

Advisory Committee on Sexual and Domestic Violence

Virtual Meeting via Zoom

(Virtual meeting required due to pandemic state-of-emergency)

Wednesday, September 23, 2020

10:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

Final Minutes

Members Present:

Kathy Anderson
Teresa Berry
Heather Board
Kike Oliver (for Nichele Carver)
Thomas Fitzpatrick
Nancy Fowler
Autumn Jones
Delegate Mark Levine
Melissa McMenemy
Kristi VanAudenhove

Members Absent:

Nichele Carver
Senator Barbara Favola
Kristen Howard
Mindy Stell
Toni Zollicoffer

DCJS Staff Present:

Andi Martin
Kristina Vadas

Guests in Attendance:

Sam Bachman, Fairfax County Domestic and Sexual Violence Services
Elvira De la Cruz, Latinos In Virginia Empowerment Center
Eileen Longenecker, Office of the Executive Secretary, Supreme Court of VA
Gretchen Soto, Fairfax County Domestic and Sexual Violence Services
Jonathan Yglesias, Virginia Sexual and Domestic Violence Action Alliance
Ruth Anne Young, Virginia Center on Aging

Welcome, Introductions, and Remarks

Teresa Berry, Committee Chair, called meeting to order 10:35 a.m. Roll call was taken and Chair Berry determined that a quorum was present.

Approval of July 22, 2020 Meeting Minutes

Nancy Fowler requested to amend the minutes to include her presence at the last meeting. She then made a motion to approve the minutes as amended. Autumn Jones seconded the motion. The motion passed. Kike Oliver abstained.

Changes to *Code of Virginia* § 9.1-116.2

Tom Fitzpatrick, Division Director, Virginia Department of Criminal Justice Services, provided a synopsis of current language of *Code of Virginia* § 9.1-116.2, which established the committee. The language of

this statute was also provided to members as part of the agenda. The committee discussed how the language is overly prescriptive, which makes it difficult to find members who are diverse representatives of agencies and regions. Discussion points included the following:

- Number of members: Currently statute provides for 15 members, of which 9 are state agency/legislative representatives and 6 are citizen members. Of the citizen members, one must be a director of a sexual violence organization, one a director of a domestic violence organization, and two be directors of dual sexual and domestic violence service agencies. Current language also requires that one be a member of the board of the Virginia Victim Assistance Network (VVAN), and that one be a victim/survivor or representative from a crime victims' organization.
- Committee members suggested the following regarding membership:
 - Increase membership to 17 by adding 2 additional citizen members.
 - Change “director” to “representative in a leadership role” of sexual and domestic violence agencies.
 - Remove the requirements for types of sexual and domestic violence agencies; instead the committee will strive for equal representation of these service providers.
 - Seek statewide representation on the committee.
 - Change requirement that the VVAN representative be a board member.
 - Seek to include members that represent various populations, such as victims/survivors, language diversity, culturally-specific organizations, elder abuse, transgender or differing sexual orientations, and immigrants.
 - Add that the committee chair and vice-chair are selected from among the appointed committee members.

Other suggested changes include:

- Section “E” pertains to funding for the committee. Since there are no federal funds designated for the committee, it was suggested that this language be removed.
- Revise duties and responsibilities by reducing the number of responsibilities from current seven to possibly three. Fewer, broader, and less prescribed duties would better serve this committee by allowing the committee to pursue relevant issues and trends, and better support the field.

A small workgroup will meet to establish language for the proposed changes to the statute and provide a draft to Delegate Levine by early December and then to the full committee at the December meeting. The workgroup volunteers are Teresa Berry, Tom Fitzpatrick, Nancy Fowler, Melissa McMenemy, and Kristi VanAudenhove. DCJS staff will reach out to workgroup members to schedule a meeting date.

Batterer Intervention Programs in Virginia

Sam Bachman, Supervisor, Fairfax County Domestic and Sexual Violence Services; Gretchen Soto, Program Manager, Fairfax County Domestic and Sexual Violence Services; and Kristi VanAudenhove, Executive Director, Virginia Sexual and Domestic Violence Action Alliance, provided a brief history of Batterer Intervention Programs (BIP), and a synopsis of current programs. A copy of the presentation slides will accompany the minutes to the meeting.

The committee's December 16, 2020 meeting will include a larger discussion on Batterer Intervention Programs, which will include the following topics:

- a) What is happening now with BIP in Virginia?
 - What does accountability look like?
 - What does certification look like?
- b) What does best practice look like, and where is Virginia relative to this?
- c) What innovative things are happening in Virginia and elsewhere?

Unfinished Business:

None

Other Member Announcements

Heather Board reported that the Virginia Department of Health is awarding Rape Prevention and Education (RPE) grants to organizations for funding to support projects through January. Another RFA will follow.

Public Comment

Ruth Anne Young from the Virginia Center on Aging informed the committee that they have a new project which will allow them to research the knowledge, skills, and attitudes of service providers, law enforcement officers, and health care providers who work with elder abuse patients/victims, to include those who are victims of domestic and sexual violence. The focus of this study is the Greater Richmond area.

Closing

DCJS staff will send out a poll for 2021 committee meeting dates. The last 2020 meeting is Wednesday, December 16, 2020, from 10:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. (business portion of meeting), a break, and then from 1:00 p.m. - 2:30 p.m. (BIP discussion). This meeting will be virtual.

Chair Berry adjourned the meeting at 12:38 p.m.