

Advisory Committee on Sexual and Domestic Violence

Virtual Meeting

(In accordance with approved policy)

Wednesday, December 3, 2025

10:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

FINAL APPROVED MINUTES

Committee Members Present

Elvira De la Cruz, Robin Desrosier, Sabrina Dorman-Andrew, Marva Dunn, Nancy Fowler (VDSS), Kate Hanger (VVAN), Kristen Howard (Crime Commission), Krista Martinez, Marybeth Matthews-Adkins, Karli Meagher, Kike Oliver (DHCD), Adrian Perry (OAG), Delegate Irene Shin (Virginia House of Delegates), Kristina Vadas (DCJS), Kristi VanAudenhove (Action Alliance), Michelle Ellis Young.

Committee Members Absent

Maria Altonen (VDH), Barbara Favola (Virginia Senate).

Guests Present

Jaime Clemmer, Office of the Executive Secretary, Supreme Court of Virginia
Rachel DeGraba, Office of the Executive Secretary, Supreme Court of Virginia
Kristina Hagen, Office of Delegate Irene Shin
Senator Tammy Mulchi, The Windsong Foundation
Rhaiyn Preston, Student, Maggie Walker Governor's School
Desire Williams, DHCD
Ashley Xavier, VHHA Foundation

DCJS Staff Present

Patricia Foster, Gleibys Gonzalez, Andi Martin, Anya Shaffer, Amber Stanwix.

Welcome and Introductions

Marybeth Matthews-Adkins, Committee Chairperson, called the meeting to order at 10:33 a.m. A quorum was present.

Approval of September 10, 2025 Meeting Minutes

The Committee reviewed the minutes from September 10, 2025. Michelle Ellis-Young moved to approve the minutes. Elvira De la Cruz seconded the motion. The Committee approved the minutes, unanimously.

Domestic Violence Programs and Services at the Supreme Court of Virginia

Jaime Clemmer, Manager, Domestic Violence Programs and Services, Office of the Executive Secretary of the Supreme Court of Virginia, presented information pertaining to programs and services provided by the Office of Executive Secretary (OES) to support sexual and domestic violence victims. Presentation topics included the following: Hope Card Program; I-CAN! Program; Mentor Court Program; VSTOP mini grants to local courts; and brochures, training, and technical assistance for localities.

State Agency Funding Updates

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

- DCJS received official notice of Virginia's federal fiscal year (FFY) 2025 Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) award in mid-September. The award amount is what was anticipated: \$32,320,048. As we discussed in September, this award is significantly higher than the FFY 2024 VOCA award of \$19,866,137. While this is an increase, the FFY 2024 award was an extreme dip in funding. The FFY 2025 award represents a return to the lower levels of awards we've seen in the last several years, and there remains significant instability in the federal Crime Victims Fund. It is unclear whether awards at this level can be sustained.
- DCJS is awaiting notice of an award for a continued Improving Criminal Justice Responses (ICJR) grant from the federal Office on Violence Against Women, which will fund continued training and support for Sexual Assault Response Teams, the Lethality Assessment Program, and other statewide initiatives.
- Four state fiscal year (SFY) 2026 grant programs are mid-cycle.
- Current calendar year (CY) 2025 Sexual Assault Services Program (SASP) and VSTOP awards are nearing the end of their grant award periods. New CY 2026 SASP and VSTOP award recommendations will be presented to the Criminal Justice Services Board on December 8th.

Virginia Department of Health, Maria Altonen, was unable to attend the meeting and sent the following update to DCJS via email:

- "RPE [Rape Prevention Education grant] is wrapping up year 2, of our 5-year cycle, on 1/31. Year 3 will begin on 2/1. We have submitted our APR [Annual Progress Report] to CDC [Centers for Disease Control], and are just awaiting NOA [Notice of Award] for next year."

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

- DHCD's 2026 Housing Trust Fund Homeless Reduction fund cycle was recently completed. Applicants will be informed directly about awards. Direct questions to William.Kerner@dhcd.virginia.gov.
- DHCD's federal 2025 Continuum of Care Competition was announced by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development in November. Direct questions to Darl.Wilburn@dhcd.virginia.gov.

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

- VDSS administers the following funds: Family Violence Prevention and Services Act funding (FVPSA), Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), state general funds, and direct appropriations.
- VDSS manages three grant programs for domestic and sexual violence services.
- The Domestic Violence Services Grant Program currently funds 52 agencies. This grant program is in its final renewal year. A new request for applications (RFA) will be released after January 1st for new grants anticipated to start 7/1/2026.

- The Domestic Violence Services for Underserved Populations grant award process was just completed. VDSS will soon award seven new awards to population specific organizations.
- The Sexual and Domestic Violence Primary Prevention grant program will see renewals in August 2026. There are 13 organization recipients, plus one grant for statewide technical assistance and training.
- VDSS will be looking at options to spend down money not in the previously mentioned ongoing grant programs.
- VDSS will be working with grant recipients to develop disability access plans, which came out of their state planning process.

Past Business

- Language Access Work Group – Kristi VanAudenhove reported that the Group has met several times since the last Committee meeting. The group met with staff from the Supreme Court of Virginia and the VDSS Office on Family Violence. The Group decided to draft a language access promising practices document for VDSS’s Promising Practice Guide. A draft of the document is under review by VDSS now.
- Impact of Recent Federal Actions – the Committee discussed the following:
 - Sexual and domestic violence agencies have experienced loss of staffing and staff work hours due to losses of federal funding.
 - Programs have had difficulty building trust with undocumented clients who fear deportation, and there is a hesitancy of victims to seek help or report crimes due to fear of deportation. Some programs have noted an increase in people taking advantage of vulnerable communities due to those communities not accessing services or reporting crime due to their fears.
 - Kristi VanAudenhove reported that the Virginia Sexual and Domestic Violence Action Alliance (VSDVAA) had to reduce the size of their staff by one-third due to reductions of federal funding and choices not to pursue funding due to new conditions and restrictions. VSDVAA is ending their legal services program called Project for the Empowerment of Survivors (PES). They are no longer accepting new referrals. It has been a successful program that filled legal access gaps. It was largely funded by VOCA and local foundation funds.
 - VSDVAA is in communication with agencies impacted by changes to the federal notice of funding opportunity (NOFO) for the 2025 Continuum of Care application process. The NOFO includes changes in what can be funded through this grant and changes in how funding decisions will be made. The deadline for applications is 12/12/2025. Changes in funding priorities as defined in the NOFO do not fit with many of the services currently provided by Virginia’s housing assistance organizations. There is pending litigation concerning these changes.

New Business

None

Other Member Announcements

None

Public Comment

None

Proposed Meeting Dates for 2026

The Committee reviewed the proposed list of meeting dates for 2026, and after changing the proposed March date to a date after the end of the General Assembly session, the proposed dates were as follows:

- March 25, 2026 (in-person)
- June 3, 2026 (virtual)
- September 2, 2026 (in-person)
- December 2, 2026 (virtual)

Kristen Howard moved to approve these dates. Kristina Vadas seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

Closing

Marybeth Matthews-Adkins adjourned the meeting at 11:51 a.m.