

# NORTH CAROLINA DOMESTIC VIOLENCE COMMISSION BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Friday, June 4, 2021

Microsoft Teams Virtual Meeting

10:00 AM - 12:00 PM

**Board Members Present:** Deborah Weissman (Chair), Tiffany Bell, Shelby Benton, Jacqueline Dienemann, Sherry Everett, Holly Jones, Hans Miller, Vickie Pait, Annette Taylor, Saira Estrada, Amedia Vaughan-Jones, Sarah Owens-Weeks, Christine Strader, Cathy Cloninger, Sarah Kirkman

**Board Members Absent:** April Burgess-Johnson, Kriquette Davis, Kristy Dickerson, Surabhi Gawande, Jennifer Howell, Bryan Miller, Karen Fairley, Jennifer Howell, Larry Pierce, Nora Salinas, Regina Gurley, Robert Wilkins, Nora Salinas, Casandra Hoekstra, Tonya Horton, Cheryl Howell, Starleen Scott-Robbins

**Other/Special Guests Present:** DOA Secretary, Pam Cashwell, David Elliott, DOA Deputy Secretary, Catherine Rivera, DOA Boards and Commissioners Coordinator, 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, Cassandra Rowe, DHHS, Mary Irvine, Executive Director, NC IOLTA, Kathleen Lockwood, NCCADV

**Council for Women & Youth Involvement Staff Present:** Allison Whitenack, Diane Blumel, Deborah Torres, Philisa Fowler, Lori Gerber, Jackie Jordan, Alisa Milliken, Deatrice Williams, Molly Overholt, Gabrielle Smith, Kiricka Yarbough-Smith, Camille Hesterberg, Kendra Underwood, Lori Hines-Jones, Bernetta Thigpen, Angela Winston-Hill

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

**Approval of Minutes and Voting Items** – There was a combined vote on the following items:

1. Approval of Minutes – February 19, 2021, Meeting

Minutes and Voting items were tabled for next meeting (no quorum)

## **Chairperson’s Report – Deborah Weissman**

- Introduction of Secretary Pam Cashwell and Deputy Secretary David Elliott
- The State Government Ethics Act (the “Ethics Act”) requires that all ethics liaisons and public servants’ complete ethics education presented by the State Ethics Commission within six months of starting their public positions and then every two years thereafter. N.C.G.S. § 138A-14(b)-(b1).
- Discussed the collaboration with NC and choice to focus our attention on raising awareness of DV services for Deaf and Hard of Hearing survivors.
- Sherry Everett’s last day with NC Domestic Violence Commission.

## **Committee Reports:**

### **Legislative Committee:** Sherry Honeycutt Everett and Holly Jones – Co Chairs

The following items are recommended by the Legislative Committee for adoption by the full Domestic Violence Commission:

1. That the Commission support an increase to the General Assembly budget appropriation for Domestic Violence Services. The funding for agencies was cut in 2009, and has remained at the 2009 level since that time. NCCADV and NCCASA have jointly requested a \$15 million non-recurring appropriation to be split 50/50 between DV and SA.
2. That the Commission support efforts to amend Chapter 50B of the North Carolina General Statutes to clarify which subsequent court orders can supersede provisions of a domestic violence protective order.
3. Increase court access for domestic violence protective order filings during emergency court closures. Amend G.S. 50B-2 to require Chief District Court Judges to ensure that a judge or magistrate remains available to hear requests for emergency ex parte domestic violence protective orders when courthouses are unexpectedly closed for inclement weather, COVID-19 exposure, and other emergencies.
4. Ensure equal access to domestic violence protections for all survivors. Amend the definition of “personal relationship” in G.S. 50B- 1 to remove the discriminatory “opposite sex” requirement for qualifying dating relationships. This change is necessary to ensure all survivors are able to access domestic violence protections, regardless of their sex or gender identity.
5. End child marriage in North Carolina by raising the age requirement for marriage to 18 without exception. This change is necessary as part of a larger effort to end forced marriages and reduce instances of domestic and sexual violence, poverty, medical and mental health problems, school drop-outs, and divorces that are made more likely by child marriage.

### **Victim Service Sub-Committee:** Shelby Benton, Chair

- VS Committee have evaluated seven different underserved populations in NC and chosen to focus our attention on raising awareness of DV services for Deaf and Hard of Hearing survivors.
- May 19, 2021, meeting we heard from Aracelia Aguilar with DeafHope, a Deaf and Hard of Hearing service provider to survivors of DV in Oakland, California and from Heather Daley with the National Deaf and Hard of Hearing DV Hotline. Both were very informative.
- June 16, 2021 meeting we will have a presentation by Ashley Benton and others with the NC Division of the Services for the Deaf, Deaf/Blind and Hard of Hearing.

### **Domestic Violence Offender Management Committee:** Tiffany Bell, Chair

#### **Program Updates**

COOL Program:

- Only approved for Forsyth County; no longer approved in Davidson County.

- Family Services of Davidson County and Four Directions/Life Skills are the 2 certified DVIPs in Davidson County

R.O.O.T.S Institute

- No longer certified to provide DVIP in Carteret, Jones, Pimlico and Carven due to inability to complete re-application process.
- No DVIPs currently certified for these counties, although several have expressed interest in expanding.

**Short Term Goals:**

- 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 DVIPs expanding access to their areas

**Long Term Goals**

- 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.

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

**Key Topics Addressed:**

- Access to HealthCare Committee member Cassandra Rowe presented to the Commission on the Impact of Intimate Partner Violence on Health to include discussing Health Assessment at Intake versus providing information to victims during their health care visits. (PowerPoint was given to Commission and guests.)
- Committee discussed the value of promoting routine screenings by private care providers. Region Director Bernetta Thigpen provided an update on the lunch & learn series with final lunch & learn held in May.
- Committee will be revisiting NCCARES and whether it is beneficial to victim service agencies in accessing services and how it will impact confidentiality & privacy issues.
- Collaboration with DHHS and Co-Chair Starleen Scott Robinson to offer 40 scholarships to victim service agency staff to attend the 2021 Virtual Women’s Recovery conference.

**Access to Transportation Committee:** Kriquette Davis - Chair

**Key Topics Addressed:**

Committee members gave a status report of transportation services and issues in their area.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:00 p.m.

**NEXT MEETING:** Friday, August 20, 2021

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