

Advisory Committee on Sexual and Domestic Violence

Virtual Meeting

(In accordance with approved policy)

Wednesday, June 5, 2024

10:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

Minutes

Committee Members Present

Colin Drabert (on behalf of Delegate Herring from the VA Crime Commission), Marybeth Adkins, Tammy Sharpe, Kike Oliver, Nancy Fowler, Maria Altonen, Senator Barbara Favola, Pyowook Han, Kate Hanger, Krista Martinez, Claudia Lopez-Muniz, Adrian Perry, Kristina Vadas, Kristi VanAudenhove, and Toni Zollicoffer

Committee Members Absent

Elvira De la Cruz, Sanu Dieng, Marva Dunn, and House of Delegates Representative (Vacant)

Guests Present

Teresa Berry, Jonathan Yglesias, Eileen Longenecker, Amber Stanwix, Anya Shaffer, Andrea Sutton, Gleibys Gonzalez, and Andi Martin

Welcome and Introductions

Claudia Lopez-Muñiz, Committee Vice-Chairperson, called the meeting to order at 10:30 a.m. A quorum was present. Committee members introduced themselves.

Approval of March 20, 2024, Meeting Minutes

Kate Hanger made a motion to approve the March 20, 2024, meeting minutes. Toni Zollicoffer seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Virginia Department of Social Services Prevention Funding

Nancy Fowler, Director, Office of Family Violence, Virginia Department of Social Services (VDSS), presented on Sexual and Domestic Violence Primary Prevention Funding. Nancy's presentation included information about the history and purpose of the fund and general information about funded projects (locations and the varied models used by programs).

VDSS hosts Prevention Collaborative Virginia (PCV) monthly meetings. These are prevention networking meetings. Contact Jana McDermott at VDSS for additional information.

jana.mcdermott9@dss.virginia.gov

State Agency Funding Updates

- Virginia Department of Criminal Justice Services (DCJS)
Kristina Vadas presented on grant programs administered by DCJS. These grant programs include: VSGP competitive (federal VOCA); VSGP for SDV services (federal VOCA and state); VSTOP (federal); SASP (federal); ARPA (federal); VSDVVF (state), Victim/Witness (federal and state). Kristina explained that the recently passed state budget included additional funds for some of these grant programs. Kristina also shared when these grant programs' current subgrants start and end.
- Virginia Department of Health (VDH)
Maria Altonen reported that VDH recently hosted the first in-person Rape Prevention and Education (RPE) grant recipient meeting since the pandemic. VDH is partnering with the Virginia Sexual and Domestic Violence Action Alliance (VSDVAA) to host four listening sessions intended to improve economic supports for victims. These listening sessions will occur June 11 (Fredericksburg), June 26 (Newport News), July 12 (Wytheville), and July 17 (virtual). Information is attached to the minutes. VDH is working with "1 in 6" which focuses on men's experiences of sexual assault. VDH will host two all-day related trainings on June 13 and June 20.
- Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development
Kike Oliver reported that their Homeless and Special Needs Housing Unit recently completed grant application reviews for their Virginia Homeless Solution Program. Award announcements will be made by the end of June.
- Virginia Department of Social Services
Nancy Fowler presented on the varied grant programs administered by DCJS. These grant programs include the following: Domestic Violence Prevention and Services (supporting comprehensive DV services and DV Primary Prevention services); Domestic Violence Services for Underserved Populations; Sexual and Domestic Violence Programs ARPA grant; Vaccines Testing and Access to Mobile Health; Sexual and Domestic Violence Prevention grant; and SDV Prevention Training and Technical Assistance grant.

Past Business

- Virginia Sexual and Domestic Violence Program Professional Standards
Amber Stanwix, Professional Standards Operations Coordinator with DCJS reported that the updated Professional Standards manual was approved by the Professional Standards Committee on April 8, 2024. The Professional Standards guidelines for procedures were also recently updated. DCJS will host informational session on the revised manual and guidelines on July 10 and July 17, 2024. The next round of accreditation will start with agency assessments; the proceed of which will be open September 3-27, 2024.
- Virginia State Crime Commission Language Access Study Request

Prior to the meeting, the Crime Commission sent an email informing the committee that they are not able to include the Committee's Language Access study request as part of its studies for this year (SFY 2025). If the committee would like to make a similar request of the Crime Commission for state fiscal years 2026 or 2027, they should submit another letter with that request. The committee discussed the possibility of asking a college or university to conduct the survey or asking DCJS and the Courts to work on this issue. The VSDVAA will reconvene the work group that made the request to discuss next steps.

New Business

- None received.

Other Member Announcements

- Jonathan Iglesias with the VSDVAA reported that they are hosting an Economic Justice Summit at Hampton University on June 27, 2024. They have a foundation grant that provides travel scholarships. <https://vsdvalliance.org/economic-justice-summit/>

Public Comment

- In response to the earlier discussion about how to proceed with a language access study, Elieen Longenecker informed the committee that the Office of Executive Secretary is not staffed to run studies and therefore they have limited capacity for such work. Also, the language access work group did not hold public meetings the last time they came together. If courts, law enforcement, and probation are being discussed, it would be helpful to be a public meeting so the public can appear to address questions and provide information.

2024 Meeting Dates:

September 18, 2024, 10:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. (In-person)

Chesterfield County Meadowdale Library,
Large Meeting Room
4301 Meadowdale Blvd,
North Chesterfield, VA 2323

December 11, 2024, 10:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. (Virtual)

Closing

The meeting was adjourned at 12:01 p.m

DCJS Victims Services Team Grant Programs

Advisory Committee on Sexual and Domestic Violence
June 5, 2024



DCJS

Virginia Department of Criminal Justice Services

State General Funds

In the final SFY 2025 state budget, additional **general funds** were appropriated to support several projects:

- Sexual and Domestic Violence Agencies
 - Increase of @ \$2 million to \$4,568,114
- Victim Witness Programs
 - Increase of @ \$1.3 million to \$5,988,807
- Support for competitive victim services projects
 - \$1,250,000

Victims of Crime Act (VOCA)

- Virginia's federal fiscal year 2024 VOCA appropriation is anticipated to be \$19,866,137, down from \$34,605,387 in FFY 2023.
- We anticipate a similar award in FFY 2025.
- Federal Crime Victims Fund balances remain concerningly low, but there are some efforts at the federal level to stabilize the fund.

DCJS VOCA-Supported Grants

- **Victims Services Grant Program (VSGP) Competitive**
 - SFY 2025 12-month awards begin 7/1/24.
 - 32 awards totaling @ \$4,134,113 in VOCA and state general funds.
- **VSGP for Sexual and Domestic Violence Agencies (non-competitive)**
 - SFY 2025 12-month awards begin 7/1/24.
 - 55 awards totaling \$15,800,255 in VOCA and state general funds.
 - Awards restored to slightly-higher than SFY 2023 levels (combined with ARPA grant awards; pending CJSB approval).

DCJS VOCA-Supported Grants

- **Victim Witness Grant Program (VWGP)**
 - SFY 2025 12-month awards begin 7/1/24.
 - 114 awards totaling \$19,237,848 in VOCA and state funds (general and special funds).
 - Awards restored to @ SFY 2023 levels (pending CJSB approval).

Violence Against Women Act (VAWA)

- Funds administered by the Office on Violence Against Women.
- Federal fiscal year 2024 SASP and STOP anticipated funding amounts equal FFY 2023 levels:
 - SASP = \$79 million
 - STOP = \$255 million

DCJS VAWA-Supported Grants

- **Sexual Assault Services Program (SASP)**
 - SFY 2024 Special One-Time Funding Opportunity: 12-month awards ending June 30th.
 - CY 2024: New grants began on 1/1/2024.
- **VSTOP**
 - CY 2024: New 24-month grants began on 1/1/2024.
 - Law enforcement, culturally-specific, and sexual assault-specific projects were eligible to receive an increase, and three new programs were awarded funding as a part of a competitive application process.

Other Funding Sources

- **ARPA VSGP Restoration Grants**
 - SFY 2025 12-month awards begin 7/1/24.
 - 54 awards totaling \$3,365,679 in ARPA funds (pending CJSB approval).

- **Virginia Sexual and Domestic Violence Victim Fund (VSDVVF)**
 - SFY 2025 12-month awards begin 7/1/24.
 - 49 awards totaling \$2,258,803 in state general and special funds (pending CJSB approval).

