

Advisory Committee on Sexual and Domestic Violence

Virtual Meeting

(In accordance with approved policy)

Wednesday, December 11, 2024

10:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

Welcome and Introductions

Claudia Lopez-Muñiz, Committee Vice-Chair

Approval of September 18, 2024 Meeting Minutes

Election of Chair

State Agency Funding Updates

- Virginia Department of Criminal Justice Services
- Virginia Department of Health
- Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development
- Virginia Department of Social Services

Past Business

- Virginia Sexual and Domestic Violence Program Professional Standards
- Virginia State Crime Commission Language Access Study Request

New Business

- Revisions to *Policy on Participation of Virginia Advisory Committee on Sexual and Domestic Violence Members in Meetings by Electronic Means*
- Legislative Matters in Preparation for 2025 General Assembly Session

Other Member Announcements

Public Comment

Proposed 2025 Meeting Dates:

March 5, 2025, 10:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. (in-person)

June 4, 2025, 10:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. (virtual)

September 10, 2025, 10:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. (in-person)

December 3, 2025, 10:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. (virtual)

Advisory Committee on Sexual and Domestic Violence

Meadowdale Library
4301 Meadowdale Boulevard
North Chesterfield, VA 23234

Wednesday, September 18, 2024

10:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

Draft Minutes

Committee Members Present

Marybeth Adkins, Elvira De la Cruz (virtual), Sanu Dieng, Marva Dunn, Nancy Fowler, Pyowook Han, Kate Hanger, Kristen Howard, Claudia Lopez-Muniz (virtual), Krista Martinez, Kike Oliver, Adrian Perry, Delegate Irene Shin, Kristina Vadas, Kristi VanAudenhove

Committee Members Absent

Maria Altonen, Senator Barbara Favola, Toni Zollicoffer

Members of the Public Present

Teresa Berry, Eileen Longenecker, Ebony McGill

DCJS Staff Present

McKayla Burnett, Kimberly Hill, Andi Martin (virtual), Anya Shaffer (virtual), Amber Stanwix, Andrea Sutton

Welcome and Introductions

Sanu Dieng, Committee Chairperson, called the meeting to order at 10:36 a.m. A quorum was present. Committee members introduced themselves. Elvira De la Cruz and Claudia Lopez-Muniz were present virtually. Pursuant to the Committee's electronic meeting policy, both explained they were attending virtually due to travel outside of the Commonwealth.

Approval of June 5, 2024 Meeting Minutes

Marva Dunn made a motion to approve the June 2024 minutes. Kate Hanger seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Virginia Sexual and Domestic Violence Program Professional Standards

Amber Stanwix and Andrea Sutton, the Professional Standards Team from the Virginia Department of Criminal Justice Services, provided members with an update regarding the Professional Standards

accreditation process. The presentation sparked a robust discussion about the Professional Standards and Professional Standards Committee.

State Agency Funding Updates

- Virginia Department of Criminal Justice Services
Kristina Vadas provided a summary of the victim assistance grant programs at DCJS. Presentation slides are attached.
- Virginia Department of Health
Maria Altonen was unable to attend; however, they provided an email update that VDH is working on an action plan for rape prevention funding. This plan is currently being reviewed by various stakeholders and will be released publicly in the near future.
- Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development
Kike Oliver informed the group that VDHCD has received an application for the Livable Home Tax Credit, as well as an application for the Virginia Housing Trust Fund Homeless Reduction Grant. In addition, she reported that the federal Continuum of Care competition is currently open.
- Virginia Department of Social Services
Nancy Fowler reported that there is currently an open grant solicitation for domestic violence services in certain named localities. In addition, VDSS has renewed applications for grants under the Primary Prevention Fund. Finally, VDSS has begun development of a domestic violence state plan.

Past Business

Kristi VanAudenhove reported that the Virginia Sexual and Domestic Violence Action Alliance has not yet reconvened the Language Access Workgroup. They plan to begin that work soon.

New Business

The group held a brief discussion regarding future plans for the Committee. One member suggested concentrating on the responsibilities assigned to the Committee under the *Code of Virginia*. Another member discussed concerns around workforce development, particularly for Sexual Assault Nurse Examiners (SANEs) and Forensic Nurse Examiners (FNEs).

Other Member Announcements

Kristen Howard informed the Committee that the Virginia State Crime Commission completed a draft report regarding the expungement of criminal records and urged the group to read it and report back to her with any comments.

Kristina Vadas introduced Kimberly Hill, who will be working on anti-human trafficking efforts within the Victims Services Team at DCJS. In addition, she reminded the group about the Building Bridges Conference that will be sponsored by DCJS in October.

Chairperson Dieng announced that Toni Zollicoffer will no longer be a member of the Committee, as she has accepted a different position within Fairfax County. In addition, she reported that she herself will no longer be serving on the Committee, as she has accepted a position with the Virginia Sexual and Domestic Violence Action Alliance. Finally, Kristina Vadas reminded the group that Tammy Sharpe has retired from her position and is therefore no longer serving on the Committee. This means that the Committee will now have three appointee vacancies.

Public Comment

Eileen Longenecker reported that the Supreme Court of Virginia will be hosting a domestic violence conference in November for judges and magistrates. The conference will be one and a half days long and cover a variety of topics.

2024 Meeting Date: December 11, 2024, 10:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. (virtual)

Closing

Chairperson Dieng adjourned the meeting at 12:32 p.m.

DCJS Victims Services Team Grant Programs

Advisory Committee on Sexual and Domestic Violence
September 18, 2024



DCJS

Virginia Department of Criminal Justice Services

Victims of Crime Act (VOCA)

- Virginia's federal fiscal year 2024 VOCA award totals \$19,866,137, down from \$34,605,387 in FFY 2023.
- We anticipate a similar award in FFY 2025.
- Federal Crime Victims Fund balances remain concerningly low, but there are some efforts at the federal level to stabilize the fund.

DCJS VOCA-Supported Grants

- **Victims Services Grant Program (VSGP) Competitive**
 - SFY 2025 12-month awards began 7/1/24.
 - 32 awards totaling @ \$4,134,113 in VOCA and state general funds.
- **VSGP for Sexual and Domestic Violence Agencies (non-competitive)**
 - SFY 2025 12-month awards began 7/1/24.
 - 55 awards totaling \$15,800,255 in VOCA and state general funds.
 - Awards restored to slightly-higher than SFY 2023 levels (when combined with ARPA grant awards).

DCJS VOCA-Supported Grants

- **Victim Witness Grant Program (VWGP)**
 - SFY 2025 12-month awards began 7/1/24.
 - 114 awards totaling \$19,363,749 in VOCA and state funds (general and special funds).
 - Awards restored to @ SFY 2023 levels.

State General Funds

Reminder – In the final SFY 2025 state budget, additional **general funds** were appropriated for:

- Sexual and Domestic Violence Agencies
 - Increase of @ \$2 million to \$4,568,114
- Victim Witness Programs
 - Increase of @ \$1.3 million to \$5,988,807
- Support for competitive victim services projects
 - \$1,250,000

Violence Against Women Act (VAWA)

- Funds administered by the Office on Violence Against Women.
- Virginia's federal fiscal year 2024 SASP and STOP awards:
 - SASP = \$1,034,419
 - STOP = \$4,086,790

DCJS VAWA-Supported Grants

- **Sexual Assault Services Program (SASP)**
 - CY 2024: New grants began on 1/1/2024.
 - 31 awards totaling \$990,597 in federal SASP funds.
- **VSTOP**
 - CY 2024: New 24-month grants began on 1/1/2024.
 - 85 awards totaling \$9,195,215 in federal STOP funds for the 24-month period.

Other Funding Sources

- **ARPA VSGP Restoration Grants**
 - SFY 2025 12-month awards began 7/1/24.
 - 54 awards totaling \$3,365,679 in ARPA funds.
- **Virginia Sexual and Domestic Violence Victim Fund (VSDVVF)**
 - SFY 2025 12-month awards began 7/1/24.
 - 49 awards totaling \$2,258,803 in state general and special funds.

Grant Program	Grant Cycle	Number of Awards	Total Amount
Victims Services Grant Program (VSGP) - competitive	FY25	32	\$4,134,113
Victims Services Grant Program (VSGP) - noncompetitive for SDV Services	FY25	55	\$15,800,255
American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) - noncompetitive for SDV Services	FY25	54	\$3,365,679
Victim Witness Grant Program (VWGP)	FY25	114	\$19,363,749
Improving Criminal Justice Responses (ICJR)	FY25	4	\$277,339
Sexual Assault Services Program (SASP)	CY24	31	\$990,597
VSTOP	CY24	85	\$4,597,608
Virginia Sexual & Domestic Violence Victim Fund (VSDVVF) (Discretionary, Prosecution, Sexual Assault Nurse Examiners)	FY25	49	\$2,258,803
Ayuda (direct appropriation)	FY25	1	\$200,000
Virginia Victim Assistance Network (direct appropriation)	FY25	1	\$400,000
TOTALS		426	\$51,381,722



Draft Policy Presented on 12/11/2024

Policy on Participation of Virginia Advisory Committee on Sexual and Domestic Violence Members in Meetings by Electronic Means Pursuant to Code of Virginia ~~Code~~ § 2.2-3708.3

It is the policy of the Virginia Advisory Committee on Sexual and Domestic Violence (“Committee”) that individual members may participate in meetings of the Committee by electronic communication as permitted by Code of Virginia ~~Va. Code~~ § 2.2-3708.3. This policy shall apply to the entire membership ~~and~~ without regard to the identity of the member requesting remote participation or the matters that will be considered or voted on at the meeting.

Whenever an individual member wishes to participate from a remote location, the law requires a quorum of the Committee to be physically assembled at the primary or central meeting location, except in the case of an all-virtual public meeting permitted by Code of Virginia ~~Va. Code~~ § 2.2-3708.3. However, an individual member of the Committee who is a person with a disability, as defined in Code of Virginia § 51.5-40.1 or who is a caregiver for a person with a disability and who uses remote participation, will count toward the quorum as if the individual was physically present., and arrangements will be made for the voice of the remote participant to be heard by all persons at the primary meeting location.

To participate through electronic communication means pursuant to Code of Virginia ~~Va. Code~~ § 2.2-3708.3, the member must notify the Chair of the Committee that (i) such member has a temporary or permanent disability or other medical condition that prevents the member’s physical attendance; (ii) a family member’s medical condition requires the member to provide care that prevents the member’s physical attendance or the member is a caregiver who must provide care for a person with a disability at the time the public meeting is being held; (iii) such member’s principal residence is more than 60 miles from the primary meeting location, or (iv) such member is unable to attend due to a personal matter and identifies with specificity the nature of the personal matter.

Individual participation from a remote location shall be approved unless such participation would violate this policy or the provisions of the Virginia Freedom of Information Act (§ 2.2-3700 et seq.) of the *Code of Virginia*. If a member's participation from a remote location is challenged, then the Committee shall vote whether to allow such participation.

The request for remote participation shall be recorded in the minutes of the meeting. If the Committee votes to disapprove of the member’s participation because such participation would violate this policy, such disapproval shall be recorded in the minutes with specificity. If the request is approved, the reason that the member is unable to attend the meeting and the remote location from which the member participates will be recorded in the meeting minutes. When such individual participation is due to a

personal matter, such participation is limited by law to two meetings per calendar year or 25 percent of the meetings held per calendar year rounded up to the next whole number, whichever is greater.

Further, it is the policy of the Committee that the Committee may hold all-virtual public meetings pursuant to subsection C of [Code of Virginia](#) ~~Va. Code~~ § 2.2-3708.3. Such all-virtual public meetings are also limited to two meetings per calendar year or ~~50~~25 percent of the meetings held per calendar year rounded up to the next whole number, whichever is greater. Additionally, an all-virtual public meeting may not be held consecutively with another all-virtual public meeting.

The fact that the meeting was held by electronic communication means and the type of electronic communication means by which the meeting was held will be recorded in the minutes.

When audio-visual technology is available, a member of the Committee shall, for purposes of a quorum, be considered absent from any portion of the meeting during which visual communication with the member is voluntarily disconnected or otherwise fails or during which audio communication involuntarily fails.

Nothing in this policy shall be interpreted to prohibit or restrict any individual member of the Committee who is participating in an all-virtual meeting or who is using remote participation from voting on matters before the Committee.

The Committee shall at least once annually adopt this policy.