

Advisory Committee on Sexual and Domestic Violence

Patrick Henry Building, West Reading Room

Tuesday, June 5, 2018

10:30am – 12:30pm

FINAL APPROVED MINUTES

Members Present

Kathy Anderson, Empowerhouse

Teresa Berry, Sexual Assault Response and Awareness, (SARA) Inc. - Roanoke

The Honorable Barbara Favola, Senate of Virginia

Thomas Fitzpatrick, Virginia Department of Criminal Justice Services

Kristen Howard, Virginia State Crime Commission

Autumn Jones, Arlington County Victim Witness Program

Melissa McMenemy, Office of the Attorney General

Kathy Robertson, Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development

The Honorable Roxann Robinson, Virginia House of Delegates

Warren Rodgers, Southside Survivor Response Center

Mindy Stell, Virginia Victim Assistance Network

Kristi VanAudenhove, Virginia Sexual and Domestic Violence Action Alliance

Members Absent

Heather Board, Virginia Department of Health

Nancy Fowler, Virginia Department of Social Services

Chana Ramsey, James House

Welcome & Remarks

- Teresa Berry called meeting to order at 10:34am with a quorum present.
- Mindy Stell made a motion to approve the minutes from the March 28, 2018 meeting. Kathy Anderson seconded the motion. The minutes were adopted by unanimous vote.

Bylaws

- Tom Fitzpatrick provided follow-up to the discussion at the March 28, 2018 meeting, regarding the relationship between the bylaws and the Professional Standards Committee. A clause, taken from Code language, has been added to the bylaws to clarify this relationship. In addition, the Professional Standards Committee was asked to share regularly at meetings. Tom Fitzpatrick made motion to approve this addition to the bylaws. Warren Rodgers seconded the motion. The motion carried by unanimous vote.

Professional Standards Committee Report

- Caroline Jones, Doorways for Women and Families, will be serving as Chair of the Professional Standards Committee, beginning in October 2018. The Professional Standards Committee has been meeting monthly to develop new standards, while looking at what is fair and reasonable for different types of communities. The group is on target to present finalized standards to by the end of this calendar year. Trends in the field that Ms. Jones identified included:
 - Programs are seeing more survivors; being able to offer 24/7 services has resulted in increased access for survivors. In particular, court advocacy, sexual assault accompaniment, protective orders and custody issues have seen increases.
 - Trauma counseling services have been really impactful in helping survivors heal.
 - Victims are reaching out in different ways, more texting rather than calling, for example. This has created new needs, such as cyber security. Resources are overburdened and reporting, data entry, etc. are sliding because survivors come first.
 - Although shelters are full, shelter numbers are down due to a lack of housing resources and challenges moving clients out of shelter.
 - It is challenging to meet the increasing need with level funding. Match dollars also present a challenge.
- Kathy Anderson asked about the timeline for the Professional Standards Committee. Ms. Jones indicated that the group meets every month. The professional standards are completed and the group is now working on measures, which should be completed by August. The September meeting will be open to stakeholders in order to collect feedback. Feedback will be incorporated and the professional standards will be finished by the end of the calendar year.
- Kristen Howard asked about the role of incentives for accreditation. Ms. Jones indicated that the role of incentives is still under discussion and there are many considerations, including the impact on differently-sized and different types of programs.

Professional Standards Committee Appointments

- Kristina Vadas related that one of the Professional Standards Committee members appointed by the Advisory Committee, Elvira de la Cruz, has resigned from her position at the James House. After speaking with a few options, Ms. Vadas identified Cathy Easter, Executive Director of Safe Harbor, as a potential replacement. Tom Fitzpatrick made a motion to appoint Ms. Easter to the Professional Standards Committee. Kathy Anderson seconded the motion. The appointment was passed by unanimous vote.

Grant Administration Processes Follow-Up Discussion

- Kristina Vadas provided a follow-up to the March 28, 2018 meeting's review of grant administration processes. Staff from the Department of Criminal Justice Services, Department of Housing and Community Development, and Department of Social Services have met once, to discuss ways to make grants administration processes more streamlined. Possible next steps for state agencies include:
 - Making available combined information on the various funding streams.
 - Combining and distributing information on what types of costs are allowable through different funding streams.
 - Continue exploring consistency in the grant application process/documents.

- Continue meeting. The purpose of the next meeting is to map out major components of the grant application process at each state agency in order to see where intersections exist.
- Continue to get feedback from VSDVAA and speak with local programs through the summer.
- Kristen Howard mentioned the larger study conducted by the Crime Commission in 2014 that included a survey of different agencies and indicated that now might be an appropriate time for a follow-up of the 2014 survey.
 - In the next two weeks, Advisory Committee members should provide Ms. Howard with a list of questions to be included in the survey. A survey will then be drafted and sent out to members for feedback.
 - Kathy Anderson asked if the survey would only include questions relating to state funding agencies. Ms. Howard indicated that other topics were possible for inclusion based on feedback from the Advisory Committee.

Sexual and Domestic Violence Agency Awareness and Prevention Efforts

- Kathy Anderson, Empowerhouse
 - Empowerhouse does not receive funding for primary prevention activities. Ms. Anderson described that Empowerhouse is able to use non-grant funds that are raised and has staff resources that bring great experience. The agency's strategic plan includes more trauma informed work and primary prevention with young children.
 - Much of Empowerhouse's current efforts are through outreach, with children's groups for example. The agency does currently partner with schools but it is very time-limited. Many youth that are seen through these efforts have already been exposed to violence.
 - Empowerhouse has produced a five-minute film with supplementary printed materials to start the conversation on healthy and unhealthy relationships. Ms. Anderson related that teens really like the film and there are future plans to produce additional content.
- Teresa Berry, Sexual Assault Response and Awareness, (SARA) Inc. - Roanoke
 - SARA Roanoke does not receive funding for primary prevention activities. The agency does a lot of outreach, but doesn't have dedicated staff for prevention programming or the ability to do multisession engagement.
 - Ms. Berry described collaboration between SARA Roanoke and the Paul Mitchell School which includes a presentation on recognizing DV and SV in clients and available resources.
 - SARA Roanoke partners with Total Action for Progress and talks to their youth leadership program about sexual violence. The agency has also partnered with the Girl Scouts, a substance abuse recovery program for women, and Blue Ridge Community Center.
 - A curriculum for teens centering on the warning signs of unhealthy relationships is in development.
- Warren Rodgers, Southside Survivor Response Center
 - Southside Survivor Response Center receives a Byrne/JAG grant that supports Safe Dates and Coaching Boys into Men. The agency also does a lot of outreach and has started a barber shop/hair dresser training program.
 - Mr. Rodgers described that while Coaching Boys into Men is a great program, there are some challenges. Coaches participate on a voluntary basis and gaining access to schools has been difficult. In addition, the Prevention Coordinator just left the agency.

- The Byrne/JAG grant is a declining award program that is now in its last year. Funding for next year represents a 90% match. As a result, the future of the program is uncertain.
- Terence Barber, James House Prevention and Outreach Specialist
 - James House Prevention Program is new and primarily provides programming for middle and high school students using curricula like Do You and Safe Dates. Each program is tailored to the needs of that particular site. Trainings are also provided for Fort Lee.
 - Outreach activities are performed as well.
- Ms. Vadas shared information about the upcoming Intersections of Violence Conference. Senator Favola indicated that if there are any particularly relevant presentations, they could potentially be shared with this group.
- As a result of these discussions, Senator Favola identified prevention and outreach as a priority. Kristi VanAudenhove discussed the issue of sexual and intimate partner violence as a public health issue and the importance of primary prevention and increasing protective factors. There is no state funding stream for prevention. The local agencies who presented at this meeting, and other interested members, will present policy recommendations for prevention funding and necessary partnerships at the next meeting.

Public Comment

- Delegate Levine indicated that he has heard about numerous challenges with the court system from survivors. For example, survivors have indicated that they are afraid of reporting crimes because of possible repercussions, such as losing custody of their children. Delegate Levine wondered what can be done to educate law enforcement, judges, etc. or if there is potential legislation that might impact this issue. A request was made to put this issue on the agenda for September.
- Next meeting will be held on Wednesday, September 26, 2018, from 10:30am – 12:30pm.
- Discussion on the agenda items for the next meeting:
 - A discussion about policy recommendations that can be forwarded to the Administration by November.
 - A written document and presentation by state agencies which describe any policy recommendations related to grants administration processes.
 - Prevention and outreach policy recommendations, presented by local agencies and/or other members.
 - Feedback on the draft follow-up survey developed by the Crime Commission.
 - A discussion surrounding law enforcement and system responses to domestic violence, sexual assault, and child abuse, related to Delegate Levine's concerns.
- At a future meeting, Senator Favola would like to hear from a local coordinated community response system/team.

No new business was identified.

A motion to adjourn was made by Teresa Berry, with a second by Kristen Howard. Senator Favola adjourned the meeting at 12:17pm.