



Virginia Advisory Committee on Sexual and Domestic Violence

Virginia State Capitol, House Room 3

APPROVED MINUTES

June 16, 2016

Members Present

The Honorable Barbara Favola, Senate of Virginia

The Honorable David B. Albo, Virginia House of Delegates

Francine C. Ecker, Director, DCJS

Kristi VanAudenhove, Director, Virginia Sexual and Domestic Action Alliance

Melissa McMenemy, Statewide Facilitator for Victims of Domestic Violence, Office of the Attorney General

Chana Ramsey, Director, The James House

Kristen Howard, Executive Director, Virginia State Crime Commission

Kathy Robertson, Associate Director of Homeless and Special Needs Housing, Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development

Nancy Fowler, Program Manager of Office on Family Violence, Virginia Department of Social Services

Anya Shaffer (proxy for Heather Board), Injury, Violence, and Tobacco Prevention Programs, Virginia Department of Health

Warren Rodgers, Executive Director, Citizens Against Family Violence

Autumn Jones, Director, Arlington County Victim/Witness Program

Teresa Berry, Director, Sexual Assault Response and Awareness, Inc.

Kathy Anderson, Director, Empowerhouse

Mindy Stell, President, Virginia Victim Assistance Network

1. **Call to Order.** (Welcome by Senator Barbara Favola)

2. **Approval of past minutes.** (Senator Barbara Favola)

Melissa McMenemy made a motion to accept the minutes from the last meeting on March 23, 2016. Kathy Robertson second the motion. The minutes were adopted by the commission.

3. **Advisory Committee Bylaws** (Kassandra Bullock)

A draft of the Advisory Committee Bylaws was reviewed and Kassandra presented suggested changes to the by-laws made by committee members. The following changes were announced:

- *Article V, Section 4:* Legislative Members shall be compensated consistent with House and Senate rules. Members of the Advisory Committee shall not receive compensation, but shall be reimbursed for all reasonable and necessary expenses incurred in the performance of their duties.
- Members of the Advisory Committee may send proxy representatives in their place to Advisory Committee meetings. However, agency proxy representatives do not have voting privileges.

Teresa Berry made a motion to accept the proposed revisions to the by-laws. Delegate Albo second the motion. The revised by-laws were adopted by the commission.

4. **Presentations:**

Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) Programs in Virginia

Melissa O'Neill, CASA Program Coordinator at DCJS, presented an overview and history of CASA programs and discussed the impact that VOCA has had on funding CASA Programs in Virginia.

Child Advocacy Centers (CAC's) in Virginia

Joyce Moran, Executive Director of Southern Virginia Children Advocacy Centers, presented an overview of child advocacy centers and the impact that VOCA funding has had on the services and expansion of CAC's in Virginia.

5. **Advisory Committee Next Steps** (Fran Ecker)

Fran provided an update on the award of VOCA funds to continuation Victim Witness Assistance programs and Sexual and Domestic Violence Programs in the amount of \$34.4 million. An additional \$14 million is slated to be administered through a competitive application process and will focus on regional and statewide initiatives and services to underserved populations.

Fran proposed a less formal meeting of the Advisory Committee over the summer to strategically plan and develop goals and objectives for the next year. Kristi VanAudenhove expressed support of the proposal and the Advisory Committee approval of this recommendation. Senator Favola suggested a half day meeting. DCJS staff will reach out to Committee members to schedule a meeting date.

6. **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 it relates to domestic and sexual violence.
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. Directors from local Domestic and Sexual Violence Programs and Victim Witness Assistance Programs informed the Advisory Committee on the impact increased VOCA awards will have on their respective programs.

A next meeting date will be scheduled for the summer of 2016.

8. **Adjournment.** The meeting adjourned at 1:00pm.