

**Governor's Council on Domestic Abuse
April 14, 2021**

Present: Representative Lisa Subeck, Senator Andre Jacque, Justine Rufus, Susan Sippel, Kathy Flores, Melissa Baldauff, Susan Perry, Tammie Xiong, Alena Taylor

Excused: Senator Tim Carpenter, Nela Kalpic, Rosalind McClain, Patricia Ninmann

Guests: Amber Peterson, Jenna Gormal (End Domestic Abuse WI), Tegan Swanson (End Domestic Abuse WI), Marianne Rosen (DCF), Amanda Powers (DOJ OCVS), Megan O'Matz, Beth Mattson, Katie Reding, Kris Hanson, Elizabeth Cline

Staff: Kaitlin Tolliver

=====

Call to Order and Approval of Minutes

Kathy, co-chair, called the meeting to order, with a quorum present at 9:04 a.m. This meeting was conducted virtually due to coronavirus (COVID-19) restrictions. The minutes of the February 2021 meeting were reviewed and approved at 9:07 a.m.

Presentation on the Office of Crime Victim Services (OCVS) Statewide Victim Services Needs Assessment

Amanda Powers from the Department of Justice OCVS presented on the statewide victim services needs assessment conducted by OCVS in 2020. Presentation attached. Discussion was had regarding what agencies specifically were surveyed. This information and the full report can be found at <https://www.doj.state.wi.us/ocvs/ocvs-grant-programs>. Additional discussions should continue in regard to increasing coordination between domestic violence services providers and W2 agencies.

Committee Reports

Access Committee:

The Access Committee created a list of potential options for tasks that would support the goals of the Committee. The Committee has decided to move forward on a project to promote existing culturally specific agencies. At the next meeting, "Organizational Spotlights" where a culturally specific organization will present via webinar will be scheduled. A corresponding handout, highlighting specific points, will be distributed amongst domestic violence service agencies to help educate anyone who couldn't attend the webinar on what the organization does, who they serve, and how they can collaborate to support survivors.

Budget Committee:

The Budget Committee has expanded to prepare for reviewing the funding formula for the DCF Basic Services grant program. DCF Procurement has requested that the Basic Services grant program be distributed via competitive RFP. Currently it is a continuation application with funding formula (not a competitive RFP like every other grant program). DCF will be partnering with End Abuse and directors to evaluate, not only Basic Services but, the entire DCF grant program. The Budget Committee will then need to recommend funding options for whatever is established. Kaitlin Tolliver presented on current DCF funded grant programs and the

Committee reviewed the current funding formula. The Committee would like to meet more frequently in order to accomplish the task given them.

Legislative and Policy Committee:

The Committee continued to work on developing the Revocation Process training. Subcommittees were delayed in their efforts to finalize various projects. Recording and flier group plan to finalize before the end of May. Workshop/training scheduled for September 23, 2021, via Zoom. This training will encompass the video and be an opportunity for communities to come together as a team to improve their collaboration processes. Staff to finalize a "save the date" to distribute.

October Awards Ceremony

At this time, DCF is not planning any in-person ceremonies. October Awards Ceremony which was canceled in 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The Council would like to do a virtual event with some of the same rituals as the awards ceremony but without the awards. The Council would like to honor survivors getting through the pandemic, frontline advocates, and CJ (End Abuse employee who died from COVID 19 this past year). Council Staff will work to schedule a subcommittee including Kathy Flores, Sue Sippel, Justine Rufus, and Melissa Baldauff to coordinate.

Legislative Update

Jenna Gormal from End Abuse provided a legislative update (attached).

Tegan Swanson from End Abuse shared that the OCVS Housing First Workgroup is working on a recommendation around the DV Housing First Model. There is a listening session scheduled for April 26, 2021, (flier and summary attached). The goals of the listening session include getting feedback around elements that need to be considered in choosing pilot project sites and how to center the needs of most marginalized survivors. Following the listening session, communities and agencies interested in bringing this to their local community will be identified.

DCF Domestic Abuse Grant Program

Kaitlin Tolliver, DCF, informed the Council that DCF Procurement is requiring that the DCF domestic abuse grants titled Basic Services and Outreach Services must be released via request for proposal by calendar year 2023. Instead of only changing processes for one grant, DCF will be reviewing the entire domestic abuse grant program to review for accessibility, equity, and opportunity to reduce administrative burden. DCF has scheduled feedback sessions on May 5, 12, and 19 for directors and stakeholders to engage in.

Moms and Kids Surviving Abuse

The Council listened to four survivor accounts from the group Moms and Kids Surviving Abuse. This is a group of survivors from LaCrosse County who have encountered incredible barriers within the family court system. Both the moms and their children continue to not have their needs met by the family court system.

The Council engaged in conversation with the survivors around the system and brainstorming potential interventions that could help survivors. Although insufficient, the survivors did support the Council moving forward on developing a Child Exposure to Domestic Violence Proposal and would be willing to support the project. This work will occur out of the Legislative and Policy Committee.

Public Comments

None

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 12:30 pm.