

Advisory Committee on Sexual and Domestic Violence

**Meadowdale Library
4301 Meadowdale Boulevard
North Chesterfield, VA 23234**

**Wednesday, March 16, 2022
10:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.
Final Minutes**

Committee Members Present:

Maria Altonen
Teresa Berry
Sanu Dieng
Autumn Edmond
Senator Barbara Favola
Thomas Fitzpatrick
Nancy Fowler
Kristen Howard
Claudia Lopez-Muñiz
Melissa McMenemy
Kike Oliver
Unique Phillips
Toni Zollicoffer

Committee Members Absent:

Kathy Anderson
Elvira De la Cruz
Marva Dunn
Kate Hanger
Kristi VanAudenhove

DCJS Staff in Attendance:

Gleibys Gonzalez
Andi Martin
Amber Stanwix
Kristina Vadas

Guests in Attendance:

Eileen Longenecker, Office of the Executive Secretary, Supreme Court of VA
Nicole Whitman, Office of the Attorney General of Virginia

Welcome, Introductions, and Remarks

Teresa Berry, Committee Chairperson, called the meeting to order 10:38 a.m. Committee members and guests introduced themselves. Teresa Berry informed the group that this meeting was Tom Fitzpatrick's last meeting, as Tom accepted a position with Housing Opportunities Made Equal (HOME) of Virginia as President and CEO.

Approval of December 15, 2021 Meeting Minutes

Senator Favola made a motion to accept the December 15, 2021 meeting minutes. Nancy Fowler seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Partner Abuse Intervention and Prevention Workgroup

Toni Zollicoffer, Division Director, Fairfax County Domestic and Sexual Violence Services, provided an update on the workgroup's efforts.

- The last meeting was March 1, 2022. Despite the August 2021 training from Dr. Cantos, and several recommendations for improvement previously made by the group, there is no clear path forward with these recommendations.
- Previously, the group interviewed seven batterer intervention programs across Virginia and many reported feeling under-resourced. Batterer intervention participation relies on court orders. All programs need to be robust in order to be effective. Many intervention programs have not kept up with the data showing what is most effective.
- Funding for batterer intervention programs generally comes from fees paid by participants. There is no federal or state funding.
- The workgroup has an updated report that Toni provided to Kristina Vadas. Kristina will send this out to the Committee.

Review of Code of Virginia § 9.1-116.2 Duties and Responsibilities (amended in 2021)

Teresa Berry led a discussion about the new duties and responsibilities, which are:

1. *Promote appropriate and effective responses, services, and prevention for sexual assault and domestic violence across the Commonwealth; and*
 2. *Promote strong communication, coordination, and strategy at state, regional, and local levels.*
- The committee is unsure how "domestic violence" should be defined in this framework as it is not clearly defined in the Code. Generally, domestic violence funding defines it as intimate partner violence.
 - The committee agreed that one way members can be successful in meeting the committee's responsibilities is if members could take information back to their agencies and take steps to implement change at a local, regional or statewide level. Additionally, the committee can help inform participating grant-funding agencies of needs, gaps, challenges, etc. that can be considered when making grant-funding decisions.
 - Kristen Howard suggested that a sexual and domestic violence services needs assessment would help inform the committee's work. Kristen volunteered that the Crime Commission could lead this effort. The last needs assessment was completed in 2015 as the committee was just

beginning to meet. Prior to the pandemic, the Crime Commission started drafting a new needs assessment but that was not completed. Kristina Vadas will send members the most recent draft of the needs assessment. After the draft is sent, members will have four weeks to provide input to Kristen.

- Many sexual and domestic violence program directors just completed a sustainability survey conducted by the Virginia Sexual and Domestic Violence Action Alliance (VSDVAA). The directors will discuss results of that survey at their next meeting in April. The committee would like for Kristi VanAudenhove or a representative of VSDVAA to talk about this survey at a future committee meeting.

Past Business

- The committee's approved Electronic Meeting Policy was provided by DCJS via email in advance of the meeting. The General Assembly is currently considering legislation that may impact electronic meetings, so the committee will revisit this topic at a future meeting.

State Agency Funding Updates

- Virginia Department of Criminal Justice Services
 - DCJS has seven current victim-related grant programs: Sexual Assault Services Program (SASP), Victims Services Grant Program (VSGP), Victim/Witness Grant Program (VWGP), VSTOP, Virginia Sexual and Domestic Violence Victim Fund (VSDVVF), Improving Criminal Justice Response (ICJR), and American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA).
 - ARPA is a one-time grant program. DCJS awarded approximately \$9 million in fiscal year (FY) 2023 to current VSGP grant recipients, which includes approximately \$7.5 million to sexual and domestic violence programs. Other ARPA funds were awarded to child abuse services and to help fund the VSDVVF grant program.
 - In total, the DCJS Victims Services Team has awarded 462 grants, totaling almost \$70 million for CY22/FY22.
 - Senator Favola asked for a future presentation on successful victim services programs that use grant funding.
- Virginia Department of Health
 - Recently hired a new team member, Camilla Herndon, who will serve in the Sexual Violence Prevention Specialist role.
 - As it relates to the Services for Survivors of Sexual Assault Task Force, HB1329 changed the age range from 13 to 18 for who the policies apply to, and the bill adds a representative from a forensic clinic on the Task Force.
- Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development
 - DHCD currently has the Homeless and Special Needs Housing Unit application out for communities to apply for homeless assistance and homelessness prevention grants. The due date is 11:59pm on 4/4/22.
 - DHCD Balance of State is working with domestic violence shelters in rural areas to prepare for the HUD Continuum of Care application domestic violence bonus. The

application is expected out later this year. DHCD is the lead applying on the agencies behalf.

- Virginia Department of Social Services
 - The Request for Applications (RFA) for the Domestic Violence Prevention & Services Grant is open, and closes at the end of this month (March). This is the primary funding source for mainstream domestic violence providers.
 - VDSS received a large ARPA award for vaccines and testing. VDSS is contracting with VSDVAA to obtain input from local programs on what is needed to inform VDSS how these funds could be best used. The RFA will be posted late summer/early fall.
 - VDSS received other ARPA funds to support domestic and sexual violence survivors. These funds will support an award period that begins July 1, 2022. VDSS will not get the funds by then; however, the grant will be retroactive to that date.
 - The Sexual and Domestic Violence Prevention Fund is in Code under VDSS, with funds in the VDH budget. There are various proposed budget amendments including the amount of state funds, and language that the VSDVAA will administer the funds. Until the budget is approved, VDH and VDSS will put their processes of distributing the funds on hold.
 - VDSS has an open position, Domestic Violence Program Grant Specialist, which will focus on Underserved Populations.

New Business

- Senator Favola requested VDSS to report back to the committee on the final funding decision passed by the General Assembly as to how prevention funding will be administered and the amount to be awarded.
- Nancy Fowler suggested a future presentation to the committee on VDSS's Promising Practices Guide.
- Senator Favola requested a future presentation to the committee on human trafficking efforts in the Commonwealth.

Other Member Announcements

- March 24, 2022 is the date for the next sexual and domestic violence program directors' meeting with the VSDVAA; they will discuss the proposed needs assessment survey.

Public Comment

- None

2022 Meeting Dates

- Wednesday, June 8, 2022 - 10:30am
- Wednesday, September 14, 2022 - 10:30am
- Wednesday, December 7, 2022 - 10:30am

Teresa Berry adjourned the meeting at 12:12 p.m.