

CCJJ COMMISSION MINUTES – pending approval	
Committee	Commission on Criminal and Juvenile Justice
Date	Thursday, June 5th, 2025
Time	12 PM – 2 PM
Location	Hybrid Zoom Virtual meeting – CCJJ Large Conference
Members Present	<p><u>In-Person Attendance</u>: Brent Kelsey (for Tracey Gruber), Stewart Young, Scott Stephenson, Richard Mauro, Jeff Buhman (for Ryan Robinson), Mark Moffat, Tom Ross, Brett Peterson</p> <p><u>Virtual Attendance</u>: Ron Gordon, Jared Garcia, Kim Gibb (for Commissioner Jess Anderson), Chief Brian Gwilliam, Pam Vickrey, Martin Munoz (JJOC), Alissa Black, Judge Ryan Peters</p>
Staff & Visitors	<p><u>Staff</u>: Danica Bodley, Chyleen Richey, Dan Strong, Pauli Romine (virtual), Zoraya Gappmaier (virtual), Marlesse Jones (virtual), Kara Hetrick, Erica Wood, Adrienne Buhler, Elizabeth Klc, Morgan Williams (virtual), Van Nguyen (virtual), Evan Lovett (virtual), Dale Oyler (virtual), Rachelle Hill (virtual), Sheena Yoon (virtual), John Draney (virtual), Richard Ziebarth (virtual), Mei Xue (virtual), Sofia Nystroem (virtual), Katie Fox (virtual), Matthew Barraza (virtual), Mary-Margaret Pingree (virtual)</p> <p><u>Visitors</u>: Erinie Rogers, Moriah Pease, Jeff Buhman, J. Windley (virtual), Melissa Wayment (virtual), Monday Maude (virtual), Wendy Diner (virtual), Tiffany (virtual), Erin Jemison (virtual), Samuel McHenry (virtual), Dave DeTorres (virtual), E. Bayler (virtual), Amanda Martin (virtual), Melissa Stirba (virtual), Alisha Gowen (virtual), Sam Isai (virtual), Savannah Pike (virtual), Albert Cramer (virtual), Amber (virtual), Chris Hanson (virtual), Christiana (virtual), Lea Olson (virtual), Tine Orme (virtual), Max Pierce (virtual), Alex Allen (virtual), S. Arrington (virtual)</p>
Agenda Item	Welcome and Approval of Meeting Minutes – <i>Brett Peterson, Chair</i>
Notes	<p>Chair Brett Peterson brings the commission meeting into session.</p> <p>The commission reviewed the previous meeting minutes from Thursday, April 10th, 2025.</p> <p>Motion: Richard Mauro motions for the commission to approve the minutes as presented. Brent Kelsey (for Tracey Gruber) seconds the motion. The motion passes unanimously.</p>
Agenda Item	UOVC Grant Approvals – <i>Chyleen Richey, UOVC Director</i>
Notes	<p>Chyleen Richey presents the UOVC Grant Approvals to the commission. The Crime Victims Council and Crime Victim of Operations and Assistance Board were repealed in the 2024 general session (effective December 2024), transferring the authority to authorize federal and state grant funds to CCJJ. Chyleen Richey highlighted a significantly improved federal process developed over two years, involving 11 different states in external reviews, a scoring rubric, 53 external reviewers, 13 internal reviewers, and 29 committees. This very vetted process aims for fair and effective decisions as stewards of these funds.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scale: 144 applications were submitted requesting over \$39 million. • Recommendation: 120 applications are recommended by UOVC for the 25.5 million that the commission has to give out. • Statewide Distribution: Funds are distributed statewide so that there is access in all 29 counties for these victim services. • Projected Impact: An estimated 75,000 victims will be served and 450,000 individual services will be provided. • VOCA Cuts Context: Moriah Pease (Grant Administrator) clarified that while the total VOCA award for Utah was reduced from \$12 million per year two years ago to \$10 million a year this year, they managed to avoid a 20% across the board cut for every agency by using a scoring rubric based on average scores to determine cut levels.

	<p>Motion: Brett Peterson motions for the commission to approve of the federal grants presented, except for the AOC grants. Stewart Young seconds the motion. The motion passes unanimously.</p> <p>Motion: Brett Peterson motions for the commission to approve of the AOC federal grants presented. Stewart Young seconds the motion. The motion passes.</p> <p>Abstentions: One (1) Abstention; Ron Gordon</p> <p>The state funding process of the Utah Victim Services program are continuation grants based on prior funding levels, tied to VOCA funding, covering criminal justice system victim services, legal victim services, and underserved victim services. There's no change from the last cycle.</p> <p>This includes a formula-based allocation for rape crisis centers and sexual assault state coalitions (UCASA and RAW), and a competitive allocation for sexual assault forensic exam programs and community-based sexual assault services. This money was funded three years ago by the state legislature.</p> <p>Motion: Tom Ross motions for the commission to approve the state grants as presented. Brent Kelsey (for Tracey Gruber) seconds the motion.</p>
Agenda Item	HRT Grant Recommendations – <i>Morgan Williams, Program Manager</i>
Notes	<p>Morgan Williams presents the HRT Grant Recommendations to the commission. HRT is a state appropriated funding to provide support for survivors of sexual assault.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Allocation: The legislative appropriation states that rape recovery center must receive at least 150,000 of the 290,000 total, leaving \$140,000 to be dispersed through a competitive grant review. • Funding Priorities: The committee prioritized direct services to the victims instead of conferences, retreats, which can come from regular budgets. <p>Motion: Jeff Buhman (for Ryan Robinson) motions to approve the HRT Grant Recommendations as presented. Stewart Young seconds the motion. The motion passes unanimously.</p>
Agenda Item	22-23 SCIP & JAG Grant Recommendations – <i>Morgan Williams, Grant Programmer</i>
Notes	<p>Morgan Williams presents the SCIP Grant Recommendations for the 2022 and 2023 fiscal year. This is a federal grant totaling \$2.4 million which will exhaust the rest of this grant.</p> <p>A requirement of 40% of the total award must go to local government and at least one award must be given to a smaller municipality ineligible for direct BJA awards. Funding was increased or decreased based on allowable for federal grant funding requests, with more funding offered to scalable programs to meet the 40% local government requirement. The recipients were primarily police departments for supplies and equipment and firearm storages.</p> <p>A significant Salt Lake County grant (approx. \$375k) is for the Salt Lake County Office of Homelessness and Criminal Justice Reform to hire integrated advocates to go into schools and work with students to mitigate juvenile justice involvement. This is an evolution of a previous IDC grant, distinct from choose game free programs, aimed at improving coordination between defense offices, courts, and schools to provide support and recommendations for children.</p> <p>Motion: Jeff Buhman (for Ryan Robinson) motions for the approval of the SCIP Grant Recommendation, except for the Salt Lake County awarded amount. Mark Moffat seconds the motion. The motion passes unanimously.</p>

	<p>Motion: Brett Peterson motions for the approval of the Salt Lake County SCIP Recommendation Approval. Jeff Buhman (for Ryan Robinson) seconds the motion. The motion passes.</p> <p>Abstentions: Two (2) Abstentions; Richard Mauro, Pam Vickrey</p>
Agenda Item	Prosecutor Conduct Commission – <i>Elizabeth Klc, Criminal Justice Policy Director</i>
	<p>A new commission and director position are being established to address prosecutorial misconduct.</p> <p>Senator Todd Weiler's prosecutorial misconduct amendments bill was funded and it was signed by the governor. The director position is currently posted, with funding starting July 1st. The position is under the CCJJ umbrella, but the commission will operate outside of that with independent decision-making. The fiscal note for the operation of the commission and director/staff position is around around \$375 thousand The salary range for the director goes up to \$156,000 a year.</p>
Agenda Item	Board of Pardons Vacancy Process – <i>Dan Strong, Utah Sentencing Commission Director</i>
	<p>Dan Strong discussed streamlining the process for recommending candidates for Board of Pardons vacancies.</p> <p>CCJJ is tasked in statute with providing five names to the governor for the Board of Pardons vacancy, similar to judicial nominating commissions. Criteria include knowledge of the criminal justice system, state, federal, criminal law, judicial procedure, corrections policies and procedures and behavioral science. Historically, a committee of CCJJ members would review applications and conduct interviews, then bring a list of five names back to the full commission for approval.</p> <p>The proposal of revision is to empower the committee to carry out that work themselves and select the five names themselves, allowing for swifter action and reducing uncertainty for candidates. The proposed committee would consist of the CCJJ Director, Chair of the Board of Pardons (or designee), Department of Corrections Director (or designee), JJS (Juvenile Justice Services, represented by Brett Peterson), Indigent Defense Commission Director (or designee), Attorney General (or designee, currently Stew Young), and Department of Public Safety (designee).</p> <p>Motion: Brenty Kelsey (for Tracey Gruber) motions for the commission to approve recommendations of the proposed committee. Stewart Young seconds the motion. The motion passes unanimously.</p>
Agenda Item	Governor's Executive Order & Legislative Priorities – <i>Tom Ross, CCJJ Executive Director</i>
	<p>Tom Ross outlined a new, comprehensive approach to criminal justice policy development, moving beyond reactive, short-term responses. The goal is to better inform criminal justice policy to avoid isolated, rushed decisions during the legislative session.</p> <p>A specifically structured task force with identified members, including three legislators (Representative Lisonbee, Representative Wilcox, Senator Brammer), to discuss criminal justice topics. Its first meeting is scheduled for June 17th.</p> <p>An executive branch initiative, inspired by HB 353 (Representative Wilcox), where state agencies will review statutes that impact them. This involves developing a rubric for evaluation and reporting recommendations to the law enforcement committee, ensuring a more formal way of information gathering. The CCJJ and its feeder commissions (Juvenile, Victim, Sentencing) will serve as platforms for broad input, discussion, and coalescing of ideas.</p>

	<p>Director Ross suggested a proactive analysis for proposed legislation, potentially including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Existing Statutes: Identifying existing statutes that touch on that same conduct to highlight overlaps. • Current Sentencing Guidelines: Providing information on current statutory guidelines and recommended sentencing for that criminal behavior. • Current Sentencing Practice Data: Leveraging data from courts and the Board of Pardons to show what the current sentencing practice is for a similar offense. • Comparative Analysis: Comparing Utah's approach to what's happening in other states that Utah typically compares with. • Benefit: This one-pager or a two-pager would be informational, not telling them do or don't, but to help better inform legislators. <p>Motion: Stewart Young motions for the commission to approve the forming of a working group to explore these ideas further and to share with the Governor's Task Force and legislative interim process, and receive input from other commissions. Jeff Buhman (for Ryan Robinson) seconds the motion. The motion passes unanimously.</p>
Agenda Item	Other Business
Notes	The commission addresses Scott Stephenson and thanks him for his service with the Commission on Criminal and Juvenile Justice. This will be his last meeting on the commission.
Agenda Item	Public Comment
Notes	<p>Ernest Rogers, a scientist with a doctoral level background, shared concerns about the accuracy of risk assessments used by the Board of Pardons for sex offenders. He presented findings from 50 risk assessments, stating that the "average projected risk or predicted reoffense rate of almost 10%" in these assessments was significantly higher than the CCJJ's estimated actual reoffense rate of "about 3%" for sex offenders in Utah (derived from a 2019 report that speculated 1.9%, rounded to 2%). He claimed 100% of the bottom 19 [of his sample] were given risk assessments more than double what the true value should have been." He argued that bad information leads to "keeping people in prison that they're being told are dangerous when in fact they're not." He offered to share more information before leaving the state.</p> <p>Scott Stephenson (Board of Pardons) responded by clarifying that the Board includes the Board from using or making decisions on release or managing the offender population to rely on one assessment tool. It's just one piece of information that the board uses to determine whether somebody should parole or what type of program they should provide. It's a culmination of a lot of factors.</p> <p>Steve Burton emphasized Utah's amazing and unique opportunity to be a leader in utilizing criminal justice data due to legislative and CCJJ efforts to collaborate and try to be able to share all the data and get it in one place. He urged the state to "double down" on data analysis to understand what works and what doesn't, predict who needs interventions, and better allocate resources, calling it a lost opportunity for humanity if we don't.</p>
Agenda Item	Adjourn
Notes	<p>Motion: Jeff Buhman (for Ryan Robinson) motions for the commission to adjourn. Scott Stephenson seconds the motion. The motion was unanimously agreed upon.</p> <p>The commission adjourns.</p> <p>Next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, August 14th, 2025 from Noon-2 PM. Location: <u>Anchor Location:</u> Capitol Board Room 240 Zoom link: https://utah-gov.zoom.us/j/88695952596?pwd=hMk2M7VttbOnUbWInqufrZuniKeh7H.1</p>
DISCLAIMER	Please note that these meeting minutes have been primarily generated or assisted by an

	artificial intelligence (AI) tool. These notes have been edited by staff to ensure accuracy and completeness.
--	--