

Advisory Committee on Sexual and Domestic Violence

Meadowdale Library

Large Meeting Room
4301 Meadowdale Boulevard
North Chesterfield, VA 23234

Wednesday, September 10, 2025

10:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

Committee Members Present

Marybeth Matthews-Adkins (virtually), Robin Desrosier, Sabrina Dorman-Andrew, Marva Dunn, Krista Martinez, Karli Meagher (virtually), Michelle Ellis Young, Nancy Fowler (VDSS), Kate Hanger (VVAN), Kristin Howard (Crime Commission), Kike Oliver (DHCD), and Kristina Vadas (DCJS).

Committee Members Absent

Senator Barbara Favola, Delegate Irene Shin, Adrian Perry (OAG), Elvira De la Cruz, Maria Altonen (VDH), and Kristi VanAudenhove (VSDVAA).

Guests Present

Neebal Aridi (Office of the Secretary of Public Safety); Kristina Hagen (Office of Delegate Irene Shin); Rachel DeGraba (Office of the Executive Secretary, Supreme Court); Claudia Lopez-Munez (New Directions, inc.); Ashley Xavier (Virginia Hospital & Healthcare Association); and Amber Stanwix, Andrea Sutton, Anya Shaffer, Gleibys Gonzales, and Andi Martin (DCJS).

Welcome and Introductions

Marybeth Matthews-Adkins, Committee Vice-Chairperson called the meeting to order at 10:36 a.m. A quorum was present. Committee members made introductions. In accordance with the committee's electronic meeting policy, two members who participated virtually informed the committee the nature of the reason for their remote participation, and where they are participating from. Karli Meagher was sick and attended from her home in southwest Virginia. Marybeth Matthews-Adkins had an event she needed to attend in Southwest Virginia later in the day and she was attending from her office in Norton, Virginia.

Approval of June 4, 2025 Meeting Minutes

Kate Hanger made a motion to approve the meeting minutes for June 4, 2025. Michelle Eilis-Young seconded the motion. The committee voted to approve the minutes, unanimously.

Election of Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson

Kristina Vadas informed the Committee that Pyowook Han left his position at Korean Community Service Center of Greater Washington and he has left the Committee. Additionally, Claudia Lopez-Muñiz's term on the Committee expired. The Committee expressed appreciation to both Pyowook and Claudia.

As Claudia served as Committee Chairperson, nominations were opened to elect a new Chairperson. Marva Dunn nominated Marybeth Matthews-Adkins for Chairperson. Krista Martinez Seconded the motion. No other nominations for Chairperson were made. The Committee approved this motion.

As Marybeth Matthews-Adkins was approved by the Committee as Chairperson, nominations were opened to elect a new Vice Chairperson. Kate Hanger nominated Krista Martinez for Vice-Chairperson. Marva Dunn seconded the motion. No other nominations were made. The Committee approved this motion.

Overview of the Work Group to Address Sustainable Funding for Sexual Assault Medical Forensic Examinations and Services

Kristina Vadas, Andi Martin and Gleibys Gonzelez from DCJS presented an overview of Work Group, which was convened at the direction of the General Assembly during the 2025 session. The Work Group identified gaps and needs within the forensic nursing field. Pursuant to the General Assembly's directive, the Work Group will make recommendations in a report submitted to the General Assembly by November 1, 2025. The Committee discussed how funding and reimbursements currently support various types of forensic exams and victimizations. The Committee suggested that forensic programs may be able to make incentives for nurse staffing through the Virginia Health and Hospital Association and colleges in the form of scholarships or other financial assistance.

State Agency Funding Updates

- **Virginia Department of Criminal Justice Services (DCJS).** Kristina Vadas reported the following:
 - The federal Office for Victims of Crime (OVC) released the federal fiscal year (FFY) 2025 Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) funding opportunity earlier this summer. DCJS submitted Virginia's application in mid-August. DCJS is awaiting official award notice, which may be delayed due to the late funding opportunity; however, DCJS learned that the anticipated FFY 2025 appropriation is \$32,320,048, which is significantly higher than the FFY 2024 VOCA award of \$19,866,137. There remains significant instability in the federal Crime Victims Fund, and it is unclear if awards at this higher level can be sustained. Due to the very low FFY 2024 award, the higher level FFY 2025 award will be helpful to sustain current funding levels for subawards.
 - The Office on Violence Against Women (OVW) released federal funding opportunities for Sexual Assault Services (SASP); Services, Training, Officers, and Prosecutors (STOP); and Improving Criminal Justice Response (ICJR) grants. DCJS submitted applications for all three

in June. DCJS received official award notice for SASP and STOP but are waiting for ICJR notice.

- DCJS Grant Programs:
 - On July 1, 2025, DCJS started new 2026 state fiscal year (SFY) awards for Victim Services Grant Program (VSGP), Victim Witness Grant Program (VWGP), and Virginia Sexual and Domestic Violence Victim Fund grant program (VSDVVF).
 - All American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) grant funding ended June 30, 2025.
 - VSTOP awards are in their second year of a 24-month award.
 - SASP grants are over halfway through their 2025 calendar year award period.
- **Virginia Department of Health (VDH).** Maria Altonen was not in attendance. They emailed Kristina Vadas and said that there are no updates from VDH.
- **Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development (VDHCD).** Kike Oliver reported the following: Applications for the 2026 Virginia Housing Trust Fund Homeless Reduction Grant opened on August 4, 2025. Applications are due September 14, 2025. An application assistance webinar is located on the VDHCD website. Contact Desiree Williams for more information at Deserae.Williams@dhcd.virginia.gov.
- **Virginia Department of Social Services (VDSS).** Nancy Fowler reported the following:
 - VDSS recently renewed SFY 2026 Domestic Violence Prevention and Services grants and they are starting to develop the grant opportunity for SFY 2027.
 - VDSS extended Domestic Violence Underserved Population Grant grants by 4 months-now ending October 31, 2025. VDSS is currently reviewing applications for new grants for the Domestic Violence Underserved Population funding opportunity and anticipates a November 1, 2025 start date.
 - VDSS's sexual and domestic violence APRA grants ended June 30, 2025. Vaccine testing ARPA grants end September 30, 2025.
 - VDSS is in the process of implementing a new grants management system. Some subgrantees are piloting the new system now. The new system offers increased transparency with subgrantees. VDSS is working on developing an interface with eVA (Virginia's electronic vendor registration and purchasing system), which is needed to fully process claims.

Past Business

- **Language Access Work Group**

Kristina Vadas reported that after the June Committee meeting, she shared the committee's request of the Language Access Work Group with Kristi Van Audenhove Executive Director of the Virginia Sexual and Domestic Violence Action Alliance. Kristi informed Kristina that the request will be sent to

Courtenay Schwartz, who convened the first work group. Courtenay will follow up on the committee's recommendations.

- **Impact of Recent Federal Actions**

- Marva Dunn informed the Committee that due to Federal funding changes, her employer Emporia Family Violence Services downsized staff and after 21 years of employment, Marva lost her position. Additionally, other staff experience a cut in their hours.
- Marybeth Mathews-Adkins reported that Family Crisis Support Services lost 1.5 positions, which were previously funded by a HUD domestic violence grant.
- The Committee discussed the concern for victims of domestic violence who are undocumented because they may not report due to fears of deportation. The Committee discussed the importance of identifying means to reach these victims to offer help and support.
- The Committee discussed the difficulties that some direct service providers experience building trust with clients when they offer government-sponsored activities. If programs use federal funding to create brochures, they must include in the brochures a publication disclaimer, which states federal funding was used to create the publication. This disclaimer is a federal grant requirement. It can be a hurdle for some victims to access services from an organization that receives government funding due to distrust of government. One suggestion was to use unrestricted, non-government grants for brochures, so that the organization does not have to include the publication disclaimer.

New Business

None

Other Member Announcements

None

Public Comment

Rachel DeGraba with the Office of the Executive Secretary (OES) informed the Committee that concerning the Language Access Work Group, OES met with Courtenay Schwartz from the Action Alliance and provided Courtenay with a packet of OES resources relating to language access services, including an OES interpreter complaint form. Additionally, Rachel informed Courtenay and the Committee that staff interpreters receive trauma informed training, and they receive training on how to be a trainer on trauma informed services so they can train others.

Next Meeting Date:

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

Closing

Marybeth asked the Committee to think about how this Committee can move forward and be proactive in addressing sexual and domestic violence services, and to bring their ideas to the next meeting.

A motion was made by Kristen Howard to adjourn the meeting. It was seconded by Marva Dunn. Marybeth adjourned the meeting at 12:03 p.m.