

CHAMPAIGN COUNTY BOARD
COMMUNITY VIOLENCE PREVENTION TASK FORCE AGENDA

County of Champaign, Urbana, Illinois

Monday, May 22, 2023 - 6:30 p.m.

Shields-Carter Meeting Room
Brookens Administrative Center
1776 E. Washington St., Urbana

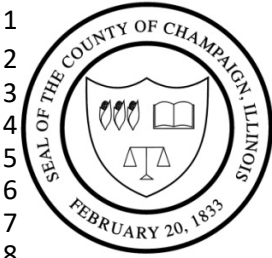
Committee Members:

Kyle Patterson – Chair
Stephanie Fortado – Vice-Chair
Jenny Lokshin
Samantha Carter
Ed Sexton
Diane Michaels
Aaron Esry

Agenda Items

- I. Call to Order**
- II. Roll Call**
- III. Approval of Agenda/Addendum**
- IV. Approval of Minutes**
 - A. April 24, 2023
- V. Public Participation**
- VI. Communications**
- VII. New Business**
 - A. Discussion of Current Funding Requests
 - B. Task Force Recommendations to the Champaign County Board
- VIII. Other Business**
 - A. Future Meeting Date (if needed)
- IX. Adjournment**

All meetings are at Brookens Administrative Center – 1776 E Washington Street in Urbana – unless otherwise noted. To enter Brookens after 4:30 p.m., enter at the north (rear) entrance located off Lierman Avenue. Champaign County will generally, upon request, provide appropriate aids and services leading to effective communication for qualified persons with disabilities. Please contact Administrative Services, 217-384-3776, as soon as possible but no later than 48 hours before the scheduled meeting.



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County of Champaign, Urbana, Illinois

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MINUTES – Subject to Approval

DATE: Monday, April 24, 2023
TIME: 6:30 p.m.
PLACE: Shields-Carter Meeting Room
Brookens Administrative Center
1776 E. Washington St., Urbana, IL 61802

Committee Members:

Present	Absent
Samantha Carter	
Aaron Esry	
Stephanie Fortado	
Jenny Lokshin	
Ed Sexton	
Diane Michaels	
Kyle Patterson	

County Staff: Michelle Jett (Director of Administration), Megan Robison (Recording Secretary)

Agenda Items

I. Call to Order

Committee Chair Patterson called the meeting to order at 6:32 p.m.

II. Roll Call

A verbal roll call was taken, and a quorum was declared present.

III. Approval of Agenda/Addendum

MOTION by Ms. Carter to approve the agenda; seconded by Ms. Lokshin. Upon vote, the **MOTION CARRIED** unanimously.

IV. Approval of Minutes

A. July 12, 2022

MOTION by Mr. Esry to approve the minutes of July 12, 2022; seconded by Ms. Carter. Upon vote, the **MOTION CARRIED** unanimously.

V. Public Participation

None

45 **VI. Communications**

46
47 None

48
49 **VII. Presentations**

50 A. Chamber of Commerce – iRead iCount Program

51
52 Laura Weis, President and CEO, and Madeline Herrman, Public Policy Director, gave details of how the
53 iRead iCount program works and stated they hope to close the achievement gap. They explained the
54 correlation between reading/math literacy and juvenile delinquency. They listed the statistical data from
55 their 2019 pilot and are requesting funds to cover a three-year program for the total cost of \$320,160.

56
57 Ms. Lokshin asked if they have plans to expand to other schools outside of Champaign and Urbana. Ms.
58 Weis explained that they would love to expand but they need to get the program cemented before they
59 can expand. Ms. Fortado asked how confident they are that they can spend all of these funds before the
60 end of 2026. Ms. Weis explained they really want to get a full snapshot of kindergarten through third
61 grade and that the schools are working hard to make this program work. She also explained this is the
62 Chamber’s long-term strategy for workforce development.

63
64 B. Champaign County Stand-down for Veterans

65
66 Cheryl Walker, Post #2019 Commander, explained that a stand-down is a community-based intervention
67 event for at-risk veterans and what type of resources are provided during these events. She shared
68 statistics of homelessness and the violence that the homeless encounter. They are requesting \$10,000
69 to hold a one-day event.

70
71 Ms. Fortado asked when they would be holding this event and Ms. Walker explained they would like to
72 do this event in October. Ms. Fortado also mentioned the new legislation on how much money is to be
73 given to the Veterans’ Assistance Commission and suggested that these veteran programs could be
74 shifted to that funding instead of ARPA funding.

75
76 C. CU Trauma & Resilience Initiative

77
78 Karen Simms, Executive Director, explained that CU TRI is funded to be the front-end of the local
79 community violence response effort and what people receive when they come to CU TRI. Their current
80 funding is for the City of Champaign, and they hope to be able to provide crisis support to the entire
81 County. She gave details of the many programs that they have to offer.

82
83 Ms. Michaels asked questions about the budget and how they cover the costs of different services
84 outside of the personnel. Ms. Simms explained how they try to leverage funding from multiple entities
85 and also explained how they are investing in people to continue to do this work when this funding ends.

86
87 D. Cunningham Township’s Bridge to Home Program

88
89 Danielle Chynoweth, Cunningham Township Supervisor, gave statistics of the housing and safety
90 challenges in Champaign County, the details of the Bridge to Home program, and some successes of the
91 program. They are requesting for the ARPA funds help with Emergency and Transitional Housing
92 components of their program and the request is for \$882,000.

93

94 Ms. Michaels asked about accepting families from outside of Urbana and Ms. Chynoweth explained that
95 they would prioritize Urbana families, but others would be welcome when there are openings. Ms.
96 Chynoweth also explained she has ideas on how to cover the costs of staff after ARPA funding ends.
97

98 E. East Central Illinois Building Trades
99

100 Kevin Sage, President, spoke about the good jobs with benefits and how those help with community
101 violence. He wants to start an apprenticeship program and he gave the details of this program. His
102 request is for \$249,500.
103

104 Ms. Michaels mentioned how the schools used to have programs like this and wondered if he could
105 partner with the schools and give the kids some school credits while also learning some of the trades.
106 Mr. Sage explained they are currently sponsoring a class at Parkland for high school students to earn
107 dual credit and learn about the trades. He also explained this current request is for people that are no
108 longer in school. Ms. Fortado believes connecting all of these trade programs could be a game-changer
109 for our County. Mr. Sage explained that this is not only helping people get jobs, but it is also helping the
110 contractors to find qualified employees. He believes the contractors would be willing to invest in the
111 future and that there may also be some grant funding available for future sustainability.
112

113 F. H3 Coalition – Revised Budget
114

115 Marlon Mitchell, First Followers Executive Director, gave a presentation detailing what they have
116 accomplished, what they plan to accomplish this year, and how they plan to sustain their program. His
117 request through 2024 is for \$1,090,331.88.
118

119 Ms. Michaels asked more specifics about their sustainability plans. Mr. Mitchell explained they are
120 working with the City of Champaign and believes there would be other federal funding available after
121 they show proof of concept.
122

123 G. Mahomet Area Youth Club (MAYC)
124

125 Brianna Buchanan, Executive Director, gave details of the club and how they help students. To continue
126 their mission, they would like to establish a new after school program would be for first through ninth
127 grade children and why their community needs this program. Their request is for \$360,000 for three
128 years of programming.
129

130 Mr. Patterson asked if there was a fee for the program and Ms. Buchanan explained their sliding scale
131 costs and the different funding sources that they accept.
132

133 H. SLEEP Program
134

135 Ms. Fortado explained the SLEEP program from RPC and what they provide to residential
136 neighborhoods. This is a program that has been implemented in Garden Hills and how this helps with
137 safety. They are looking at Dobbins Downs, Scottswood and a neighborhood in Rantoul. She believes
138 they would have around 500 households that would participate.
139

140 Ms. Carter explained everything that is provided with this program and how she thinks this has really
141 helped in the Garden Hills neighborhood.
142
143

144 I. Stop the Violence Program for Veterans

145

146 Robbie Walker, VA Accredited Claims Agent, and Nicole Massey, Land of Lincoln Legal Aid, gave a
147 presentation requesting \$500,000 annually over a three-year period for training and support for
148 veterans and their families on PTSD. They gave the program purpose, goals, components, and the
149 leadership team.

150

151 Ms. Fortado reminded everyone this type of program might do well under the new VAC funding
152 requirements instead of in ARPA since it isn't sustainable.

153

154 J. YWCA of Champaign County – Strive Program

155

156 Andrea Rundell, Executive Director, presented a video of a woman who had a bad background and
157 explained how this program helped her to get a business administrator position. Ms. Rundell explained
158 the issues with the digital divide and how this program helps to bridge the gap. Their request is for
159 \$50,000.

160

161 Ms. Michaels confirmed that the ask is for one year only. Ms. Carter suggested they reach out to work
162 with the Housing Authority.

163

164 **VIII. Other Business**

165 A. Discussion of Funding Plans

166

167 Ms. Fortado suggested they think about all of these funding requests and come to the next meeting with
168 a plan of action. She reminded the Task Force they have \$2,407,963 to spend and what questions she
169 will be asking when considering each program.

170

171 B. Future Meeting Date

172

173 The Task Force decided on May 22nd at 6:30 p.m. for their next meeting.

174

175 **IX. Adjournment**

176

177 Chair Patterson adjourned the meeting at 9:29 p.m.

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179