



Virginia Advisory Committee on Sexual and Domestic Violence

Virginia State Capitol
House Room 3
Richmond, Virginia 23219

MINUTES

November 17, 2015

Members Present

Kathy Anderson, Executive Director, Empowerhouse
Teresa Berry, Executive Director, Sexual Assault Response and Awareness, Inc.
Heather Board, Manager of Injury, Violence, and Tobacco Prevention Programs, Virginia Department of Health
Francine C. Ecker, Director, DCJS
The Honorable Barbara Favola, Senate of Virginia
Nancy Fowler, Program Manager of Office on Family Violence, Virginia Department of Social Services
Kristen Howard, Executive Director, Virginia State Crime Commission
Autumn Jones, Director, Arlington County Victim/Witness Program
Melissa McMenemy, Statewide Facilitator for Victims of Domestic Violence, Office of the Attorney General
Chana Ramsey, Executive Director, The James House
Kathy Robertson, Associate Director of Homeless and Special Needs Housing, Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development
Warren Rodgers, Executive Director, Citizens Against Family Violence
Kristi VanAudenhove, Executive Director, Virginia Sexual and Domestic Action Alliance

Members Absent

Mindy Stell, President, Virginia Victim Assistance Network

1. **Call to Order.** (Welcome by Senator Barbara Favola)
2. **Approval of past minutes.** (Senator Barbara Favola)
Nancy Fowler made a motion to accept the minutes from the last meeting on September 1, 2015. Kathy Robertson seconded the motion. The minutes were adopted by the Advisory Committee.
3. **Committee Member Introductions**
4. **Overview of VOCA Listening Sessions** (Francine C. Ecker)
An overview of the four listening sessions conducted by DCJS was provided. The purpose of the listening sessions were to hear from advocates in the field to determine the best uses of the additional funds, to address some long standing needs in Virginia, and to continue to promote and sustain partnerships among and between victim advocacy programs and organizations as

well enhancing services to underserved populations and unmet needs in Virginia. The major themes that were identified from the listening sessions were:

- Strengthen capacity of current programs
- Outreach & Awareness
- Infrastructure Needs
- Technology
- Trauma Informed Services/Training
- Community Organizing/Collaborations
- Increase Hotline Capacity
- Legal Assistance

5. **Agency Roundtable Discussion.** Members of the Advisory Committee that represent state agencies or statewide non-profit organizations were invited to discuss their programs and detail the work currently being conducted by their agencies as they relate to domestic and sexual violence.

During the roundtable discussion, Kristi VanAudenhove expressed a need for members to advocate to Congressional Delegates to maintain the current level of VOCA funding. Senator Favola moved for the Advisory Committee to draft a letter to Congressional Leaders. Through unanimous decision, the Advisory Committee agreed to send a letter to Congressional Leaders regarding reductions and withdrawals from the Crime Victims Fund.

6. **Virginia Sexual and Domestic Violence Program Professional Standards Appointments.** Recommendations were made for Virginia Sexual and Domestic Violence Program Professional Standards Committee. The Advisory Committee and the Action Alliance each recommended six program directors from local domestic and sexual violence organizations. The following recommendations were made:

Recommendations made by the Action Alliance:

Jennifer Bourne, Family Crisis Center, Tazewell
Teresa Christin, Avalon, Williamsburg
Emily DeCarlo, Project Hope, New Kent
Cartie Lominack, Shelter for Help and Emergency, Charlottesville
Yolanda Thompson, Office on Women-Sexual and Domestic Violence Services, Fairfax
Becky Weybright, SARA of Charlottesville

Recommendations made by the Advisory Committee:

Regina Eller, Family Resource Center, Wytheville
Caroline Jones, Doorways for Women and Children, Arlington
Patricia Jones-Turner, Chesterfield Domestic and Sexual Assault Resource Center
Rebecca Lee, YWCA, Richmond
Tamy Mann, Safehome Systems, Clifton Forge
Kristen Pine, YWCA-SHR, Norfolk

Committee members were given the opportunity to review the nominees and nominate other candidates.

Teresa Berry made a motion to close nominations and Kristi VanAudenhove seconded the motion. The motion was carried.

Warren Rodgers moved to adopt the slate of nominations and Teresa Berry seconded the motion. The nominations were accepted.

The next meeting date was set for March 23, 2016 from 2:00pm-4:00pm with the location TBD.

7. **Summary of Public Comment.** Members of the public were present and were invited to share their input on the mission and work of the Advisory Committee of Sexual and Domestic Violence.
8. **The Governor's Appointees on the Advisory Committee were recognized and presented with gubernatorial certificates and pins.**
9. **Adjournment.** The meeting adjourned at 12:15pm.