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Executive Director

## **Heart of Texas Council of Governments**

### **Criminal Justice Advisory Committee**

#### **Meeting Minutes**

*Heart of Texas Council of Governments*

*1514 S. New Road, Waco Texas*

February 21, 2024

10:00 a.m.

#### **I. Call to Order**

Chairman Brian Swick called the meeting to order at 10:01 am

#### **II. Welcome and Introductions**

Members present:

Ryan Howard                      Mark Norcross

Jay Sparkman                      Brian Swick

Scott Ferguson                      Yesica Rodriquez

COG staff:

Lana Gudgel

Guest Lakenya Greathouse

#### **III. Determination of Quorum**

No, 6 of the 16 members were present.

#### **IV. Proof of Posting**

Verified by HOTCOG Staff Member Lana Gudgel

**V. Public Comment:**

None.

**VI. Chair's Report:**

None

**VII. HOTCOG Staff Report:**

Lana Gudgel reviewed the scoring sheets for the upcoming scoring meeting for each of the four funding groups and told the members that the sheets had not been updated for some time and that in the October meeting she would like to review the scoring sheets with the member and discuss revisions to them.

Lana explained that there are currently 15 applicants in the Criminal Justice funding groups, however the City of McGregor did not attend the application workshop so the board will not be scoring that application. The remaining applicants are:

**VOCA – 6 applications:**

Advocacy Center

City of Lacy Lakeview

Falls County Victim Services

Falls County Youth Victim Services

Family Abuse Center

Navarro Victim Center

**VAWA – 2 applications**

City of Waco

Falls County Special Crimes Investigator

**Jag – 5 applications – 1 is ineligible.**

Bosque County

City of Meridian

Freestone County

Heart of Champion

**Juvenile Justice SF and TP – 3 applications**

Falls County Youth Services

Hill County Juvenile Justice

HOTCOG Juvenile Justice

Lana Explained that when funding announcements were received the Juvenile Justice Truancy Prevention and the SF421 were combined, however it appears that these might be separate when the OOG batches them to the COG for scoring.

Lana also explained that the OOG may not batch applications prior to the scoring meeting date, however, because of the imposed date requirements of the COG contract with the OOG, the scoring meeting will go forward even if the applications are not batched yet. If there are any changes after that, such as an application that was scored being rejected by the OOG and not batched, the CJAC may need to hold a special meeting to vote on the remaining applications. In the past the board has recommended all projects for full funding, with the top ranking applications being funded first and remaining being funded as funding is available. If the board continues to vote that way, then if an applicant is deemed ineligible by the OOG and is not batched to the COG for scoring the board could simply vote to move the other project up one spot in the ranking.

Next discussed was the schedule for the scoring meeting. Members agreed that all applicants in each funding group should be scheduled to arrive at the same time and will present in a random order pre-selected. For example, the applicants under the JAG funding would all be asked to arrive at 9:10 am, and the next group would be asked to arrive at 9:20 and the next group at 9:30. This way there will be less waiting time between groups.

**VIII. Approval of April 6, 2023, Minutes:**

No action taken.

**IX. Announcements for Future Business Items:**

Lana told the members that the OOG had released a new funding announcement for a State. Funding Crisis Intervention Program. This fund was awarded to the state for the next 5 years to fund projects dealing with mental health issues. Lana told the members that she had emailed the announcement previously and would email it again if there were any members interested in applying. The deadline for submission is March 13, 2024.

**X. Motion To Adjourn:**

Adjournment 10:19 a.m.