

# Advisory Committee on Sexual and Domestic Violence

## Virtual Meeting

*(In accordance with approved policy)*

Wednesday, June 3, 2026

10:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

**Draft Minutes**

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### Committee Members Present

Maria Altonen, Elvira De la Cruz, Sabrina Dorman-Andrew, Colin Drabert, Marva Dunn, Nancy Fowler, Kate Hanger, Lisa Kersey, Krista Martinez, Marybeth Matthews Adkins, Karli Meagher, Kike Oliver, Irene Shin, Kristina Vadas, Kristi VanAudenhove, Michelle Ellis Young

### Committee Members Absent

Robin Desrosier, Barbara Favola, Office of the Attorney General of Virginia representative

### Guests Present

Eileen Longenecker, Office of the Executive Secretary, Supreme Court of Virginia  
Zahir Rasheed, Office of Delegate Irene Shin  
Courtenay Schwartz, Virginia Sexual and Domestic Violence Action Alliance  
Ashley Xavier, Virginia Hospital & Healthcare Association Foundation

### DCJS Staff Present

Gleibys Gonzalez, Andi Martin, Amber Stanwix

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### Welcome and Introductions

Marybeth Matthews-Adkins, Committee Chairperson, called the meeting to order at 10:32 a.m. A quorum was present. Committee members and guests made self-introductions.

### Approval of March 25, 2026 Meeting Minutes

The Committee reviewed the minutes from March 25, 2026. Kate Hanger moved to approve the minutes. Lisa Kersey seconded the motion. The Committee approved the minutes, unanimously.

### Sexual and Domestic Violence-Related Legislative Changes

The Committee watched a prerecorded video of Susheela Varky, Director of the Center for Family Advocacy & Domestic and Sexual Violence Attorney at the Virginia Poverty Law Center, who presented on sexual and domestic violence-related 2026 legislative changes.

Courtenay Schwartz, Policy Director at the Virginia Sexual & Domestic Violence Action Alliance, was present at the meeting to address questions. Committee members are welcome to reach out to Courtenay if they have questions. Her phone number is 434-466-9651.

Guest Eileen Longenecker informed the Committee that throughout the Commonwealth, judges and magistrates are also getting information and training about these legislative changes.

### **State Agency Funding Updates**

Virginia Department of Criminal Justice Services (DCJS), Kristina Vadas reported the following:

- Effective July 1, 2026, the Office of Safer Communities will be a new division at DCJS. This division will support initiatives related to gun violence prevention. Currently, the Office of Safer Communities is a section within the DCJS Division of Programs and Services.
- On June 2, 2026, DCJS opened a funding opportunity for concept proposals for grant funding to prevent and respond to family and domestic violence victimization and perpetration. Notice of this opportunity can be found under “Funding Opportunities” in the DCJS On-line Grant Management System (OGMS). Notice will also be sent via email to people who have registered for DCJS Updates, and notice is posted on the DCJS website at <https://www.dcjs.virginia.gov/grants>. Concept proposals will be evaluated on viability and fit with the grant program. DCJS will then invite successful concept proposal applicants to submit a full application. Two-year awards are anticipated to start 1/1/2027. Funding for this grant program is through state funds. DCJS has approximately \$3.5 million dollars to award for these two-year grants. DCJS will host an informational webinar on 6/18/2026. Details about the webinar are found in the posted invitation for proposals.
- DCJS is convening a second work group this summer related to forensic medical examinations. The first work group met in the summer of 2025. This year’s group will focus mostly on forensic medical reimbursement processes. There will be a series of four work group meetings in June and July. The first meeting will be held on 6/9/2026. DCJS will submit a report with recommendations to the General Assembly by 11/1/2026.
- DCJS was recently awarded a three-year grant from the federal Office on Violence Against Women (OVW), Improving Criminal Justice Responses, for FFY 2025. This is a partnership grant project that supports training and technical assistance from DCJS, Office of Attorney General, Virginia Sexual and Domestic Violence Action Alliance, and Virginia Victim Assistance Network. The grant will include a focus and support for Virginia’s Lethality Assessment Program (LAP) and Sexual Assault Response Teams (SARTs).
- Victims Services Grant Program (VSGP) and Sexual Assault Domestic Violence Grant Program (SADVGP) (formerly the Victims Services Grant Program for Sexual and Domestic Violence Services) are nearing the end of their grant periods for SFY 2026. These grants are funded by both VOCA funds and state general funds (SGF). Awards for SFY 2027 were approved in May by the Criminal Justice Services Board (CJSB). VSGP award notices have been sent to recipients.

DCJS has been waiting to send out award letters for SADVGP due to the pending state budget approval and the possibility of additional funding in the budget.

- Victim Witness Grant Program is nearing end of their grant period for SFY 2026. These grants are funded by VOCA, SGF, and state special funds (SSF). Awards for SFY 2027 will be determined by the CJSB on 6/11/2026.
- Sexual Assault Services Program (SASP) and Virginia Services, Training, Officer, Prosecution (VSTOP) are two DCJS grants supported by OVW's Violence Against Women Act funding. Subgrants started 1/1/2026.
- Virginia Sexual and Domestic Violence Victim Fund (VSDVVF) grant is nearing end of their current grant period (SFY 2026). These awards are funded by SGF and SSF. SFY 2027 awards will be determined by the CJSB on 6/11/2026. For the new grant cycle, DCJS plans to increase some continuation awards and fund new forensic nursing projects.

Virginia Department of Health (VDH), Maria Altonen reported the following:

- VDH is hiring a part-time position for someone to staff the Virginia Forensic Nursing Advisory Council. VDH is looking for a candidate who has experience with forensic nursing or clinical experience with sexual assault patients. Here is a link to the position posting:  
<https://www.jobs.virginia.gov/jobs/human-services-program-coordinator-richmond-virginia-united-states-3ce5ecd7-63ff-401d-9a0f-e581fa60a162>

Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD), Kike Oliver reported the following:

- The Homeless and Special Needs Housing unit of DHCD is in the process of closing out funds for the 2026 state fiscal year and starting up program funds for the 2027 state fiscal year. At the time of this update, we do not have an update for when the program awards will be available to communities. Once this information is available, the community awards will be announced through the lead agencies of the continua of care across the Commonwealth. If you have any questions, please contact program manager Will Kerner at [william.kerner@dhcd.virginia.gov](mailto:william.kerner@dhcd.virginia.gov).
- The federal 2026 Continuum of Care Program competition was announced this past week. Funding for this program also supports those who are experiencing homelessness to access permanent housing. DHCD applies for these funds on behalf of the rural communities of the Virginia Balance of State Continuum of Care. Our team is still in the process of reviewing the funding notice. Historically, activities under this program included financial assistance for rent, rental and utility arrears, security and utility deposits, last month's rent, moving costs, application fees, and case management services. If you have any additional questions, please contact Dr. Darl Wilburn at [darl.wilburn@dhcd.virginia.gov](mailto:darl.wilburn@dhcd.virginia.gov).

Virginia Department of Social Services (VDSS), Nancy Fowler reported the following:

- VDSS received a federal Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) for Family Violence Prevention and Services Act (FVPSA) funding. Federal funding under this grant program technically started

in October 2025. These federal funds are used by VDSS to support Domestic Violence Prevention and Services (DVPS) subgrants. VDSS is currently reviewing grant applications for DVPS subawards, which are anticipated to begin 7/1/2026.

- The Sexual Assault Domestic Violence Prevention Training and Technical Assistance subgrants will be renewed effective 7/1/2026.
- Local Sexual and Domestic Violence Prevention Initiatives grants will be renewed (final renewal) effective 9/1/2026.
- Domestic Violence Services for Underserved Populations subgrants will be renewed effective 10/1/2026.
- VDSS is working to fill vacancies, including two contract administrator positions. One will focus on data, and it closes on 6/4/2026. The other will focus on FVPSA subgrants and implementation of the state plan, and it closes on 6/16/2026:  
<https://www.jobs.virginia.gov/jobs/contract-administrator-fvpsa-prevention-w4208-henrico-virginia-united-states>.

### **Past Business**

None

### **New Business**

None. Marybeth will be sending to Committee members a survey to solicit ideas for future meeting topics.

### **Other Member Announcements**

Elvira De la Cruz informed the Committee that on 6/4/2026, Latinos in Virginia Empowerment Center will host an open house from 3:30 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Michelle Ellis Williams informed the Committee that the YWCA of South Hampton Roads is hosting the Racial Equity & Social Transformation (R.E.S.T.) Conference at Virginia Wesleyan University on 6/10/2026. The keynote speaker is Tarana J. Burke, who is the founder of the “Me Too” Movement. Registration link for the conference: <https://secure.everyaction.com/NBeDcPEgH0qla5J5ytJEBA2>

Karli Meager informed the Committee that there are concerns in the sexual and domestic violence field regarding VDSS prevention and services funding; specifically, that there is no ceiling on anticipated grant awards, leaving some to worry that there will be unfunded programs if VDSS cannot support all funding requests. Nancy Fowler from VDSS responded that although she cannot comment on the grant process specifically, it is not a given that people will lose funding; FVPSA funding includes a priority to ensure there is an equitable distribution of funding statewide.

**Public Comment**

Eileen Longenecker from the Office of the Executive Secretary, Supreme Court of Virginia, informed the Committee that in addition to the judges receiving training on the legislative changes discussed in the earlier presentation, some court forms will be updated soon to reflect changes in the law. Form changes (including the firearm certification form) will be made by 7/1/2026. Eileen also informed the Committee that regarding the changes in the definition of intimate partner, some judges have expressed concerns of the need to ask more questions of the petitioner of the nature of the relationship between the parties, and parties may not agree that they are intimate partners.

**2026 Meeting Dates:** September 2, 2026 (in-person)  
December 2, 2026 (virtual)

**Closing**

Marybeth adjourned the meeting at 11:58 a.m.