

Advisory Committee on Sexual and Domestic Violence

Patrick Henry Building, West Reading Room

Tuesday, September 26, 2018

10:30am – 12:30pm

APPROVED MINUTES

Members Present

Kathy Anderson, Empowerhouse

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

Heather Board, Virginia Department of Health

The Honorable Barbara Favola, Senate of Virginia

Thomas Fitzpatrick, Virginia Department of Criminal Justice Services

Nancy Fowler, Virginia Department of Social 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

Jonathan Yglesias, Virginia Sexual and Domestic Violence Action Alliance (for Kristi VanAudenhove)

Members Absent

Chana Ramsey, James House

Mindy Stell, Virginia Victim Assistance Network

Welcome & Remarks

- Senator Favola called meeting to order at 10:37am with a quorum present.
- Kristen Howard made a motion to approve the minutes from the June 5, 2018 meeting. Teresa Berry seconded the motion. The minutes were adopted by unanimous vote.

Professional Standards Committee Report

- The Professional Standards have been approved and distributed electronically to the field for public comment, with comments due September 28, 2018. Professional Standards Committee Member, Cathy Easter, gave an update on the approved standards. Meeting monthly, the Committee has come up with succinct and clear professional standards that cover a variety of topics, including volunteer training, staff training, expected service provision, and nondiscrimination policies. Also included in the standards are prevention requirement for local programs. Kristina Vadas reminded everyone that a link to the public comment survey was emailed on September 13th.

- The Professional Standards Committee is comprised of 12 members, six appointed by the Virginia Sexual and Domestic Violence Action Alliance (VSDVAA) and six by the Advisory Committee on Sexual and Domestic Violence. Two of this Committee's appointed positions have resigned from the Professional Standards Committee. Kristina Vadas proposed replacements for these two positions: Candy Phillips, from First Step and Maria Simonetti, from the Collins Center. Ms. Vadas noted that First Step and the Collins Center are respectively, the local domestic violence program and sexual assault crisis center in the Harrisonburg area. Teresa Berry made motion to approve the two new appointments. Nancy Fowler seconded the motion. The appointments passed by unanimous vote. Senator Favola noted that these appointments maintain geographic diversity and front line staff representation on the Professional Standards Committee.

Grant Administration Processes Follow-Up Discussion

- Kristina Vadas provided an update on the ongoing work to review the grant administration processes. Representatives from the state funding agencies (the Department of Criminal Justice Services, the Department of Health, the Department of Housing and Community Development, and the Department of Social Services) met twice over the summer and developed a document outlining the available state and federal funding streams. This document was distributed to the Committee. The group has also started to do a deeper dive into the individual administrative processes of each agency, with the last meeting focusing on the Department of Housing and Community Development. Subsequent meetings will focus on the other agencies in turn.
- Kathy Robertson requested that the above document be updated to reflect that the Virginia Housing Trust Fund is awarded on the calendar year.
- Kristen Howard requested an update of the 2014 table provided by Crime Commission, including information on changes that have occurred as a result of 2014 study. In addition, a summary of funding changes from last 5 years was requested. These documents will be provided at the December meeting.

Ad Hoc Prevention Committee Report

- At the June meeting, it was requested that a committee be convened to discuss prevention programming and resources across the state. Jonathan Yglesias provided a summary of the activities of this group. The Prevention Committee is comprised of representatives from ten local programs and staff from VSDVAA and the Virginia Anti-Violence Project. Two meetings have been held and a document was distributed which summarized major points discussed. A framework for prevention programming and funding for prevention programs were two major themes of these discussions. More time is needed to fully discuss these issues and the group will continue to meet.

Committee Discussion

- **Crime Commission Needs Assessment Survey Discussion:**
The Crime Commission is developing an updated needs assessment of the sexual and domestic violence field, based on the last assessment conducted in 2014. Kristen Howard requested feedback on what Committee members would like to know. A deadline of October 15, 2018 was decided for providing feedback. Once feedback has been received and compiled, a draft needs assessment will be distributed to Committee members.

- Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) Reauthorization Letter:
Senator Favola would like to send a letter to the Virginia Congressional Delegation in support of VAWA Reauthorization. Kathy Anderson made a motion for members to sign said letter as appropriate. Warren Rodgers seconded the motion. The motion passed by unanimous vote.
- Judicial Responses to Domestic Violence:
Delegate Mark 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 distributed a bill from last year for discussion, which would have added a definition of domestic violence to the *Code of Virginia*. VSDVAA will take the lead on discussions related to future policy direction.

Public Comment

- Marva Dunn – former VSDVAA Governing Body member and representative from Family Violence and Sexual Assault Prevention Program in Emporia, Virginia. Ms. Dunn mentioned the lack of minority representation on decision-making committees related to sexual and domestic violence. She also noted that the next time there is a vacancy in the Professional Standards Committee, she would like to see minority representation considered.
- Autumn Jones – Arlington County Victim/Witness Program and Advisory Committee member. Ms. Jones brought up several potential updates to protective order laws. She will send out additional information to Kristina Vadas, who will distribute to Committee members.

A motion to adjourn was made by Jonathan Yglesias, with a second by Senator Favola. Senator Favola adjourned the meeting at 12:28pm.

Next Meeting: December 5, 2018 at 10:30am.