

N. C. DOMESTIC VIOLENCE COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

Friday, February 15, 2019 10:00 A.M. – 2:00 P.M.

Department of Environmental Quality, Large Conference Room 1210

217 West Jones Street, Raleigh, North Carolina

Members Present: Christy Agner, Carolina Alzuru, Tiffany Bell, Hilary Cooper, Kriquette Davis, Jacqueline Dienemann, Saira Estrada, Karen Fairley, Tonya Horton, Maureen Krueger, Vicky Pait, Starleen Scott-Robbins, Cathy Steven, Annette Taylor, Lynn Taylor, Pamela Thompson, Deborah Weissman, Robert Wilkins

Board Members on Call: Holly Jones

Members Absent: Cathy Cloninger, Phillip Coates, Erica Gallion, Angela Harris, Casandra Hoekstra, Cheryl Howell, Gregory Light, Han Miller, Robin Ramsey, Dean Tolson

Special Guests Present: Monika Johnson Hostler, NCCASA, Niki Locklear, NC Commission of Indian Affairs, Honorable Ashleigh Parker Dunston, Wake County District Courts, Tasha Sullivan, Wake County Interact, Barry Bryant, Executive Director-Association of VAWA Administrators, Sherry Honeycutt Everett, NC Coalition Against Domestic Violence

NCCFW&YI Staff Present: Mary Williams-Stover, Executive Director, Emily Roach, Deputy Director, Kathleen Balogh, Philisa Fowler, Diane Blumel Alisa Milliken, Harriett Southerland, Gwen Moragne, Jackie Jordan, Ritu Kaur, Talal Foz, Emily Hagstrom, Leah Stern-(Intern), Kristin Coleman –(Intern), Hannah Grant-(Intern), Deborah Torres, Kiricka Yarbough-Smith

Welcome/Introduction: April Burgess-Johnson, Chairperson

The meeting was called to order at 10:04am by Chair, April Burgess-Johnson. She read the Ethics Statement and invited any member who may have a conflict of interest to identify.

Swearing in for new Commissioners: Judge Ashleigh P. Dunston, District Court presided over the swearing in of Hilary B. Cooper, Karen Fairley, R. Lynn Taylor, and Deborah Weissman.

Approval of Minutes: DV Commission Meeting minutes from October 26, 2019 were opened for discussion. Motion to approve minutes as written made Second by Commissioner Vickie Pait. Unanimous.

Chairperson's Update: April Burgess-Johnson

Ms. Burgess-Johnson confirmed the name change of two sub-committees. The committee formerly known as *access to transportation and language* is now renamed *access to transportation*. The committee formerly known as *access to victim services* is now exploring language access and will be

renamed *access to victim services and language access*. Ms. Burgess-Johnson thanked all members of subcommittees for their efforts in increasing access to services, particularly the *access to health care* subcommittee, which has become more active, in and how has Recruited members working to create strategies for mental health services.

Additionally, Ms. Burgess-Johnson informed the Commission of a proposed change to the August meeting date. An update will follow via email.

New IRS I-9 Requirements for Boards and Commissions: Bryan Brannon, CFO, NC Department of Administration reviewed the requirement of board members to complete the IRS I-9 Form. Any member who receives any Stipend, must complete the I-9 Form for avoid penalties issued by the IRS. Eddie Edwards and Mike Pill, Temporary Solutions, collected IRS forms, job applications and identification documents.

NCCADV 2019 Legislative Priorities- Sherry Honeycutt:

Sherry Honeycutt presented the 2019 NCCADV legislative agenda:

- 2019 Domestic Violence DV Program Budget; The Coalition will advocate to retain full DV program funding and push for needed increases to meet the demand in the 2019-2020 state budget. No specific percentage increase is identified at this time.
- Ensure that Implementing Legislation for North Carolina's new Victim Rights Amendment, *Marsy's Law*, is equitable, protects the rights of survivors of domestic violence, and contains no collateral consequences for survivors of domestic violence who have cases pending in criminal court.
- Amend NC General Statute & 50B to clarify that judges have discretion to remove firearms.
- Amend NC General Statutes to ensure that misdemeanor assault convictions qualify for firearm prohibition under 18 U.S.C. & 9229g).
- Ensure that DV survivor interests are accounted for in Extreme Risk Protection Order legislation,
- Amend NC General Statute & 50B to provide equal protection for all domestic violence survivors.

The Survivors Act Update, Monika Johnson Hostler, NC CASA, Executive Director

Updates were shared regarding *The Survivors Act* and the updated process for reviewing rape kits. It costs \$700 to process each kit. Requesting \$3,000,000 budget needed to test, pay for and analyze kits, resulting in zero backlog. There is a 24 hour turn around for collecting kits and law enforcement will have to be responsive towards every kit it collects. *House Bill 29-Standing up for Victims was introduced last week.*

Committee Breakout Meetings: Members met with committees to plan and identify legislative items will that require a vote by the Commission.

- Batterer Intervention Committee – Judge Robert Wilkins, Chairperson
- Access to Victims Services & Language Access – Saira Estrada, Co-Chairperson
- Legislative Committee – Holly Jones, Co-Chairperson
- Access to Transportation – Philisa Fowler, Region Director, CFW&YI
- Access to Mental Health Services Committee - Starleen Scott-Robbins, Chairperson

Wake County Domestic Violence Fatality Review Team DVFRT Report: Tasha Sullivan, Senior Director of DV/SA programs at Interact and Barry Bryant, ED for the Association of VAWA Administrators, Wake County Domestic Violence Fatality Review Chair described the purpose and process of the WCDVVRT.

- A fatality review should be retrospective, confidential, practice the philosophy of no-blame/no-shame, which creates a greater understanding of the tragedy.
- Wake County DVFRT was created by 2009 legislation. 42 states also have a DVFRT process.
- The Fatality Review seeks to honor the dead and protect the living.
- Members of the team have diverse professional background including mental health, law enforcement, DV victim service agencies, social services, education, legal, etc.
- Review Process: The fatality review team meets quarterly for two days per meeting, reports to GCC, DV Commission, and county commissioners. An unbiased party, from outside of the community, facilitates discussion and ensures voices are equally represented in conversation. The process concludes with a report indicating the conclusions from the common themes of homicides and the preventative recommendations that will be sent to DV commissions and relevant parties. Current recommendations include services for children impacted by trauma; Child Protective Services to extend the time frame of follow-ups when a child has lost their parental system, and attendance at emotional/behavioral youth camp; Alliance for Hope/Camp Hope, greater public awareness needed statewide.

Committee Reports and Action Items:

- Committees report on their focus for 2019.
 - Batterer Intervention Committee – Judge Robert Wilkins, Chairperson
Currently domestic violence offenders mandated by Criminal Court to a Batterer Intervention Program are required to report back in 60 days on their status and participation. This reporting process is only a requirement in Criminal Court. (2:12 Criminal Domestic Violence Sentencing Charges – S.L. 2012-39) (HB 176, Review DV Program Participation) In the absence of this requirement in the Civil court, a DV victim’s only remedy is to file a show cause action seeking remedy to enforce the courts order. The committee is working with legislators and committee members to change Administrative Office of the Court Administrative code to impact Civil Courts enforcement of Civil Courts rulings for domestic violence offenders.
 - Legislative Committee – Holly Jones, Co-Chairperson
Holly Jones recommends that the committee endorses the Survivors Act as it was described in the presentation today as part of the DV Commission’s legislative agenda. Second by Saira Estrada
Holly Jones made a motion to endorse all items on the NCCADV legislative agenda, and to request further information from NCCADV regarding budgetary needs, as part of the DV Commission’s legislative agenda. Second made by Saira Estrada. Unanimous.
 - Access to Transportation –
Philisa Fowler reported the 2019 goals of the committee is to expand partnerships with faith based and volunteer sectors to increase transportation services. Previously, the committee was focused on providing transportation and language access to the eastern part of the state. Now the committee is focused on expanding transportation access to the western

part of the state as well. The committee is currently exploring a partnership with Faith-Health Connections in Winston-Salem. The committee continues to engage partnerships such as ride sharing, Uber/Lyft, and GCC VOCA Funding. Agencies were notified that they could apply for transportation funding by including a vehicle in the GCC grant, including insurance and maintenance.

- Access to Victims Services & Language Access – Saira Estrada, Co-Chairperson
The committee invites the legislative committee to join their March 13th meeting to provide input on recommendations of actions to be brought to a vote. No items to discuss currently.
- Access to Mental Health Services Committee - Starleen Scott-Robbins, Chairperson
Updates include an acknowledgement of the committee's official name, *Access to Health Care*. Their current focus is access to mental health services. A survey was sent to DV victim service providers to identify what questions are asked of trauma informed mental health treatment providers currently treating survivors. The responses are used to create an additional survey that will be completed by providers and licensed physicians to determine their philosophy and level of training. The committee plans to identify providers for each county that meets the criteria to provide trauma informed care.

- NC Council for Women Advisory Board Updates, Annette Taylor, Co-Chair

The NC Council for Women Advisory Board's 2019 goals include establishing women's commissions and continuing to promote of The Status of Women Report(s); Employment and Earnings and Status of Women: Health and Wellness, to be released in April-May 2019. Reach out to the state office if you are interested in starting a women's commission in your county.

- Additional Updates: Christy Agner, Deputy Secretary, Department of Administration
 - Praise was brought to the NC CFW&YI staff for providing excellent customer service during the federal shutdown. Staff were able to advance third quarter payments; appropriated dollars and court fees during the federal shutdown. Grantees have stated that this was a lifeline during an uncertain time, which allowed services to continue.
 - Next Quarterly DV Commission Meeting is on May 17, 2019; 10:am – 2:00pm
 - August meeting date will be sent and confirmed via email.
 - New date for August 16, 2019 will be August 9, 2019
 - Mark your calendar for March 28, 2019, Women History Month

Adjourn

A motion was made by _____ to adjourn. Second by _____. Meeting was adjourned at 1:58pm.

Submitted by: Deborah Torres, Council for Women and Youth Involvement

