

Advisory Committee on Sexual and Domestic Violence

Patrick Henry Building, West Reading Room

Wednesday, December 5, 2018

1:30pm – 3:30pm

DRAFT MINUTES

Members Present

Kathy Anderson, Empowerhouse

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

Kristi VanAudenhove, Virginia Sexual and Domestic Violence Action Alliance

Members Absent

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

Chana Ramsey, James House

Mindy Stell, Virginia Victim Assistance Network

Welcome & Remarks

- Senator Favola called meeting to order at 1:30 pm with a quorum present.
- Senator Favola recognized Kristi VanAudenhove and Jonathan Yglesias of the VSDVAA for their contributions on the VAWA Reauthorization letter.
- Nancy Fowler made a motion to approve the minutes from the September 26, 2018 meeting. Warren Rodgers seconded the motion. The minutes were adopted by unanimous vote.

Grant Administration Processes Work Group Report

- Nancy Fowler, VDSS, provided a summary of the activities of this group. One meeting was held since the last Advisory Committee meeting, and the group developed a grant “matrix”

document which outlines the available state and federal funding streams (copies were distributed to the Committee). The matrix is organized by the purpose of funding (sexual assault and/or domestic violence services, prevention, other). Nancy noted that a majority of grant funds support sexual and domestic violence programs/services.

- Senator Favola asked if the workgroup was able to identify improvements in the administration and disbursement of funding. Kristi VanAudenhove, VSDVAA, noted that it is too early in this process to see if there have been any changes/improvements. Kristina Vadas, DCJS, noted that the workgroup plans further discussions on improving grant processes by determining similarities, differences, areas of improvement, etc. Thomas Fitzpatrick, DCJS, noted that the focus has been to gain a better understanding of grant processes for each agency so that there can be uniformity and to map out guidelines regarding allowable costs, unallowable costs, etc. Nancy Fowler added that the information on the matrix will help improve communication with potential applicants on the availability of funds, purpose areas, etc. and that the matrix is a valuable resource. The workgroup also plans to focus on collaboration among funding agencies.

State Sexual and Domestic Violence Prevention Plan Work Group Report

- Heather Board, VDH, provided a summary of the activities of this workgroup. Heather shared that there have been inter-departmental and statewide efforts to develop a state sexual and domestic violence prevention plan with a focus on primary prevention. The plan will lay groundwork for where the state wants to go in regards to funding prevention. The plan will also address consistent language used in regards to primary prevention. Input sessions have been held with VDH Rape Prevention Education (RPE) and VDSS prevention recipients, as well as a core group of representatives from state agencies, to develop the plan.
- Senator Favola stated that she wanted to see a plan that encourages evidenced-based practices, which will aid in making funding decisions. Heather also noted that the plan will incorporate Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) and the long-term impacts on physical/mental health, etc.
- Delegate Levine asked if there are statistics to show the impact of local prevention programs. Heather explained that the plan will outline successful prevention programs, and that they will assess the available data to demonstrate the benefit of prevention programs.

Ideas for Prevention-Related Legislation

- Senator Favola submitted a bill that discusses human trafficking prevention in Family Life Education programs. She also noted that she would like to request additional funding to support human trafficking prevention efforts. The Senator asked Heather Board to speak with Dr. Oliver about this issue.

Potential Legislative Remedies, Victims' Rights, and Protective Orders

- Senator Favola, Delegate Levine, and Autumn Jones met after the September Advisory Committee meeting to discuss these issues and possible legislation.
- Autumn Jones, Arlington County Victim Witness, cited Code of Virginia § 19.2-11.01 (crime victim and witness rights), provided a summary of this Code section, and discussed issues and possible resolutions. Autumn explained that a coalition of Victim Witness directors are looking to expand victims' rights to include all Class 1 misdemeanors. Autumn noted a few areas of particular concern regarding victims of violations of protective orders. As it currently stands, these victims cannot write a victim impact statement, request address confidentiality, etc. The goal is to expand rights to more types of crime victims. Senator Favola requested a list of the types of misdemeanors that they want to focus on.
- Autumn also explained that in extreme cases where a victim is hospitalized and is unable to make a scheduled court appearance, for there to be an option for the victim to be seen and heard via Skype or other web-based technology.
- Lastly, Autumn mentioned that there are issues related to court continuances for protective order hearings. The proposed language would require that the protective order is continued on the same date as the criminal hearing.

Crime Commission Needs Assessment Survey Discussion

- Kristen Howard, Virginia State Crime Commission (VSCC), provided copies of a draft of the 2018 Sexual Assault/Domestic Violence Agency Director Survey.
- All members agreed with the types of questions in the draft, and a final draft will be provided at the next meeting. The survey is tentatively scheduled for distribution in April 2019.
- Committee members agreed to provide a list of agencies to Kristen for survey distribution.

Crime Commission Sex Trafficking Study

- Kristen Howard reported on the VSCC study on sex trafficking; the results are posted on their website here:
<http://vscc.virginia.gov/2018%20Recommendations%20and%20Policy%20Options.pdf>
- VSCC identified 11 recommendations related to sex trafficking

DCJS VOCA Grant

- DCJS Sexual Assault & Domestic Violence Grant Program (SADVGP) and VOCA New Initiatives (VOCA NI) Grant Program will end on June 30, 2019. DCJS is planning to roll out a new grant solicitation where everyone would apply under one application to minimize the sub-recipient's administrative burdens.
- Goal to roll out the solicitation by mid-January and receive applications in mid-March. The grant application recommendations will go before the May 2019 Criminal Justice Services Board (CJSB) meeting, which would allow for earlier award notifications.

Public Comment:

- Kathy Roberston, DHCD, noted that VSDVAA has updated the housing components of VAdata, while maintaining compliance with confidentiality requirements.

A motion to adjourn was made by Kristen Howard, with a second by Kathy Anderson. Senator Favola adjourned the meeting at 3:30pm.

Next Meeting: To be determined