

GUN VIOLENCE AND VIOLENT CRIMES COMMISSION (GVVCC)

Date: Thursday, November 4, 2021

Start Time: 9:30 AM

Place: Video Conference via Zoom

MINUTES OF MEETING

I. Meeting Call to Order

Gun Violence and Violent Crimes Commission was called to order by Chair Christopher Young at 09:40 a.m. on Thursday, November 4, 2021, via Zoom conferencing.

II. Roll call

Roll Call and Quorum Determination.

Commissioners Present:

Dr. Erin E. Harbinson, Director, Criminal Justice Research Institute
Dr. Daniel J. Galanis, Department of Health
Deputy Director Jordan Lowe, Department of Public Safety
Prosecuting Attorney Andrew H. Martin, Maui County
Interim Chief Rade Vanic, Honolulu Police Department
Acting Chief Dean Rickard, Maui Police Department
Chief Todd G. Raybuck, Kauai Police Department
Dr. Run F. Heidelberg, Administrator, Department of Health
Dr. Denise Eby Konan, University of Hawai'i at Manoa – College of Social Science
Dr. Gerald Busch, University of Hawai'i at Manoa – John A. Burns School of
Medicine
Mr. Christopher D.W. Young, Administrator, Hawai'i Criminal Justice Data Center

Commissioners Absent:

Mr. Lee Hayakawa, Public Defenders Office
Chief Paul K. Ferreira, Hawai'i Police Department
Representative from group that advocates for stricter gun safety laws.
Representative from firearm advocacy group.

III. Review and approval of October 19, 2021, minutes:

Review of October 19, 2021, GVCCC minutes. No comments or corrections were received from commission members. Commissioner Lowe moved, and Commissioner Martin seconded the motion to approve the minutes. Motion passed unanimously, with all the commissioners voting in favor of the motion by group vote.

Public comment was received from Ms. Andrea DeCosta. Ms. DeCosta thanked the commission and offered her assistance on behalf of survivors of violent crime and gang violence. She hopes to have a place on the panel but understands there does not seem to be a place identified explicitly for survivors of violent crime.

Commissioner Raybuck acknowledged and thanked Ms. DeCosta for coming forward and offering her assistance, in addition to acknowledging the tragic loss of her daughter.

IV. Discussion and approval on filling vacant Commission member positions

Discussion by Chair Young regarding how to proceed with seeking interest from advocacy groups and if posting a solicitation on the GVVCC website and via press release deemed an acceptable method: How will the advocacy group members be selected, what criteria will be used for selecting the advocacy members and the process that will be used to make the selections. Chair Young stated the commission needs clarification and direction in this area, and the commission will not be able to act on the issues until these issues are addressed.

No questions or comments by commission members.

Chair Young recommended the commission include in the final report to the legislature requesting clarification and direction on defining a group, criteria for selecting an advocacy group, and method for selecting those members.

No objections or comments from commission members.

V. Commission funding discussion and approval for inclusion in GVVCC Legislative Report

Chair Young made recommendations for commission funding and discussion regarding the letter received from Commissioner Konan regarding Corona Virus State Fiscal Recovery Funds as discussed during the October 19, 2021, meeting.

Commissioner Konan stated the letter is only a draft and was not intended to be included in the agenda. President Lassner has not seen the letter and has not been vetted through the university.

Commissioner Konan stated that since it is not clear how the commission would be supported and knowing funding will be needed to support various aspects of the work, the draft letter was to discuss the potential funding source. The idea behind the draft letter was since coronavirus state fiscal recovery funds are available to the state and it is eligible to use these funds to engage in research that is "evidence-based community

violence intervention programs to prevent violence and mitigate the increase in violence during a pandemic" which seems to align with the work of the commission.

Dean Konan welcomed feedback from commission members on whether this approach and/or the dollar request is appropriate, and whether this request would be submitted through the Attorney General's office or the university.

Chair Young stated that since the commission does not know its scope or focus yet, it would be difficult to determine the type and breadth of research needed. The intent in including the letter was to provide the commission with the opportunity to provide comments and decide how to proceed. Funding would not come from legislation since grant funding is a different process.

Commissioner Galanis appreciated the foresight and seeking out possible revenue sources. He indicated he has data resources, including his time, that can be used to analyze data, which would not have a cost at this point.

Commissioner Harbinson agreed and reiterated that it would be helpful to determine the scope of what the commission is focusing on, which would assist with what funding or additional funding would be needed.

Commissioner Busch agreed with previous comments and stated and proposed information could be presented as a tentative budget request.

No additional comments were received.

Chair Young stated the document could be attached to the legislative report, indicating it is not a request.

Commissioner Konan asked the commission for guidance on whether the commission would see an effort on behalf of the university useful to the commission work and whether there is specific feedback on other aspects.

No additional comments were received.

Chair Young requested guidance from AG Legal Counsel, Candace Park, regarding the process for entering an executive session as it relates to Agenda item V.

Commissioner Raybuck asked whether the commission should enter an executive session or wait to see if anything is pending on the agenda for open discussion before going into an executive session.

Chair Young asked Legal Counsel Park if it was permissible to wait until the end.

Legal Counsel Park indicated that would be permissible.

Public comment provided by Andrea Illima DeCosta. She wanted to point out that there is a very simple process in place right now, where gathering information without incurring a lot of expenses, i.e., through the claims reporting process through the medical system.

Commissioner Galanis responded the system, in a sense already exists, through standard ICD 10 coding. His office has access to the data submitted by hospitals; they do not have similar claims records going to out-of-hospital treatment for assaults. For example, gunshot wounds, but for anyone who goes to a hospital in the state of Hawai'i, except for Tripler, they do have those claims already.

No further comment or discussion.

Chair Young stated based on the discussion, the commission will take no action on this issue.

Chair Young presented a draft budget (included in the board packet) to submit to the legislature for funding.

A total estimated yearly cost of \$65,852 for operational expenses, not including research. Chair Young stated there would need to draft a bill asking for commission funding.

Chair Young asked for feedback in the area of a research assistant.

The report will indicate that the commission will be drafting a formal request for at least this initial funding to assist with the commission's operations.

No comments received or objection to including the budget as described in the final legislative report.

VI. Review and approval of GVVCC Legislative Report

Chair Young asked if there were any requested changes or additions to the draft GVVCC Legislative Report and opened it up for discussion.

No discussion or comments were received.

Chair Young entertained a motion to accept the GVVCC Legislative Report, amended based on today's discussion. Chair Young stated the budget as drafted will be included as part of the legislative report and clarification and direction regarding selecting the two advocacy members.

Commissioner Martin moved, and Commissioner Rickard seconded the motion to accept the GVVCC Legislative Report as amended. The motion passed unanimously, with all the commissioners voting in favor of the motion by group vote.

VII. Discuss permitted interaction groups (PIGS) and coordination of group meetings

Chair Young stated the permitted interaction groups (PIGS) were created and have not met. One individual in each group should be designated as the reporter who will report back to the commission. The question raised: what type of assistance is needed, such as scheduling of the meetings to assist the PIGS get started. Because until these groups meet and report back to the commission, the commission does not know how to move forward. The commission does not know what kind of research we are going to focus on and unclear on the scope of what the commission will do, what is gun violence, and what is the purpose of this commission.

Commissioner Galanis stated that he would be happy to give a general overview of deaths and morbidity related to firearms in the state as a starting point.

Commissioner Martin indicated the offer to assist with scheduling is a great one in terms of coordinating groups to help get things started and get everyone on the same page; assistance from the HCJDC team would be helpful.

Chair Young stated HCJDC would assist with sending out meeting notices for each of the groups that have been set up and help coordinating a Teams or Zoom meeting so that the groups can begin work.

No further discussion or comments.

Chair Young entertained a motion to move into Executive Session pursuant to Section 92-5(a)(4), Hawaii Revised Statutes.

Commissioner Raybuck moved, and Commissioner Vanic seconded the motion to enter Executive Session to discuss agenda item IV, discussion and approval on filling vacant commission member positions. And agenda item V, commission funding, discussion and approval for inclusion in GVVCC Legislative Report. And to offer the opportunity to discuss any legal concerns regarding agenda item V but deferred whether the commission needed to include agenda item V in the executive session as well.

Chair Young asked for guidance from Legal Counsel Park regarding the executive session.

As to Item V, Legal Counsel Park stated she would like to discuss with the board a legal aspect concerning funding and approval for inclusion in the GVVCC Legislative Report.

Commissioner Raybuck made a motion to move into Executive Session for the Commission to be able to speak on legal matters involving agenda items IV and V; Commissioner Vanic seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously, with all the commissioners voting in favor of the motion by group vote.

Chair Young moved the commission to Executive Session at 10:40 am.

Chair Young reconvened the commission meeting at 11:17 am, verifying a quorum still exists.

Chair Young indicated, to comply with the requirements of Sunshine Law open meetings, a re-vote would be required for the review and approval of the October 19, 2021, minutes. Chair Young proceeded with re-vote, motion passed unanimously, with all the commissioners voting in favor of the motion by roll call vote. There were no abstentions or objections.

Review and approve GVVCC Legislative Report, stating that Commissioner Martin made the motion for agenda item IV, and Commissioner Rickard seconded the motion to approve GVVCC Legislative Report.

Commissioner Martin indicated that in order to redress this particular agenda item, he asked to withdraw his motion.

Chair Young asked Legal Counsel Park whether a vote would be required to withdraw the vote.

Legal Counsel Park stated no vote was required; therefore, Chair Young accepted the motion to withdraw the original motion to accept the GVVCC Legislative Report as amended and opened it up for further discussion.

Commissioner Vanic indicated that as part of the legislative report to the legislature, there should be further discussion on data and the type of data being provided, and the confidential nature associated with that data.

Chair Young asked if the commission wanted to include the issue on how to choose the advocacy members, which was the original issue that was going to be included.

Commissioner Vanic stated he echoes some of the issues, and the commission needs to determine which should be included in the report.

No further discussion or comment.

Commissioner Vanic made a motion to reconsider including items discussed in the official report, and Commissioner Lowe seconded the motion to accept the GVVCC Legislative Report as amended.

There were no discussion or comments. Chair Young proceeded with a re-vote for review and approval of the GVVCC Legislative Report. The motion passed unanimously with all the commissioners voting in favor of the motion by roll call vote. There were no abstentions or objections.

VIII. Next step

Next GVVCC meeting is anticipated sometime in late February.

Amendments will be made to the GVVCC Legislative Report, including a request for clarification and direction on selecting the advocacy group members and the draft budget as discussed.

No further discussion or comments.

IX. Adjournment

Chair Young adjourned the meeting at 11:25 a.m.