

NORTH CAROLINA DOMESTIC VIOLENCE COMMISSION BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Friday, August 20, 2021

Microsoft Teams Virtual Meeting

10:00 AM - 12:00 PM

Commission Members Present: Deborah Weissman (Chair), Tiffany Bell, Shelby Benton, April Burgess-Johnson, Cathy Cloninger, Kriquette Davis, Jacqueline Dienemann, David Elliott, Jessica Englert, Karen Fairley, Regina Gurley, Cheryl Howell, Holly Jones, Denise Mazza, Bryan Miller, Hans Miller, Starleen Scott-Robbins, Terri Sharp, Annette Taylor, Amy Vaughan-Jones, and Sarah Owens-Weeks

Commission Members Absent: Kristy Dickerson, Saira Estrada, Surabhi Gawande, Casandra Hoekstra, Jennifer Howell, Sarah Kirkman, Vickie Pait, Larry Pierce, Nora Salinas, Christine Strader, and Robert Wilkins

Other/Special Guests Present: DOA Secretary, Pam Cashwell, Katie Hall, DOA Legislative Liaison, Catherine Rivera, DOA Boards and Commissioners Coordinator, Bailey Recktenwald, DOA Policy Associate, Julia Horrocks, Helpmate a Domestic Violence Agency, LaToya Chancey, DHHD, Angela Harper King, DHHS, Maggie Slocumb, Helpmate a Domestic Violence Agency, Judith Johnson-Hostler, DHHS, Nisha Williams, NCCADV, Nicki Locklear, NC Commission of Indian Affairs, Kathleen Lockwood, NCCADV, Carianne Fisher, NCCADV, Monica Baron, ASL Interpreter, Joni Hedrick, ASL Interpreter, Nastasha Earle-Young, NCDOT, Heather Daley, Abused Deaf Women’s Advocacy Services, Heather Chavez, ASL Interpreter, Salley Stepp, DVOM Committee, Donovan Grant, Mecklenburg Co. NOVA Program, A.W Burgess, Family Man Kind, Sylvester Timmons, Pam Strickland, NC Stop Human Trafficking

Council for Women & Youth Involvement Staff Present: Danielle Carman, Deborah Torres, Philisa Fowler, Lori Gerber, Alisa Milliken, Deatrice Williams, Gabrielle Smith, Bernetta Thigpen, Alana Denton, Toshia Dunlap

Call to order- Deborah Weissman, Chairperson called the meeting to order at 10:00 AM.

Approval of Minutes and Roll Call - Danielle Carman – There was a combined vote on the following items:

- All Commissioners who were present approved the February 19, 2021 meeting minutes, with Commissioners Jessica Englert, Karen Fairley, Denise Mazza, Bryan Miller, and Terri Sharp abstaining.
- All Commissioners who were present approved the June 4, 2021 meeting minutes, with Commissioners April Burgess-Johnson, Jessica Englert, Karen Fairley, Regina Gurley, Denise Mazza, Bryan Miller, Starleen Scott-Robbins, and Terri Sharp abstaining.

Chairperson’s Report – Deborah Weissman

Weissman asked all Commissioners to review the purpose and membership of the various committees and to notify Torres of any errors. 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.

Oaths of Office

Clerk Terri Sharp administered Oaths of Office for new Commissioners David Elliott, Jessica Englert, and Denise Mazza.

Executive Director's Update – Danielle Carman

Carman said she would defer to Kathleen Lockwood's Legislative Committee report to cover some of the items in her written Executive Director update. She said the appointments bill had been filed and, assuming it is enacted into law as drafted, there would be several new Commissioners. She asked all Committee Chairs to include her on invitations for Committee meetings.

Carman said two of the Council for Women's 2020 reports were recently named by the American Library Association's Government Documents Roundtable as standout government reports for 2020. Those were the Status of Women: Political Participation report and the Exploiting Inequity report about the gendered and racial toll of the pandemic.

Committee Reports:

Access to Health Services Committee: Starleen Scott-Robbins and Regina Gurley - Co-Chairs,

- Discussed avenues of moving forward on promotion of access to universal education regarding DV and IPV in primary care settings. Scott-Robbins talked about the importance of universal education including intensive trauma informed training for staff, and trauma informed policies and practices and protocols to ensure safety and confidentiality.
- Discussed the possibility of providing trainings and exploring potential COVID related funding that might be available to assist. We will discuss further when more members are present.
- Karen Fairley talked about the need to address IPV with middle school and high school aged children. She discussed issues related to access to school nurses and social workers and lack of any requirements or mandates to address IPV in schools. We discussed the need to research what other states are doing with this issue in school settings. Karen volunteered to have some of her staff research possible legislation in other states.

Domestic Violence Offender Management Committee: Tiffany Bell, Chair

Program Updates:

- Jimmy Hare with SHOP (currently serving Madison, Mitchell, and Yancey) has applied to expand into Avery County
- DVOM: Formation of Sub-Committees to occur at next DVOM meeting
- CFWYI: Met with Deputy Secretary Elliot and Executive Director Carman re:20/21 DVIP Statistical Reports
- NCPAT
 1. NCPAT Conference July 29& 30th (Virtual) How Do I Become a Better Facilitator Going Forward from COVID & Deepening our Work with Healing Focused Care

2. The North Carolina 2021 Fatherhood conference occurred on June 19th

Victim Service Committee: Shelby Benton, Chair

- In furtherance of education and our understanding of the complexities involved in addressing the needs in services for Deaf and Hard of Hearing clients who experience victimization, two outstanding and highly instructive presentations were made to the committee:
 - Joint presentation by representatives of the NCDHHS Division of Services for Deaf and Hard of Hearing. (**Ashley Benton, Deaf, Deaf/ Blind Services Coordinator, Blaire Johnston, Regional Center Manager, Charlotte, and Ivy Williams, Hard of Hearing Services Specialist.**) See attached PowerPoint.
 - Presentation by **Heather Daley Abused Deaf Women’s Advocacy Services (ADWAS) and the National Deaf Domestic Violence Hotline (NDDVH)**, regarding a survey that was conducted to address services and needs for services for Deaf, Deaf/Blind and Hard of Hearing clients. (Survey attached)

Access to Transportation Committee: Kriquette Davis – Chair

Key Topics Addressed:

- Committee members gave a status report of transportation services and issues in their area.
- A need for a Co-Chair

Legislative Committee: Kathleen Lockwood and Holly Jones – Co Chairs

Child marriage law (SB 35)

Senate Budget & House Budgets DVSPs

- \$9,537,601 recurring (increase of \$ million over biennium)
- \$7.5 million one-time funding to reduce economic impacts of COVID-19
- DVSPs, SASPs, & dual agencies:
 - \$4.8 million one-time funding for facility upgrades & construction projects
 - Grants provided by the DOA, maximum grant amount of \$45K in first round of distribution, additional funding provided as available.
- \$3,691,782 in one-time funds from the federal American Rescue Plan Act for Family Violence Prevention and Services Act formula grants to DVSPs

House Budget DVSPs

- \$9,287,601 recurring (increase of \$500k over the biennium)
- \$4,154,109 one-time funding to reduce economic impacts of COVID-19

House Budget

- \$2 million during FY 21-222 to the Lincoln County Coalition Against DV for construction of a new shelter
- \$1,975,873 for DV Deputy Clerks to assist with DV e-filing
- \$27 million to AOC for pre-trial GPS monitoring of defendants charged with DV crimes
- \$500k to Forsyth County court for DV coordinator

Questions/Answers for Committees

A.W. Burgess expressed concerns that the legislature is not funding a position at the Council for Women & Youth Involvement to oversee Domestic Violence Intervention Programs (DVIPs) when it is allocating

\$27 million to AOC for pretrial GPS monitoring. He said the abusers are the heart of the problem and asked why resources are not being allocated to address that problem. Weissman said North Carolina is falling behind other states in innovation and needs to shift gears. She said the pie of money allocated to addressing domestic violence is too small and, when resources are shifted away from victim services, there is a view that it is harming the community. Weissman said she believes the domestic violence community needs to change that thinking and have some hard conversations. She added that the Domestic Violence Commission has been asking for years to create a state DVIP Coordinator. Burgess-Johnson said that is a fair and accurate assessment of the financial pie. However, there are thousands of victims that seek services every year that do not get their needs met. She agreed that we need a holistic solution to domestic violence services, but she said that cannot come at the expense of funding victim services. Burgess and Weissman agreed that the state does not fully fund victims' needs.

The Commission discussed the source of the \$27 million funding request, and Lockwood said NCCADV agrees that money could be better spent. Weissman said there needs to be more recognition of the Commission as a source of expertise on these issues. Burgess-Johnson said this is going to be a very difficult year because of the resources that providers have lost from the federal VOCA cuts, and she asked whether there are any opportunities for advocacy around that \$27 million allocation. Jones said she would try to convene another Legislative Committee meeting to discuss that issue. Benton urged Commissioners to speak to their individual legislators about this issue. Weissman said some funding problems flow from the way the federal government allocates funding for the states. Lockwood said Congress has taken steps to fix the VOCA formula and made some changes to the fees that go to that fund. She said the fund is in the process of being replenished but NCCADV expects more cuts will be coming.

The meeting adjourned at 11:35 a.m.

NEXT MEETING: Friday, October 15, 2021

Submitted by Deborah Torres, NC Council for Women & Youth Involvement