

Virginia Sexual and Domestic Violence Program Professional Standards Committee

Meeting Minutes

August 7, 2024, 10:00 a.m. –11:00 a.m.
Tuckahoe – Henrico County Public Library
1901 Starling Drive
Henrico, Virginia 23229

Members Present:

Angela Blount, Associate Director, Virginia Sexual and Domestic Violence Action Alliance
Judy Castele, Executive Director, Project Horizon
Timika Cousins, Executive Director, The Faces Behind a Purpose for You¹
Cori Davis, Program Director, Bedford Domestic Violence Services²
Leah Kipley, Assistant Director, National Safe Haven Alliance
Tamy Mann, Director, Giles County Victim/Witness Assistance Program
Teresa McKensie, Assistant Director, Radford/Floyd Victim/Witness Assistance Program
Faith Power, Executive Director, The Laurel Center
Heather Sellers, Director, Bedford County Victim/Witness Assistance Program
Kristina Vadas, Manager of Victims Services, DCJS

Member Virtually Present:

Markella Maschas, FVPSA Contract Administrator, Office of Family Violence, DSS³

Members Absent:

Elvira De la Cruz, Chief Executive Officer, Latinos in Virginia Empowerment Center
Shel Douglas, Director, Fauquier County Social Services
Leonard Hall, Jr, Director, Millstone International Logistics

Professional Standards Team Members Present:

Amber Stanwix, Professional Standards Operations Coordinator, DCJS
Andrea Sutton, Professional Standards Compliance Coordinator, DCJS

Members of the Public Virtually Present:

Keesha Coke, Assistant Division Director, Fairfax County Domestic and Sexual Violence

¹ Timika Cousins arrived at the meeting at 10:10 a.m.

² Cori Davis arrived at the meeting at 10:14 a.m.

³ Markella Maschas participated virtually due to illness.

Division

Debra Gilmore, Chief Executive Officer, LAWS Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Services

Candy Phillips, Executive Director, First Step: A Response to Domestic Violence, Inc.

Steve Searles, Interim Operations Director, LAWS Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Services

Melody Vielbig, Clinical Services Program Manager, Fairfax County Domestic and Sexual Violence Division

Toni Zollicoffer, Division Director, Fairfax County Domestic and Sexual Violence Division

Welcome & Remarks

The meeting was called to order at 10:08 a.m. A quorum was present.

Approval of Meeting Minutes

The minutes from the May 8th Committee meeting were reviewed by the members. A motion to approve the minutes was made by Tamy Mann, and Heather Sellers seconded the motion. Faith Power abstained from voting, as she was not present at the May 8th meeting. After a vote, the minutes were approved 6-0.

Updates from Professional Standards Team

Andrea Sutton provided a brief update from the Professional Standards Team. She described the work that the Team has done regarding presenting information sessions and conducting site visits. Finally, she announced that Timika Cousins, Cori Davis, and Faith Power have all been reappointed to the Committee.

Review of Accreditation Application Documents

The Professional Standards Team asked if the Committee had any questions or comments regarding the application and site visit checklist that will be used for the upcoming accreditation round. A Committee member stated that the edits made helped to improve the documents. There were no other comments.

Review of Agencies for Accreditation

Amber Stanwix and Andrea Sutton conducted the review of accreditation recommendations.

LAWS Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Services

After a presentation by the Professional Standards Team demonstrating that LAWS Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Services met all the Professional Standards, Teresa McKensie made a motion to approve the accreditation status recommendation, and Leah Kipley seconded the motion. The Professional Standards Committee voted 8-0 to grant full accreditation status to LAWS Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Services as a dual sexual and domestic violence agency.

First Step, A Response to Domestic Violence, Inc.

After a presentation by the Professional Standards Team demonstrating that First Step: A Response to Domestic Violence, Inc. met all the Professional Standards, Faith Power made a motion to approve the accreditation status recommendation, and Cori Davis seconded the motion. The Professional Standards Committee voted 8-0 to grant full accreditation status to First Step: A Response to Domestic Violence, Inc. as a domestic violence agency.

Fairfax County Domestic and Sexual Violence Division

After a presentation by the Professional Standards Team demonstrating that Fairfax County Domestic and Sexual Violence Division met all the Professional Standards, Tamy Mann made a motion to approve the accreditation status recommendation, and Timika Cousins seconded the motion. The Professional Standards Committee voted 8-0 to grant full accreditation status to Fairfax County Domestic and Sexual Violence Division as a dual sexual and domestic violence agency.

During the presentation for this agency, Markella Maschas informed the Committee that Shel Douglas has resigned her position with Fauquier County Social Services. Therefore, she is no longer eligible to serve on the Professional Standards Committee.

Family Crisis Support Services, Inc.

After a presentation by the Professional Standards Team demonstrating that Family Crisis Support Services, Inc. met all the Professional Standards, Leah Kipley made a motion to approve the accreditation status recommendation, and Heather Sellers seconded the motion. The Professional Standards Committee voted 8-0 to grant full accreditation status to Family Crisis Support Services, Inc. as a dual sexual and domestic violence agency.

Selection of Next Meeting Date

Amber Stanwix informed the Committee that the Professional Standards Team will be accepting applications for accreditation from October 7th through November 15th. The Committee agreed to meet on November 18th. This meeting will be held virtually.

Public Comment

There were no public comments.

Closing Remarks

The meeting adjourned at 10:58 a.m.

Future Meeting

- November 18, 2024, 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m., Virtual Meeting