

Justice Assistance Council Meeting Minutes

Date: September 8, 2025

Time: 9:00 AM - 10:23 AM

Location: Zoom Meeting

Attendees

- Francine Garland Stark – Maine Coalition to End Domestic Violence, Chair
- Derek Gorneau – Department of Public Safety
- Lisa Bogue – Chief, Criminal Division
- Susan Gagnon – Director, Adult Community Corrections
- Craig Wolf – Acting U.S. Attorney
- Lincoln Ryder – Director, Maine Criminal Justice Academy
- Brian Scott – Lieutenant Colonel, Maine State Police
- Sheriff Dale Lancaster – Somerset County / Maine Sheriff's Association
- Michelle Morse – Senior Grant Specialist, DPS (non-council)
- Augustin Buyeye – Grant Specialist, DPS (STOP Grant)
- Mary Kunhardt – Community Representative
- Alicia Hunter – Violence Intervention & Response, DHHS
- Elizabeth Ward Saxl – Maine Coalition Against Sexual Assault
- Rebecca Austin – Safe Voices

1. Call to Order and Introductions

Chair Francine Stark called the meeting to order with a strong attendance and welcomed both new and returning members.

Introductions were conducted with each participant identifying themselves and their roles.

2. Quorum

Quorum was confirmed with Chair Francine Stark and Derek Gorneau acknowledging it early in the meeting.

3. Approval of Minutes

Minutes from the previous June meeting were reviewed with two minor corrections:

- Project name corrected from “Heaven spoke” to “hub and spoke.”
- Reference to Chief Kilbride’s name corrected from Jack Kilbride to the correct name.

Motion to accept the minutes was made by Brian Scott and seconded by Lincoln Ryder.

Minutes were approved with Shira and Amy Quinlan abstaining.

4. STOP Grant Overview and Recommendations

Chair Francine Stark provided an overview of the Council's grant oversight responsibilities, focusing on the STOP (Services, Training, Officers, Prosecutors) Formula Grant under the Office on Violence Against Women (OVW).

Key points:

- Maine's STOP allocation: approx. \$1.2–1.3M.
- Federal requirements: specific allocations for law enforcement, prosecution, courts, and victim services.
- 20% must address sexual assault.
- 5% of victim services must go to culturally specific organizations

Derek provided detailed summaries of applications in the categories of Law Enforcement, Courts, and Prosecution:

- Courts: One application from Maine Judicial Branch for \$54,512 scored 100, recommended for full funding.
- Prosecution: One application from Maine Prosecutor's Association for \$272,559 scored 100, recommended for full funding.
- Law Enforcement: Three applications total approximately \$289,911; two applicants (Waldo County Sheriff's Office and Brunswick Police Department) were fully funded; Lewiston Police Department funded partially based on prior funds available and application score.

Committee motion to accept the Law Enforcement, Courts, and Prosecution recommendations was made by Sheriff Lancaster and seconded by Brian Scott. Recommendations were approved with Shira and Amy abstaining.

Victim Services and Discretionary Funding reported by Francine Stark:

Total available: \$490,606 (combined Victim Services and Discretionary funds).

15 applications requesting \$928,253 were received. High competition; only applicants with perfect scores (100) were funded, plus one sexual assault program scoring 98.

Funded organizations include:

- Her Safety Net – \$76,171 (culturally specific, full award).
- Partners for Peace – \$58,962.

- Family Violence Project (LAV) – \$28,299.
- Through These Doors – \$40,062.
- Caring Unlimited (LAV) – \$33,098.
- Caring Unlimited (Outreach) – \$40,062.
- Next Step DV Project – \$67,994.
- Safe Voices (Criminal Justice) – \$31,260.
- Safe Voices (Franklin County Outreach) – \$41,260.
- Sexual Assault Support Services of Midcoast Maine – \$80,000 (score 98, fully funded to meet sexual assault allocation).

Total Awarded: \$490,606.

Not Funded (scores below 100 except SASM): Lisungi Assistance of Maine, Hope & Justice Project (Aroostook), IFKA Community Services, Family Violence Strengthening Justice, Pine Tree Legal.

Explanation provided for proration and funding decisions.

Motion to accept recommendations was made by Lincoln Ryder, seconded by Mary Kunhardt; approved with abstentions noted.

5. Other Grants Overview (Presented by Michelle Morse)

RSAT Grant: Somerset County Jail is the primary subrecipient with current funds expended; 2024 funding of \$156,000 received. Timeline and upcoming posting updates provided.

Coverdell Grant: Main subrecipients include Maine State Police Crime Lab, HETL and Office of Chief Medical Examiner with current project activities noted.

Project Safe Neighborhood (PSN): Multiple recipients including Gun Safety Coalition, University of Maine, and Maine State Police Crime Lab; funding amounts and project ends provided.

JAG Grant: Fiscal year 2022 and 2023 funding updates; mention of elder abuse project inclusion in 2023 contracts; 2024 grant funds received totaling \$950,000.

Burn SCIP Grant: Received six applications totaling \$152,216; contract effective date September 1, 2025; upcoming posting schedule discussed.

STOP Grant 2025: RFA package to be submitted soon with contract execution anticipated early October; contract effective November 1, 2025; updates on fiscal year 2022 and 2023 reconciliations.

Motion to approve JAG FY23 awards was made by Derek, seconded by Brian Scott; motion passed.

6. Announcements and New Business

Derek announced the departure of Grant Manager Lisa Bossie to AG's office; recruitment is ongoing with promising candidates in final interview stages; expected to fill position soon.

Appreciation expressed for Michelle Morse's significant contributions as Senior Grant Specialist during transition.

Discussion about low number of applicants for Burn SCIP grant related to firearm storage; council requested feedback to improve future RFA outreach and application numbers.

Next meeting was confirmed for December 8, 2025.

Planned posting for Burn Skip RFA to occur in the coming weeks to facilitate timely allocation.

7. Adjournment

No further questions or business raised.

Chair Stark thanked review committee members for their time and effort in scoring and evaluating applications.

Motion to adjourn made by Derek, seconded by Elizabeth Ward Saxl.

Meeting adjourned at 10:23.

Action Items

Continue recruitment and onboarding of new Contract Grant Manager.

Monitor and assist Burn SCIP grant RFA outreach efforts to increase applications.

Prepare and finalize STOP grant contracts and continue grant reconciliations.

Schedule the next meeting for December 8, 2025.