

**Governor's Council on Domestic Abuse
July 12, 2023**

Present: Susan Sippel, Milly Gonzales, Senator Andre Jacque, Alena Taylor, Dr. Abdul Shour, Representative Sue Conley, Melissa Baldauff, Rosalind McClain, Virginia Gittens Escudero, Sue Perry, Senator Agard staff Daniel Zaydman, Cyrena Martin

Excused: Nela Kalpic

Guests: Shannon Barry, Teresa Nienow, Monique Minkens, Marianne Rosen, Jenna Gormal, Michelle Rawlings, Olivia Osborne, WI Eye

Staff: Stacey Cicero, DCF

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Call to Order and Approval of Minutes

Sue Perry, Co-Chair, called the meeting to order at 9:06 a.m. This meeting was conducted in person with a virtual option at the End Abuse offices, 1400 E. Washington Avenue, Suite 227, Madison. The minutes of the April 2023 meeting were reviewed. A motion was made by Gonzales to accept the April minutes, second by Sippel. All aye.

Presentation: Teresa Nienow, Director of Grant Programs & Training State of Wisconsin Department of Justice, Office of Crime Victim Services (OCVS)

OCVS is in the process of planning for the 2024 VOCA competitive grant solicitation. Federal VOCA award allocations have reduced significantly since 2018, which will have a serious, wide-spread impact on victim services in Wisconsin in 2024. Teresa shared an overview of Wisconsin's VOCA funding levels over the past several years and predictions for the future.

VOCA funding will be decreased nationally. This will begin with contracts in October 2024. Council discussed the impact the loss of funding could potentially have on programs.

Power point of presentation is attached to minutes.

Committee Reports

Access Committee:

Melissa Baldauff, Co-Chair/Report by Milly Gonzales

The Access Committee completed the review of the Anti-Oppression manual. A subcommittee will be formed to finalize the manual and present it to DCF and the full Council. Committee reviewed next topics and will be choosing a new project.

Budget Committee:

Sue Sippel, Co-Chair

The Long Range Plan was reviewed by the committee. The committee continues to work on updating the Fair Minimum and what staffing patterns should look like. Input from AIAA and BBWPC is expected to add BIPOC staffing needs.

Dr. Shour shared an update on his policy brief. This will be shared with the committee for feedback and discussed at the next committee meeting.

A presentation was made to the committee from Shannon Barry of DAIS, Madison. Shannon joined the Council meeting to discuss an idea that would use state surplus funds to support domestic violence programs through the Wisconsin Investment Board. End Abuse will research the idea and potentially move it forward.

Legislative and Policy Committee:

Alena Taylor, Co-Chair

This Legislative and Policy committee has three subcommittees:

Batterer's Treatment Standards review and updates: subcommittee continues to meet to work on updating the standards. They are currently doing listening sessions around the state and working with the Center for Justice Innovation who is creating the report. The report is expected to be done this fall. Funding continues to be a question.

Children who witness abuse just recently started a subcommittee. They have not met to date.

Fatality review committee is looking at current legislation in Wisconsin to determine if a new bill needs to be established. Homicide rates continue to rise in Wisconsin.

Legislative Update

Jenna Gormal, End Abuse WI, reviewed current legislation.

Report is attached.

Council and guests discussed reaching out to legislature. End Abuse was asked to send talking points to programs. Directors of domestic violence programs shared their concerns with budget cuts and lack of additional funding in state budget. One director shared that Wisconsin is 7 in the nation with domestic violence homicides.

Presentation: Monique Minkens, Executive Director

End Domestic Abuse Wisconsin

End Abuse contracted with three individuals to conduct focus groups with programs serving rural communities around the state. The goal of the focus groups was to gather information to assist End Abuse in delivering optimal service and advocacy to the rural communities and to share the information with partners and funders. Observations, themes and plans for next steps were shared.

Power point of presentation is attached to minutes.

Discussion of Governor's Council 2023 Awards for Outstanding Achievement in Domestic Abuse Issues

Sue Sippel gave an overview of the awards. She brought up the idea of naming the Justice Award after Sharon Lewandowski, a long time advocate of domestic violence and retired DCF employee. The Council discussed and thought this was a great idea. A motion was made to name the Justice Award the Sharon Lewandowski Justice Award. Motion by Sippel, second by Perry, all aye.

Entertainment and other components discussed. Escudero, Sippel, Perry and Baldauff offered to review applications.

DCF Domestic Abuse Grant Program Update – Stacey Cicero

- Ahna Barreau, DV/SA Program Coordinator, has left DCF and took a position with DWD. Her last day was June 30. The position has been posted and we are hoping for a quick replacement.
- DCF is currently reviewing two contracts, Domestic Abuse Services for Immigrant, Refugee, and Former Refugee and the Domestic Abuse Services for Traditionally Underrepresented Populations to see if the contracts may be combined. A one year extension has been given to the Immigrant and refugee grant, it will now end 12/31/2024. A one year optional renewal has been removed from the Underrepresented Populations to coordinate with the 12/31/2024 end date. A workgroup is being established to review these contracts to better meet the needs of the populations served by the contracts.
- DSP leadership is meeting with DV programs to learn more about programs and their needs. To date, leadership has met with three domestic violence programs and has two more planned.
- Currently there is a request for proposal out for Statewide DV Services Gap Jurisdictions. This RFP includes three counties and one tribe that was not covered by the Statewide DV Services RFP that was released last summer. DCF did provide these counties and tribe with a one year gap funding that ends 12/31/2023. The newly released RFP will have a contract that begins 1/1/24 and end 12/31/2027 to coincide with the current Statewide DV Services contract.
- DCF is also reviewing the Statewide DV Stabilization Sheltercare funding. This contract currently ends 12/31/23, but it is our hope to continue this funding in some capacity through 12/31/2027 to provide shelter programs that received reductions in their awards due to the restructuring of the Basic Services contracts for 2023.

Open Forum for Council Members

Dr. Shour was moved by the funding discussion. He feels domestic violence is not prioritized and proposed to write a grant and make a case for alternative sources of funding.

Public Comments

None

Concluding Remarks

None

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 11:56 am.

Motion by Sippel, second by Gonzales to adjourn the meeting. All aye.