

Advisory Committee on Sexual and Domestic Violence

Midlothian Library

Chesterfield County
100 Millworks Crossing
Midlothian, VA 23114

Wednesday, September 2, 2026

10:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

Draft Minutes

Committee Members Present

Katie Conides, Elvira De la Cruz, Robin Desrosier, Sabrina Dorman-Andrew, Marva Dunn, Barbara Favola, Nancy Fowler, Kate Hanger, Kristen Howard, Lisa Kersey, Krista Martinez, Marybeth Matthews-Adkins, Karli Meagher, Kike Oliver, Irene Shin, Kristina Vadas, Kristi VanAudenhove

Committee Members Absent

Maria Altonen, Michelle Ellis Young

Guests Present

Kathleen Demro, Virginia Department of Social Services
Shannon Freeman, Virginia Department of Social Services
Eileen Longenecker, Office of the Executive Secretary, Supreme Court of Virginia
Ashley Xavier, Virginia Hospital & Healthcare Association Foundation

Virginia Department of Criminal Justice Services (DCJS) Staff Present

Kori Harris, Andi Martin, Anya Shaffer, Amber Stanwix

Welcome and Introductions

Marybeth Matthews-Adkins, Committee Chairperson, called the meeting to order at 10:33 a.m. A quorum was present. Committee members and guests introduced themselves. Delegate Irene Shin attended virtually from Northern Virginia for medical reasons.

Approval of June 3, 2026, Meeting Minutes

The Committee reviewed the minutes from June 3, 2026. Krista Martinez made a motion to approve the minutes. The motion was seconded by Kate Hanger. The Committee approved the minutes, unanimously.

Discussion Topics

1. Virginia Department of Criminal Justice Services State Fiscal Year (SFY) 2027 Sexual Assault Domestic Violence Grant Program (SADVGP) Awards.

Kristina Vadas, DCJS, reported the following:

- The final state fiscal year 2026 budget included an additional \$3 million for recipients of SADVGP funding.
- For several years, DCJS has been working towards developing a formula to determine funding amounts for sexual and domestic violence (SDV) service agencies; DCJS used this formula to fairly and equitably divide the extra funds, which were added to subgrantee state fiscal year (SFY) 2027 SADVGP grant awards. Additional funds ranged from \$25,000 to \$87,000 per program depending on the formula funding calculations.
- Although this caused some delay in awards, all awards letters were sent to subgrantees by July 30, 2026, and they are retroactive to July 1, 2026.

Committee members asked several questions and some additional discussion occurred, including how the additional funds are being used by SADVGP recipients, which organizations are included in the group of SADVGP recipients, and if new applicants can apply for SADVGP funding. The group also briefly discussed the Victims Services Grant Program (VSGP) competitive funding opportunity, which still prioritizes projects for underserved victims of crime.

2. Virginia Department of Social Services (VDSS) SFY 2027 Contracts for Domestic Violence Prevention and Services (DVPS) Funding.

Nancy Fowler, VDSS, reported the following:

- SFY 2026 DVPS grant awards (contracts) have not been made at this time. This is an open procurement process; therefore, she is prohibited from discussing it.
- VDSS has approximately \$8 million available to award in this program, supported in part with federal Family Violence Prevention and Services Act (FVPSA) funds; however, delays at the federal level resulted in VDSS just receiving the notice of their FVPSA award earlier this week, which is later than usual.

As reported by staff from the Virginia Sexual and Domestic Violence Action Alliance (VSDVAA) and other local program representatives in attendance:

- VDSS recently started the negotiation process with applicants.
- When DVPS contracts are awarded, they will be for 22 months, plus an additional renewal award for 24 months, for a total of just under 4 years of funding.

Kristi VanAudenhove, VSDVAA, suggested that we add to the agenda for the next meeting a discussion about use of the state procurement process for making grant awards to sexual and domestic violence agencies. The following information was shared:

- The VDSS funding was supposed to begin July 1, 2026, but as of this Committee meeting date, agencies cannot begin spending funds. Also, because of state procurement process rules, no one at VDSS can share any information about the status of funding applications.
- As a result, many SDV programs are in a difficult position. They are having to reduce or cut hours or services, find other funds, use their emergency/reserve funds, and/or borrow funds.

The Committee discussed the following:

- Both the Virginia Department of Health (VDH) and VDSS follow the Virginia Public Procurement Act (VPPA), whereas DCJS uses a grant awarding process separate from the state procurement process.
- Committee members suggested there may need to be legislative clarification about how funds can be distributed through grant awards versus procurement contracts. It may be helpful to have the Attorney General opine on this issue.
- Senator Favola suggested she write a letter to the Governor about the problem caused by the procurement process in funding sexual and domestic violence service providers. Kristen Howard will assist with drafting the letter. This letter will not be from the Committee but rather from Senator Favola directly.

3. 2026 Forensic Medical Examinations (FNE) Work Group.

Kristina Vadas reported that this past summer, DCJS convened a work group to address forensic medical examination reimbursements. The group met twice in June and twice in July. DCJS convened a similar work group in 2025.

The 2026 work group recommendations are not finalized, and she could not share their pending report at this time; however, the work group discussed concrete ideas for improving and streamlining reimbursement processes for medical providers, which are now bifurcated between the Virginia Victims Fund and the Office of the Executive Secretary of the Supreme Court of Virginia.

State Agency Funding Updates

1. Virginia Department of Criminal Justice Services

Kristina Vadas reported the following:

- Kori Harris was recently hired as DCJS's Sexual and Domestic Violence Standards & Response Coordinator. Kori will assist Sexual Assault Response Teams across Virginia, and she is also part of the DCJS Professional Standards Team (which coordinates the SDV agency accreditation process).

- DCJS received a discretionary grant from the Office on Violence Against Women (OVW) called Improving Criminal Justice Response (ICJR). This is a partnership grant among DCJS, the Office of the Attorney General of Virginia, the Virginia Sexual Domestic Violence Action Alliance, and the Virginia Victim Assistance Network. OVW has not yet approved the final grant budget. Once approved, DCJS will hire an ICJR program coordinator, make subawards to partners, and begin project work.
- In June, DCJS opened an *Invitation for Concept Proposals to Prevent and Respond to Family and Domestic Violence Victimization and Perpetration*. DCJS received 65 concept proposals, with total requests exceeding \$23 million; however, the amount available for awards totals approximately \$4 million, so the selection process was extremely competitive. Only 13 projects were invited to Step #2 of the application process.
- The Victims Services Grant Program (VSGP) is in its final SFY of continuation funding. DCJS is planning a new competitive funding opportunity for SFY 2028 awards. These grants are funded with federal Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) funds and state general funds.
- Applications for Sexual Assault Services Program (SASP) CY 2027 funding are currently under review. Awards will be determined at the October 2026 meeting of the Criminal Justice Services Board (CJSB). These grants are funded with federal OVW funds.
- DCJS will soon post a funding opportunity for VSTOP grant funding, open only to current/continuation applicants. Awards will be determined at the December 2026 meeting of the CJSB. These grants are funded with federal OVW funds.
- The Virginia Sexual & Domestic Violence Victim Fund's (VSDVVF) SFY 2027 grant awards are in progress. They were approved at the June 2026 meeting of the CJSB. These grants are funded with state general funds and state special funds.

The Committee discussed the following:

- The Witness Protection Grant Program is administered by the DCJS Law Enforcement Grants and Programs team. This grant program can assist localities with providing temporary financial assistance to help alleviate potential intimidation of witnesses.
- Kristen Howard also mentioned a similar program administered by Virginia State Police.
- Committee members requested that additional information about these programs be provided during a future meeting.

2. Virginia Department of Health (VDH)

- Not present.

3. Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development

Kike Oliver reported the following:

- VDHCD is accepting applications for CY 2027 Virginia Housing Trust Fund. This opportunity opened on August 5, 2026. Funding can be used for rapid rehousing and permanent

supportive housing. If an applicant has questions for serving underserved populations, they are encouraged to contact VDHCD before submitting their application. Applications are due September 18, 2026. An application webinar is available. The contact person at VDHCD is Desire Williams.

4. Virginia Department of Social Services

Nancy Fowler reported the following:

- VDSS is planning to open another DVPS funding opportunity. This is because three organizations had bona fide issues with the procurement system, so they will get a second chance to apply.
- VDSS is renewing awards for six agencies that receive the VDSS underserved populations grant.
- VDSS just renewed, for the last time, sexual and domestic violence primary prevention awards. A new request for proposals (RFP) for the next grant process is being drafted. VDSS is working with VSDVAA and VDH to revise the distribution plan for primary prevention awards.
- VDSS just received the FFY 2026 FVPSA federal notice of award. Due to the delay in receiving the award, VDSS will be identifying additional ways of spending down the full award by September 30, 2027. VDSS will be seeking input from the field on how to best make these funds available.

Past Business

None.

New Business

Kristi VanAudenhove, VSDVAA, provided an update on two lawsuits against the federal government impacting funds utilized by sexual and domestic violence services agencies. *See attached documents.*

- The first lawsuit was filed by a nationwide coalition of domestic violence, sexual assault, housing, youth, and homelessness organizations and resulted from new conditions placed on federal grant funding from the U.S. Departments of Health and Human Services (HHS) and Housing and Urban Development (HUD).
- The second lawsuit was filed by a nationwide group of state domestic violence and sexual assault coalitions and resulted from new “out of scope” activities and restrictions placed on federal grant funding from the U.S. Department of Justice’s Office on Violence Against Women.

Other Member Announcements

Lisa Kersey informed the Committee that her organization, Freekind, an anti-human trafficking organization, teaches a class to female inmates in jails about healthy relationships and human trafficking. Freekind also offers them services specific to human trafficking. These classes have been

provided in jails in the Hampton Roads area and in Richmond, and they plan to expand to additional jails in the future.

Marva Dunn informed the Committee that the executive director of the Emporia Family Violence Sexual Assault Unit, Nancy Turner, retired. Katie Turner (no relation) is the new executive director.

Public Comment

None.

Final 2026 Meeting Date: December 2, 2026 (virtual)

Closing

The Chairperson adjourned the meeting at 12:12 p.m.



Rhode Island Coalition Against Domestic Violence, et al. v. Robert F. Kennedy, Jr.

A nationwide coalition of domestic violence, sexual assault, housing, youth, and homelessness organizations filed a lawsuit challenging the Trump-Vance administration's sweeping and unlawful conditions placed on federal grant funding from the U.S. Departments of Health and Human Services (HHS) and Housing and Urban Development (HUD). These new funding restrictions target diversity, equity, inclusion, and transgender rights, putting life-saving services for survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault, LGBTQI+ youth, and unhoused communities at risk.

Case details

Case name	Rhode Island Coalition Against Domestic Violence, et al. v. Robert F. Kennedy, Jr., et al.
Court	United States District Court for the District of Rhode Island
Case type	Civil Action: Complaint for Declaratory and Injunctive Relief (specifically challenging agency decisions under the Administrative Procedure Act)
Filing date	July 21, 2025
Status	Plaintiffs' Motion for Summary Judgement GRANTED (August 14, 2026)
Notes	Plaintiffs are nonprofit organizations challenging "New Conditions" imposed on federal grants by HUD and HHS. These conditions relate to diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI); "gender ideology"; elective abortions; and certifications intended to expose grantees to False Claims Act liability.
Plaintiffs	Rhode Island Coalition Against Domestic Violence, California Partnership to End Domestic Violence, Colorado Coalition Against Sexual Assault, District of Columbia Coalition Against Domestic Violence, End Domestic Abuse Wisconsin: The Wisconsin Coalition Against Domestic Violence, Idaho Coalition Against Sexual and Domestic Violence, Iowa Coalition Against Domestic Violence, Jane Doe Inc. (The Massachusetts Coalition Against Sexual Assault And Domestic Violence), Kansas Coalition Against Sexual And Domestic Violence, Montana Coalition Against Domestic And Sexual Violence, North Carolina Coalition Against Domestic Violence, Oregon Coalition Against Domestic And Sexual Violence, Pennsylvania Coalition Against Domestic Violence, ValorUS, Violence Free Minnesota, Virginia Sexual And Domestic Violence Action Alliance, Wisconsin Coalition Against Sexual Assault, House of Hope Community Development Corporation, Community Care Alliance, Foster Forward, Rhode Island Coalition to End Homelessness, and Haus of Codec.

Case timeline

Date	Status	Notes
1.20.2025	Pre-Litigation: Executive Order Issued	President Trump issued Executive Order 14168, "Defending Women from Gender Ideology Extremism," which defined "gender ideology" and directed agencies to ensure grant funds do not promote it.
1.21.2025	Pre-Litigation: Executive Order Issued	President Trump issued Executive Order 14173, "Ending Illegal Discrimination and Restoring Merit-Based Opportunity," which targeted DEI and DEIA programs in federal funding.
07.21.2025	Initial Lawsuit Filing: Complaint Filed for Temporary Restraining Order (TRO)	Plaintiffs filed a complaint seeking declaratory and injunctive relief to set aside unlawful grant conditions. • See press release here. • Read full complaint here.
07.24.2025	Procedural: TRO Hearing	The Court held a hearing on the Plaintiffs' Motion for a Temporary Restraining Order.
07.28.2025	Order: TRO Issued	Judge Melissa R. DuBose granted a Temporary Restraining Order, finding Plaintiffs demonstrated a likelihood of success on the merits and faced irreparable harm. • Read the court's decision here.
08.04.2025	Motion: Complaint filed for Preliminary Injunction (PI)	Plaintiffs filed their formal Motion for Preliminary Injunction and for relief under 5 U.S.C. § 705. • Read full complaint here.
08.20.2025	Motion: Several motions filed to extend the TRO	Plaintiffs filed several motions to extend the TRO to cover additional plaintiff organizations and their members.
08.22.2025	Order: Motion to extend TRO granted	The court sided with the Plaintiffs and granted motions to extend the TRO.
09.04.2025	Procedural: Hearing for PI	The Court held a hearing on the Plaintiffs' Motion for a Preliminary Injunction.
10.10.2025	Order: PI for Relief Granted	The Court issued a Memorandum and Order granting the Preliminary Injunction, setting aside the challenged conditions, and staying their enforcement. • Read the court's decision here.
12.21.2025	Response: Defendants' file Notice of Appeal	Only HUD filed a notice of its intent to appeal the PI order. This means that HHS has not appealed the order re: the Title IX certifications related to "Gender Ideology" (as contained in the HHS Grants Policy Statement, ACF,

		HRSA, and SAMHSA terms and conditions) – the deadline for HHS to appeal has now passed.
02.11.2026	Motion: Summary Judgement requested by Plaintiffs	Plaintiffs motion for Summary Judgement on case. In the meantime, the court's order granting preliminary relief remains in place and HUD and HHS can't impose enforce the conditions covered by that order against Plaintiffs.
03.13.2026	Response: Defendants' Opposition to Motion for Summary Judgement	The defendants filed their summary judgment brief in opposition, in the case of RICADV v. Kennedy.
04.10.2026	Response: Plaintiffs' Reply to Opposition	Plaintiffs filed reply to Defendants' Opposition for Summary Judgement
06.24.2026	Hearing: Summary Judgement Request and Cross-motions	Court hearing on the cross-motions for summary judgment in <i>RICADV v. Kennedy</i> .
08.14.2026	Order: Plaintiffs' Motion for Summary Judgment GRANTED to the extent it seeks vacatur of the New Conditions. The Court vacates the New Conditions.	Judge DuBose ruled based on arbitrary and capricious claims and, as a result, did not rule on the constitutionality of the conditions. Judge DuBose vacated all conditions at issue in the case, the same remedy she applied preliminarily. She denied request for a permanent injunction - this does leave open their ability to impose similar conditions if they can do so in a way that is not arbitrary and capricious.



Rhode Island Coalition Against Domestic Violence, et al. v. Bondi/Blanche/DOJ

A nationwide group of 17 state domestic violence and sexual assault coalitions today filed a new lawsuit seeking immediate relief to stop the Trump-Vance administration from imposing unlawful restrictions on grants issued by the Department of Justice's Office on Violence Against Women (OVW). New restrictions imposed on grant funding for domestic and sexual violence services make it impossible for many of the service providers to operate programs effectively, threatening to eliminate services that victims of violence rely on in neighborhoods throughout the country.

Case details

Case name	The plaintiffs are 17 state and territorial domestic violence and sexual assault coalitions. The defendants include Pamela Bondi (U.S. Attorney General), the U.S. Department of Justice, and the Office on Violence Against Women (OVW)
Court	United States District Court for the District of Rhode Island
Case type	Civil action for declaratory and injunctive relief
Filing date	June 16, 2025
Status	The court issued a Memorandum and Order on August 8, 2025, and again on April 17, 2026, which granted in part the plaintiffs' motion for a preliminary stay under 5 U.S.C. § 705. This stay postpones the effective date of the challenged "out-of-scope" funding conditions for all grants pending the conclusion of review proceedings.
Notes	Court's Findings: Senior District Judge William E. Smith found that the plaintiffs are likely to succeed on their APA claim because the OVW's implementation of these conditions appeared "arbitrary and capricious" and failed to provide a "reasoned explanation" or a rational connection to the facts. The court also noted the language in the conditions was "vague and confusing"
Plaintiffs	Rhode Island Coalition Against Domestic Violence, California Partnership to End Domestic Violence, Colorado Coalition Against Sexual Assault, DC Coalition Against Domestic Violence, End Domestic Abuse Wisconsin: The Wisconsin Coalition Against Domestic Violence, Idaho Coalition Against Sexual and Domestic Violence, Iowa Coalition Against Domestic Violence, Jane Doe Inc. (the Massachusetts Coalition Against Sexual Assault and Domestic Violence), Kansas Coalition Against Sexual and Domestic Violence, Montana Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence, North Carolina Coalition Against Domestic Violence, Oregon Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence, Pennsylvania Coalition Against Domestic Violence, ValorUS, Violence Free Minnesota, Virginia Sexual and Domestic Violence Action Alliance, and the Wisconsin Coalition Against Sexual Assault.

Case timeline

Date	Status	Notes
1.20.2025	Pre-Litigation: Executive Order Issued	President Trump issued Executive Order 14168, "Defending Women from Gender Ideology Extremism," which defined "gender ideology" and directed agencies to ensure grant funds do not promote it.
1.21.2025	Pre-Litigation: Executive Order Issued	President Trump issued Executive Order 14173, "Ending Illegal Discrimination and Restoring Merit-Based Opportunity," which targeted DEI and DEIA programs in federal funding.
05.2025	Pre-Litigation: Funding Conditions Added	The Office on Violence Against Women (OVW) began updating Notices of Funding Opportunity (NOFOs) to include an expanded list of "out-of-scope" activities based on the new Executive Orders.
06.12.2025	Pre-Litigation: Certification Requirement	The OVW announced a policy requiring all grant applicants to submit a letter certifying that funds would not be used for the specified "out-of-scope" activities.
06.16.2025	Initial Lawsuit Filing: Complaint Filed for Injunctive Relief	17 non-profit coalitions filed a Complaint for Declaratory and Injunctive Relief in the U.S. District Court for the District of Rhode Island. They alleged the new conditions were unlawful, vague, and unconstitutional. • See press release here. • Read full complaint here.
06.18.2025	Procedural: Joint Stipulation Filed	The parties filed a Joint Stipulation agreeing that Plaintiffs could delay complying with certification requirements until August 12, 2025, while the court considered a preliminary injunction.
06.26.2025	Motion: Preliminary Injunction Filed	Plaintiffs filed their formal Motion for Preliminary Injunction and for relief under 5 U.S.C. § 705. • Read the filed motion here.
07.18.2025	Response: Defendants' Opposition	Defendants filed their response opposing the preliminary injunction, which included a declaration from Ginger Baran Lyons defending the OVW's process.
08.08.2025	Order: Preliminary Injunction Granted	Senior District Judge William E. Smith issued a Memorandum and Order granting a preliminary stay under 5 U.S.C. § 705. The court stayed the implementation of the challenged funding conditions for all Fiscal Year 2025 grants. • Read the court's decision here.
11.19.2025	Motion: Complaint amended to add new plaintiffs and conditions	Plaintiffs filed an amended complaint adding new plaintiffs and challenging a new OJP condition requiring grantees to certify that they don't do "illegal DEI." • Read amended complaint here.

11.19.2025	Motion: Plaintiff request for Partial Summary Judgement	Plaintiffs filed a motion for partial summary judgment. Read the motion filed here.
02.11.2026	Motion: Plaintiff request for Summary Judgement	Motion for summary judgement filed as procedural step to create permanent relief from grant conditions.
02.20.2026	Motion: Plaintiff request for Temporary Restraining Order (TRO)	Motion amended to include a request for a TRO, in addition to preliminary relief under 5 U.S.C. § 705, and preliminary injunction. Read the motion filed here.
03.13.2026	Response: Defendants' Opposition	DOJ filed its opposition to Plaintiff's motion to amend the complaint and motion for preliminary relief on the Immigrant Exclusion and OJP Anti-DEI Certification.
03.20.2026	Response: Plaintiff's replies in support of motions to amend complain and in support for Preliminary Relief.	Plaintiff's filed replies in support of the motion to amend the complaint to add the Immigrant Exclusion and in support of the motion for preliminary relief on that condition and the OJP Anti-DEI Certification
04.08.2026	Hearing and Order: Plaintiff's motion to amend complaint GRANTED.	Court GRANTS Plaintiffs' motion to amend, ECF No. [52]. Based on Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 15(a)(2)'s mandate that the Court "freely give" leave to amend when justice so requires, the Court determines that permitting Plaintiffs to amend their complaint will serve in the best interests of efficiently and expeditiously resolving this dispute. Fed. R. Civ. P. 15(a)(2). Moreover, the Court concludes that Defendants have failed to demonstrate that Plaintiffs have either unreasonably delayed in moving to amend their complaint or that this amendment will unduly broaden the scope of this matter. So Ordered by District Judge Melissa R. DuBose on 4/8/2026. (Urizandi, Nissheneyra).
04.13.2026	Response: Plaintiff's file briefs with court.	Plaintiff's filed brief in support of motion for summary judgment and brief in opposition to defendants' cross-motion for summary judgment.
04.17.2026	Order: Plaintiff's Motion for Preliminary Relief from Immigrant Exclusion and Anti-DEI Certification GRANTED.	Court GRANTED Plaintiff's motion for preliminary relief on the Immigrant Exclusion and the OJP Anti-DEI Certification Requirement. Court concludes that Plaintiffs have demonstrated their entitlement to preliminary relief pursuant to 5 U.S.C. § 705. Plaintiffs' Emergency Motion is GRANTED.
05.01.2026	Motion: Plaintiff request for court's clarification of order (705 Stay)	Motion to clarify court order – DOJ continued to maintain that the Immigration Condition and DEI Condition were stayed only as applied to VOCA Victim Assistance grants, VOCA Services for Victims grants, and Pet Shelter grants, while Plaintiff's read the order as staying those Conditions across the board, for all OJP grant programs.

06.12.2026	Motion: Plaintiff file motion for summary judgment in RICADV v. Blanche	Plaintiff motion for summary judgement filed with court.
07.08.2026	Response: Defendant opposition to motion for summary judgement.	Defendant response filed with court.
08.07.2026	Response: Plaintiff brief in support of summary judgement.	Plaintiff's response brief in support of summary judgment motion in <i>RICADV v. Blanche</i>

The government will file one more brief in September. Once it does, we will just wait for the court to either issue a decision or schedule a hearing. And, in the meantime, the preliminary relief continues to protect everyone.