

Advisory Committee on Sexual and Domestic Violence

FINAL Meeting Minutes

Virginia State Capitol, House Room 1
Tuesday, December 5, 2017
10:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

Members Present

The Honorable Barbara Favola, Senate of Virginia
Fran Ecker, Director, DCJS
Kristi VanAudenhove, Virginia Sexual and Domestic Action Alliance (Action Alliance)
Melissa McMenemy, Office of the Attorney General
Kristen Howard, Virginia State Crime Commission
Nancy Fowler, Virginia Department of Social Services
Kathy Robertson, Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development
Heather Board, Virginia Department of Health
Warren Rodgers, Southside Survivor Response Center
Autumn Jones, Arlington County Victim/Witness Program
Teresa Berry, Sexual Assault Response and Awareness, (SARA) Inc. - Roanoke
Kathy Anderson, Director, Empowerhouse
Mindy Stell, Virginia Victim Assistance Network

Members Absent

The Honorable David Albo, Virginia House of Delegates
Chana Ramsey, James House

Welcome & Remarks

The Honorable Barbara Favola
Senate of Virginia

Senator Barbara Favola, Chairperson, called the meeting to order at 10:42 a.m., with a quorum present.

The committee received draft minutes of the October 24, 2017 interim work group session of the Services and Prevention/Intervention Work Group; however based on committee rules a motion to approve was deemed unnecessary. Approval of the draft minutes from the September 19, 2017 regular committee meeting was deferred to the end of the agenda pending receipt of the correct version.

Summary of Recommendations and Report

*Kassandra Bullock, Victims Services Manager
Department of Criminal Justice Services*

Ms. Bullock provided an overview of the efforts of the Services and Prevention/Intervention Workgroup and the Data and Grants Administration Workgroup and introduced representatives from each workgroup to present the recommendations.

Workgroup 1: Data and Grants Administration

Tom Fitzpatrick, DCJS Division Director of Programs and Services, reported the following:

The grants administration related recommendations focused on improving the efficiencies of grant administration, additional training on grants administration and financial reporting, compliance topics, changes in federal funding requirements and grant management orientation.

The data related recommendations were based on understanding the data collection needs of sexual and domestic agencies and how the current data being collected could be used to impact funding, policy, and program development. Recommendations included:

- To continue ongoing discussions and presentations to stay abreast of research on data.
- To establish a central repository of information to highlight compelling data on sexual and domestic violence issues; and
- Ways to link data from arrest through conviction with data on the issuance of emergency, preliminary, and permanent protective orders
- To create an online reference resource to collect, organize, and post studies and research articles related to sexual and domestic violence.

Also discussed were the limitations in the current data and its accessibility. Follow up information was provided to the Committee regarding protective order data collected from the Virginia State Police as of December 4, 2017. It was noted that this data is not tracked over time.

Workgroup 2: Prevention, Intervention, and Services

Kathy Anderson, Executive Director, Empowerhouse, reported the following:

Ms. Anderson provided an overview of the workgroup's goals, which were to identify service demands and gaps, and to promote coordination among state agencies and local service providers to improve the Commonwealth's response to sexual and domestic violence. The recommendations included a review cross-system primary prevention efforts related to addressing survivor marginalization and lack of representation through collaborations between DSS, VDH, the Action Alliance, DCJS, and by scheduling presentations before the Advisory Committee on marginalized communities, and on innovative prevention strategies.

Additionally, the workgroup discussed the following ways to strengthen local services and collaborations:

- Identify areas of redundancy in services among local agencies to increase a wider array of services;
- Promote a coordinated community response model in all localities;
- Promote coordination among state agencies; and promote cross-system intervention efforts
- Evaluate ways to promote the expansion of services to address gaps and to increase and enhance access of services; and,
- Encourage state agencies to continue to promote the funding of services offered by culturally-specific organizations.

After the completion of the reports, the Committee agreed to look at opportunities in the future for public comment on the recommendations.

Program & Coalitions Updates

Each of the Programs and Agencies provided updates on new initiatives, funding opportunities, collaborations, studies, etc., if applicable.

Campus Sexual Assault

*Kristina Vadas, Sexual Assault Program Coordinator
Department of Criminal Justice Services*

Ms. Vadas provided a presentation and brief overview of Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 and the responsibilities of educational institutions. Additionally, she provided an overview of the “Dear Colleague Letter” released in April 2011 by the U.S. Department of Education’s Office for Civil Rights.

After requests for additional information, Ms. McMenemy who represents the Office of the Attorney General offered to coordinate a presentation for the committee by attorneys knowledgeable on the matter of campus sexual assault at future meetings.

Senator Favola acknowledged that presentations of that type should be sought by the committee prior to its issuance of a formal response on the matter.

Approval of the Minutes

*The Honorable Barbara Favola
Senate of Virginia*

A motion was made to approve the draft minutes of the September 19, 2017 regular meeting. Ms. VanAudenhove requested the following section amendment on page 3:

Mr. Mahoney provided a summary of the work group's efforts which included ~~cataloging of~~ *discussion of conducting analysis and developing policy recommendations based on research studies*, creation of a website and data dashboard, additional training and guidance related to grant management and data reporting and also a survey to assess the management of grant administration, training and resources.

Senator Favola made a motion to approve the amended minutes, and was seconded by Fran Ecker. The committee approved the minutes, as amended, with no objections

Next Steps

*The Honorable Barbara Favola
Senate of Virginia*

Senator Favola proposed dates for meetings in 2018. A meeting scheduler will be sent to committee members to confirm meeting dates and times.

Public Comment

Senator Favola

Senator Favola opened the floor for public comments. None were provided.

Adjournment

Senator Favola

Senator Favola adjourned the meeting at 12:27 p.m.