

Law Enforcement Advisory Board Meeting  
DPS Headquarters, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor Conference Room, Waterbury VT  
Minutes of Meeting  
April 16, 2015

- Vice Chairman Paco Aumand called the meeting to order at 1:04 pm with the following present: John Treadwell, Attorney General's Office (via conference call); Michael Major, VPA/Chittenden County Sheriffs; Roger Marcoux (via Conference Call); James Leene, U. S. Attorney's Office; and Tom L'Esperance, VSP were present. Also present was Col. Jason Bachelor (non-voting member).
- **Review of Minutes from February 19, 2015 Meeting:** The review of the minutes of the previous meeting did not occur and must be done at the next meeting.
- **Old Business:**

**Business Plan for 2015:** The business plan suggestions from the last meeting were discussed and it was agreed that the following items would be listed for inclusion in the 2015 action plan. It was also decided that information sharing should be included.

1. Review human trafficking. This should be put on the next agenda and we should invite people to present on the problem.
  2. Information sharing. We should establish a working group as presented in the attach proposal (Appendix A) and have the working group submit a report for inclusion in the LEAB annual report.
  3. Drug testing of employees.
  4. Asset forfeiture.
  5. Officer involved shooting study. This should be worked on but it was agreed that a review of the work done by the NYPD needs to be reviewed first.
  6. A review of LPR best practices standards and record retention.
- **New Business:** Paco Aumand outlined a proposal to form a working group to study information sharing. The working group, in part, would look at the sharing of information between the following entities:
    - **Law enforcement to law enforcement;**
    - **Law enforcement to other justice agencies;**
    - **Law enforcement with researchers; and**
    - **Law enforcement with the public.**

The outcome of this working group would be a report back to the LEAB for inclusion in the annual report that would detail the obstacles to information sharing and the policy issues associated with removing the obstacles. Karen Gennette also spoke about the role of the Crime

Research group in facilitating this working group. She emphasized the need to establish MOU's with law enforcement agencies to provide quick and easy access to information. It was felt that perhaps sample or standardized MOU's could be agreed upon by the working group. The working group proposal is found in Appendix A of these minutes. Col. Tom L'Esperance made a motion to accept the proposal and Mike Major seconded the motion. The motion passed.

- Jim Leene made a motion to adjourn. Motion was seconded by Mike Major. Meeting adjourned at 2:07 pm.

Appendix A

**Law Enforcement Information Sharing**

**Statement of the Problem**

1. The major obstacles in Vermont to conducting evaluation research to support evidence-based law enforcement programming include the disparate data collection efforts and data management systems used by law enforcement. The methodological challenge for criminal justice researchers in Vermont is the accessibility of valid and timely statewide crime data despite the fact that there are several automated police records/data systems in the state. All of these systems and analytical tools have serious limitations which negate the ability of criminal justice researchers to collect and analyze statewide crime data.
2. Not only does every justice and public safety organization require information from other agencies to do their jobs more effectively but there is a rise in the number of other State departments and community agencies needing law enforcement information for a variety of reasons. There are data-sharing and governance issues that need to be addressed in order to create a system that allows researchers and others to access statewide crime data.
3. The VIBRS and Valcour Advisory Boards act as the conduits for requests for law enforcement data. In many instances, for statewide data, researchers need releases from all 70 law enforcement agencies granting permission which is a cumbersome and lengthy process. This proposal seeks to engage justice partners in a collaborative and consensus building process that produces standardized policies and protocols for law enforcement information sharing.

**Request**

1. That the Law Enforcement Advisory Board develops and adopts policies and protocols for sharing law enforcement information for the purpose of providing data to policy makers, researchers, and justice partners taking into account the balance between the need for information and the privacy and constitutional rights of individuals.
2. That the Law Enforcement Advisory Board:
  - (A) Examine the state and federal laws and statutes and other information that governs the release of law enforcement data;
  - (B) Determine: 1) what data contained in the law enforcement databases are relevant and necessary for ongoing crime and criminal justice research; 2) what data can be released for research purposes; 3) who will be authorized to access the data; 4) how will data be extracted and formatted for use by researchers; and 5) how will datasets be disseminated;

- (C) For this process, the Law Enforcement Advisory Board shall be staffed by Crime Research Group. The costs associated with staffing the work group shall be underwritten through the Bureau of Justice Statistics SJS 2015 Core Capacity Grant or through other existing Crime Research Group funding; and
- (D) The final product shall be the development of written policies and protocols for law enforcement information sharing taking into account the appropriate collection, use, and dissemination of law enforcement data.