

# Advisory Committee on Sexual and Domestic Violence

## Final Meeting Minutes

Virginia State Capitol, House Room 3

Tuesday, June 27, 2017

1:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.

---

### Members Present

The Honorable Barbara Favola, Senate of Virginia

Tom Fitzpatrick, Acting Division Director, DCJS (Designee for Fran Ecker)

Kristi VanAudenhove, Virginia Sexual and Domestic Action Alliance (Action Alliance)

Melissa McMenemy, Office of the Attorney General

Mindy Stell, Virginia Victim Assistance Network

Kristen Howard, Virginia State Crime Commission

Kathy Robertson, Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development

Heather Board, Virginia Department of Health

Warren Rodgers, Southside Survivor Response Center

Autumn Jones, Arlington County Victim/Witness Program

Teresa Berry, Sexual Assault Response and Awareness, (SARA) Inc. - Roanoke

Kathy Anderson, Director, Empowerhouse

### Welcome & Remarks

*The Honorable Barbara Favola*

*Senate of Virginia*

The meeting started at 1:30 p.m. with a quorum present.

A motion to approve the minutes from the April 11, 2017 meeting was presented. A motion was made by Teresa Berry and was seconded by Kathy Robertson. There were no objections. The minutes were approved by the committee.

### Program Updates

*Senator Barbara Favola*

Senator Favola introduced the program and agency updates. She reminded the committee that the agenda item had been rescheduled from the April 11<sup>th</sup> meeting to allow more time for the presentations and discussion.

Program and agency presentations were made in the order listed:

1. **Southside Survivor Response Center** - Presented by Warren Rodgers, Executive Director
  - a. Primary prevention program, *Coaching Boys into Men*, provides mentorship opportunities through high school athletic team participation.
  - b. The *PATHS Program (Promoting Alternative Thinking Strategies)*, funded by a Byrne Grant, teaches social and emotional skills to 1<sup>st</sup> through 5<sup>th</sup> grade students as an afterschool program.
  - c. Implementation of the *Do-You-Curriculum*, developed by the Action Alliance, targets high school age youth to teach prevention principles designed to prevent violence before it starts.
  - d. The *Shelter/Transition-in-Place Program*, through Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) funds and Rapid Re-Housing Funds, allows victims to remain in their current residence when the primary breadwinner is removed due to a protective order.
  - e. *Hispanic/Latino Outreach Program*, was established to serve the area's growing Hispanic and Latino population. A bi-lingual advocate was hired primarily with VOCA funds to conduct outreach in the community and to serve as a point of contact at the Agency.

Gap (s) identified:

- i. Limited availability of trauma-informed counseling; however a collaborative project and training efforts are underway with Radford University. An intern is coordinating training for Agency staff.

2. **SARA Roanoke** - Presented by Teresa Berry, Executive Director
  - a. SARA is now a stand-alone operation
  - b. SARA houses its own crisis hotline
  - c. SARA received \$85,000 for expansion
  - d. VOCA funds have allowed partnering with other service agencies to reach more populations
  - e. Trauma-informed training is being rendered by SARA
3. **EmpowerHouse** -- Presented by Kathy Anderson, Director
  - a. Increased square footage by 10%
  - b. Served 20% more women and children
  - c. Security has been enhanced
  - d. A secondary location in the Sheriff's office was donated that allows ready-access to 911 operators and increased exposure to victims of crime
  - e. The sheriff is on the Child Advocacy Task Force and has a crisis worker in his office

Gap (s) identified:

- i. Children's services are non-robust
- ii. Employment services will be severely impacted if DCJS funding ends.

- iii. [Amendment reflected] Although sexual assault nurse examiners (SANEs) are present within the local hospitals, their numbers have decreased and caused a coverage gap.

4. **Arlington Victim/Witness Program** -- Presented by Autumn Jones, Director

- a. SART meetings and participation have increased
- b. Bar Bystander Campaign was discussed
  - i. Implemented in collaboration with Project Peace (Founded by Senator Favola)
- c. In April 2017, a program was implemented to provide training to local bars and restaurants.
- f. VOCA Funds enabled the following:
  - i. The program was able to hire a bi-lingual staff , which increased community outreach
  - ii. A new work space was created for the new staff
  - iii. A trainer was secured to provide instruction in trauma-informed care

*Ms. Jones & Delegate Levine highlighted the Inova Health System in Fairfax County that currently has several SANEs on staff.*

5. **Action Alliance** – Presented by Kristi VanAudenhove, Executive Director

- a. VOCA funds enabled the *Project for the Empowerment of Survivors*
- b. Shelter and Housing Work Group

Gap (s) identified:

- State budget increase that begins in July helps the Agencies to meet their needs even though they will be sustaining a 5% decrease in funding.
- Trust fund raiding is being proposed, which will have a long-term impact on victim services.

## **Professional Standards Committee Updates**

*Kassandra Bullock*

Ms. Bullock reported the resignations of two members of the Professional Standards Committee. The resigning members, Patricia Jones-Turner and Kristen Pine, were selections of the Advisory Committee on Sexual and Domestic Violence. She announced that the vacated seats were due to a member retirement, and a resignation, respectively.

Ms. Bullock presented the bios of the two candidates seeking to fill the vacant seats. The candidates are Elvira De la Cruz, Chief Program Officer of The James House, and Linda Ellis-Williams, Director of Programs of the YWCA of Lynchburg.

Senator Favola made a motion to accept the two candidates. Warren Rodgers seconded the motion. The committee unanimously voted to appoint the candidates to the Virginia Sexual and Domestic Violence Professional Standards Committee.

## **Legislative Reports Updates**

*Senator Barbara Favola*

Agencies provided a list of legislative reports and discussed the purpose of the report. Agencies were also asked to identify use of resources to prepare the report as well as areas of duplication. The following reports were discussed:

### DCJS:

- Child Abuse Sexual Guidelines (one time requirement)
- Victim/Witness Funding Report (annual)
- Campus Sexual Assault (one time requirement)

No changes were noted in the reporting requirement.

### DHCD

- Virginia's Homeless Programs Report.

No changes were noted in the reporting requirement.

### OAG

- Office of the Attorney General's Annual Domestic and Sexual Violence Report.

No changes were noted in the reporting requirement

### **Follow-up Subcommittee Report and Presentation (Data)**

*Senator Barbara Favola*

Senator Favola reminded the committee of the follow-up information requested following the *50 State Study* presentation given by Steven Keener, Research Analyst for DCJS. Steven addressed the follow-up questions and discussed his findings, as presented in the slides.

### **Next Steps**

After much discussion, Senator Favola suggested the Subcommittees reconvene to assess any progress made and to draft recommendations for consideration in November 2017.

### **Public Comments**

There were no public comments.

### **Adjournment**

Senator Favola exited the meeting at 3:05 p.m. Mr. Fitzpatrick adjourned the meeting at 3:07 p.m.

# Advisory Committee on Sexual and Domestic Violence

## Approved Meeting Minutes

Virginia State Capitol, House Room 3  
Tuesday, April 11, 2017  
10:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

---

### **Members Present**

The Honorable Barbara Favola, Senate of Virginia  
Francine C. Ecker, Director, DCJS  
Kristi VanAudenhove, Virginia Sexual and Domestic Violence Action Alliance (VSDVAA)  
Melissa McMenemy, Office of the Attorney General  
Chana Ramsey, James House  
Kristen Howard, Virginia State Crime Commission  
Aaron Shoemaker, (proxy for Kathy Robertson) Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development  
Nancy Fowler, Virginia Department of Social Services  
Heather Board, Virginia Department of Health  
Warren Rodgers, Southside Survivor Response Center, Inc.  
Autumn Jones, Arlington County Victim/Witness Program  
Teresa Berry, Sexual Assault Response and Awareness, Inc.-Roanoke  
Kathy Anderson, Empowerhouse

### **Welcome & Remarks**

*The Honorable Barbara Favola*

The meeting started at 10:38 a.m. with a quorum present.

A motion to approve the minutes of the November 10, 2016 meeting was presented. A motion was made by Heather Board and was seconded by Nancy Fowler to approve the minutes. There were no objections. The minutes were approved by the committee.

### **Legislative Updates**

*Senator Barbara Favola*

Senator Favola presented summaries of legislation enacted during the 2017 General Assembly significant to victims' rights, sexual and domestic violence, and related services.

Kassandra Bullock announced that a more detailed summary of victims' services related legislation will be posted on the DCJS website: [www.dcjs.virginia.gov](http://www.dcjs.virginia.gov)

### **Victim Services Related Budget Updates**

Kassandra Bullock

Mrs. Bullock provided an update on budget-related matters, with emphasis on the impact of Federal Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) funding on advancements in victims' services. She also discussed updates to the State budget that relate to victims of crime.

### **VIRGINIA SEXUAL AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE PROGRAM PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS COMMITTEE UPDATES (*Professional Standards Committee*)**

Kassandra Bullock

Mrs. Bullock provided an update of the activities of the Professional Standards Committee, which included meeting dates, approval of by-laws and the drafting of an outline for the development of language for standards to govern ethics, administration competency, essential services competency and for community engagement. The Committee is utilizing resources from Office for Victims of Crime (OVC) & VSDVAA.

Ms. Bullock announced the resignation of Emily DeCarlo as Chair of the Professional Standards Committee, with an effective date in the final quarter of 2016. Kristi VanAudenhove presented a letter from the VSDVAA Governing Body to appoint Kandy Freeman to the vacant seat on the Professional Standards Committee. Kandy Freeman is the Assistant Executive Director of the Southside Center for Violence Prevention.

A motion to appoint Kandy Freeman to the Professional Standards Committee was presented by Kristi VanAudenhove. Heather Board seconded the motion. The Committee approved Ms. Freeman for appointment to the Professional Standards Committee.

The next meeting of the Professional Standards Committee will be held April 26, 2017, in Charlottesville, VA.

### **SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS/PRESENTATIONS**

Director Fran Ecker

Director Ecker introduced the presentations and described the research and the efforts that led to content development. She explained that the concepts for the presentations were

established at the Committee's meeting of November 10, 2017, where two sub-committee groups were developed to address topics related to data and grants administration, and also services, prevention and intervention.

The following presentations were delivered:

- ***50 State Study – Consolidated Data Systems for Sexual and Domestic Violence Service Providers***, by Steven Keener, Research Analyst, DCJS and Patricia Foster, Victim/Witness Coordinator, DCJS.
- ***VAdata – Virginia's Sexual and Domestic Violence Data Collection System, operated by the Virginia Sexual and Domestic Violence Action Alliance***, by Kristi VanAudenhove, VSDVAA.
- ***Prevention/Intervention & Services across the Lifespan***, by Robert Franklin, Sexual and Domestic Violence Community Outreach Coordinator, Virginia Department of Health.

#### **Program Updates and Legislative Reports**

*Senator Barbara Favola*

Senator Favola requested that the current agenda items for program agency updates and legislative reports be moved to the next meeting, on June 27, 2017.

#### **Summary of Public Comment**

*Senator Barbara Favola*

Delegate Mark Levine announced the 5<sup>th</sup> *Annual Rally Against Rape* event on April 27, 2017, at Gateway Park in Arlington, Virginia.

#### **Next Meeting Date**

The next meeting will be held June 27, 2017, from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. Location will be announced at a later date.

#### **Adjournment**

Senator Favola adjourned the meeting at 12:51 p.m.