

Advisory Committee on Sexual and Domestic Violence

Virtual Meeting via Zoom

(Virtual meeting required due to pandemic state-of-emergency)

Wednesday, July 22, 2020

10:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

Final Minutes

Members Present:

Kathy Anderson
Teresa Berry
Heather Board
Nichele Carver
Senator Barbara Favola
Thomas Fitzpatrick
Nancy Fowler
Autumn Jones
Melissa McMenemy
Kristi VanAudenhove
Toni Zollicoffer

Members Absent:

Kristen Howard
Delegate Mark Levine
Mindy Stell

DCJS Staff Present:

Andi Martin
Kristina Vadas

Guests in Attendance:

Meghan Gaulding, Virginia State Crime Commission
Eileen Longenecker, Office of the Executive Secretary, Supreme Court of VA
Ruth Anne Young, Virginia Center on Aging

Welcome, Introductions, and Remarks

Teresa Berry, Committee Chair, called meeting to order 10:35 a.m. Welcoming remarks were made and roll call was taken. Chair Berry determined a quorum was present.

Approval of June 24, 2020 Meeting Minutes

Kathy Anderson made a motion to approve the minutes. Autumn Jones requested on page 2, in the paragraph concerning an audit by the City of Alexandria, that “Alexandria” be changed to “Arlington” to reflect what was discussed. Ms. Jones seconded the motion to approve the minutes with this amendment. The motion passed unanimously.

Discussion and Approval of Position Statement

Chair Berry read through the draft position statement, one paragraph at a time, requesting input from the Committee. Members made suggestions for changes. Many members stated the draft was reflective of the Committee’s discussion during the last meeting. After members provided suggested changes, and such changes were incorporated into the document, it was again reviewed by the Committee. Kathy Anderson made a motion to adopt the statement as amended by the Committee. Senator Favola seconded the motion. The motion passed with eight yeas, zero nays, and two abstentions (Thomas Fitzpatrick and Melissa McMenemy).

The Committee discussed how the position statement will be disseminated. DCJS will send it to sub-grantees, include it in the Victims Services Newsletter, and post it on the website with Committee minutes. Committee members should send it to their networks.

Continued discussion on a new committee member and how to increase diversity:

- DCJS is working on legislative change recommendations for the Committee’s Code section. Please send any ideas that you have to Kristina Vadas at DCJS.
- The Committee would like to focus membership on racial and ethnic diversity, instead of requiring a director of a program to be a member.
- Possibly expand the number of Governor-appointed members, which is currently six of the fifteen members.
- Possibly change to allow for staggered membership terms; currently all appointed members have the same terms.
- The Committee should consider who else may be important to include for membership on the Committee.
- Possibly include some citizen/survivor members.
- DCJS will prepare a list of all possible legislative changes for discussion during the September meeting.

Sexual Assault Forensic Examiner Coordination Program (HB475/SB373)

Kristina Vadas informed the Committee that DCJS will soon have a new Sexual Assault Forensic Examiner Coordination Program, which was passed by the General Assembly effective July 1, 2020. Legislation included a position to coordinate the program. There are ten responsibilities of the coordinator, as outlined in *Code of Virginia* § 9.1-191. The position will be advertised soon.

Unfinished Business:

1. Prevention Funding for Sexual & Domestic Violence Agencies

Kristi VanAudenhove, Executive Director, Virginia Sexual and Domestic Violence Action Alliance

Ms. VanAudenhove informed the Committee that there was authorizing legislation to create this prevention program; however, funding was un-allocated due to the pandemic. It may be re-allocated during the upcoming General Assembly special session.

2. Batterer Intervention Programs (BIP)

- The Committee would like to resume discussion of this topic.
- The Committee's September meeting will include a brief history of Batterer Intervention Programs to establish a baseline understanding. This will be approximately 30 minutes during the meeting.
- The December 16, 2020 meeting will include a larger discussion on Batterer Intervention Programs, to include presentations and/or panel discussions. Plan to block approximately 1.5 hours for the business meeting, take a break, and then plan 1.5 hours for the BIP discussion that includes:
 - a) What is happening now with BIP in Virginia?
 - What does accountability look like?
 - What does certification look like?
 - b) What does best practice look like, and where is Virginia relative to this?
 - c) What innovative things are happening in Virginia and elsewhere (such as restorative justice)?
- Guest Eileen Longenecker informed the Committee that there is a list of BIP-certified programs maintained by the Virginia Batterer Intervention Program Certification Board. This list is linked to the Supreme Court of Virginia's website.

Other Member Announcements

Kristina Vadas provided an update on Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) funding. Virginia's Federal Fiscal Year 2020 award was less than the 2019 award. DCJS has been discussing the decrease with subgrantees. DCJS is currently developing the next grant solicitation, which will likely be released later this year. Maximum award amounts may be lowered so that DCJS can continue to support a variety of projects. The focus remains on supporting core services in the VOCA priority areas (services for victims of child abuse, sexual violence, domestic violence, and underserved populations).

Public Comment

No public comment.

Closing

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, September 23, 2020, at 10:30 a.m.

Chair Berry adjourned the meeting at 12:19 p.m.

Meeting Dates: Wednesday, September 23, 2020, 10:30 a.m.
Wednesday, December 16, 2020, 10:30 a.m.