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| violent Crime Coordinating Council (VCCC) |
| Strategic Update |
| Meeting Notes |
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| **October 15, 2013** |
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# Our Strategic Framework

Updated 10-15-2013

### A community-focused paradigm shift

* Realization that violent crime due to gangs and drugs is not a law enforcement problem alone
* Recognition that what affects one area affects others
* Community ownership and representation emerge to:
  + Establish and promote healthy community norms
  + Reduce demand for drugs and gangs
  + Advocate for resources because it is in their best interest
* Development of partnerships between public and private organizations with similar goals, such as:
  + Faith-based groups
  + Non-profits
  + Schools
  + Foundations
* Community reps participate in oversight of task forces

### Broader collaboration between law enforcement and community organizations

* Goal: Earning public trust and participation
* Proactive engagement of treatment centers and community groups
  + Mandated for all agencies to participate with community groups
  + Share how we enforce and why we choose the approach we do
  + Address needs by all sides and create a shared understanding of the issues and goals
* Reduce barriers with cultural and ethnic groups—language, two-way understanding, etc.
* Non-profit, private sector, and community organizations are service partners with law enforcement for prevention and intervention activities or services
* Use of inclusive roundtables with law enforcement and community partners with goals to:
  + Build shared understanding
  + Become more comfortable talking about difficult things such as:
    - Racial disparities
    - Religion
    - Lack of trust in law enforcement
    - Accountability of law enforcement
    - Accountability of the community
  + Share of information (RISS Safe Regional Information Sharing System)
  + Get to data-driven best practices
* Tribal members increase participation with task forces because they see that drugs and gangs adversely affect their communities
* Objective criteria based on criminal activity are used to target individuals for law enforcement. Prohibited is the improper use of personal characteristics to target individuals for law enforcement.

### Centralized information and intelligence gathering and statewide access

* Continue efforts to modify statute to include criminal intelligence data as a classification under Chapter 13
* Develop more effective oversight in statute to balance privacy issues
* Locate an information hub at the BCA, which would include
  + Predictive analytics
  + Centralized gathering and storage of information and intelligence
  + Agreed-upon standards and open systems
  + Shared intelligence analyst responsibilities with partner agencies

*Goals:*

* + Criminal justice system is more effective because of appropriate use of info and intelligence
  + The community is safer because of proactive information sharing
  + Technology aids coordination with federal, state, local, and tribal communities
* Provide borderless access to information by needs
  + Information access is tiered; some levels require approval for use
  + Users would include officers on the street, staff analysts, and prosecutors
  + Audit trail to ensure appropriate use

*Goals*:

* + When crimes occur, criminal justice information will be immediately and easily available to law enforcement
  + Seamless communication and process with courts and corrections
* Increase data sharing with partner organizations to better understand crime and drug trends
  + Example: Treatment organizations share information to show patterns of where drugs are
* Use intelligence from “the inside” to identify serious offenders on “the outside”

### Early intervention and prevention as driven by our partners

* Connect with schools in earlier age groups, example
  + Example: Look at 4th and 5th graders to “build character, not prisons”
* Include parenting education and support
* Prevention through programs such as JDAI (Juvenile Detention Alternative Initiatives) model
  + “Pro-social” versus “anti-social”
* Earlier intervention of treatment
* Use of social and other media vehicles to communicate issues and reduce demand for all age groups

### Continual Evaluation of Effective Task Force Models – “Right Size” It

* Fewer and more strategically placed
  + Geographically fewer
  + Have the flexibility to address regional and local needs in the areas of violent crime
* Task forces would include:
  + Intelligence analysts
  + Law enforcement
  + Prosecutors
    - More involved in training and assisting TF members with issues that come up
  + Community corrections
  + On-call liaisons for community organizations and treatment centers, example:
    - Ability to mobilize community resources to join TF members when tracking gang members to the house, as well as helping with the balance of the family
* Standardized structure for procedures
* Ongoing training for task force members
* Accountability based on concrete standards for performance and consequences
  + Performance reviews of officers and agents will change to reward overall cooperation and information/intelligence sharing

### Continual adaptation to increasing complexity and change in drugs and gangs

* Assumption is that the evolution of drugs will continue to grow in terms of access and self-manufacturing, and that hybridization of gangs will continue
* Law enforcement moves from traditional gang and drug protocols to non-traditional investigation techniques
* More resources for intelligence analysts, less for reactive policing
* Focus and priority on most violent or habitual offenders
  + Enhance sentences and protection to reduce recidivism
  + Adopt a model based on objective criteria to target the most serious offenders

### Funding and resources come from a variety of sources (not just general fund) potentially including:

* Dedicated funding sources at the state level
  + Seizure money and forfeiture proceeds go into a dedicated fund for task forces
    - RX prescription surcharge on prescription services
* Local referendums approved by constituents
* Increased revenues and resources from private sector (example, private sector forensic lab)
  + What is the benefit to them? They will help protect themselves and help law enforcement at the same time, by coordinating with task forces to deal with the larger problem
* Foundation grants
* Non-profit and community resources
* Effective cooperation with legislators to reduce costs and be more effective

# Role of the VCCC

* Statewide strategy and policy
  + - Develop strategic framework
    - Lead the creation of the information systems
    - Secure resources
    - Legislative initiatives (information and coordination)
    - Provide input and information to policy makers (Commissioner and, when invited, to legislature)
* Statewide oversight
  + - Standards
    - Accountability
    - Ensure adequate training
    - Foster collaboration at the task force level to coordinate with community organizations via round tables or other models for prevention and intervention
    - On an ad-hoc basis, share information and get community input into policy issues (examples: gang criteria, medical marijuana) and crime trends (Example: collaboration with tribal communities)

## VCCC Committee Structure

* Executive Committee (Chairs of all other committees)
* Data and Information Committee
* Governance and Legislation Committee
  + Ad Hoc Committees for Policy Input
* Professional Standards Committee
  + Ad Hoc Committee for RFP
* Community Engagement and Prevention Committee

# VCCC Priorities for Next 12-18 Months

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| **Priority** | **Desired Outcomes** | **Committee Alignment** |
| 1. Amend Chapter 13 Data Practices Statute | * Have a constructive dialogue with the opposition * Build relationships with legislative staff; keep them updated regularly | Data and Information Committee |
| 1. Develop a database for centralized intelligence gathering on gangs and drugs | * Implement, roll out, and provide training in ACISS * Get task forces and others to actually use ACISS * Expand ACISS to include the drug module * Development and expansion of ACISS records management as a whole | Data and Information Committee |
| 1. Engage with communities | * Develop performance standards for task forces to engage the community, to be included in the RFP for Fall 2014 * By March 2014, identify and make available resources for task forces to assist them in meeting these standards to be presented at the Annual TF Conference | Community Engagement and Prevention Committee |
| 1. Mobilize to provide policy input when requested | * TBD | Government and Legislative Committee |
| 1. Conduct RFP for task forces and follow up on TF audits | * Conduct RFP in 2014 inclusive of the performance standards identified above * Follow up on task force audits * Update the task force guidelines as needed | Professional Standards Committee |
| 1. Identify ongoing financial resources at the federal, state, and local levels | * Local sustainability for task forces * Funding for one-time statewide infrastructure investments such as ACISS * Funding for prevention efforts | Government and Legislative Committee |
| 1. Collaborate further with law enforcement and other entities | * Tribal organizations * State and Federal partners | Executive Committee |

# Background Discussion Notes

## Presentation: Illinois Task Force Evaluation (Mark Myrent)

* *Question*: regarding the graph on percentage of cases dropped vs. closed, what does "dropped" refer to? *Answer*: cases dropped from prosecution.
* *Question*: regarding the graph on expectations vs. outcomes, as this information is fed back to police force, has there been any change to the way they conducts their work? *Answer*: this data hasn't been available in a usable form to be useful to and shared with police; Illinois is just starting an initiative to do this now.
* *Question*: regarding comparative data on percentage of types of arrests made by police with task forces vs. non task force, is raw data available? *Answer*: no, the only data we have is by percentage because raw numbers would not accurately characterize the information. *Follow up question*: is there a way to fairly assess based on volume alone? *Answer*: we don't have a benchmark.
* *Question*: what meaningful information can be gleaned from this data given that Illinois has different priorities than Minnesota? *Answer*: not answered. *Comment*: Minnesota doesn't have the resources to measure this data.
* *Question*: does Illinois track what happens after arrest? Answer: no, that would be interesting though.
* *Question*: does Illinois track for prisoners what led to arrest and what they were prosecuted for? *Answer*: No, it would be hard to track back like that.

## Presentation: Colorado's Experience with Marijuana Legalization (Dave Arcady)

* *Question*: what are you enforcing exactly, given that marijuana is legal? *Answer*: "community standards", for example, when a census bureau office went in next to a grow warehouse and all of the census bureau employees got sick and had to go to the hospital, the police were called in to clean up.
* *Question*: have grow houses in residential homes affected home resale? *Answer*: yes, there is legislation that has been passed but not signed into law for home sellers to report known grow lab history.
* *Question*: has there been an increase in homicides and/or violent crimes? *Answer*: yes, but the numbers reported don't necessarily reflect this and maybe even show a decrease in these crimes because there is no longer a box to check when marijuana is involved. Example: when Spain legalized marijuana criminal stats on violent crimes decreased.
* *Question*: what about the argument that by legalizing marijuana police/government can better regulate marijuana and keep cartels out? *Answer*: this is not the case because cartels don't like competition, and what law abiding business person wants to go into competition against them?
* *Question*: has Colorado seen an increase in lung related diseases? *Answer*: we can't tie marijuana use to lung related diseases so we go on tobacco statistics.
* *Question*: how well documented is the connection between Colorado's marijuana industry and cartels? *Answer*: it’s well documented; there is hard evidence; see Tom Gorman's report.
* *Question*: what are the hours of dispensaries? *Answer*: there are no regulations of hours; can by 24/7. It's actually worse if they do close because then the cartel can follow those people to their homes and kidnap and kill them.
* *Question*: has Colorado's state EPA seen an increase in water degradation? *Answer*: yes, especially with outdoor water.
* *Question*: has Colorado seen any affect on the workplace? *Answer*: yes; example: 2 district attorneys brought marijuana plants in to their offices. They were ultimately fired for violating office policy.

## Discussion: VCCC Accomplishments and Learning since 2011

* Community advocates may not agree with everything we've done, but they have remarked they feel they have been heard by this body.
* We have a more positive reputation than our predecessors, e.g. 9 point criteria, the media was interested in what this body had to say; we are looked to as a leader and having some expertise
  + Suggestion: Next time we do something like this, it would be good to be more proactive in following up with the groups to say, “this is what we heard, this is what we are doing.”
* We are lacking citizen participation in *this* group.
  + They ask why should they ***be*** in this group?
  + Suggestion: We need to think about how we get more involvement; if we don't have that we will be open to criticism.
* Need to focus more on "prevention and intervention.” As shown by Colorado's experience with marijuana, we can't arrest our way out of this; we'd like to see more family and community involvement
  + Suggestion: anywhere there is a new emerging trend we need to get that info to Kristin because she can get that out to police
* Community presentations are good, but they don't get to the root of the problem because law enforcement is a partner in this; partners are also churches, social services, schools, etc. Problem is there is no one quarterbacking this, though is no simple solution to this.
  + Suggestion: we need to have someone heading up this body's community contact; to be there to say to various groups 'here is what you said and here is what we are doing to engender public trust.'
  + As with VCCC's experience holding roundtables on gangs; we collated that info into a draft report, mailed the draft reports to stakeholder groups, asked them for feedback and responses which we reviewed, and lastly we broadcast a final report
* Highlight the importance of engaging decision makers sooner and stronger; we need to get organized better otherwise we won't have the impact we need and want.

## Discussion: New Realities, Trends and Issues

* How can we harness the power of this group, politically, regarding our policy positions?
  + The statute gives us a role
  + We need to do more to touch base with the Commissioner and the legislators who created this law to keep them informed
* Increased privacy focus, post Snowden/NSA -- as we get into next legislative session our data will be scrutinized; we need to be ready so that we do business the right way.
* Tribal organizations and reservations are looking for help and collaboration
  + In the last 4-5 years they have been dealing with this as well; they created a resolution on war on drugs to combat all this.
  + They want to know where to go for more information and collaboration.
  + In the past (before few years ago) they didn't know this body existed;
  + They have the ear of the state and fed government as they have pushed to get a voice;
  + How can we tap into this knowledge and collaborate?
    - Chairman Crooks tried to create a body of tribal officers, half mil $ at a minimum, and the question was just a matter of who do I make a check out to.
    - They are saying let's look at what we can do on our own as a reservation because of all the overdoses and trafficking.
  + This group should contact them to say this is what we are doing and we can offer you this. What is the best way to make this contact?
    - Send a letter to the tribal chief of police and tribal council members to say this is who we are and this is what we do
    - Invite them to discuss what their issues are, what our issues are, and how can we work together.
    - Or, we can take advantage and leverage the outreach that is already in place, such as:
      * Black Bear listening session
      * Tribal council at state government
      * Tribal law and order meetings held to speak about issues
* We need to collaborate better with other organizations. We should invite the following organizations to provide liaisons to our task force. (Our statute sets the designated membership for the VCCC. However, other groups can be liaisons to our group.)
  + - FBI task force "Safe Streets"
    - Dan Moren (DEA task force)
    - Chris Warner (FBI).
    - National Guard Counter Drug
  + Rick Moldenauer, DHS
  + Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) narcotics agents (Brian Gillam?)

## Learnings for Next Update

* What are 3 things that were really helpful?
* reviewing priorities and the direction we are going
* having clarification on what everything meant (especially for those who were not there 2 years ago)
* handouts were very useful
* What are 3 things that could be different to improve productivity?
* We need everyone here. How do we do that? One day, not overnight, in centralized spot
* Regarding the marijuana presentation, don't like fear mongering without offering solutions; how do we come up with a constructive approach to deal with this?
* We need to do more work *between* VCCC meetings to move the agenda along; we need to hold executive meetings monthly