

Advisory Committee on Sexual and Domestic Violence

Virtual Meeting

(In accordance with approved policy)

Wednesday, December 7, 2022

10:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

Final Approved Minutes

Members Present:

Maria Altonen, Kathy Anderson, Teresa Berry, Sanu Dieng, Marva Dunn, Autumn Edmond, Nancy Fowler, Kate Hanger, Claudia Lopez-Muniz, Unique Phillips, Mary Sharpe, Kristina Vadas, Kristi VanAudenrove, Toni Zollicoffer

Members Absent:

Elvira De la Cruz, Barbara Favola, Kristen Howard, Kike Oliver, House of Delegates Representative (vacant position)

Guests:

Jae De La Mora, Gleibys Gonzalez, Eileen Longenecker, Andi Martin, Tomiko Tamashiro Pardo, Courtenay Schwartz, Anya Shaffer, Amber Stanwix, Susheela Varky, Jonathan Yglesias

Welcome, Introductions, and Remarks

Teresa Berry called the meeting to order at 10:34 a.m. Committee members and meeting guests introduced themselves during roll call. A quorum was present.

Approval of September 14, 2022 Meeting Minutes

Kristina Vadas made a motion to approve the minutes from September 14, 2022, as submitted. Autumn Edmond seconded the motion. The motion passed. Toni Zollicoffer abstained.

State Agency Funding Updates

- Virginia Department of Criminal Justice Services – Kristina Vadas reported the following:
 - A. DCJS Funding
 - a. The Criminal Justice Services Board meets on December 8. They will vote on grant awards for CY 2023 Sexual Assault Services Program (SASP) applications, as well as applications for the new forensic nursing grant through the Virginia Sexual and Domestic Violence Victim Fund.
 - b. DCJS anticipates a new funding opportunity for SASP one-time expenses for SFY 2024.
 - c. VOCA-funded programs were notified of 10% reduction in federal funding (with exception of Court Appointed Special Advocates grantees) in SFY 2024. Additional instructions will be provided to grantees.

- B. DCJS Sexual Assault Forensic Services Program
 - a. There are now three new locations around the state for sexual assault forensic exams: 1) Augusta Health, Lexington exam site; 2) Valley Urgent Care, Harrisonburg, VA; and 3) Riverside Tappahannock VCU Health System, serving pediatrics.
 - b. The DCJS Sexual Assault Forensic Services Program, in partnership with the International Association of Forensic Nurses, will be offering a clinical skills lab for Virginia sexual assault forensic nurses on March 4-5 at Valley Urgent Care in Harrisonburg, VA.
 - C. Grant Monitoring Update: Haymanot Cummings left the agency. Hiring approval is pending. All grant-related inquiries for the NOVA region should be forwarded to Amia Barrows, Grant Monitoring Supervisor.
- Virginia Department of Health – Maria Altonen had no updates.
 - Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development – on behalf of Kike Oliver, Kristina Vadas reported the following:
 - A. DHCD received 50 applications for the Housing Trust Fund, a Homeless Reduction grant. Applications are under review. The application supports projects that provide for Rapid Re-Housing, Permanent Supportive Housing, and innovative projects for special populations.
 - B. Communities are preparing for the 2023 Point-In-Time Count, which will be held on Wednesday, January 25, 2023, with the alternate date of Thursday, January 26, 2023.
 - C. DHCD continues to support communities in their response to the COVID-19 pandemic.
 - Virginia Department of Social Services – Nancy Fowler reported the following:
 - A. VDSS Grant Programs
 - a. Domestic Violence Prevention and Services Grant: started July 1, 2022; grants may be renewed through FY 2025; total awards add up to just under \$8 million.
 - b. Domestic Violence Services for Underserved Populations Grant currently funds eight non-sexual/domestic violence organizations. These grants were renewed for FY 2023. VDSS will add one renewal next year. Awards add up to approximately \$550,000.
 - c. Sexual and Domestic Violence Primary Prevention Grant is a new VDSS grant with total available funds of \$2.6 million. Additional information will be provided later in the meeting under “Past Business.”
 - d. American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Domestic and Sexual Violence Grant has not opened yet; approximately \$5.4 million is available.
 - e. ARPA Vaccine Testing, Access to Mobile Health Grant: the Request for Applications is being developed now; there is \$8.3 million available.
 - B. VDSS contracts with the Virginia Sexual and Domestic Violence Action Alliance for data collection and training/technical assistance services. Additional support added this year to conduct a needs assessment related to the distribution of ARPA funding.
 - C. VDSS also administers two direct appropriations: 1) The Laurel Center, \$1.25 million, and 2) Eastern Shore Coalition Against Domestic Violence, \$114, 000.
 - D. VDSS has three open positions for contract administrators:
 - a. Domestic and sexual violence data collection position (closed)

- b. Domestic Violence Underserved Populations Grant Administrator (opening soon)
- c. Sexual and Domestic Violence Prevention Fund Administrator (opening soon)

Past Business

- Language Access Workgroup

Jonathan Yglesias introduced guests Jae De La Mora, Tomiko Tamashiro Pardo, and Courtenay Schwartz. These individuals met with the Workgroup over the past three months. Courtenay provided a written report that details the Workgroup's activities, findings and recommendations. Courtenay also summarized the report.

The four findings of the Workgroup are:

1. A broad, formal study by the Crime Commission which would explore language access issues.
2. Creating a story bank from directly impacted people with limited English proficiency (LEP) about their experiences requesting and obtaining protective orders.
3. Addressing language access challenges at the local level and encouraging communities to utilize a collaborative community model.
4. Increasing utilization of I-CAN! Virginia, an online forms completion system for protective orders.

Tomiko and Jae work in the field as an advocate and interpreter, respectively. They shared their experiences with failures of language access needs in the criminal justice system. Some of the common issues they described were: law enforcement using victims' children, friends, and sometimes the abusive person to interpret; law enforcement officers trying to "wing it" with their own limited knowledge of a language; jokes by officers about culture; one to three hour wait for a face-to-face interpreter when meeting with magistrates; law enforcement giving trespass orders instead of protective orders; not using interpreters at the preliminary protective order stage or meetings to prepare for court; advocates or other providers trying to be helpful but overselling their language skills; no oversight for interpreters; poor audio quality using phone-based language lines.

The Workgroup's report and an I-CAN! Fact Sheet will be emailed by Kristina Vadas to members and guests. The Committee will discuss this topic at the next meeting to determine next steps.

Eileen Longenecker informed the Committee that although she cannot speak to law enforcement, prosecutor, or victim/witness issues, or to specific complaints, the Office of Executive Secretary (OES) of the Supreme Court will try to address issues brought to their attention. OES currently has eight interpreter positions advertised for hire. See the OES Foreign Language Services webpage for additional information, certification requirements, and complaint forms available in Korean, Spanish, and Vietnamese.

Eileen will ask the magistrate director to whom concerns should be brought and will report back. She can also relay concerns to the appropriate person and help arrange meetings with those in her office.

- Sexual and Domestic Violence Prevention Funding

Nancy Fowler reported that VDSS posted a Request for Proposals (RFP) for this funding, and they received 28 applications. The total amount requested was near \$5 million; however, VDSS only has \$2.5 million to award.

- Virginia Sexual and Domestic Violence Program Professional Standards Committee
Kristina Vadas stated that there is no update at this time. DCJS staff are prepared to make accreditation recommendations for approximately 20 agencies, but due to issues with appointments to the Professional Standards Committees, this is on hold for now.
- Proposed Sexual and Domestic Violence Agency Needs Assessment Survey
Kristina Vadas reported that Kristen Howard has not received any additional feedback from members on the last draft of the survey. Jonathan Yglesias will reach out to Kristen Howard to share previous VSDVAA surveys (and results) as to not duplicate efforts. Nancy Fowler and Kristi VanAudenhove noted they provided feedback in person at the last meeting. No one on the Committee anticipates providing additional feedback.

New Business

- Nancy Fowler informed the Committee that, as a result of Southside Center for Violence Prevention closing its doors, there is a gap in services in their previous service area. VDSS, DCJS and VSDVAA have begun discussing what can be done to fill the gap for crisis services. Kristina Vadas added that there are other service gaps in Virginia, in addition to the ones in this area, and this group is discussing these gaps too. Toni Zollicoffer noted the current way agencies are structured is not sustainable, and we need to find more ways to collaborate and prepare for the future.

Other Member Announcements

- Jonathan Yglesias provided this link to a new firearms resource: <https://vsdvalliance.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/12/Firearm-Toolkit-Jan-2023-FINAL.pdf> . Training on this will be offered in 2023.
- Kristi VanAudenhove reported that the Action Alliance will have its Hope Reception on Friday, 12/9, at their new office. They will be honoring three individuals, including Committee member Toni Zollicoffer.

Public Comment

- Eileen Longenecker reported that the Office of the Executive Secretary is in the process of having protective order information translated into Korean, Spanish, and Vietnamese. This will be on their website within the next 1-3 months.

2023 Meeting Dates: **March 15**, 2023, 10:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. (in-person meeting)
 June 14, 2023, 10:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. (virtual meeting)
 September 20, 2023, 10:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. (in-person meeting)
 December 13, 2023, 10:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. (virtual meeting)

Closing

Meeting was adjourned at 12:26 p.m.