

N. C. DOMESTIC VIOLENCE COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

Friday, May 17, 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, David Byrd, Starleen Scott-Robbins, Surabhi Gawande, Pamela Thompson, Casandra Hoekstra, Holly Jones, Hans Miller, Dean Tolson, Robert Wilkins

Board Members on Call: Cathy Cloninger

Members Absent: Phillip Coates, Erica Gallion, Angela Harris, Shelby Benton, Cheryl Howell, Vicky Pait, Cathy Stevens, Robin Ramsey, Annette Taylor, Lynn Taylor, Deborah Weissman, Maureen Krueger

Special Guests Present: Niki Locklear, NC Commission of Indian Affairs, Sherry Honeycutt Everett, NC Coalition Against Domestic Violence, Melissa Dunston, (Grants Writer, DOA), Andreina Hall, NC Council for Women Advisory Board, Garla Glover-Smith, Consultant, Leslie Parker-Thompson, Consultant, Stacy Sechrist, NC Network for Safe Communities, Angela Harper King, DHHD, Julia Horrocks, Pisgah Legal Services, Latoya Chancey, DHHS, Angella Preston, Staff, Maggie Slocumb, Helpmate a Domestic Violence Agency, Adonicca McAllister, GCC, Angela Morrow, Consultant, Danielle LaPlace, NC Network for Safe Communities

NCCFW&YI Staff Present: Mary Williams-Stover, Executive Director, Emily Roach, Deputy Director, Philisa Fowler, Diane Blumel, Gwen Moragne, Jackie Jordan, Talal Foz, Deborah Torres, Kiricka Yarbough-Smith, Bernetta Thigpen,

Welcome/Introduction: April Burgess-Johnson, Chairperson

The meeting was called to order at 10:00am by Chair, April Burgess-Johnson. She read the Ethics Statement and invited any member who may have a conflict of interest to identify.

Approval of Minutes: DV Commission Meeting minutes from February 15, 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 invited members and guests to introduce themselves. She defined the new agenda format that allows members to conduct committee break out meetings before lunch. The five committees will reconvene for a working lunch, and each Chairperson is expected to share their reports with action items/discussion.

Committee Reports and Action Items:

- Committees reported on their focus for 2019.
 - Legislative Committee – Julia Horrocks, Pisgah Legal Services reported for Chairperson Holly Jones.

Kriquette Davis will be the point person to email the committee members information about legislative updates or needed advocacy. April spoke to the committee about the importance of responding promptly to Kriquette when she sends emails out and the need to act quickly in communicating with Legislative members when there is a policy change. It would also will give the DV Commission the opportunity to build awareness of issues and service needs with their elected officials.
 - Batterer Intervention Committee – Judge Robert Wilkins, Co-Chairperson reported.

BIP committee is working very close with the Legislative committee to create a new process. Judge Wilkins stated that Chapter 50 Bill didn't pass because of Firearm. Three Western Region agencies will be pilot sites for the Colorado Model DVRNA (Domestic Violence Risk Needs Assessment) that is being conducted with Buncombe County SPARC Foundation, Transylvania SafePlace, Henderson Safelight, and Mecklenburg NOVA Batter Intervention Programs.

Action items/Priorities:

1. Increased reporting on court orders for DV offenders to attend and complete a 26 weeks BIP program.
 2. Increase the number of offenders completing their court order to attend and complete a BIP.
 3. Enhanced safety for those victims whose offenders is being offered case management and thus greater wrap-around services for the victim (offender more closely being monitored).
- Access to Transportation – San Hoekstra, Co-chairperson reported.

Access to Transportation committee is actively seeking more members. The committee continues to engage partnerships to help agencies expand access to transportation for survivors such as ride sharing, Uber/Lyft, and promoting options for agencies to apply for grants to purchase vehicles thru the Governor's Crime Commission VOCA Funding. Agencies were notified that they could apply for transportation funding by including a vehicle in their GCC grant application, including insurance and maintenance. However only two agencies in the West Region and 1 in the Eastern region applied. Mary Williams-Stover suggested that San meet with someone at the State Employee Credit Union to gain partnership with transportation. Committee is continuing to seek partnerships with faith communities to explore possible solutions.
 - Access to Victims Services & Language Access – Saira Estrada, Co-Chairperson reported.

The committee recommends CFW&YI utilize state funding to help agencies with Language Access, Language barriers and the need of interpreters. Phillisa Fowler, Eastern Region

Director CFW&YI stated that grants provided to domestic violence and sexual assault agencies currently allows use of state funds for interpreters. Additionally, NCCFW&YI has requested training from NCCADV for agencies to learn more about creating a Language Access Plan.

- Access to Healthcare Services Committee - Starleen Scott-Robbins, Chairperson reported.
Action items:
 1. Conduct joint planning sessions with Council for Women liaisons to coordinate awareness opportunities for 2019 Health and Wellness kick off.
 2. Complete asset mapping of resources for health services for Eastern region.
 3. Expand opportunities and promotions for DV/SA agencies receiving state and federal funding through NCCFW&YI to connect clients to mental health and substance abuse services, especially in rural counties.

Executive Director's Report: Mary Williams-Stover, NC Council for Women & Youth Involvement

- *NC Status of Women: Health and Wellness Report* soft launch was conducted on May 1st in Greensboro. Partner with UNCG. This is the second report in the series of research compiled by the Institute for Women's Policy Research (IWPR) on NC in partnership with NCCFW&YI to support our mission of advising the Governor, Legislators and community on issues impacting women in NC.
- Free copy of the full Status of Women Health and Wellness Report will be available on NCCFW website by June.
- Community presentations are planned for the Western Region and Eastern Regions in June. Report will also include information on domestic violence in NC. Fact Sheets are available for you today. First report on Status of Women Employment and Earnings was released last year. Since then several policy recommendations have occurred to support work life balance.

Equal Pay Day – April 2nd; Governor Cooper signed the **Executive Order 93**: Bans Salary History in State Government Hiring. Major step forward for NC and excellent example for private and public sector.

December 2019 - **Executive Order 82** was signed by Governor Cooper to extend accommodations for pregnant and nursing women in State Government.

WomC State Impact Award was presented to NCCFW & YI by the UNC Women's Center for our work in promoting statewide resources and the *Status of Women in NC Employment and Earnings Report* as well as outstanding opportunities for youth learning through the state internship program

Gov. Cooper signed a Proclamation to support Awareness for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women – May 5, 2019. Miss Indian North Carolina visited the Department of Administration this week to share the proclamation and remarks about the importance of acknowledging almost 90 unsolved cases of missing or murdered indigenous women and children dating back to 1994. Studies show American Indians and Alaskan natives are almost 3 times more likely to experience violent crimes and 2 times more likely to experience rape or sexual assault crimes than other races. NC is home to a population of

more than 122,000 American Indians, the largest east of the Mississippi and has 8 state recognized tribes.

The NC Commission on Indian Affairs was approved to receive funding from the FVPSA grant and a VOCA funding thru the Governor's Crime Commission for a project targeting underserved crime victims services in Bladen, Columbus, Cumberland, Franklin, Halifax, Harnett, Hoke, Mecklenburg, Northampton, Onslow, Person Robeson Sampson Scotland Warren and Wake counties.

- Goal is to build community capacity in American Indian communities to provide victim services to domestic violence and sexual assault victims and families.
- Educate existing service providers – law enforcement- court personnel near American Indian and military communities.
- increase training of advocates in tribes and partnerships with existing domestic violence service providers to build access to services and awareness of services.

NC DOA also received approval for a VOCA grant to continue our HT initiatives to increase outreach and supportive services for human trafficking survivors. Working with community advocates committees the goal is outreach to underserved victims and connecting them with essential services along with domestic violence and sexual assault providers statewide. CFW's HT Program Director, Kiricka Smith will share more about that program at the next meeting in August.

Following the FY 19-20 Legislative Process. Seeking to educate legislators about potentially negative impact of budget personnel cuts will have on the NC Council for Women and Youth Involvement. Error in the budget cuts 5 positions in DOA including 2 positions that will negatively affect this agency's ability to continue to provide superior customer service to domestic violence and sexual assault grantees, and to ensure grants oversight and accountability which is a core service we provide in administering over \$10 million in state and federal grants to all 100 counties in NC.

2019 is the **50th anniversary of the State Internship Program** managed the NCFW and Youth Involvement team. Very successful program which also helps understaffed and resourced agencies. Interns will be serving in our office this summer working on the Access to Services program research. Funding from the NCGA helps support salaries for the interns at a rate of \$8.25/hr. DOA continues to advocate with the General Assembly to increase the funding and bring the rate up to at least \$15.00/hr. which is the minimum wage for state employees.

Access to Services Summit 2020 Presentation:

A framework for the Summit was presented for review and feedback from the DV Commission. The DVC began a strategic goal in 2018 to explore the challenge of how to increase access to domestic violence services in NC. We developed a 3-year strategic plan to guide our work. Committees formed focusing on Access to Transportation Strategies, Access to Language and Victim Services, Access to Health Care and continuing the work of the Legislative and Batterer Intervention Committees.

First year committees focused on gathering information from service providers regarding specific barriers to services. Second year, 2019, committees and staff continue to work on flushing out partnerships and gaining input and research to identify promising practices that support our strategic imperative to increase access to DV Services. Year three- 2020 will include a summit to highlight successful practices.

NCCADV 2019 Legislative Priorities Updates- Sherry Honeycutt Everett: The House's budget makes no changes to domestic violence funding. It allocates the following for Domestic Violence in each year for the 2-year budget:

- 1,232,996 for the Council for Women
- 5,109,877 for the Domestic Violence Program
- 3,913,212 for the Domestic Violence Center Fund

See attached Sherry Honeycutt Everett PowerPoint

2020 NCGA Budget Updates: Christy Agner, Deputy Secretary, Department of Administration

- Reviewed Governor's Budget and the process of approving a budget, the process in the House and Senate
- DOA Budget impacted by 5 positions, two positions in Council for Women
- Healthcare Expansion is a priority for the Governor's budget and its impact for women
- Gov. Cooper met recently with Obstetricians and Pediatricians for a roundtable learning discussion on healthcare access
- Sec. Mandy Cohen focused on Medicaid Expansion which would reduce the rate of infant mortality as indicated in the Status of Women in NC Health and Wellness report

Adjourn

The North Carolina Domestic Violence Commission approved a motion that the two NC Council for Women & Youth Involvement positions eliminated from the budget in the House be restored and included in the Senate budget.

1st- Holly Jones

2nd- Dawn Kriquette Davis

Meeting was adjourned at 2:00pm.

Submitted by: Deborah Torres

