

**Governor’s Council on Domestic Abuse
October 12, 2022**

Present: Susan Sippel, Susan Perry, Milly Gonzales, Senator Melissa Agard, Senator Andre Jacque, Alena Taylor, Nela Kalpic, Virginia Gittens Escudero, Dr. Abdul Shour, Representative Sue Conley

Excused: Melissa Baldauff, Tammie Xiong, Rosalind McClain

Guests: Courtney Olson (Rainbow House)

Staff: Stacey Cicero, DCF

=====

Call to Order and Approval of Minutes

Sue Perry, Co-Chair, called the meeting to order at 9:13 a.m. This meeting was conducted in person at the State Capitol, Assembly Parlor. The minutes of the July 2022 meeting were reviewed. A motion was made by Taylor to accept the July minutes, second by Sippel. All aye.

Discussion of moving the Council meeting to in person or a combination of virtual/in person for 2023. The Council meetings will move forward in 2023 in person with a call-in option.

Committee Reports

Access Committee:

Melissa Baldauff, Co-Chair (report given by Sue Perry)

The Access Committee continues to work on the Anti Oppression manual. The committee is reviewing articles and updating narrative and pictures. Discussion of manual use and best practices for programs. Council members requested a copy of the current handbook.

Budget Committee:

Sue Sippel, Co-Chair

The Long Range Plan is still in process and should be done October 20. This five year plan will include sexual assault and the need for increased funding for programming. It is also used by DCF for annual reporting to FVPSA. The Design Team will probably revise the Long Range Plan document and make a final, public release in January 2023; including a website. The committee continues to work on updating the Fair Minimum and a companion piece to address the “why” the fair minimum is needed. The goal is to have this completed in 2024. Long discussion about hardships domestic violence programs are facing and the instability of funding. Legislators asked how they could assist. The last ask and increase in funding was 2018, received \$5 million. Dr. Shour offered to put together some research.

Legislative and Policy Committee:

Alena Taylor, Co-Chair

This Legislative and Policy committee has formed two subcommittees: Batterer’s Treatment Standards review and updates: subcommittee has met and is working on language adjustments throughout the document. They are currently reviewing standards from other states.

Fatality Review Commission initiative: reported by Courtney Olson, subcommittee has been meeting and has divided into three groups: legislation, reviewing other state's standards, recruitment. A grant has been applied for to support this work. About 40 people are working on this subcommittee.

Children who witness abuse just recently started a subcommittee. Amber Peterson will lead this group and is looking for additional members. The focus will be on education and may review the Guardian ad Litem handbook.

Legislative Update

No report, legislature not in session.

Election of Co-Chair by Council Appointees

Sue Sippel noted we need to elect a co-chair of the council. These are staggered two year terms. Sue Perry is up for election. Opened the floor for nominations. Sue Perry is willing to continue. Sue Sippel moved for nomination, Senator Jacque moved to close nominations. All approved. Unanimous consent. Sue Perry elected for another two year term.

Meeting Schedule and Topics for 2023

Council members discussed potential topics for 2023:

Missing and Murdered Indigenous People, panel discussion of DV agencies -budgets, advocate struggles; sexual assaults at military bases support programs for migrants; funding those that harm; family court struggles for immigrants; DV Housing First updates to include Balance of State funded programs to get a full picture; transformative justice/deferred prosecution; cyber aggression/teen dating violence.

DCF Domestic Abuse Grant Program Update – Stacey Cicero

Discussion of new hire for DCF Domestic Abuse and Sexual Assault Program Coordinator position. We are hoping to have a new person in place by the end of the year. The new Statewide Funding for DV Programs is currently under review. Award letters should go out mid November. Discussion of ARPA funds and DV Housing First pilot project.

Open Forum for Council Members

Nela Kalpic questioned why Wisconsin considers a 17 year an adult. There have been bills brought forward to address this, but they have not passed.

Public Comments

None

Concluding Remarks

None

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 11:15 am.

Governor's Award Ceremony for Outstanding Achievements in Domestic Abuse Issues immediately followed the Council meeting.