

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.

Draft Minutes

Committee Members Present

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

Committee Members Absent

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

Guests Present

Neebal Aridi (Office of the Secretary of Public Safety and Homeland Security) (virtual), Kristina Hagen (Office of Delegate Irene Shin), Rachel DeGraba (Office of the Executive Secretary, Supreme Court of Virginia), Claudia Lopez-Munez (New Directions Center), Ashley Xavier (Virginia Hospital & Healthcare Association Foundation).

DCJS Staff

Gleibys Gonzalez (virtual), Andi Martin, Anya Shaffer, Amber Stanwix, Andrea Sutton.

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 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, so she was attending the meeting 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 the Korean Community Service Center of Greater Washington and has therefore left his position on the Committee. This position is currently vacant. Additionally, Claudia Lopez-Muñiz's term on the Committee expired. The Committee expressed appreciation to both Pyowook and Claudia.

As Claudia had 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.

Nominations were then 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

Gleibys Gonzelez, Andi Martin, and Kristina Vadas from DCJS presented an overview of this Work Group, which was convened during the summer. The Work Group identified gaps and needs within the forensic nurse examiner field, and the Work Group will make recommendations in a report submitted to the General Assembly by November 1, 2025.

Following the presentation, the Committee discussed how funding and reimbursements currently support various types of forensic exams and victimizations. The Committee discussed an idea of offering incentives for those interested in becoming forensic nurse examiners, possibly 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 FFY 2025 Sexual Assault Services Program (SASP), Services, Training, Officers, Prosecution (STOP), and Improving Criminal Justice Responses (ICJR) grant programs. DCJS submitted applications for all three in June. DCJS received official award notice for SASP and STOP, and are waiting for ICJR notice.

DCJS Victims Services Grant Programs:

- On July 1, 2025, DCJS started new state fiscal year (SFY) 2026 awards for Victims Services Grant Program (VSGP), Victim Witness Grant Program (VWGP), and Virginia Sexual and Domestic Violence Victim Fund Grant Program (VSDVVF).
 - DCJS 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 Deserae 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 grants by four months, now ending October 31, 2025. VDSS is currently reviewing applications for new grants for this grant program and anticipates a November 1, 2025 start date.

VDSS sexual and domestic violence ARPA 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 about the grant

awarding process. VDSS is working on developing an interface for the new system 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 requests for the Language Access Work Group with Kristi VanAudenhove, Executive Director of the Virginia Sexual and Domestic Violence Action Alliance. Kristi informed Kristina that the requests will be sent to Courtenay Schwartz, who helped to convene 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/or reduced work hours for staff. After 21 years of employment, Marva lost her position.

Marybeth Matthews-Adkins reported that Family Crisis Support Services lost 1.5 positions, which were previously funded by a U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development grant.

The Committee discussed concerns of victims of crime who are undocumented because they may not report or seek help 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, especially immigrant clients, when they offer government- or grant-funded activities and services. If programs use federal funding to create brochures or other informational materials, they must include in the materials a publication disclaimer which states that grant 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, Office of the Executive Secretary (OES) of the Supreme Court of Virginia, informed the Committee that concerning the Language Access Work Group, OES did already meet with Courtenay Schwartz from the Virginia Sexual and Domestic Violence Action Alliance. OES provided Courtenay with a packet of resources and information relating to language access services, including an OES interpreter complaint form. Additionally, Rachel shared that staff interpreters receive trauma informed training, and many also receive “train the trainer” training so they can train others on being trauma informed.

Next Meeting Date

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

Closing

Marybeth asked that the Committee think about how to move forward and be proactive in addressing sexual and domestic violence victim needs and 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.