

N.C Domestic Violence Commission Meeting Minutes
October 22, 2021, 10:00 am until 12:00 pm
This Meeting was Conducted Remotely by Zoom Virtual Meeting

Ethics Statement: The State Government Ethics Act mandates that, at the beginning of every meeting, the Chair remind all members of their duty to avoid any conflicts of interest and inquire as to whether any member knows of any conflict of interest or potential conflict with respect to matters to come before the Commission. If any member knows of a conflict of interest or potential conflict, please state it for the record.

Members Present: Deborah Weissman, Chair, A.W. Burgess, April Burgess-Johnson, Dawn Kriquette Davis, Jacqueline Dienemann, David Elliott, Jessica Englert, Carianne Fisher, Holly Jones, Sarah Kirkman, Kathleen Lockwood, Denise Mazza, Bryan Miller, Sheriff Hans Miller, TeAndra Miller, Vickie Pait, Ricky Parks, Krishana Polite, Honorable Terri Sharp, Annette Taylor, Caroline Valand, Amy Vaughan-Jones, and Sarah Owens-Weeks.

Members Absent: Tiffany Bell, Shelby Benton, Cathy Cloninger, Saira Estrada, Karen Fairley, Surabhi Gawande, Regina Gurley, Cheryl Howell, Elizabeth Hunt, Honorable Nathaniel Knust, Sheriff Larry Pierce, Starleen Scott Robbins, and Honorable Christine Strader.

NC Council for Women & Youth Involvement Staff Present: Danielle Carman, Charnessa Ridley, Deborah Torres, Diane Blumel, Philisa Fowler, Lori Gerber, Alisa Milliken, Deatrice Williams, Molly Overholt, Gabrielle Smith, and Kiricka Yarbough-Smith.

Meeting was called to order by Chair Weissman at 10:00 a.m.

Welcome/Member Roll Call: Chair Weissman welcomed everyone who was present and read the Ethics Statement. No conflicts of interest were noted. Carman conducted the roll call and members stated present as their names were called.

Approval of Minutes: H. Miller moved to approve the August 20, 2021 minutes as written. Dienemann seconded. All members who were present unanimously approved the minutes.

Oaths of Office: Clerk Terri Sharp administered oaths of office for reappointed Commission Chair Deborah Weissman and members Burgess-Johnson and Cloninger, and for newly appointed members Burgess, Fisher, Lockwood, T. Miller, Parks, Polite, Valand, and Wallace-Meigs. Oaths of office for reappointed members Benton, Cloninger, Estrada, and Gurley and for new members Hunt and Knust will be administered at the next quarterly meeting.



Chairperson's Report – Deborah Weissman

Recitation of Conflicts and Potential Conflicts Per G.S. 138A-15(c)

When an actual or potential conflict of interest is cited by the Ethics Commission with regard to a public servant sitting on a board, the conflict shall be recorded in the minutes of the applicable board and duly brought to the attention of the membership by the board's chair.

1. T. Miller: No actual conflict, but the Ethics Commission did find a potential conflict because she is the Managing Attorney at Legal Aid NC.
2. Lockwood: No actual conflict, but the Ethics Commission did find a potential conflict because she is the Policy Director for NCCADV.
3. Fisher: No actual conflict, but the Ethics Commission did find a potential conflict because she is the Executive Director for NCCADV.

All three Commissioners should exercise appropriate caution if issues involving their employing agencies come before the Commission for official action.

Updated Committee Assignments

Weissman asked all Commissioners to review the purpose and membership of the various committees. She urged all Commissioners to serve on a committee and stressed the need to be active between Commission meetings. Weissman added that no Commissioner should miss more than two Commission meetings per year.

Weissman reminded the Commissioners of their duty to file a Statement of Economic Interest by April 15th of each year and to complete ethics training every two years.

Committee Reports and Update's

Access to Health Services Committee Report: – Starleen Scott Robbins and Regina Gurley, Co-Chairpersons (designee Vicki Pait)

The Health Committee met on October 12, 2021 and addressed two primary topics:

- Discussed G.S. 115C-81.30 reproductive health legislation to determine how IPV, sexual assault, and DV are addressed to get ideas about the best means of including universal education in school curriculum and for school staff in legislation.
- Discussed the potential for providing a lunch & learn series on promoting universal education about IPV/SA/DV with primary care professionals (offer CMEs). Trainings would focus on universal education/screening; trauma informed training/policies/procedures/protocols; and confidentiality/safety.

Domestic Violence Offender Management Committee – Tiffany Bell, Chairperson (designee Lori Gerber)

Short-term Committee goals include:

- Identify members for identified sub-committees
- Continue to monitor status of HB 33
- Identify funding and grant options for DVIP and DVIP oversight position

- Identify counties in the state and community collaborators interested in expanding access to DVIPs in their areas

Victim Services Committee – Shelby Benton, Chairperson (designee Diane Blumel)

The **Capacity Building Education Work Group** met and established that their goals would be best met by proceeding with three different phases. First, they will reach out to DVS providers and other responders to conduct trainings; second, they will cross train with DVS providers; and the third phase will open the outreach and education to community members. There was discussion that the goal is to remove barriers and include 7 regions that have deaf and hard of hearing resource centers, and training would be tailored to the audience/participants involved. There was discussion to keep the ADA in mind. There was also discussion as to setting a timetable for the goals once the group has solidified their processes. There was discussion and commitment by all participating to be inclusive and comprehensive to maximize the work that will be done, with ultimate benefits to the providers as well as the target population.

The **Co-Advocacy Model/Collaborations Work Group**: The group reported they are in the process of setting a meeting date. A.W. Burgess will co-chair the group.

The **Law Student Project Work Group**: This working group currently has one volunteer for the project. Their deadline for recruiting is November.

The Committee reviewed the **Best Practices for Language Access** presented by Saira Estrada. The manual was composed by Estrada and Olivia Bass. There was a great deal of discussion with the goal to present this information to the DV Commission at their October meeting. Estrada indicated the focus had shifted from the Latinx population to Limited English Proficiency and Deaf/DeafBlind/Hard of Hearing populations. Agreement was due to the original goals for LEP, that the focus should remain on LEP, with changes to terminology. It was also suggested to include an appendix to clarify terminology. It was agreed that committee members would review and submit recommendations to Estrada no later than September 28th to allow for revisions. Following a redistribution of the materials a final vote would occur regarding submission to the DV Commission. Consideration was given to the time necessary to include this as an agenda item for the Commission.

Transportation Access Committee – Kriquette Davis, Chairperson

The Transportation Committee met on October 13, 2021 and heard a presentation from Pam DiGiovanni, Integrated Mobility Division, about some of the funding the division has available with some of our transit agencies and how that could be used to help with domestic violence.

Discussed programs that the division has used to fund and facilitate this vital access to transportation specifically for those that are impacted by domestic violence, as well as homelessness, job loss, and major medical crises. Has worked with over 100 private and public transportation providers and nonprofits to provide over \$1,000,000.00 in state and federal funds to provide access to rural and urban transportation service around the state. They are also bridging the gap between pedestrian and bicycle facilities within that funding and working with the planning and MPO's to further facilitate how we intentionally create a solid network of transportation throughout our state. On an annual basis they release a program call for projects, one of which is called the travelers aid program and support a network of transportation providers. The eligible recipients for these funds are nonprofit agencies, nonprofit transportation agencies, public transportation agencies, private transportation

agencies, and local governments. They can apply to the office for these funds to provide bus and train tickets for those individuals that are impacted by domestic violence, homelessness, job loss, or a major medical crisis.

Scheduling a virtual lunch and learn using the panel or inviting agencies that have utilized Governor Crime Commission funding for purchasing a vehicle and discussing barriers to transportation.

Reaching out Onslow County public transportation to see if they can help with bridging the gap between the domestic violence organization as well as our public transit agencies to see how we can better work together.

Legislative Committee – Holly Jones and Kathleen Lockwood, Co-Chairpersons

The Legislative Committee met to discuss any asks that DV Commissioners should make. The Committee members drafted and circulated a letter that requested:

- Additional \$5 million in recurring DV agency funding (over \$10 million total in funding)
- \$2 million in funding to support DVIPs, including funding for a temporary DVIP coordinator position at CFWYI
- \$5 million for DV shelter improvements and construction
- \$10 million for rapid rehousing supports
- \$200K for a temporary language access coordinator position at CFWYI

Multiple foundational laws that provide federal funding for DV programs and survivors are currently being considered for reauthorization. FVPSA reauthorization and VAWA reauthorization are currently active in Congress. A VAWA reauthorization bill has been filed in the House and passed in March of this year. FVPSA reauthorization is still in the House. Reauthorization is not necessarily required for funding to continue. For example, VAWA expired in 2018, but federal appropriators still continued to include funding for VAWA programs in subsequent federal budgets. These reauthorizations are important as they may enhance and expand protections and programs, such as culturally specific programming, tribal jurisdiction, and housing protections for survivors. Similar to the state budget process, it is still too soon to tell what types of enhancements or additional funding will be included in any reauthorizations as the Senate has not yet proposed or voted on companion bills.

2022 DVC Meeting Dates

February 25, May 13, August 26, and November 4, 2022, from 10:00 to 12:00 p.m. They will remain virtual for the time being.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 11:45 a.m.

Submitted by Deborah Torres