

Project Longevity – Executive Committee Meeting

Friday, September 13, 2019

Meeting Minutes

Members Present:

Co-Chair Marc Pelka, *Office of Policy and Management*, Co-Chair Peter Markle, *United States Attorney's Office*; Chief Otoniel Reyes, *City of New Haven*; Interim Chief Jason Thody, *City of Hartford*; Chief Armando Perez, *City of Bridgeport*

Others Present:

Brent Peterkin, *Project Longevity Statewide*; Sherry Haller, *Justice Education Center*; Laura Whitacre, *Justice Education Center*; Ron Schack, *The Charter Oak Group*; Charlie Sherwood, *South Central Chiefs of Police*; Karl Jacobson, *City of New Haven*; Stacy Spell, *Project Longevity New Haven*; Laticia Charles, *Project Longevity New Haven*; Harold Dimbo, *Project Longevity Bridgeport*; Brian Fitzgerald, *City of Bridgeport*; Brian Foley, *Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection*; Louisa Aviles, *John Jay College of Criminal Justice*; Jefferson Pineiro, *John Jay College of Criminal Justice*; Laurie Grieco, *John Jay College of Criminal Justice*; Eleanor Michael, *Office of Policy and Management*; Ivan Kuzyk, *Office of Policy and Management*; Kyle Baudoin, *Office of Policy and Management*; Nichole Howe, *Office of Policy and Management*; Steve Moniz, *Office of Policy and Management*

I. Opening Remarks

- Peter Markle, US. Attorney, Co-Chair, commended Bridgeport, Hartford and New Haven for their participation in Project Longevity.
- Marc Pelka, Under Secretary OPM, Co-Chair, thanked everyone for their work in the municipalities on the gun violence intervention (GVI) model, as well as the John Jay College of Criminal Justice, for their help in implementing the GVI model here in Connecticut. He indicated that he wants Project Longevity to work for all cities involved, and acknowledged the hardships the three sites have faced in not receiving grant funding in July and August.
- Peter Markle thanked all the fiscal agents for their patience.

II. Discussion

The issue of Bridgeport, Hartford and New Haven receiving a reduction in funding as a result of potentially adding Waterbury as a new site was discussed. OPM shared

that although the sites did not receive the funding they expected based on the appropriation, each site did receive an increase over the prior year's funding level.

III. Statewide Coordinator Updates

Brent Peterkin, Statewide Coordinator, Project Longevity – Commended Stacy Spell, Program Manager, New Haven, Harold Dimbo, Program Manager, Bridgeport and Laticia Charles for their commitment to the project. He wants to develop a greater team, but because the Waterbury site is not up and running is not able to do. He wants to improve data collection and is working with Software Solutions and is bringing on Tableau. Brent shared that he worked with Yale Law School to do an evaluation of Project Longevity New Haven in 2016, and he is currently working with them to do an updated evaluation of New Haven site. He would also like to do an evaluation of the Bridgeport site and they are excited about that idea. With regard to data collection at police departments, Brent believes group audits should happen twice a year, but they currently do not. He indicated that he would like group audits to be completed by each of the three police departments by the end of October and then again another in six months after that. He believes shooting audits should be done daily, or as frequently as possible.

IV. Chief Updates

Chief Reyes, New Haven – Chief Reyes indicated that he is glad funding has been increased statewide, but is disappointed that Waterbury has been added as a site before commitment from stakeholders has been sufficiently demonstrated. He reported that the New Haven site has had its' eighteenth call-in. He questions how much this program has affected outcomes. That there has to be buy in with the people involved, and in order to do so, they need to increase the capacity of people in the program. He also indicated that Project Longevity needs to show the State Legislature this is an effective program, but can't attribute the success of the program to statistics. He said that statistics are fleeting, and that this program is tied to individuals. He wants the success tied to the New Haven site to be achieved in the other sites as well. He believes the New Haven model should work in the other sites as well, and he is willing to work with them to help achieve this goal.

Chief Perez, Bridgeport – Chief Perez shared that you need to reward the people working on the project, and emphasized that they need to get paid in a timely manner.

Chief Thody, Hartford – Chief Thody addressed the fact that Hartford does not have Program Manager. He indicated he felt that they had a qualified candidate and that a consistent hiring process should be put in place. There was general discussion about how to make sure that a Program Manager is hired sooner rather than later. It was decided that the final decision on this candidate will be made by Peter Markle the U.S Attorney, Brent Peterkin and Chief Thody, and that they would aim to have a decision made by the end of October.

V. Program Manager & Data Consultant Updates

Stacy Spell, Program Manager, New Haven - He started working in the Project Longevity program in 2014. He believes the New Haven site is a team and that their goal is to spread that philosophy in the community. He said that New Haven has been collecting data, and indicated that program is about building community trust.

Harold Dimbo, Program Manager, Bridgeport - Stated that the goal of this program is to save lives. This program has had some hiccups, but it's about the community. He continued to work despite not getting paid because it's about saving the community. He believes that families are being traumatized. He also indicated there has been an uptick in juvenile violence.

Ron Schack, Data Consultant – Indicated he would like to receive shooting logs from police departments on a regular basis. This shooting and homicide data will allow him to prepare a report using a template he has created in order to look at trends over multiple years. In order to do this, he would like to be more closely connected with the crime analysts in the police departments.