

APPROVED
NORTH CAROLINA DOMESTIC VIOLENCE COMMISSION BOARD MEETING
Friday, May 15, 2020: 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM

Microsoft Teams Virtual Meeting: Hosted by Catherine Rivera & Deatrice Williams

Minutes

Presiding Board Member: April Burgess-Johnson

Board Members Present: Carolina Alzuru, Tiffany Bell, Shelby Benton, Cathy Cloninger, Hilary Cooper, Kriquette Davis, Jacqueline Dienemann, Sherry Everett, Karen Fairley, Surabhi Gawande, Regina Gurley, Angela Harris, Casandra Hoekstra, Cheryl Howell, Tonya Horton, Holly Jones, Hans Miller, Vickie Pait, Larry Pierce, Starleen Scott-Robbins, Terri Sharp, Annette Taylor, Deborah Weissman, Robert M. Wilkins

Special Guests Present: Betty Marrow-Taylor, DOA Deputy Secretary, Catherine Rivera, DOA Boards and Commissioners Coordinator, Laura Ammons, DOA DIT Director, Julia Horrocks, Helpmate a Domestic Violence Agency, Nastasha Earle-Young, DHHD, LaToya Chancey, DHHD, Angela Harper King, DHHD, Olivia Daniels, (Intern-NCCADV), Maggie Slocumb, Helpmate a Domestic Violence Agency, Bill Rubin, (Intern-UNC), Judith Johnson-Hostler, Angelita Marable, Stacy Smith, Amy White, Executive Director of Care Center Family Violence in Cumberland Co, Kristen Kincade-Coats and Bob Coats, NC Census OutReach

Meeting Presenters: Georgina Dukes, *State Project Manager*, NCCare360, Carianne Fisher, *Executive Director*, NCCADV Michael Wilson, *Board Member*, NCCADV

Staff Members Present: Mary Williams-Stover, Executive Director, Diane Blumel, Anna Capel, Philisa Fowler, Lori Gerber, Candace Hackney, CFW&YI Intern, Jackie Jordan, Alisa Milliken, Hannah Peterson (Intern-ECU), Rose Saltz, Erica Savage, Bernetta Thigpen, Deatrice Williams, Angela Winston-Hill, Kiricka Yarbrough-Smith,

59-person introduction

I. Call to order- Ms. Burgess-Johnson, Chairperson called the meeting to order at 10:00 AM. She read the Ethics Statement and invited any member who has a conflict of interest to identify. No conflicts reported. Ms. Burgess-Johnson then opened the floor for public comment. There were no public comments. Mary Williams-Stover did the roll call and every Commissioner member stated (present).

II. Director's Report – Mary Williams-Stover, Executive Director

Mary Williams-Stover reported that the NC CFW & YI worked diligently to gather information and provide additional communication opportunities by hosting weekly regional calls with agencies. On those calls, the agencies shared ideas and joint problem-solving needs seen in the community. She shared the COVID-19 Impact Report, which highlighted demand for services. She reported that the legislature examined NC needs and, in response, provided supplemental funding. She stated that core services are still being provided from agencies while adhering to the CDC guidelines. Then, she gave an update on services provided by the agencies during the pandemic. She reported that Family Violence Prevention and Services Act program (FVPSA) will have supplemental funds available and that NC has been

allocated \$1 million. She discussed the application process and requirements for spending the funds. She outlined the NC CFW & YI Radio Takeover outreach program. Mary Williams-Stover opened the floor for comments. In response, Ms. Diane Blumel, Region Director for NC CFW & YI Southern Region, provided encouraging comments to meeting participants to continue providing excellent services. Ms. Betty Marrow-Taylor, DOA Deputy Secretary, provided comments on the Radio One Takeover campaign and its impact on the community. There was further discussion on the topic. The campaign flyer and information provided from Ms. Kiricka Yarbrough-Smith was shared in the MS Teams chat box.

III. Presentation – Georgina Dukes, State Project Manager, NCCare360

PowerPoint is attached and made a permanent part of these minutes

- Provided an overview of the NCCare360 project and explained that it is a unified technology where agencies can share resources and track client services on the back end.
- Discussed such topics as: the joint visions with organizations; overall picture of their status and activities; and software to coordinate getting people help virtually/remotely.
- Currently, 83 counties are live and onboarded; over 1,400 organizations sending and receiving referrals to address community needs; 4,000 users onboarded; and they are moving rapidly across the state with organizations to address the community needs.
- Discussion on how domestic violence organizations can utilize the NCCare360 platform in a secure manner.

IV. Chairperson's Report – April Burgess-Johnson, Chairperson

- Impact of COVID-19 and unemployment rates on domestic violence survivors and victims.
- Agencies are sharing collective wisdom with one another by utilizing peer sharing calls statewide, regionally, and locally.
- Discussed the collaboration with hotels to accommodate victims and shelter populations.
- Concluded next challenge is a movement looking at long term as hotels resume normalcy. She expressed her gratitude for the diligent efforts of all involved with supporting victims and survivors.

V. Presentation – Carianne Fisher, Executive Director, NCCADV

Michael Wilson, Board Member, NCCADV

- Overview of the North Carolina Coalition Against Domestic Violence's (NCCADV's) *A Night of Safety* campaign. Jointly they explained that the goal of the campaign is to raise funding to provide direct services for survivors in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Coalition's role in providing direct services to survivors and potential fundraising and support agencies, assist with providing additional direct services, bring new resources, and partner with community members.
- Campaign's goal is to reach \$25,000 and as momentum endures, they will continue to raise funds.
- Discussion on ways service providers and NCCADV can collaborate, distribution of different funding sources, and processing funding awards. Ms. Fisher reported there will be an announcement on the processes of distributing and accessing funding. She provided her contact information and campaign flyer in the MS Teams chat box.

VI. Updates from Sub- Committees

Victim Service Sub-Committee

Committee Chair **Shelby Benton**

Chair Benton provided a brief update on the committee's activities. She reported that in March, the committee had a conference call with agencies to discuss their needs during the COVID-19 pandemic. She encouraged commission members to join such COVID-19 calls and webinars that provide information, resources, and exchange of materials. The PowerPoint provided by NC CFW & YI is an anecdotal tool that can be used to inform legislators and others about the need for funding and how funds are utilized. She reported that NC Van is hosting a webinar titled "Capacity to Connect: Building Your Agency's Language Access" and she provided the information to access the webinar. She reported that the future of the committee is to continue focusing on increasing access to domestic violence services, which has been the 2018 focus of this commission. There was a discussion on the cancelled NCCADV Biennial Conference and summit and desire to locate another forum to present the prepared information for the summit. In reply, Carolina Alzuru, NCCADV, responded that the coalition is considering multi-day trainings in a virtual setting. Trainings would be ongoing for at least a year and information would be provided on how to access the trainings.

Domestic Violence Offender Management Committee:

Committee Co-Chairs **Judge Robert Wilkins and Tiffany Bell**

Co-chair Robert Wilkins reported that the commission temporarily approved Batterer Intervention Programs (BIPs) to conduct classes remotely until services are allowed in person. Co-chair Tiffany Bell reported that all NC domestic violence BIP agencies responded to the Remote Classes Survey sent out by NC CFW & YI Western Region Office Assistant Anna Capel. She summarized that the results yielded 10 BIPs who offered virtual remote classes and 14 did not offer virtual classes. She then reported that the major barriers for programs were staffing limitations, technology/equipment limitations, and financial concerns. Tiffany Bell discussed programs' client progress feedback since the COVID-19 pandemic. She stated that the primary focus has been victim safety. Tiffany Bell reported on a webinar out of Europe that discussed programs focused on working with perpetrators. The major points the presenter emphasized was the need to adjust services to crisis management mode as opposed to accountability to address stressors related to batterers' unemployment and amid health concerns. Co-chair Tiffany Bell explained that the major concern for providing accountability services during the pandemic is participants detailing their abusive actions may cause trauma or retrigger desire and possibly escalating abusive behavior. She stated that crisis management would include space to discuss their stresses, utilize other coping techniques and skills, and rely heavily on the equality wheel. She reported that the major focus of the committee is to determine what virtual services will look like in the future and provide support to perpetrators with the hope of reducing risks during these difficult times. She gave an update on the status of BIP program applications and requested a DV Commission vote on application approvals.

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

1. Approval of Minutes – February 13, 2020 Meeting
2. Full approval of Friend-to-Friend in Moore County Batterer Intervention Program
3. Provisional approval pending receipt of MOU for Granville County Higher Aspirations Behavioral Healthcare

Chairperson, based on votes received, reported motion do carry.

VIII. Updates from Committees

Legislative Committee

Committee Co-Chairs **Sherry Honeycutt Everett and Holly Jones**

Co-chair Everett reported that she participated on a court advocates call which provided relevant and beneficial information. She stated the Legislative Subcommittee met on April 15th and reviewed the process of new domestic violence fatality review teams in NC. She gave a brief synopsis of the presentation by Dr. Neil Websdale, Director of the National Resource Center on Domestic Violence Fatality Review Teams. Ms. Everett stated that the committee received useful information from Dr. Websdale's presentation and are excited to discuss next steps, what best practices look like, and how they can simplify and streamline that process in NC. She commented that the committee will work with the full DV Commission, collaborating with April Burgess-Johnson and Mary Williams-Stover on how to process legislative requests. She then discussed second amendment initiatives and reported, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, work is on hold. Co-chairs Sherry Honeycutt Everett and Holly Jones expressed their appreciation for the support of the NCCADV and reported that programs have also expressed appreciation for the support of the coalition.

Chair, April Burgess-Johnson explained that she, as committee chair, and Mary Williams-Stover, as staff, can collaboratively set in place a process without bringing the legislative issue to a full commission vote. April Burgess-Johnson discussed the protocol enacted for legislative endorsement and highlighted the proposed action steps. She reminded the commission that a copy of this proposal was included in their previously distributed notes. There was discussion on clarifying if subcommittee calls are considered public meetings. Follow up is needed to confirm or deny. Commissioner Shelby Benton pointed out that it is important to engage and move quickly and follow through with this process and pay attention to email because of legislative timing.

Access to Health Services Committee

Starleen Scott Robbins, Co-Chair

Co-chair Starleen Scott Robbins reported that in January 2020, surveys were sent to local management entities/managed care organizations (LMEMCOs) providers. Of the 7 LMEMCOs surveyed, 53 agencies and 42 licensed professionals, responded to the survey. She commented that the committee plans to provide a report of the responses to the commission and hope to have an opportunity to present the information to the full commission. She stated that the committee is transitioning to focus on promoting routine screening by primary care providers, especially in rural areas, for indication of violence and abuse for underserved populations. They continue to research this process. Co-chair Starleen Scott Robbins discussed DHHS efforts to ensure services are available for needed care and that those services will continue. Commissioner Starleen Scott Robbins provided resources in the chat feature of the virtual Microsoft Teams meeting.

Access to Transportation Committee

Philisa Fowler, NC CFW & YI Eastern Region Director

Philisa Fowler reported that the committee last met on March 18, 2020 and stated that currently the committee does not have a chair due to the previous chair's, Commissioner Phillips Coates, retirement on April 1, 2020. She commented that they are currently searching for a chairperson. She reported that the committee continues to look for funding opportunities and ways to alleviate transportation barriers. Ms. Fowler explained that some funding opportunities to purchase vehicles had been identified, however, some agencies reported barriers to purchasing. The committee had prepared a presentation for the, now cancelled, Access to Services Summit/NCCADV Biennial Conference that mainly focused on finding ways to alleviate some transportation barriers. She reported their prepared presentation showcased agencies who purchased vehicles and their process to

success. Ms. Fowler commented that the NC CFW & YI region directors surveyed their agencies on how they were implementing transportation services amidst COVID-19. In response, agencies reported that they were operating with reduced staff; continued to utilize law enforcement to provide transportation services; utilized gas vouchers and public transportation; and agencies with vehicles utilized them in different capacities.

IX. Announcement – Census 2020 Promote and Support Complete Count

Mary Williams-Stover stressed the importance of participating in the Census 2020 and encouraged participants to advocate for the census. There was a discussion on the importance of the 2020 Census and its impact on the funding and services provided by DV agencies. Ms. Kristen Kincade-Coats explained the funds and resources that are driven from census data are critical to the recovery of COVID-19. She provided guidance on concerns of completing the census and that errors will be addressed during the remainder of the process. She advised meeting participants to incorporate the importance of the census count when working with survivors and consumers. She commented that she can provide resources to assist with supplying information. Then, she discussed initiatives to provide wireless connections for customers who need internet assistance.

X. Adjournment – There being no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 12:06 p.m.

NEXT MEETING: Friday, August 28, 2020

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