

Virginia Sexual and Domestic Violence Program Professional Standards Committee

Approved Meeting Minutes

Conference Call
1-866-842-5779, Code: 1156423
January 23, 2019

Members Present:

Jennifer Bourne, Director, Clinch Valley Community Action Agency
Teresa Christin, Executive Director, Avalon
Cathy Easter, Executive Director, Safe Harbor
Linda Ellis-Williams, Director of Programs, YWCA of Central Virginia
Debbie Evans, Division Chief of the Sexual Assault Center & Domestic Violence Program, City of Alexandria Department of Community & Human Services
Kandy Freeman, Assistant Executive Director, Madeline's House
Caroline Jones, President/CEO, Doorways for Women & Families
Candy Phillips, Executive Director, First Step
Maria Simonetti, Executive Director, The Collins Center & Child Advocacy Center
Kristina Vadas, Manager of Victims Services, DCJS
Kristi VanAudenhove, Executive Director, VSDVAA
Rebecca Weybright, Executive Director, SARA Charlottesville

Absent Members:

Mary Carter Lominack, Executive Director, Shelter for Help in Emergency

Others Present:

Amia Barrows, Victims Services Program Specialist, DCJS (note taker)

Others Absent:

Courtney Meyer, Professional Standards Coordinator, DCJS

Welcome & Remarks

The meeting started at 10am with a quorum present. Caroline Jones welcomed everyone and asked members to introduce themselves. Caroline asked attendees to confirm attendance for the next in-person meeting on February 13th. Please email Courtney if you can attend in-person.

Training Standards and Content

Caroline discussed next steps in regards to the training portion of the professional standards. During the comment period, it was brought to the Committee's attention that the current training standards are confusing to folks in the field. Caroline, Debbie, Maria, and Cathy formed a sub-group to take a closer look at the training standards and content. Caroline apologized for the delay in spearheading this effort and asked if anyone was willing to take the lead by

working with Courtney on finalizing the language. Members were unable to commit to this. Caroline commented that it is understandable since everyone will be busy with the new VOCA solicitation. Caroline suggested that Courtney make revisions and bring the training content to the next meeting for the Committee's feedback.

Kristina Vadas explained that Courtney would be willing to review everyone's notes/feedback on the training standards and that she will do a draft of the "cleaned-up" version of the standards.

Caroline shared that she presented the current training topics to her staff (Doorways) and suggested that Committee members do the same. She encouraged folks to focus on getting feedback on training content vs. hours.

Maria shared that she provided her staff with a copy of the training topics from the Action Alliance Accreditation Manual (June 2013). The staff offered feedback and it generated a good discussion on training needs. Caroline asked if folks could meet with staff prior to the next meeting to complete a similar exercise.

Final Version of Standards

Caroline relayed that everyone has done a great job and stated that the standards are near completion. Courtney is planning to clean-up the final draft to check for consistent formatting, voice, style, tense, etc. Caroline asked for volunteers to do a final read-through before the next meeting to make sure that the document is a cohesive, approachable tool for people to utilize; however, no one was available.

Next Steps

Caroline then discussed next steps in regards to implementation and outlined a few items that the group will focus on to include: reviewing sample standards, the roll-out process, to include site visits or not, the application, marketing, etc. Jennifer asked everyone to bring their calendars to the next meeting so that future meeting dates can be scheduled.

Current Events

Caroline transitioned the discussion by acknowledging that a lot of things have been happening that may impact the field (i.e. Federal shutdown, change in definitions of domestic violence). She asked Kristina if there are any changes or updates. Kristina explained that OJP and OVW are operational through February and that they will continue business as usual. Caroline asked, in the event that the shutdown continues, if DCJS is planning to send guidance to grantees on reducing program expenditures. Kristina clarified that the agency was advised to continue business as usual, and that it is up to each organization to decide what is best for them. Kristi asked if DCJS will continue to process funding requests and Kristina confirmed. Kristi offered that if organizations are concerned about cash flow they take the necessary precautions. She also advised that if they are confident in their cash flow then business should operate as expected. Kristi reiterated that it is an individual program decision and that if changes are made to their grant, to contact the assigned monitor.

Closing Remarks

Caroline thanked everyone for their flexibility and stated that she looks forward to the next meeting. The meeting adjourned at 10:35am.

Actions before next meeting

Each member was asked to discuss training content with their respective agencies and bring their team's ideas about adding/removing training content to the February meeting. Members were also asked to please bring their calendars to schedule future meetings.

Public Comment

There was one member of the public present on the call who did not have any comments.

Next Meeting: Wednesday, February 13, 2019

10am-4pm

Shelter for Help in Emergency in Charlottesville, VA