

MAINE JUSTICE ASSISTANCE COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

June 22, 2016 at 1:00 pm
Maine Dept. of Public Safety
Augusta, Maine

Council Members present: Marty McIntyre, John Rogers, Colin O'Neil, Stephanie Anderson, Brian MacMaster, Heather Putnam, Commissioner John Morris, Major Chris Grotton, Chief Jack Peck, Elizabeth Ward Saxl, Sheriff Ryan Reardon

On phone: N/A

Absent: Ted Glessner, Chief Robbie Moulton, Ryan Thornell, Joan Smyrski

Guests: Director Roy McKinney, MDEA, and George Shaler, Statistical Analysis Center

Staff Members present: Janet Joyeux, Tracy Poulin,

2.0.0 Roll Call: Marty McIntyre conducted roll call

3.0.0 Minutes: The minutes for the December 3, 2015 meeting were read, no changes were made.

Motion: Made by Commissioner Morris, seconded by Chief Jack Peck, approved and accepted unanimously.

4.0.0 Presentation and Discussion With Director Roy McKinney of the Maine Drug Enforcement Agency.

Director McKinney provided handouts to meeting attendees.

Commissioner Morris stated there have been 113 drug overdose deaths as of May 30, 2016. This is an average of 5 deaths per week. 79% of all arrests were for sale of drugs.

The Edward Byrne Memorial Formula Grant will be short on funding next year (2017). Will use savings in General Fund FY16 that will roll forward.

The Legislature authorized fourteen (14) new positions in FY16. All positions were filled as of March 2016 and are distributed around the State.

As of June 22, 2016 there have been 83 Meth Labs. Many are "dump" sites. Containers used to make meth are discarded roadside. Sometimes containers show up at redemption centers. People collecting returnables pick them up roadside to turn in for 5 cents. DA Anderson asked if these sites are a public danger? Yes. Reaction vessels could still be reactive. MDEA treats as hazardous materials. Not every officer trained to respond. MDEA processes at least two (2) labs per day. Impacts task force and their ability to continue investigations on heroin and opioid cases.

Commissioner Morris spoke about \$300,000 budget initiative for cleanup costs. We may exhaust this and need more funds. He is concerned about bottle pickers and sanitation workers, and wants municipalities to train workers on recognition and safety procedures.

Director McKinney stated all but one task force has a Byrne funded Agent. He also uses funds from drug seizures for organized crime cases. Need to focus on these. He has received three (3) Dept. of Justice grants to help with this also. Synthetic drugs are a problem because laws cannot keep up with new ones being manufactured.

Council members had several questions prompting:

John Rogers asked about legalization of marijuana and the deaths caused by edibles. Any impact on MDEA? Director McKinney answered that MDEA offers assistance in overdose cases. Medical use of Marijuana Act is very vague. Cases often end up as regulatory issue rather than criminal.

DA Anderson stated OUI enforcement will be a huge issue if the marijuana is legalized. No scientific way to set legal limit. John Rogers stated that sometimes Judges don't accept DRE reports. Commissioner Morris stated law enforcement canines are no longer being trained to hit on Marijuana, and banks still say they won't take money from marijuana sales because marijuana still illegal at Federal level.

Colin O'Neil asked if there are any other trends such as in-state vs. out of state violators. Director McKinney answered yes. States criminal enterprises see Maine as a good location to make money. Drugs sell at higher prices here than they do in NYC and other cities. Most of those arrested won't cooperate. Families bail them out with cash.

Sherriff Ryan Reardon states there were twenty two (22) documented gang members last year. One hundred documented gang members this year. Director Rogers asked if the jails could provide that information to MIAC, i.e. gang information, to get information to officers in the field.

Funding decisions made:

\$978,727	Byrne/JAG allocation
\$239,720	<10,000 LEO
\$ 97,873	Admin Costs
\$641,134	Remains to be allocated

Do we want to use these funds for MDEA? This would not meet the entire need. MDEA would still be short about \$61K.

Motion: Elizabeth Ward Saxl moved to use all funds to support MDEA. Brian MacMaster seconded

Discussion: Chief Peck asked if MDEA would still be short of funds? The answer was yes.

Heather Putnam stated the U.S. Attorney asks if it is time to explore other options, such as intelligence sharing. Would like to have a future discussion regarding putting the JAG funds out to RFP. MDEA could apply. DA Stephanie Anderson stated the Legislature and Governor LePage made effort to increase number of agents. MDEA hasn't had time to see what they can do with additional people. This would be bad time for JAC to decrease its support.

Commissioner Morris states he and the Governor will meet next week with US Attorney Delahanty.

In further discussion, John Rogers stated there is not a single issue that doesn't have a nexus to drugs. We would be negligent to not support MDEA. Sheriff Reardon states there are a lot of low cost/no cost ways for Police Departments to communicate with each other. We need to continue to support MDEA.

Brian McMaster states he respects the US Attorney but change would cripple MDEA. Too late for this year. Need a statewide strategy. Colin O'Neil agreed that we need to support the MDEA and believes we can meet the spirit of sharing intel (w) little or no cost.

Vote: Not unanimous but motion prevailed.

5.0.0 Preliminary Plan Survey Results for the STOP Implementation Plan and Byrne/JAG Multiple – Year Strategy –

George Shaler reported on preliminary survey results. Shared there is a lack of specific programs on questions about best practices/promising practices. Elizabeth Ward Saxl offered to provide George a catalog of programs. Also asked if number of domestic violence/spousal abuse respondents need housing which is the 2nd largest need and could be broken down between the two categories. Stephanie Anderson expressed concern that we didn't survey the clients who would be users of the services and requests that this be done in the future.

6.0.0 Discussion of 2015 PL C.378 and 2015PL C. 481

New Grant Programs:

Chapter 378	\$50,000 per year grant
Chapter 481	\$1,000,000 grant program

Commissioner Morris described each. Tracy Poulin elaborated

Steering committee seats. Needed suggestions and the following were people were thought of:

- Physician - Gordon Smith, Medical Associates
- Legal services for indigent - John Pelletier
- Peer recovery - Darin Ripley in Kennebec County
- Harm reduction association - Maine General Harm Reduction Program.

Will need a review committee for this grant program just as we do for our other grants.

7.0.0 RFP Release for STOP, RSAT and JAG Grants

STOP anticipated funding \$1,081,084 FY16 plus carryover provides a total of \$1,454,459.

Courts	\$131,512
Discretionary	\$333,059
Law Enforcement	\$261,020
Prosecution	\$430,283
Victim Services	\$298,585

Review Committees - Tracy sending out meeting requests. See graph attached on membership. Tracy asked members to let her know preference on hard copy or electronic of proposals for review.

8.0.0 New Business

Tracy will be attending training the week of August 15th for Intelligrants Systems. Sub-grantee last two days of that week.

Membership at JAC, DHHS seat, Joan Smyrski likely new member.

9.0.0 Future Meeting Dates to be held at the Department of Public Safety, 45 Commerce Drive, Augusta, Maine

- September 1 at 9 AM, Fallen Heroes
- December 1 at 9 AM, Fallen Heroes