

Virginia Sexual and Domestic Violence Program Professional Standards Committee

Meeting Notes

March 26, 2025, 10:00 a.m. –10:30 a.m.
Tuckahoe – Henrico County Public Library
1901 Starling Drive
Henrico, Virginia 23229

Members Present:

Judy Castele, Executive Director, Project Horizon
Cori Davis, Program Director, Bedford Domestic Violence Services
Elvira De la Cruz, Chief Executive Officer, Latinos in Virginia Empowerment Center
Tamy Mann, Director, Giles County Victim/Witness Assistance Program
Markella Maschas, FVPSA Contract Administrator, Office of Family Violence, DSS¹
Heather Sellers, Director, Bedford County Victim/Witness Assistance Program
Kristina Vadas, Manager of Victims Services, DCJS
Laura Beth Weaver, Director of Advocacy and Member Support, Virginia Sexual and Domestic Violence Action Alliance

Members Absent:

Timika Cousins, Executive Director, The Faces Behind a Purpose for You²
Leonard Hall, Jr, Director, Millstone International Logistics
Leah Kipley, Assistant Director, National Safe Haven Alliance
Teresa McKensie, Assistant Director, Radford/Floyd Victim/Witness Assistance Program
Faith Power, Executive Director, The Laurel Center

Professional Standards Team Members Present:

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

DCJS Staff Present:

Andi Martin, Sexual Assault and Domestic Violence Initiatives Supervisor

¹ Markella Maschas was not physically in attendance but had followed proper procedures to attend electronically. Because a quorum was not achieved in the physical location, she was informed she did not need to log on.

² Timika Cousins was not physically in attendance but did offer to participate electronically. Because she did not follow the proper procedures to do so, she would not have been able to attend electronically in her role as a Committee member. However, because a quorum was not achieved in the physical location, she was informed that she did not need to log on.

Welcome & Remarks

The Team informed the Committee members that, due to several last-minute cancellations and the uncommunicated absence of one member, a quorum could not be achieved.

The Committee discussed ways to encourage applicants to the Committee to fill the two vacant positions. Kristina Vadas will email application instructions to all Committee members.

The Committee then discussed the date of the next meeting, which will be held virtually. Amber Stanwix offered to send a poll with several dates to ensure the availability of Committee members. The members agreed this was the best course of action.

Virginia Sexual and Domestic Violence Program Professional Standards Committee

Meeting Minutes

November 18, 2024, 10:00 a.m. –10:53 a.m.

Virtual Meeting

Pursuant to *Code of Virginia* § 2.2-3708.3

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 You
Cori Davis, Program Director, Bedford Domestic Violence Services
Leah Kipley, Assistant Director, National Safe Haven Alliance
Tamy Mann, Director, Giles County Victim/Witness Assistance Program
Markella Maschas, FVPSA Contract Administrator, Office of Family Violence, DSS
Faith Power, Executive Director, The Laurel Center

Members Absent:

Elvira De la Cruz, Chief Executive Officer, Latinos in Virginia Empowerment Center
Leonard Hall, Jr, Director, Millstone International Logistics
Teresa McKensie, Assistant Director, Radford/Floyd Victim/Witness Assistance Program
Heather Sellers, Director, Bedford County Victim/Witness Assistance Program
Kristina Vadas, Manager of Victims Services, DCJS

Professional Standards Team Members Present:

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

Members of the Public Present:

Sherry Kramer, Program Director, Women's Resource Center of the New River Valley
Kelly McCoy, Interim Executive Director, Women's Resource Center of the New River Valley
Karlie Meagher, Executive Director, Family Resource Center.
JoAnne Miner, Board President, Women's Resource Center of the New River Valley
Lee Ogle, Prevention Education and Community Development Director, Family Resource Center

DCJS Staff Present

Andi Martin, Sexual and Domestic Violence Initiatives Supervisor, DCJS

Welcome & Remarks

The meeting was called to order at 10:05 a.m. A quorum was present.

Updates from the Professional Standards Team

Andrea Sutton provided a brief update to the Committee regarding the third round of accreditation applications. She reported that five agencies submitted Organizational Self-Assessment Summaries and that all five agencies filed applications. The Team intends to begin application review next month and then begin conducting site visits in the beginning of 2025.

Review of Committee Requirements

Amber Stanwix briefly reviewed the requirements for Vice-Chair. The Committee will vote to select a new Vice-Chair at the next meeting.

The Committee reviewed the section of the by-laws regarding membership, specifically the portion concerning when members have missed three consecutive meetings. The group discussed concerns regarding meeting attendance, particularly in terms of being able to achieve a quorum.

Approval of Meeting Minutes

The minutes from the 8/7/2024 Committee meeting were reviewed by the members. A motion to approve the minutes was made by Tamy Mann, and Timika Cousins seconded the motion. After a vote, the minutes were approved 6-0.

Approval of Electronic Participation Policy

Amber Stanwix explained that the committee's Electronic Participation Policy has been revised to meet the requirements of legislation that was passed earlier in the year. In particular, she pointed out that all voting Committee members must leave their cameras on during virtual meeting to count towards the quorum. In addition, the legislation requires the policy to be approved every year.

Faith Power moved to approve the updated policy, and Leah Kipley seconded the motion. After a vote the policy was approved 6-0.

Review of Agencies for Accreditation

Amber Stanwix and Andrea Sutton presented accreditation recommendations.

Women's Resource Center of the New River Valley

After a presentation by the Professional Standards Team demonstrating that the Women's Resource Center of the New River Valley met all the Professional Standards, Leah Kipley made a motion to approve the accreditation status recommendation, and Cori Davis seconded the motion.

The Professional Standards Committee voted 6-0 to grant full accreditation status to the Women's Resource Center of the New River Valley as a dual sexual and domestic violence agency.

Family Resource Center

After a presentation by the Professional Standards Team demonstrating that the Family Resource Center met all the Professional Standards, Faith Power made a motion to approve the accreditation status recommendation, and Timika Cousins seconded the motion. The Professional Standards Committee voted 6-0 to grant full accreditation status to the Family Resource Center as a dual sexual and domestic violence agency.

Discussion Regarding 2025 Objectives

Amber Stanwix led a discussion regarding ways to incentivize agencies to apply for accreditation. A Committee member suggested creating a logo that agencies could display on their websites. The group also discussed different ways of providing training to accredited agencies.

The group discussed potential involvement of the Virginia Sexual and Domestic Violence Action Alliance (VSDVAA) in encouraging agencies to apply. Angela Blount reported that accreditation has not been a focus of the Action Alliance, but she would bring the idea back to the Executive Committee and the Member Services staff. A Committee member asked if the Professional Standards Team or members of the Committee could partner with the VSDVAA to encourage applicants and develop incentives. Angela Blount will report back on these matters at the next meeting.

Public Comment

There were no public comments.

Closing Remarks

The meeting adjourned at 10:53 a.m.

Future Meeting

- March 26, 2025, 10:00 a.m. to 12:00p.m., Location TBA