

Valcour Gov Board
10/9/2024

Attendees: Eric Shepard, Jen Beane, Reanna Finley, Michelle Hunt, Shawn Loan, Michael Manley, Katrina Riley, Loretta Stalnaker, Jeffrey Trites, Vegar Boe, Ben Webster, Betty Wheeler, Mark Anderson, Matt Sullivan, Nathan Harvey, Adam Cohen

Missing: Justin Stedman, Ben Herrick,

Call to order
1002

Approve minutes – August

Motion by Vegar
Seconded by Loretta
Passed unanimously
Abstain – Mark, Jen

Request for Access – IRS Criminal Investigations

Reanna Finley – stationed out of Burlington VT, part of Boston Field Office, currently only her and one special agents in Vermont. Right now don't have access to any police Large Division – investigate tax crimes and money laundering, crypto currency. Up until Finley was hired last Dec there was only one agent in VT. Boston Field Office is looking to spread into areas that were harder to get into / places that previously weren't as covered.
Access to NLETs – good but don't have as much info, and it takes extra time to get incident reports; not given access to VJISS and were recommended to request Valcour access.
Are you looking for incident reports or involvements for the people? Both, incident reports are needed for investigations but lists of involvements can also be needed, especially for search warrants
Do you work in conjunction with local agencies? Yes, but usually only the day of search warrants. Most joint cases are with federal partners.
In other places, that maybe have more activity, do you usually work with local agencies more? Yes, some of the bigger metropolitan areas
What access have we provided to other federal partners? ATF, FBI, DEA, Forrest Service (sponsored by Fish and Game), HSI. IRS would prefer to be sponsored if any agency would sponsor them – just not clear who would be sponsoring them. Maybe Secretary of State would be the closest to tax. Still unclear is ICE will get access due to fair and impartial policies.
Who within IRS is looking for access? Finley is a civilian analyst and the second would be a special agent
Have your own ORI? Yes, they have an ORI. Need to check with VCIC to make sure they approve of set up and compliance

Motion by Mark to allow IRS Criminal Investigation into Valcour under their own ORI pending approval of VCIC.
Seconded by Loretta
Passed unanimously

Request for Access – DOC (read / write access)

Ben Webster – Dept of Corrections - Corrections Investigative Unit

Investigation contraband, threats against personal safety for employees, coordinate with LE investigations, work with AFT, VSP, HSI, FBI. Current issue with waiting around for addresses from local agencies.

Requesting write access – case out of Barre P&P person making threats, and not criminal yet but it would be nice to be able to note it in Valcour in case an agency responds to the address, so they know the history

Not criminal yet but an incarcerated person is making threats against a mental health counselor, would like to be able to note in Valcour for other agencies know backstory when they respond to address / person

Who to have access? Three people in the Corrections Investigative Unit working under Title 28 : Public Institutions and corrections (cite as: 28 VSA 124 Dept of Corrections; Corrections Investigative Unit)

What system does DOC currently use? Offender Management System by Jail Tracker. Wonder if Jail Tracker could work with CrossWind to get the limited data to transfer out of Valcour to Jail Tracker. Seems like DOC needs such minimal access. DOC already has many subscriptions from VJISS and that might be a better way to go. Other agencies have asked about Valcour access to investigation threats against employee personal safety and those agencies have all been denied. DOC would be inheriting many potential liabilities with Valcour access when they could be getting all needed data through current VJISS access.

Currently no motions to move forward, many concerns with Valcour access. DOC should continue to work with local agencies and VSP to get info that they. Tabled

POLD Data Collections – Skylar Genest, VLC

Made a case to the program managers to add a field.

Datamaster asks if a licensed establishment is involved as opposed to just alcohol present being tracked.

Have any other agencies have asked for like data fields? Yes, drug involved field – allowed agencies to opt in but no one was required.

We don't want to compel agencies to have to do something. Have a problem with one entity setting a policy for the entire state. VGB doesn't want to dictate agency policy or have one agency doing that.

Tabled

Ongoing discussion with VDH regarding request from 2022 for data

Participated with this previously with Dept of Health looking a suicide data. They provide a list of names and we determine if there was any involvement with LE before their death. They are requesting to do this same study again. Goal is to link data of individuals who died by suicide in 2022 and 2023 dates with police interactions. Looking for type of interaction and person's role. Looking at specifically mental health and firearms.

This is the report in question: Vermont's Suicide Data Linkage Project report (data for individuals who died in 2020 and 2021): <https://www.healthvermont.gov/sites/default/files/document/HSI-Suicide-Data-Linkage-Project-9.12.23.pdf>

Data Management Policy – transferred via State of Vermont secure email, data stored on State of Vermont secure servers, and all data is involved to the two analysts and follow HIPPA guidelines in day-to-day. Would be presenting the data in aggregate form and completely de-identified (as part of previous arrangement).

Where is the data coming for from the mental health? Coming from VDH's side.

Motion by Betty to agree to work with the VDH for suicide data for 2022 and 2023.

Seconded by Vegar

Passed unanimously

Board Vacancy

Vegar is retiring end of October and moving into his new position. Vegar is currently representing an under-20 agency. Eric can potentially shift to the under-20 agency seat if there is someone with interest who wants to be involved but doesn't fit into that seat.

Sanctions Policy

VGB is a facilitator unless it is criminal or puts our CJIS access at risk in any way.

Notify the victim agency head, offending agency head, VCIC (or FBI or Criminal Justice Counsel)

Usually tells the offending agency head that we need to know how it is sorted out and that the victim agency is satisfied with the resolution. If the victim agency is not satisfied then it comes back to the VGB to weigh in on it. Note that if it is the agency head who is the concern then VGB would be getting involved because the agency would not be able to hold the agency head accountable. Valcour audit records are owned by the VGB to make sure VGB can audit as needed without worrying who / which agency owns the audit logs.

Sanctions could range from suspending the individual, suspending the agency as a whole, or requiring training.

Table for the month so everyone can review the policy and look at approving it next meeting.

Juvenile Functionality

Michelle was testing it this morning. Need to follow up with a list of what offenses qualify for youthful offender check box. 13 VSA 5204

It looks pretty good in training, just has some questions about how the juvenile check box moving with effect the historical data.

Motion to adjourn by Mark

Seconded by Loretta

Adjourned at 1115