



**North Carolina  
Department of Administration**

**Beverly Eaves Perdue, Governor**

**Moses Carey, Jr., Secretary**

**North Carolina Council for Women  
Beth Briggs, Executive Director**

To: Chairs, Joint Legislative Committee on Justice and Public Safety  
Fiscal Research Division  
Research Division

From: Beth Briggs, Executive Director  
NC Council for Women

Date: April 1, 2012

Re: Report on G.S. 143B-394.16(b)

Per General Statute 143B-394.16 (b), the NC Council for Women is submitting the annual Domestic Violence Commission annual report for review to the NC General Assembly. The Domestic Violence Commission is a statewide board of individuals and representatives of state agencies charged with developing training initiatives, public awareness, assistance to service providers and research on how to serve those impacted by domestic violence.

Please contact my office with any questions at 919-733-6594.

Attachment

Cc: Secretary Moses Carey  
Anne Bander, Chief Operating Officer  
June Michaux, Deputy Secretary  
Christy Agner, Legislative Liaison  
Karen Parker Thompson, Chair NC Domestic Violence Commission

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**Domestic Violence Commission  
Annual Report to the NC General Assembly  
April, 2012**

**Meetings**

The Domestic Violence Commission (DVC) met four times in 2011 – February 11th, April 8th, September 16th and December 9th. The Commission has five committees focusing on the following topics:

- Abuser Treatment
- Law Enforcement and Pro-Arrest
- Legislative
- Victim Services
- Workplace Violence

Each meeting included reports from the Council for Women Executive Director and Commission committees as well as legislative updates and presentations/status reports on domestic violence projects/programs in NC.

**Appointments**

During 2011 the following Commission members were appointed or reappointed: Judge Sherry Alloway, Marisol Barr, Judge Sharon Barrett, Cathy Cloninger, Beth Froehling, Lynne Harlan, Marie White and Beth Williams. Karen Parker Thompson was appointed by Governor Perdue for a second term as Chair of the Commission.

Additionally Sgt. John Guard continued to serve as the DVC representative to the state Child Fatality Task Force.

Near the end of the year Jill Dinwiddie resigned from her position as the Executive Director of the Council for Women and Beth Briggs was appointed by Governor Perdue to fill the position.

**Committee Activity**

The following is a summary of significant committee actions during 2011:

- The Abuser Treatment committee chaired by Jo Liles reviewed 9 certification applications and 5 were approved for certification (1 provisional approval). The committee investigated complaints regarding Abuser Treatment Programs, one of which resulted in removal of certification. They also made changes to the recertification process requiring all programs to submit their policies and procedures. The team developed a screening tool for judges to use when determining referrals for batterer intervention v. anger management programs. They also worked on a Best Practices handbook (draft expected spring 2012) and collaborated with NCPAT on developing a 2012 training event. The committee also explored strategies to help make the monitoring process more effective and efficient.
- The Law Enforcement/Pro-Arrest committee chaired by Sgt. John Guard continued its review of domestic violence homicide cases as related to pretrial release. The committee also educated the DVC about SB 311 and ways to help ensure the implementation of the new law.
- The Legislative committee chaired by Judge Beverly Scarlett and Judge Sharon Barrett continued work on the 50B clean-up process and met regularly for legislative updates. The committee also played a key role in making recommendations to the full Commission on positions/actions regarding proposed 2011 legislation. The proposals will be coordinated through the NC Coalition Against Domestic Violence.
- The Victim Services committee chaired by Lynn Bryant and Alisa Hunt-Lowery focused efforts on services to American Indian victims. They coordinated/implemented training on the topic for DVC

members and developed a list of goals and related activities. They will begin their work with a 20-county survey examining barriers and successes in regards to domestic violence and sexual assault.

- The Workplace Violence committee chaired by David Elliot revised their mission statement and reviewed best practices. The committee also explored ways to raise awareness by using social media and other technology as well as the possibility of a conference to be held in the eastern part of the state.
- In 2010 the Domestic Violence Commission was tasked by the Joint Legislative Committee on Domestic Violence to offer recommendations on domestic violence center allocations and an ad hoc Allocations Task Force was formed to explore the issue. The task force surveyed staff at domestic violence centers, sponsored several feedback forums and presented recommendations to the JLC on December 14<sup>th</sup>, 2010. This work continued during 2011 and many of the recommendations were adopted by the JLC in their proposed legislation. Two recommendations (# 5 and #7) were not acted upon and the DVC requests that the legislature consider these recommendations as follows:

*Recommendation #5: The statute should be revised to ensure any reverted funds from DV centers are returned to the Council for Women to be used for building sustainability or capacity of domestic violence centers.*

*Recommendation #7: DVC recommends that the JLCDV support efforts to strengthen resources at the Council for Women including technology and staffing to better facilitate the administration of DV Center funds without removing funds from direct services.*

*Note: The 2011 Legislature acted to transfer the oversight duties regarding domestic violence issues to the JLJPS committee.*

#### **Additional Legislative Activity**

- The Commission voted to endorse the 2011 Legislative Agenda of the NC Coalition against Domestic Violence (NCCADV) and closely monitored the 2011 Legislative Session.
- The Domestic Violence Commission voted on positions regarding several bills as well as a special budget provision. The Commission voted to support HB 849 and voted not to take a position on HB 111. The Commission voted to oppose HB 63, HB 390, HB 343, SB 34, HB 52, HB 74 and the special budget provision. Bill sponsors were notified of the Commission's position on these bills by the Chair.
- The Council for Women staff made a presentation in November to the Joint Legislative Committee on Justice and Public Safety on the Domestic Violence Center Fund and the NC Council for Women.

#### **Special Reports and Presentations**

The Commission heard special reports and presentations from the following:

- Dr. Tripp Ake - *Strong Fathers Program*
- Nancy Lorrin Freeman and Alex Johnston – *Collection of Domestic Violence Data*
- Janeen Gingrich and Cynthia Hill – *Survivor to Survivor*
- Cheryl Howell – *50B Clean Up Project*
- Ann Gerhardt – *Displaced Homemaker Program*
- Avani Bhatt and Martha Morales – *Durham Collaboration for Culturally and Linguistically Specific Services*
- Marie White and Helen Lipman – *Domestic Violence Fatality Team Updates*
- Erica Scott and Vivette Jeffries-Logan - *Barriers and Issues in the American Indian Communities Related to Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault*
- Trishana Jones – *New NCCADV Children's Program*