy
Jason Palmer
John Pfau
John Polheber
Laura Reed
Frank Scherer
Jennie Seigler
Troy Sellers
Cassandra Smith
John Spagnolo
Rachelle Straub
Rebecca Szczypta
Lindsay Vaughan

Jacqueline Weaknecht
Gregory Young

I. Call to Order

The March 13, 2024 meeting of the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency (PCCD) was called to order at 10:00 a.m. by Chairman Austin A. Davis. Roll call was requested. He informed members that the meeting was being recorded, to which there were no objections.

II. Chairman's Report

Chairman Austin A. Davis

- The first order of business was to approve the minutes from the December 13, 2023 meeting.

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

- Chairman Davis introduced and welcomed new Commissioners Kim Berkeley Clark, Sara Jacobson, and Matthew Kleiman.

Judge Kim Berkeley Clark recently retired as the President Judge of the Family Division of the 5th Judicial District of Pennsylvania. She was the first African American to be appointed as President Judge in the County's history. Judge Clark was recently appointed to serve as Chair of the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Committee at PCCD.

Sara Jacobson is the Executive Director of the Public Defender Association of Pennsylvania. Ms. Jacobson has recently been appointed as the Chair of the Indigent Defense Advisory Committee, newly established under Act 34 of 2023.

And as noted during our last meeting, Mark Bergstrom has retired. Dr. Matthew Kleiman is the new Executive Director of the PA Sentencing Commission and has been appointed to the Commission.

- The first action item for today's meeting relates to the Indigent Defense Advisory Committee and the unprecedented \$7.5 million in state funding that was championed by our Administration and appropriated to PCCD in the 2023-2024 state budget.

The Advisory Committee's work is guided by Act 34 of 2023, which outlines a number of responsibilities, including:

- Developing standards;
- Training and related professional development resources;
- Data collection and analysis;
- Preparing reports every two years on the state of indigent defense services in Pennsylvania and areas for improvement; and
- Advising on the approval and disbursement of grants under the Indigent Defense Grant Program.

These resources are desperately needed. For too long, county public defender offices and others charged with representing indigent defendants have had to do so much with so little. These dedicated professionals deserve our support and the resources necessary to fulfill our Constitutional obligations and make the justice system a fairer place for all Pennsylvanians – regardless of where you live or how much money you have in the bank.

Chairman Davis is requesting the Commission delegate authority to the Indigent Defense Advisory Committee to approve an initial funding framework and standards for use of \$7.5 million in FY 2023-24 Indigent Defense Grant Program funds to support a solicitation for release this spring.

Once initial standards and a corresponding funding framework have been approved by the Committee, and with approval of the Chairman and PCCD's Executive Director, the agency will release a funding announcement to distribute available funds to counties.

Under this proposed approach, applications would be reviewed and funding recommendations would be presented for initial approval by the Committee later this spring. Final consideration of these recommended grant awards would take place at the Commission's June 2024 meeting.

Action Item: Delegation of Authority – 2023-24 Indigent Defense Grant Funding Framework & Initial Standards

The approval of this Delegation of Authority to authorize these actions and permit PCCD to move forward with issuing an initial funding opportunity for indigent defense services based on the standards and funding framework established by the Committee and approved by the PCCD Chairman and Executive Director.

Motion: Davis. **Seconded:** Briggs. **Abstentions:** None.

Aye Votes: 32 No Votes: 0 Motion Adopted

- A couple of weeks ago, Governor Shapiro delivered his 2024-2025 budget address, outlining our vision for building a better, safer Pennsylvania. We've made some important progress over the past year tackling pressing public safety issues like gun violence, but as recent tragic events in Philadelphia and across our Commonwealth have clearly shown, there's more to be done.

Governor Shapiro and Lieutenant Governor Davis are proposing a \$100 million investment in comprehensive strategies that address this problem, from the roots up. That includes increasing resources through PCCD's Violence Intervention and Prevention Grants program and standing up an Office of Gun Violence Prevention within the agency, helping young people access after-school resources and supports, giving law enforcement agencies additional resources, and boosting protections for faith-based organizations and community groups through the Nonprofit Security Grant Program.

These investments will make a real difference, and Chairman Davis looks forward to working with partners in the General Assembly over the next couple of months as budget negotiations get underway to help get these critical resources to Pennsylvania communities.

III. Executive Director's Report

Michael Pennington, Executive Director

- **Juvenile Justice & Delinquency Prevention Plan**

PCCD is tasked with developing a strategic plan with recommendations for improving Pennsylvania's juvenile justice system every two years. In December, the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Committee adopted the latest Plan to the Governor, which outlines steps the Administration and others can take to address key issues facing youth, families, and our communities. Executive Director Pennington joined Lieutenant Governor Davis, his staff, and Judge Clark at a recent discussion about the Plan's recommendations and some next steps to operationalize those moving forward.

We are appreciative of the work the JJDPC undertook last year to build a thoughtful and comprehensive roadmap for action, to Judge Clark for her continued leadership in this new role, and to the Administration for taking up this important work. We will make sure Commission members receive a copy of the Plan.

- **School Safety and Security Grants / Committee Updates**

In January, PCCD announced a \$155 million school safety grant solicitation package comprised of four funding opportunities to improve physical security and mental health supports in Pennsylvania's schools. Application periods for these solicitations closed on February 29. Fiscal and Program staff are hard at work reviewing more than 2,300 submitted applications and have

already awarded over 250 non-competitive grants to eligible school entities. Funding recommendations for the nearly 1,100 competitive applications received will be made at the School Safety and Security Committee's April meeting. We will also be considering our Violence Intervention and Prevention (VIP) gun violence applications (approximately \$40 million) at our March 27 School Safety and Security Committee meeting.

- **2024 Criminal Justice Advisory Board (CJAB) Conference**

Our 2024 Criminal Justice Advisory Board Conference will take place on April 9-10. We are expecting over 500 participants. Presentations will focus on the theme of "An Evolving Justice System: Adapting and Navigating New Directions."

- **NCJA Leadership Academy / Board Meeting**

Executive Director Pennington joined colleagues from across the country last month as part of the National Criminal Justice Association's Leadership Academy and Board meeting. It was wonderful to connect with fellow state administering agency leaders and discuss the public safety challenges – and opportunities – we are navigating. Pennsylvania's work was frequently cited as a model for other states – a testament to the dedicated efforts of this Commission and our great team at PCCD.

IV. Indigent Defense Advisory Committee Report

Ms. Sara Jacobson

Dr. Jordan Lewis

- Committee Chair Sara Jacobson provided the Indigent Defense Advisory Committee (IDAC) report, which begins on page 1 of the Commission meeting materials. Ms. Jacobson provided brief highlights from the IDAC meeting, held on February 12, 2024. There were no action items for the Commission's consideration.

V. Mental Health and Justice Advisory Committee Report

Ms. Jennifer Lopez-Cerrato

Ms. Sally Barry

- Committee Chair Jennifer Lopez-Cerrato provided the Mental Health and Justice Advisory Committee (MHJAC) report, which begins on page 2 of the Commission meeting materials. Ms. Lopez-Cerrato provided brief highlights from the MHJAC meeting, held on January 31, 2024, and presented two action items for the Commission's consideration.

Action Item: Federal Byrne State Crisis Intervention Program (SCIP) Funds

Staff and the Mental Health and Justice Advisory Committee are recommending approval of one application not to exceed \$525,000 in federal State Share SCIP funds, pending the resolution of any outstanding programmatic and/or fiscal concerns.

Motion: Lopez-Cerrato. **Seconded:** Heckler. **Abstentions:** None.

Aye Votes: 32 No Votes: 0 Motion Adopted

Action Item: Federal Byrne State Crisis Intervention Program (SCIP) Funds

Staff and the Mental Health and Justice Advisory Committee are recommending approval of eight applications requesting a total not to exceed \$1,455,411 in federal State Crisis Intervention Program funds, pending the resolution of any outstanding fiscal and/or program concerns.

Motion: Lopez-Cerrato. **Seconded:** Marseglia. **Abstentions:** None.

Aye Votes: 32 No Votes: 0 Motion Adopted

VI. Children's Advocacy Center Advisory Committee Report

Honorable David W. Heckler

Ms. Kirsten Kenyon

- Committee Chair David Heckler provided the Children’s Advocacy Center Advisory Committee (CACAC) report, which begins on page 10 of the Commission meeting materials. Mr. Heckler provided brief highlights from the CACAC meeting, held on February 20, 2024. There were no action items for the Commission’s consideration.

VII. County Adult Probation and Parole Advisory Committee Report

Honorable Russell D. Shurtleff

Ms. Sally Barry

- Committee Chair Judge Russell Shurtleff provided the County Adult Probation and Parole Advisory Committee (CAPPAC) report, which begins on page 11 of the Commission meeting materials. Judge Shurtleff provided brief highlights from the CAPPAC meeting, held on February 8, 2024. There were no action items for the Commission’s consideration.

VIII. Victims’ Services Advisory Committee Report

Judge Christopher Mallios

Ms. Kathy Buckley

- Committee Chair Chris Mallios provided the Victims’ Services Advisory Committee (VSAC) report, which begins on page 12 of the Commission meeting materials. Judge Mallios provided brief highlights from the VSAC meeting, held on February 6, 2024, and presented one action item for the Commission’s consideration.

Action Item: Federal Byrne State Crisis Intervention Program (SCIP) Funds

Staff and the Victims’ Services Advisory Committee are recommending approval of one application submitted by ICF Incorporated L.L.C for the “Resources for Gun Violence Victims Needs Assessment & Technical Assistance Initiative” not to exceed \$993,337 in federal State Crisis Intervention Program funding, pending the resolution of any outstanding programmatic and/or fiscal concerns.

Motion: Mallios. **Seconded:** Turner. **Abstentions:** None.

Aye Votes: 33 No Votes: 0 Motion Adopted

IX. Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Committee Report

Judge Kim Berkeley Clark

Ms. Sally Barry

- Committee Chair Kim Berkeley Clark provided the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Committee (JJDCP) report, which begins on page 18 of the Commission meeting materials. Judge Clark provided brief highlights from the JJDCP meeting, held on February 1, 2024, and presented three action items for the Commission’s consideration.

Action Item: State Violence and Delinquency Prevention Programs (VDPP) Funds & Department of Drug and Alcohol Funds

Staff and the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Committee are recommending approval of this request to provide the Commonwealth Prevention Alliance with up to \$50,000 in state VDPP funds and \$135,000 in federal Department of Drug and Alcohol Programs funds, pending the resolution of any outstanding programmatic and/or fiscal concerns.

Motion: Clark. **Seconded:** Briggs. **Abstentions:** None.

Aye Votes: 33 No Votes: 0 Motion Adopted

Action Item: State Violence and Delinquency Prevention Programs (VDPP) Funds

Staff and the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Committee are recommending approval of one application not to exceed \$125,000 in State Violence and Delinquency Prevention funds, pending the resolution of any outstanding programmatic and/or fiscal concerns.

Motion: Clark. **Seconded:** Tuominen. **Abstentions:** Mulvey.

Aye Votes: 32 No Votes: 0 Motion Adopted

Action Item: State Violence and Delinquency Prevention Programs (VDPP) Funds

Staff and the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Committee are recommending approval of one application not to exceed \$196,536 in State Violence and Delinquency Prevention Program funds, pending the resolution of any outstanding programmatic and/or fiscal concerns.

There was a correction to this action item as being an 18-month project period, rather than the previously stated 21 months.

Motion: Clark. **Seconded:** Turner. **Abstentions:** None.

Aye Votes: 33 No Votes: 0 Motion Adopted

X. Criminal Justice Advisory Committee Report

Mr. James Turner

Ms. Sally Barry

- Committee Chair James Turner provided the Criminal Justice Advisory Committee (CJAC) report, which begins on page 25 of the Commission meeting materials. Mr. Turner provided brief highlights from the CJAC meeting, held on February 7, 2024, and presented one action item for the Commission's consideration.

Action Item: Federal Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) Funds

Staff and the Criminal Justice Advisory Committee are recommending approval of five applications requesting a total not to exceed \$611,952 in federal Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) funds, pending the resolution of any outstanding programmatic and/or fiscal concerns.

Motion: Turner. **Seconded:** Combs. **Abstentions:** None.

Aye Votes: 33 No Votes: 0 Motion Adopted

XI. Constables' Education and Training Board Report

Mr. John Pfau

Chairman Davis 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. Sheriff and Deputy Sheriff Education and Training Board Report

Mr. John Pfau

Chairman Davis 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.

XIII. Other Business

There was no other business brought before the Commission.

XIV. Public Voice

There was no public voice.

XV. Adjournment

Chairman Davis noted that the next meeting will be held on June 12, 2024, at 10:00 a.m.

Hearing no further comment, Chairman Davis called for a motion for adjournment. Commissioner Briggs made the motion, which was seconded by Commissioner Marseglia. The motion carried unanimously, and the meeting concluded at 10:50 a.m.