

NC Domestic Violence Commission Meeting Minutes
May 13, 2022, 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, Tiffany Bell, Shelby Benton, Jada Brooks, A.W. Burgess, David Elliott, Karen Fairley, Carianne Fisher, Regina Gurley, Sarah Kirkman, Honorable Nathaniel Knust, Kathleen Lockwood, Ricky Parks, Starleen Scott-Robbins, the Honorable Terri Sharp, Caroline Valand, Karen Wallace-Meigs, Sarah Owens Weeks, Cheryl Howell, Holly Jones, Krishana Polite, and TeAndra Miller.

Members Absent: Saira Estrada, Surabhi Gawande, Elizabeth Hunt, Denise Mazza, Bryan Miller, April Burgess-Johnson, Cathy Cloninger, Annette Taylor, Amy Vaughan-Jones, Kriquette Davis, and the Honorable Christine Strader.

NC Council for Women & Youth Involvement Staff Present: Danielle Carman, Charnessa Ridley, Lori Gerber, Diane Blumel, Philisa Fowler, Deatrice Williams, Alisa Milliken, Mario Richardson, Angela Winston-Hill, Deborah Torres, and Sebrina Phillips.

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: Benton moved to approve the February 25, 2022 minutes as written. Wallace-Meigs seconded. All members who were present approved the minutes.

Oaths of Office: Clerk Terri Sharp administered oaths of office for new members Brooks and Knust.



CFWYI Executive Director Report – Danielle Carman

Carman gave a brief update on CFWYI's ongoing work. CFWYI has made the first awards of FVPSA Supplemental American Rescue Plan Act funds to 23 agencies. We are in the process of sending award letters totaling \$1.78 million.

Chair Report – Deborah Weissman

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 Updates

Access to Health Services Committee Report – Starleen Scott-Robbins and Regina Gurley, Co-Chairs
Scott-Robbins provided an update regarding a DPI survey; questions submitted by this committee were included in an extended version of the survey. Unfortunately, the survey response rate has been lower than hoped and so the deadline for the survey has been extended to June 30, 2022. She will provide more information regarding responses once available and results have been reviewed by RTI. Ongoing discussion regarding Lunch and Learn series. No additional information available regarding progress with identifying possible presenters, but committee members were encouraged to consider other possible presenters and to consider participating in program development once speakers/dates have been determined.

Scott-Robbins confirmed the committee received a transcript of a discussion between Deborah Weissman and Melinda Manning with the UNC Beacon program. No additional updates were available at the time of meeting but they will continue to consider partnership with the program and the committee moving forward. We will utilize UNC Behavioral Health Springboard for registration, to arrange for credit hours, and for the Zoom platform. Potential dates will be July, September & November 2022.

Domestic Violence Offender Management Committee – Tiffany Bell, Chair

Bell said the DVOM Committee is focusing on guidelines and best practices with the goal of updating the Administrative Code sections on Domestic Violence Intervention Programs. She said they are working with AOC to develop bench cards for judges, which will provide information regarding DVIPs, with the intent of increasing awareness of available services. Begin a comprehensive review of the Administrative Code governing DVIPs. Create a working group that could include individuals not on the appointed DVC representing cohorts in working with offenders.

Victim Services Committee – Shelby Benton, Chair

Benton reported that both action items from the February meeting (a memo by law students on "North Carolina and the Deaf, Blind, and Hard of Hearing Survivor Community: What Obligations do Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Organizations Have?" and the Best Practices for Language Access manual) were approved by the DV Commission.

The next set of lunch and learns is progressing and they have begun planning for those sessions. There was group discussion regarding questions from the first lunch and learns, and Benton noted that the focus of the next lunch and learns will be on practical considerations for agencies. The next lunch and learns will be three separate topics on three separate days, all of which will build on the previous sessions. There will also be a

question-and-answer session. Each session will be recorded and is anticipated to be approximately 45 minutes. The recordings will be available on the website.

Transportation Access Committee – Kriquette Davis, Chair

Davis gave an update on her findings for transportation insurance. She is waiting on feedback from sources she contacted about the possibility of introducing a bill in the legislature to assist agencies with affordable auto insurance rates. She discussed research on locating existing GIS map files on domestic violence shelter locations in NC. Fowler noted that she is unsure if DOA has maps of shelters throughout the state. The current information on the DOA website is an interactive map, which needs to be revamped. She suggested a meeting with the CFWYI director, someone in DOA communications, and DOT. They will revisit scheduling the lunch and learn meeting for a future date.

Continue to create a survey for distribution to domestic violence agencies to gather information that identifies transportation needs, barriers, current utilized transportation, current transportation insurance types utilized, and transportation insurance discount needs. Information will be used for possible legislation to address transportation discounts for domestic violence agencies. They will continue to follow up on reaching out to connections for information on broadband access and how it will impact domestic violence programs, survivors, and communities. They will also contact the Appalachian Regional Commission in the western region to learn about the Greenway Public Transportation Flex Service, including how it is funded and the additional \$20 million per year for deployment of high-speed broadband in the Appalachian region.

Legislative and Advocacy Committee – Holly Jones and Kathleen Lockwood, Co-Chairs

The Legislative and Advocacy Committee has continued to discuss various concerns from the field to determine future legislative and advocacy priorities. Since the last committee meeting, members discussed and began researching issues of DVPO filing cut-off times across the state. In some judicial districts, they have heard of filing cut-off times as early as 9:30 AM and as late as 4:30 PM. They are continuing to talk with various professionals in the field to learn more about these cut-off times and how they impact survivors, court professionals, and law enforcement. They are also continuing to brainstorm how to minimize the barriers of early cut-off times and ensure that decision-makers have access to all of the information they need to set appropriate cut-off times in their districts.

In addition, the Committee has been discussing DV Fatality Review Teams, including the potential role of Domestic Violence Intervention Programs in providing input and representation on these teams. They are continuing to explore the lessons learned by these teams, including ways to amplify recurring legislative or advocacy recommendations from these teams. They are continuing to learn about the needs and opportunities to provide services to survivors who are incarcerated. They expect this work to be ongoing as we identify the best way to meet the needs of incarcerated survivors.

The legislative short session begins next week, and the Committee is poised to keep Commissioners informed about any quick updates and advocacy opportunities that arise.

Remaining 2022 DVC Meeting Dates

August 26 and November 4, 2022, from 10:00 to 12:00 pm. Meetings will remain virtual for the time being.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 11:20 a.m.