

**Virginia Sexual and Domestic Violence Program**  
**Professional Standards Committee**  
**“DRAFT” Meeting Minutes**

Henrico County Public Safety Training Center  
Henrico, VA  
August 23-24, 2017

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August 23, 2017

**Members Present:**

Mary Carter Lominack, Executive Director, Shelter for Help in Emergency  
Rebecca Weybright, Executive Director, SARA Charlottesville  
Kandy Freeman, Assistant Executive Director, Madeline’s House  
Yolanda Thompson, Co-Director, Fairfax County Office for Women and Domestic & Sexual Violence Services  
Teresa Christin, Director, Avalon  
Jennifer Bourne, Director, Clinch Valley Community Action Agency  
Caroline Jones, Executive Director, Doorways for Women & Families  
Rebecca Lee, Chief Program Officer, YWCA of Richmond  
Tamy Mann, Executive Director, Safehome Systems  
Elvira De la Cruz, Chief Program Officer, James House  
Linda Ellis-Williams, Director of Programs, YWCA of Central Virginia  
Regina Pack Eller, Executive Director, Family Resource Center  
Kassandra Bullock, Victim Services Manager, DCJS  
Kristi VanAudenhove, Executive Director, VSDVAA

**Welcome & Remarks**

*Teresa Christin, Executive Director  
Avalon Center*

The meeting started at 10:05, with a quorum present and recessed at 3:42 p.m.

Teresa Christin, Chair, introduced Elvira De la Cruz from the James House and Linda Ellis-Williams from the YWCA of Central Virginia as the newly appointment members to the Committee. Ms. Cruz and Ms. Williams filled vacancies of members who were appointed by the Advisory Committee on Sexual and Domestic Violence.

**Review Vision/Purpose/Value Statement**

Participants were given time to read the Vision/Purpose/Value Statement.

**Review Minutes from April Meeting**

Participants reviewed the February 28 through March 1, 2017 and April 26, 2017 minutes. Motion to approve the minutes was presented by Rebecca Lee and seconded by Caroline Jones. There were no objections and the minutes were approved.

## **Discussion(s)**

### Correspondence:

Teresa Christin introduced correspondence received from Nancy Fowler, Program Manager for Office of Family Violence at the Virginia Department of Social Services. The letter was read aloud by Kristi VanAudenhove. The letter was making a formal request of the Committee to “consider requirements that must be met by all sub-grantees” who receive funding from the Family Violence Prevention and Services Act (FVPSA) when discussing standards for accreditation. The Final Rule incorporates new statutory requirements, some of which would be applicable to the standards being developed.

### Update on Development of Standards:

The Committee discussed the progress being made on the standards and the overall process. A suggestion was made that the Committee might consider updating the most recent draft of the standards set out by the Virginia Sexual and Domestic Violence Action Alliance in 2015.

The Committee discussed how the previous standards have been used for strategic planning in their own agencies. Suggestions were also made to include Ethical Standards from the OVC Model Standards for Serving Victims and Survivors of Crime.

Members debated incorporating a tiered system:

- Cons of that approach are that agencies in different regions have access to different resources and not all services required by the higher levels of accreditation are utilized in their locality.
- Pros to using a tiered approach are that it would provide programs with goals to use in strategic planning and it would serve as a guide to be given to Board of Directors on how programs can improve.
- Additionally, the Committee discussed if funding should be tied to accreditation. It was discussed that the Committee can have a discussion and make a request to the funding agencies and provide justification. The funding agencies would then make a decision.

**Motion to use the existing standards with tiers as a starting point for discussion was presented by Yolanda Thomas and seconded by Caroline Jones. Question was open for discussion. Mary Carter Lominack clarified that the tiered standards are an informational starting point to work from and not necessarily adopted. No objections so the motion was approved.**

A discussion continued on the use of a tiered system approach to the standards. The tiers were developed by a workgroup before the Committee was formed. The drafted standards were not approved but feedback was received from program directors.

**Motion to utilize the three tiered system was presented by Yolanda Thompson and seconded by Caroline Jones. Elvira De la Cruz and Rebecca Weybright opposed the motion and Mary Cater Lominack, Jennifer Bourne and Regina Pack-Eller abstained. Discussion was opened.**

Kristi VanAudenhove suggested that there could be one set of standards but have three measurements of each standard. The Committee discussed that having a way to measure the standard would allow there to be more than one right answer when reviewing or monitoring accreditation. The first measure would be what is necessary to meet the standard.

**Motion to use one set of standards with a range of measures and that the outcomes will be accredited or not was presented by Rebecca Lee and seconded by Kandy Freeman. No objections so the motion was approved.**

Teresa Christin announced that she is stepping down as Chair. Yolanda Thompson was nominated by Rebecca Lee and the nomination was seconded by Caroline Jones. There were no objections so the nomination was approved.

Tamy Mann's term as Vice-Chair has expired. Motion to elect Tamy Mann to a second term as Vice Chair was presented by Caroline Jones and seconded by Jennifer Bourne. There were no objections so the motion was approved.

The Committee reviewed the Virginia Sexual and Domestic Violence Action Alliance Proposed Accreditation Standards (Proposed Standards) for potential changes and concerns that the Committee wanted to discuss further.

Kay Bullock announced that DCJS did get the approval for a Professional Standards Coordinator position and second interviews will take place August 30<sup>th</sup>.

**Thursday, August 24, 2017**

**Members Present:**

Rebecca Weybright, Executive Director, SARA Charlottesville  
Kandy Freeman, Assistant Executive Director, Madeline's House  
Yolanda Thompson, Co-Director, Fairfax County Office for Women and Domestic & Sexual Violence Services  
Jennifer Bourne, Director, Clinch Valley Community Action Agency  
Caroline Jones, Executive Director, Doorways for Women & Families  
Rebecca Lee, Chief Program Officer, YWCA of Richmond  
Tamy Mann, Executive Director, Safehome Systems  
Elvira De la Cruz, Chief Program Officer, James House  
Linda Ellis-Williams, Director of Programs, YWCA of Central Virginia  
Regina Pack Eller, Executive Director, Family Resource Center

Kassandra Bullock, Victim Services Manager, DCJS  
Kristi VanAudenhove, Executive Director, VSDVAA

**Members Absent:**

Mary Carter Lominack, Executive Director, Shelter for Help in Emergency  
Teresa Christin, Director, Avalon

**Meeting reconvened at 9:17 a.m. with quorum present and adjourned at 3:00 pm.**

Members took time to review the notes from the previous day. The Committee went through each standard in the Proposed Standards and made changes or determined the intent of the standard. The Professional Standards Coordinator, when hired, will write a draft incorporating the proposed changes.

**Next Discussion Topics**

Review Community Engagement standards  
Implementation Process- Review Process

**Public Comment**

No public comment was presented during the meeting.

**Next Meeting: Tuesday, October 24, 2017, from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at Albemarle County  
Police Department**

# Virginia Sexual and Domestic Violence Program Professional Standards Committee

Code of Virginia: 9.1-116.3

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*The Virginia Sexual and Domestic Violence Program Professional Standards Committee (the Committee):*

- *Shall establish voluntary accreditation standards and procedures by which local sexual and domestic violence programs can be systematically measured and evaluated with a peer-reviewed process.*
- *May adopt bylaws for its operation, membership terms, fees, and other items as necessary.*
- *Fees for accreditation shall be used to support any administrative costs of the Department.*
- *Upon request of the Committee, the Department and the Virginia sexual and domestic violence coalition may provide accreditation assistance and training and resource material that will assist the local programs in obtaining or retaining accreditation.*

## Vision/Purpose/Value Statement

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### **Vision**

Throughout Virginia, all those impacted by Sexual and Domestic Violence have accessible, community-driven quality services and resources.

### **Purpose**

To create standards that:

1. Credential Sexual and Domestic Violence agencies.
2. Ensure research-based best practices and inspire Sexual and Domestic Violence organizations to learn and evolve in order to best meet the needs of all those impacted by Sexual and Domestic Violence.
3. Ensure an informed core level of services is available to all those impacted by Sexual and Domestic Violence throughout Virginia.

### **Value Statement**

The Professional Standards Committee commits to a respectful, thoughtful and transparent process to establish best practice standards for Sexual and Domestic Violence programs. We are mindful that these standards will be survivor-centered, inclusive and empowering for both programs and those impacted by Sexual and Domestic Violence.