

Advisory Committee on Sexual and Domestic Violence

Meadowdale Library

4301 Meadowdale Boulevard
North Chesterfield, VA 23234

Wednesday, September 20, 2023

10:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

Final Minutes

Committee Members Present

Marybeth Adkins (remote), Elvira De la Cruz, Sanu Dieng, Marva Dunn (remote), Carol Dunlap (proxy for Nancy Fowler), Pyowook Han, Kristen Howard, Claudia Lopez-Muniz (remote), Krista Martinez, Kylisha Boyd (proxy for Adrian Perry), Tammy Sharpe, Kristina Vadas, Kristi VanAudenhove.

Committee Members Absent

Maria Altonen, Senator Barbara Favola, Kate Hanger, Kike Oliver, VACANT – Governor’s Appointee, VACANT – House of Delegates Representative.

Guests Present

Teresa Berry, Alyssa Fox, Jennifer Gilmore, Jonathan Yglesias.

DCJS Staff Present

Andi Martin, Anya Shaffer, Amber Stanwix, Andrea Sutton (remote).

Welcome and Introductions

Kristen Howard called the meeting to order at 10:32 a.m. A quorum was present. Kristen welcomed Committee members and explained that they would be facilitating the meeting until the Committee elected a new Chair and Vice-Chair. Committee members introduced themselves.

Pursuant to the Committee’s electronic meeting policy, three Committee members stated why they were present remotely. Marybeth Atkins and Marva Dunn have illnesses. Claudia Lopez- Muniz was recently traveling out of the country and experienced flight delays.

Approval of June 14, 2023, Meeting Minutes

Kristina Vadas asked for the following corrections to the minutes as requested by Eileen Longenecker from the Office of the Executive Secretary of the Supreme Court:

1. Page 1 under “Virginia Victims Fund Presentation” – change the language of this sentence, “The Office of the Executive Secretary of the Supreme Court of Virginia developed the following best practices for courts” to “The **following are statutory requirements**” since these are not OES best practices.
2. Page 2, second paragraph – change the second sentence to read “Member of the public, Eileen Longenecker with the Supreme Court of Virginia, informed the committee that there is **current legislation pending statutory language** that clarifies owed restitution is not impacted by sealing a case.” She explained that the language is already in statute, but it doesn’t go into effect until the sealing provisions go into effect.

No other corrections were requested. Sanu Dieng made a motion to approve the minutes with the above corrections. Kristi VanAudenhove seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

New Members and Election of Committee Chairperson & Vice-Chairperson

Kristen Howard opened the floor for Chairperson nominations and reminded the members that it is the Committee’s practice to select the Chair and Vice-Chair from the members who are Governor’s appointees. Kristina Vadas nominated Sanu Dieng for Committee Chairperson. The nomination was seconded by Kristi VanAudenhove. No other nominations were made. The Committee voted unanimously to approve the nomination.

Kristen Howard opened the floor for Vice-Chairperson nominations. Kristina Vadas nominated Claudia Lopez-Muniz for Committee Vice-Chairperson. The nomination was seconded by Marva Dunn. No other nominations were made. The Committee voted unanimously to approve the nomination.

Once elected, Chairperson Sanu Dieng facilitated the rest of the meeting.

Sustainability Planning Virginia Sexual and Domestic Violence Action Alliance (VSDVAA)

Kristi VanAudenhove and Jonathan Yglesias with VSDVAA presented on the 10-Year Plan for Virginia’s Sexual and Domestic Violence Programs called, *Sustaining the Movement*. The Plan focuses on the following:

- For Sexual and Domestic Violence Agencies: Resource Management, Comprehensive Services, and Healthy Staff/Culture.
- For Government and Private Sector Funders: Fund Administration, System-Wide Health, and Public Policy.
- For Policy Leaders and Legislators: Public Policy and State and Federal Funding Initiatives.
- For the VSDVAA: Training, Technical Assistance, Resource Development, and Public Policy.

The Plan includes 69 desired outcomes over the next ten years. The presentation and the full report are attached to these minutes.

State Agency Funding Updates

- Virginia Department of Criminal Justice Services
Anya Shaffer provided the following report:
 - Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) Funding: Federal Crime Victims Fund balances remain concerningly low. Federal fiscal year (FFY) 2024 budget proposals estimate a significant decrease in awards to states and territories.
 - Victims Services Grant Program (VSGP): State fiscal year (SFY) 2024 12-month continuation awards received a 10% reduction to the VOCA portion of awards.
 - Victim Witness Grant Program (VWGP): SFY 2024 12-month continuation awards received a 10% reduction to the VOCA portion of awards.
 - Sexual Assault Services Program (SASP): Calendar year (CY) 2023 12-month awards are underway. SFY 2024 Special One-Time Funding Opportunity 12-month awards are underway. CY 2024 proposed awards are going to the Criminal Justice Services Board (CJSB) meeting on October 12, 2023.
 - VSTOP: CY 2023 12-month awards are underway. CY 2024 proposed awards are going to the CJSB meeting on October 12, 2023.
 - American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) VSGP Restoration Grants: Some recipients requested and received extensions until June 30, 2024. An additional \$3M of ARPA funding to support sexual and domestic violence agencies was just finalized in amended state budget; more info to come on plans for this funding.
 - Virginia Sexual and Domestic Violence Victim Fund (VSDVVF): SFY 2024 12-month awards are underway.
 - DCJS contracted with Knowledge Advisory Group (KAG) to develop a funding plan to increase equity and transparency in non-competitive sexual and domestic violence (SDV) program funding. KAG completed interviews, surveys, and focus groups with SDV programs and other stakeholders. KAG also researched other state funding plans. Although this funding plan is expected to be completed in late fall of 2023, it is unlikely that it will be used for SFY 2025 funding decisions due to the anticipated large decrease in Virginia's VOCA award in FFY 2024.

- Virginia Department of Health (VDH)
Maria Altonen was not able to attend. Maria provided an update via email that they are currently waiting for the Notice of Funding Opportunity from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to be released for Rape Prevention and Education, so they can see what is being requested for VDH's next 5-year cycle. More information to come.

- Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development
Kike Oliver was not able to attend. Kike provided two updates via email:
 - The 2024 Housing Trust Fund – Homeless Reduction Grant opportunity is available for application submission. Eligible projects include projects focused on permanent housing including Rapid Rehousing and Permanent Supportive Housing Projects. Other projects include

those that are dedicated to households in historically underserved populations through the Underserved Population – Innovation Project type. If you have any questions regarding the opportunity, or a project’s design, please contact Will Kerner at william.kerner@dhcd.virginia.gov.

- Continua of Care (CoCs) are in the process of completing their consolidated applications for the 2023 Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD)’s annual competition for federal funding and funding specifically for households experiencing violence. DHCD supports the submission of the consolidated application for the Virginia Balance of State CoC which include 73 rural communities. Once awards are announced, the information will be available to the communities of the Virginia Balance of State. If you have any questions regarding the Virginia Balance of State, please contact Dr. Darl Wilburn at Darl.Wilburn@dhcd.virginia.gov.

- Virginia Department of Social Services

Carol Dunlap provided the following report:

- Sexual and Domestic Violence Prevention Fund: Fourteen local sexual and domestic violence agencies are funded for 18 months, through August 2024. This includes one Training and Technical Assistance contract with the VSDVAA through June 2024.
- Domestic Violence Prevention and Services: Fifty-two agencies received funding. This is the first renewal with current contracts lasting through June 2024. Two additional renewals are possible. Of these agencies, fourteen are using a portion of their FVPSA funding to support primary prevention.
- Domestic Violence Services for Underserved Populations: eight population and/or culturally specific organizations are funded. This is the second renewal, with current contracts lasting through June 2024. One additional renewal is possible.
- ARPA Sexual and Domestic Violence Program: forty-six local sexual and domestic violence agencies were funded in August, with one-time funding lasting through June 30, 2025. No renewals are possible.
- ARPA Vaccines Testing and Mobile Health: A new solicitation will be posted in the near future, with funding anticipated from March 2024 through August 2025. This will also be one-time funding.

Past Business

- Language Access Workgroup Recommendation: Crime Commission Study Letter
Kristen Howard reported that the letter was received by the Executive Committee of the Crime Commission. They will consider this request with the other requested studies when they meet next spring after the General Assembly concludes.
- Virginia Sexual and Domestic Violence Program Professional Standards Committee
Amber Stanwix reported that the Professional Standards Committee opened a third round for applications. Twelve agencies are in the process of applying. The next Professional Standards

Committee meeting is September 27, 2023, at the Tuckahoe library from 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. This meeting is open to the public. The Professional Standards Committee will start discussing Professional Standards revisions. Agendas and minutes for these meetings are found [here](#).

Other Member Announcements

- Kristen Howard reported that the Crime Commission was asked to conduct a study concerning intentional homicides. A meeting to discuss this study will occur on November 21, 2023, at 1:00 p.m. (location to be determined). Kristen encouraged Committee members to get on the Crime Commission [mailing list](#) for notifications and agendas for these meetings.
- Kylisha Boyd informed the Committee that the Office of Attorney General is hosting a one-mile run event for Domestic Violence Awareness Month on October 14, 2023, from 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m., at the Diamond (3001 N Arthur Ashe Blvd, Richmond). A flier about the event was distributed.

Public Comment

None.

Closing

The next meeting will be held virtually on Wednesday, December 13, 2023, at 10:30 a.m.

Sanu Dieng adjourned the meeting at 12:20 p.m.



SUSTAINING THE MOVEMENT

**A 10-Year Plan for Virginia's
Sexual & Domestic Violence
Programs**



SUSTAINABILITY PLANNING ALLIANCE (SPA)

In August 2021, during the second summer of the pandemic, a diverse group of SDVA Directors convened to begin discussing the significant and ongoing funding and sustainability challenges faced by Virginia's 70+ crisis response agencies. The SPA was formed, consisting of 6 Executive Directors and Action Alliance leadership. They met 1-2 times a month for the next 18 months. The group represented diverse regions and perspectives across Virginia – including Hampton, Arlington, Fairfax, White Stone, Charlottesville, Harrisonburg, Richmond, and Radford – with public and non-profit organizations represented, dual and single-issue agencies, Black, Brown and White agency leaders, urban, rural, and suburban service areas, and collectively, more than 100 years of direct experience in Virginia's movement.





PROCESS OVERVIEW



BUILD THE CONTAINER

Developing the SPA think-tank group with task of building and guiding our process. Started with a definition of sustainability.



ARPA NEEDS ASSESSMENT

Visits to 50% of SDVAs; conversations with EDs + Staff + zoom discussions with additional 25% of SDVAs focused on impacts of pandemic on services and staff.



SURVEYS

Built and distributed surveys to SDVAs to collect information on current operating budget size, fund sources, fund reserves, capacity and staffing.



CONVERSATIONS WITH PARTNERS

Ongoing conversations within VA's SDV field (among membership, with state fund administrators, etc.) and with other state coalitions and national partners facing the same or similar challenges.

OUR CURRENT SUSTAINABILITY CHALLENGES

VOLATILE FUNDING

VOCA went way up, then fell dramatically. VA's ARPA appropriations helped cushion the fall, but these are set to expire in 2024, while VOCA may be **cut by as much as 40% in FY24** federal budget. Private and public investments in this work are too low.

RELIANCE ON GOV

80% of SDVAs rely on gov funding for more than **50%** of budget. **54%** of SDVAs are in financially precarious positions with **8%** reporting no fund balance and **46%** reporting less than 3 months in fund balance.

DEMAND FOR SERVICES

SDVAs have reported escalating and more lethal violence throughout the pandemic while service requests and complexity of requests have also risen.

BURNOUT AND RETENTION

Turnover is up, retention rates are down amongst victim advocates, and fair and equitable living wages continue to be a considerable barrier to sustaining the workforce.

COLLAB CHALLENGES

Collaboration = Clobberation in an environment where all human services systems are being simultaneously strained.



SDVAs are not all the same. Each agency has different needs, resources, partnerships and community demographics, and these lead to unique opportunities, decisions, strategies and outcomes. It is important to understand the agency history, honor that history, but not be confined by that history.

SDVA Director

When we over-rely on state and federal funding, we are less nimble and we face more barriers to the work we are being asked to do directly by survivors. This funding is part of the puzzle; it is not the whole pie.

SDVA Director





RECOMMENDATIONS

FOR SEXUAL AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AGENCIES (SDVAS) AND ADVOCATES

RECOMMENDATION #1

Define the expansive work of SDVAs as they address the many presenting traumas that survivors experience, the wide scope of survivor needs, and the vital opportunities to expand effective prevention strategies across communities.

RECOMMENDATION #2

Build a strong and diversified foundation for the work.

RECOMMENDATION #3

Create robust administrative and operational capacity that supports growth, sustains current programs and staff, and is nimble in the face of programmatic and administrative challenges.

RECOMMENDATION #4

Support agency cultures of learning, growing, and developing in which staff, volunteers, board members, and the community want to be involved.



Approximately two-thirds of SDVAs surveyed in 2022 indicated that one of the biggest barriers to achieving sustainability was resourcing the administrative support need for agency staff and leadership.

SDVA needs are COMPLEX. Survivor experiences are unique and the services/support each survivor needs should also be unique – our “menu of options” funded and reinforced by funders, is often inadequate to meet comprehensive and complex needs of trauma survivors.

SDVA Director





RECOMMENDATIONS

FOR GOVERNMENT AND PRIVATE SECTOR FUNDERS

RECOMMENDATION #1

Build active, reciprocal, and power-sharing partnerships with SDVAs.

RECOMMENDATION #2

Engage with SDVAs to build a strong infrastructure for the field that can access and manage diverse resources and support well-resourced staff.

RECOMMENDATION #3

Expand effective crisis intervention, advocacy, and wholistic prevention programming across Virginia.



A 2014 study of the average estimated cost for "optimal" services and programs within an SDVA was \$1.1M, and \$1.4M for agencies operating a residential shelter.

As of 2022, only 1/3 of SDVAs had reached that goal.

Based on the criteria used in 2014, the 2023 cost for 24 hour crisis services, counseling and advocacy for survivors of all ages, and community engagement including participation in community coordinated response teams and delivery of prevention programs totals \$1.5M annually, and \$2.2M.

We want the experience of young people in our communities to be vastly different in 10 years' time. How do we accomplish this? Prevention that is interconnected, strategically designed, and ongoing

SDVA Director





RECOMMENDATIONS

FOR POLICY LEADERS AND LEGISLATORS

RECOMMENDATION #1

Work with state and local partners to effectively implement and evaluate Virginia law and to elevate safety and healing for survivors as well as accountability for those who commit sexual and/or domestic violence.

RECOMMENDATION # 2

Increase state and federal investments in community safety and sexual and domestic violence prevention.

RECOMMENDATION #3

Advocate for the sustainability and growth of Virginia's SDVAs



We need to cultivate more "incubators" for new and emerging practices that we can choose to adopt and bring to other agencies.

SPA Members

Our hope for young people is that they are able to gently and effectively hold each other accountable, they are part of shared learning environments across generations and value intergenerational work, they understand the difference between discomfort and harm, accountability is seen as positive, they have strong relationships throughout childhood that build resiliency.

SPA Members





RECOMMENDATIONS

FOR THE STATE SEXUAL & DOMESTIC VIOLENCE COALITION

RECOMMENDATION #1

Provide ongoing and robust training, technical assistance, and support to SDVAs to advance local sustainability strategies.

RECOMMENDATION #2

Explore opportunities to expand membership services/offerings.

RECOMMENDATION #3

Build and maintain active partnerships with resource managers for major funding (over \$500,000 annually to SDVAs) and with a wide range of state, local and national partners to promote investment in positive community outcomes for diverse survivors while working to reduce and end sexual and domestic violence.

RECOMMENDATION #4

Create a unified mission, vision and values for the work of the field while supporting agency autonomy, highlighting SDVAs and their value and impact, and providing forums and venues for people in the field to gather and share with people in similar roles and across identities.





DESIRED OUTCOMES

- Cross-disciplinary vision by **year** (2024-2034)
- Vision by **discipline**
- Data in appendices help us to operationalize recommendations + provide roadmap for continuous quality improvement and implementation plans.





IMPLEMENTING THE PLAN

NEXT GEN SPA GROUP

One of the guiding forces in this work is a dedicated group of diverse SDVA advocates – we want to carry this model forward.

POLICY & PARTNERSHIPS

Our policy agenda + our work across governmental sectors and with the administration will be shaped and informed by this plan in an ongoing way.

TRAINING & TA

To support SDVAs in reaching goals related to long-term financial health, our work will shift to meet the needs.

COLLECTIVE IMPACT

The success of this plan requires a collaborative model with commitments from fund administrators, policy leaders, state partners, etc.



THANK YOU

This plan speaks to the critical need to collectively support, sustain, and grow the work of community-based SDVAs that grew up as grassroots antiviolence collectives and without whom, ending sexual and domestic violence would not be possible.

We look forward to working together to achieve these goals!





WHAT FEELS
EXCITING?

WHAT FEELS
CONCERNING?

