

Advisory Committee on Sexual and Domestic Violence

Virtual Meeting via Zoom Minutes

Wednesday, June 16, 2021

10:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

Members Present: Kathy Anderson, Teresa Berry, Nichele Carver, Autumn Edmond, Barbara Favola, Thomas Fitzpatrick, Nancy Fowler, Kristen Howard, Mark Levine, Melissa McMenemy, Kristi VanAudenhove, Toni Zollicoffer

Members Absent: Heather Board, Mindy Stell

Guests: Elvira de la Cruz, Marva Dunn, Eileen Longenecker, Courtney O'Hara, Lauren Schmitt, Mike Tweedy, Jonathan Yglesias

DCJS Staff: Andi Martin, Kristina Vadas

Welcome and Introductions

Teresa Berry, Committee Chairperson, called the meeting to order at 10:33 a.m. Welcome and introductions were made. After a roll call, it was determined there was a quorum.

Approval of March 24, 2021 Meeting Minutes

Senator Favola made a motion to approve the minutes from March 24, 2021. Delegate Levine seconded the motion. The minutes were approved.

Draft Changes to Committee Bylaws

Autumn Edmond provided an overview of draft changes to the committee's bylaws. Many proposed changes are a result of *Code of Virginia* changes, effective July 1, 2021. The committee briefly discussed the proposed changes. Delegate Levine suggested that language be added regarding diversity on the committee based on sexual orientation/gender identity. Additional feedback from members about the bylaws should be sent to Autumn Edmond by July 30, 2021. A vote on amended bylaws will occur at the September 29th meeting.

Membership of Committee

Teresa Berry informed the committee of upcoming membership changes due, in part, to the *Code of Virginia* changes. Ashley Reynolds Marshall (appointed member) left YWCA of Central Virginia, thus her position will need to be filled. Mindy Stell's (appointed member) position as board member of the Virginia Victim Assistance Network is changing to a designated position, thus this appointed position will need to be filled. Also, three additional appointed members will be added to the membership as of July 1, 2021. Lastly, Chair and Vice-Chair elections will occur during the September meeting.

A subcommittee will meet prior to the September meeting to discuss membership and assess current membership gaps. The membership subcommittee will also bring recommendations and nominations for Chair and Vice-Chair to the September meeting. The membership subcommittee will consist of the four current Governor-appointed members: Kathy Anderson, Teresa Berry, Autumn Edmond, and Toni Zollicoffer. DCJS will staff this meeting. Committee members should provide suggestions for membership to this subcommittee.

Partner Abuse Intervention and Prevention Workgroup & Virtual Training with Dr. Arthur Cantos

Toni Zollicoffer provided an update on the Partner Abuse Intervention and Prevention Workgroup and information about an upcoming training with Dr. Arthur Cantos. Regarding the Workgroup, the Virginia Sexual and Domestic Violence Action Alliance has two interns who are mapping sexual and domestic violence services and community corrections services. The plan is to identify where community corrections services and local victims services programs connect and intersect across the state.

Regarding training, Dr. Cantos will provide information on national best practices on partner abuse intervention and services. The training will be held virtually on Tuesday, August 17, 2021, from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. DCJS will send a save-the-date flier for members to distribute.

State Agency Funding Updates

- **Virginia Department of Criminal Justice Services**

Kristina Vadas provided details about the six grant programs administered by the DCJS Victims Services team for sexual and domestic violence services. These six grant programs are: Victim/Witness Grant Program (state and federal funds); Victims Services Grant Program (state and federal funds); Improving Criminal Justice Responses (federal funds); Sexual Assault Services Program (federal funds); VSTOP (federal funds); and Virginia Sexual and Domestic Violence Victim Fund (state funds).

Sexual and domestic violence core services funding is part of the Victims Services Grant Program (VSGP). The amount of funding awarded for sexual and domestic violence core services for FY 2022 and 2023 is level to the FY 2021 award amounts. Competitive funding for all applicants decreased in FY 2022 due to all states receiving lower federal Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) awards.

As previously discussed by the committee, there is pending federal legislation to fix the depleting Crime Victims Fund that supports VOCA grants to states. Senator Favola made a motion for the committee to send a letter to the Virginia Federal Congressional Delegation to request support for the VOCA fix. Delegate Levine seconded the motion. The following members abstained from voting: Nichele Carver, Thomas Fitzpatrick, Nancy Fowler, Kristen Howard, and Melissa McMenemy. The remaining members present voted and the motion passed.

In addition, due to decreases in revenue into the Virginia Sexual and Domestic Violence Victim Fund (VSDVVF) state special fund, Kristina Vadas reported that federal Byrne/Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) funds will be used in FY 2022 to supplement these grants. Senator Favola and Delegate Levine discussed requesting American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds to help support sexual and domestic violence agencies during this time.

- **Virginia Department of Health**

No one from the Virginia Department of Health was in attendance.

- **Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development**

Nichele Carver provided information on the portion of Community Development Block Grant - CV being used for non-congregate shelter. VDHCD plans to use some of the funding from ARPA to help victims of domestic violence access permanent housing. They are working with public housing authorities to ensure a set-aside of vouchers for individuals experiencing homelessness or at-risk of homelessness. They also have state and federal homeless assistance money that serves households, including those people experiencing domestic violence.

- **Virginia Department of Social Services**

Nancy Fowler provided an overview of the following VDSS victim assistance related grants: Domestic Violence Prevention and Services (51 agencies totaling \$8,256,507); Domestic Violence Services for Underserved Populations (10 agencies totaling \$675,000); Statewide Sole Source (one agency totaling \$620,096); and Legislatively Directed Allocations (one agency with two contracts totaling \$1,250,000 for FY22). Additionally, VDSS will disburse Prevention Funds and American Rescue Plan Act funds in the future. VDSS grants are funded by the following: Family Violence Prevention and Services Act; American Rescue Plan Act; Virginia Family Violence Prevention Program; Temporary Assistance for Needy Families; and the SDV Prevention Fund.

Other Business

- Kristina Vadas provided an update on the Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) Fix to Sustain the Crime Victims Fund Act of 2021 & Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act of 2021. At this time, both acts are still pending Congressional action. For information see: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/117th-congress/senate-bill/611>
- Surveying Sexual and Domestic Violence Service Providers
As the previous survey was created many months ago, and much has changed in the field, it would be helpful to draft new questions after the 2022 legislative session.

Other Member Announcements

A request was made for an update from the Virginia Department of Health on prevention funding at the September meeting.

Public Comment

None.

2021 Meeting Dates

- Virtual Training with Dr. Arthur Cantos: Tuesday, August 17, 2021, 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
- Regular Meeting: Wednesday, September 29, 2021, 10:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.
- Regular Meeting: Wednesday, December 15, 2021, 10:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

Teresa Berry adjourned the meeting at 12:29 p.m.