

Advisory Committee on Sexual and Domestic Violence

Patrick Henry Building, West Reading Room

Wednesday, March 28, 2018

10:30 am – 12:30 pm

FINAL MINUTES

Members Present

The Honorable Barbara Favola, Senate of Virginia
Shannon Dion, Director, Virginia Department of Criminal Justice Services
Teresa Berry, Sexual Assault Response and Awareness, (SARA) Inc. – Roanoke
Kathy Robertson, Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development
Autumn Jones, Arlington County Victim Witness Program
Mindy Stell, Virginia Victim Assistance Network
Heather Board, Virginia Department of Health
Kristi VanAudenhove, Virginia Sexual and Domestic Violence Action Alliance
Warren Rodgers, Southside Survivor Response Center
Nancy Fowler, Virginia Department of Social Services
Kristen Howard, Virginia State Crime Commission
Kathy Anderson, Empowerhouse

Members Absent

Chana Ramsey, James House
Melissa McMenemy, Office of the Attorney General

Welcome & Remarks

- Senator Favola called the meeting to order at 10:37 with a quorum present.
- Tom Fitzpatrick noted that Kristina Vadas has been assigned as the new point person for Committee and will serve as both subject matter expert and logistics coordinator.
- Kristen Howard made a motion to approve the minutes from the December 5, 2017 minutes. Kathy Robertson seconded the motion. The minutes were adopted by unanimous vote.

Remarks

- Shannon Dion, new Director of DCJS, introduced herself and provided an overview of her professional background. Ms. Dion indicated that she is committed to ensuring that victims are fully served.

Legislative Updates

- John Mahoney, VOCA Administrator at DCJS, provided an overview of the legislation passed during the 2018 session of the Virginia General Assembly. A more lengthy summary will be posted on the DCJS website.

Bylaws

- Thomas Fitzpatrick and Kristina Vadas gave a summary of the proposed changes to the Committee Bylaws for clarity. There were two substantive changes:
 - Define the terms for Committee Chair and Vice Chair; and
 - Remove line indicating that funding for expenses incurred would come from federal sources allocated to DCJS. The federal funding received by DCJS is restricted in use, therefore, state general funds will be used to support incurred expenses.
- A brief discussion regarding the Professional Standards Committee occurred. Senator Favola noted that the Professional Standards Committee is mentioned in the Code of Virginia as a standing committee but is not mentioned in the bylaws. Kristen Howard clarified that the original legislation intended to create two distinct but connected groups, the Advisory Committee and the Professional Standards Committee. A recommendation was put forth to articulate this relationship in the bylaws. Members will receive a draft of the Bylaws prior to the next meeting.

Professional Standards Committee Report

- Newly hired Professional Standards Coordinator, Courtney Meyer, provided a summary of the Professional Standards Committee structure and activities. Meeting agendas and minutes are available online. Ms. Meyer indicated on February 28, 2018, the Professional Standards Committee approved 21 professional standards. A draft of the professional standards will be distributed to the Advisory Committee members.

The Professional Standards Committee is working to develop performance measures and an accreditation application process. Additionally, a final draft of professional standards and performance measures will be shared with local programs for comment.

The Advisory Committee suggested more conversation is needed regarding how to incentivize accreditation for local programs. The Advisory Committee asked that they receive timely updates on the activities of the Professional Standards Committee. In addition, a request was made for the Professional Standards Committee to share a timeline for the process with target action steps.

Professional Standards Committee Reappointments

- Courtney Meyer noted that three members are up for reappointments: Regenia Eller (Family Resource Center), Caroline Jones (Doorways for Women and Families) and Becky Lee (YWCA of Richmond). Nancy Fowler made a motion to reappoint these members to the Professional Standards Committee. Teresa Berry seconded the motion. The motion to reappoint passed with a unanimous vote.

Grant Administration Processes

- Heather Board, Virginia Department of Health, Nancy Fowler, Virginia Department of Social Services, and John Mahoney, Virginia Department of Criminal Justice Services provided an overview of the grant administration processes of the three primary state funders, for domestic and sexual assault programs.
- This presentation addressed the codified duty and responsibility related to examining the grant administration process. After the presentations there was a discussion on streamlining grant

applications and the importance of having multidisciplinary and subject expert input during the grant review process.

Next Steps

The proposed agenda items for the June 2018 meeting include an opportunity for feedback on the grants administration processes in order to make improvements. DCJS staff will pull together individuals prior to the June meeting in order to make recommendations on processes. In addition, there was a request that Advisory Committee action items related to the recommendations are placed on the June agenda.

Public Comment

Members of the public were present and were invited to provide comment:

- Marva Dunn – VSDVAA Governing Body member and representative of Family Violence and Sexual Assault Prevention Program from Emporia, Virginia. Ms. Dunn noted that it remains unclear why a local agency would want to go through the accreditation process if it's not tied to funding. She also expressed concerns about whether the Advisory Committee is representative of the populations served in Virginia and whether underserved populations are represented. Further she noted that representation is not mentioned in the bylaws.
- Susheela Varky – Representing Virginia Poverty Law Center. Ms. Varky requested a copy of the legislative update PowerPoint. She also provided clarification on the language of HB262 and noted that it prevents a respondent from using a cell phone to locate a petitioner.

New Business

- Kristen Howard indicated that it was brought to the attention of the Virginia State Crime Commission Crime that a funded agency had hired a sex offender. The Advisory Committee was informed that the position was not grant funded and the situation has been addressed through corrective action. Senator Favola requested that the Professional Standards Committee look into current hiring policies and practices, including background checks, and report back to the Advisory Council at a future meeting.

The meeting adjourned 12:50

Next Meeting: Tuesday, June 5, 2018 – Time to be determined.