

Approved  
**NORTH CAROLINA DOMESTIC VIOLENCE COMMISSION BOARD MEETING**  
**Friday, August 28, 2020: 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM**

**Microsoft Teams Virtual Meeting: Hosted by Catherine Rivera & Deborah Torres**

**Minutes**

**Presiding Board Member:** April Burgess-Johnson

**Board Members Present:** Carolina Alzuru, Tiffany Bell, Shelby Benton, Kriquette Davis, Jacqueline Dienemann, Sherry Everett, Karen Fairley, Regina Gurley, Casandra Hoekstra, Denise Mazza representing Tonya Horton, Holly Jones, Hans Miller, Vickie Pait, Larry Pierce, Terri Sharp, Annette Taylor, Deborah Weissman, Robert M. Wilkins, Nora Salinas, Saira Estrada

**Board Members Absent:** David Byrd, Cathy Cloninger, Hilary Cooper, Kristy Dickerson, Surabhi Gawande, Cheryl Howell, Jennifer Howell, Maureen Krueger, Starleen Scott Robbins, Catherine Stevens

**Special Guests Present:** Betty Marrow-Taylor, DOA Deputy Secretary, Katie Hall, DOA Legislative Liaison, Catherine Rivera, DOA Boards and Commissioners Coordinator, Julia Horrocks, Helpmate a Domestic Violence Agency, LaToya Chancey, DHHD, Angela Harper King, DHHD, Maggie Slocumb, Helpmate a Domestic Violence Agency

**Meeting Presenters:** Kathy Balance, Hyde County, Executive Director, Angie Boles, Rockingham County, Julie Gentry, Rockingham County, Cori Goldstein, Deputy Chief Operating Officer Safe Alliance, Elyse Hamilton Childres, DSS County Director, Dr, Rebecca Macy, UNC- Chapel Hill, Dr, Cindy Fraga Rizo, UNC-Chapel Hill, Tonya VanDeinse, UNC-Chapel Hill,

**Staff Members Present:** Mary Williams-Stover, Executive Director, Allison Whitenack, Diane Blumel, Deborah Torres, Philisa Fowler, Lori Gerber, Candace Dudley, Jackie Jordan, Alisa Milliken, Rose Saltz, Erica Savage, Holly Foz, Deatrice Williams, Molly Overholt, Gabrielle Smith, Kiricka Yarbough-Smith

**53-person introduction**

**Call to order-** Ms. Burgess-Johnson, Chairperson called the meeting to order at 10:00 AM. She read the Ethics Statement and invited any member who has a conflict of interest to identify. No conflicts reported. Ms. Burgess-Johnson then opened the floor for public comment. There were no public comments. Mary Williams-Stover did the roll call and every Commissioner member stated (present).

**Chairperson's Report – April Burgess-Johnson, Chairperson**

- Impact of COVID-19 and unemployment rates on domestic violence survivors and victims.
- Agencies are sharing collective wisdom with one another by utilizing peer sharing calls statewide, regionally, and locally.
- Discussed the collaboration with hotels to accommodate victims and shelter populations.
- Concluded next challenge is a movement looking at long term as hotels resume normally. She expressed her gratitude for the diligent efforts of all involved with supporting victims and survivors.

**Approval of Minutes and Voting Items –** There was a combined vote on the following items:

1. Approval of Minutes – May 15, 2020 Meeting
2. Full approval of Friend-to-Friend in Moore County Batterer Intervention Program
3. Provisional approval pending receipt of MOU for Granville County Higher Aspirations Behavioral Healthcare

Chairperson, based on votes received, reported motion do carry.

**Agency's Recipient of the Family Violence Prevention Services Act (FVPSA) Updated Report:**

FVPSA CARES ACT COVID-19 Supplemental Program Grants to Domestic Violence Agencies: 1-year grant is administered by NC Council for Women; below are comments from recipients regarding how the Supplemental funds are helping agencies:

**Kathy Balance, Executive Director, Hyde County Hotline in Engelhard, NC**

- Hyde County Hotline, Inc. works to eliminate domestic abuse, sexual victimization and human trafficking in Hyde County, North Carolina through the collaborative efforts of a compassionate community. We promote dignity, respect and safety at home resulting in safer communities.
- Impact of COVID-19 and how the FVPSA Funds helped their organizations and community needs with computers, food, clothing etc...
- Provided an overview on how the agency help with resources for domestic violence survivors and victims to gain employment with the Hyde County Hotline.

**Angie Boles, Rockingham County**

- Provided a new roof for their Shelter with the help of FVPSA CARES ACT FUNDS
- Helped assure housing for domestic violence survivors and their children, laptops for the children to use with virtual learning.

**Cori Goldstein, Deputy Chief Operating Officer Safe Alliance, Mecklenburg County**

- Impact of COVID-19 on violence service provision- develop and modify guidelines to ensure victims of violence have equitable access to diagnosis, prevention, and treatment during COVID-19 and other public health emergencies in North Carolina.
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**Elyse Hamilton Childres, Director of Mecklenburg County DSS**

- Discussed the collaboration with hotels to accommodate victims and shelter populations.
- Partners closely with other community agencies, mental health, and local law enforcement.

**Update Reports from Domestic Violence Commission Sub- Committees:**

- **Legislative Committee**, Committee Co-Chairs **Sherry Honeycutt Everett, and Holly Jones**

The Legislative Subcommittee Meeting met on 8.06.20.

In attendance were: John Weil, Hans Miller, Mary Williams Stover, Holly Jones, Sherry Honeycutt Everett, Kriquette Davis, Annette Taylor, Julia Horrocks, Hilary Cooper, and Maggie Slocumb.

The meeting opened with announcements from committee members.

Agenda Items:

**Legislative Short Session:** NC DOA, NCCADV, and NCCASA worked to put together a request for funding for DV and SA agencies from the CARES Act. Meeting with partners and stakeholders to have statistics and statements of financial impact for agencies of COVID.

**DV Fatality Review Task Forces:** The committee discussed the process by which Fatality Review Task forces are formed in NC, and whether or not a change to the process was needed based on the recent experience of Buncombe County in trying to establish one. John Weil told the group about how various task forces are collaborating to share findings and recommendations, establish common themes, and what actions if any are necessary based on their findings. This group is meeting voluntarily and is not an established part of the process in the statute. Possible statutory reform going forward may need to include formalizing the group's process so that the findings and recommendations of local task forces can be used and there are maximal benefits flowing from the establishment of the local review teams.

The group discussed other possible substantive additions or changes to the DV Fatality Review Team statute for further consideration.

- **Victim Service Sub-Committee:** Chair **Shelby Benton**

Victim Services Committee is charged to “Increase access to DV services”. Over the past 2 ½ years this sub-committee organized itself to consider marginalized populations and try to develop a plan to increase that populations access to DV services. We began with Language Access. Now we are considering our next one or two populations on which to focus. To do that we have divided up into 7 mini committees. For your reference, the 7 mini committees are as follows:

1. LGBTQ
2. Deaf/Hard of Hearing
3. Teens
4. American Indian
5. African/Black/African/Caribbean
6. People who do identify as other than cisgender women
7. Male survivors

Each mini-Committee is tasked to research the population and be prepared at our Oct 23 meeting to provide a 10 to 15-minute report answering these 6 questions:

1. What kind of work is being done for this population?
2. What groups are doing the work, and could we partner with those groups?
3. What kind of studies, information or data is being gathered about this population?
4. What are the top 4 most compelling statistics about the impact of DV on this population?
5. What kind and how much funding are available for this population?
6. What would you hope the Victim Services Committee could add to the work being done for this population?

Once we hear these presentations we will vote as a sub-committee on which population or populations we will focus and how we will organize ourselves to do that work. If there is anyone on the NCDVC that would like to join a mini-committee or knows someone a mini-committee should contact, please email me at [shelby@bentonfamilylaw.com](mailto:shelby@bentonfamilylaw.com). We will make the information we develop available to the full commission after our October 23, 2020 meeting.

- **Domestic Violence Offender Management Committee:** Committee Co-Chairs **Judge Robert Wilkins and Tiffany Bell**

**Meeting date(s): 08/24/2020 Commissioner Attendees:**

Bell, Tiffany Reid

Byrd, David

Dienemann, Jacqueline

Weisman, Deborah

Wilkins, Robert

**Guest Attendees (list by name and include email addresses):**

Lori Gerber: lori.gerber@doa.nc.gov

Gabrielle Smith: Gabrielle.Smith@doa.nc.gov

Donovan Grant: Donavan.Grant@mecklenburgcountync.gov

**Key Topics Addressed:**

Update on Sandhills Behavioral Center: Agency remains non-compliant to date

Update on COOL Program: Agency has complied with most elements of compliance plan. Does not have an MOU with DV Agency in Davidson County, citing personal conflict with agency personnel. Upon resolution of the outstanding MOU issue, agency will regain approval and a follow up On Site Monitoring Visit will be scheduled as soon as practicable.

DVIP Applications: Anticipating 4 applications this cycle Virtual DVIP Update:

VIPs across NC continue to conduct group work utilizing a virtual format for the duration of the State of Emergency order in North Carolina. Most programs express interest in continuing to do so after the State of Emergency expires.

**DVOM collecting data on number of DVIPs closed/open and offering virtual services since initial survey in April.**

Initial Results found the following:

**A. 10 agencies are currently providing virtual group**

1. Group Participant Feedback from Virtual Group
  - a. Many appreciative of alternative
  - b. Many cite virtual group work being more feasible economically
2. Agency feedback from Virtual Group
  - a. Some are finding that clients are more forthcoming/transparent/participatory in virtual group

**B. 14 agencies are not providing virtual group**

1. Reasons included
  - a. lack of available equipment on the part of group participants
  - b. lack of agency staff capacity for implementation
  - c. safety concern for victim
  - d. 13 agencies have not responded to the survey

DVOM sent letter to NCDOA formally requesting funding for a DVIP oversight position and are currently awaiting a written response.

DVRNA Pilot Project: Continuing to offer virtual classes and intakes-requiring video for both. Referrals required to provide needed documentation prior to intake (warrants, DVPOs, criminal records. Increased number of classes to keep class size 12 or fewer. Requiring participants to meet with staff is technology is reason for absence

NCPAT offering teleconferences approximately once a month for programs to discuss challenges/concerns. Annual conference to occur virtually October 15-16.

**Access to Health Services Committee:** Committee Co-Chairs, **Starleen Scott Robbins, Regina Gurley**

**Meeting date(s): 08/11/2020**

**Commissioner Attendees:**

Fairley, Karen

Pait, Vickie

Gurley, Regina

Scott-Robbins, Starleen

Harris, Angela

**Guest Attendees (list by name):**

Bernetta Thigpen, Angela Harper-King, LaToya Chancey

**8/20/2020-Commissioner Attendees:**

- Fairley, Karen
- Gurley, Regina
- Harris, Angela
- Pait, Vickie
- Scott-Robbins, Starleen

**Guest Attendees :** Bernetta Thigpen, Angela Harper-King, LaToya Chancey, Toshia Dunlap, Stacy Smith, Judith Johnson-Hostler, Karen Feasel

**Key Topics Addressed During Both Meetings:**

- Karen Feasel, from DMHDDSAS Quality Management Section, joined our meeting as an invited guest on 8/20/2020 to provide analysis of the survey data. Karen provided potential inferences that could be made even considering the limited response.
- Key gaps as identified thru survey results included: EBP training & limited formal partnerships & collaboration b/t DV/SA and behavioral health providers.

**Action Steps for Committee Members:**

<b>Activity</b>	<b>Person(s) Responsible</b>	<b>Due Date</b>
<b>Discuss next steps with potential trainings in response to survey results &amp; planning regarding DV/SA screening in primary care setting.</b>	<b>Regina Gurley, Bernetta Thigpen &amp; Starleen Scott Robbins</b>	<b>9/18/2020</b>

**Access to Transportation Committee: Philisa Fowler, NC CFW & YI Eastern Region Director**

Philisa Fowler reported that the committee last met on March 18, 2020 and stated that currently the committee does not have a chair due to the previous chair’s, Commissioner Phillips Coates, retirement on April 1, 2020. Kriquette Davis, NCDVC Co-Chair will be the new chairperson for the Access to Transportation Committee. Focus is on identifying strategies to remove transportation barriers to domestic violence survivors accessing services. Seeking additional members especially those with county level expertise, Department of Transportation insight and ideas for supporting committee goals.

**Executive Director’s Update – Mary Williams-Stover – CARES ACT FUNDING UPDATE**

- HB1105 – \$12M contract process will be administered by the NC Department of Administration/Council for Women for eligible domestic violence and sexual assault agencies in NC. Thank you to DVC for your advocacy. Grant requires funds are spent by 12/30/20. Currently managing call for applications due by 09.30.2020.
- Implementation continues with 2 technical assistance Zoom meetings this week facilitated by NCCASA and NCCADV partners to help DV and SA grantees understand criteria for spending funding i.e. \$12 million to DV and SA agencies. Working with NCPRO to resolve questions from agencies related to US Treasury guidance and fiscal requirements.
- Currently assisting DV Commission Legislative Chairperson and DV Commission Domestic Violence Intervention Program Chairperson regarding strategies for promoting availability of funding from Governor’s Crime Commission STOP Grant for regional DVOM programs in 2021.
- Domestic Violence Awareness Month event planning is underway with NC Division of Military and Veteran Affairs, NCCADV and Veteran Support Services set for October 1<sup>st</sup>.

**Kiricka Yarbough-Smith, CFW Human Trafficking Director**

- Overview of Human Trafficking Outreach Campaign, Radio One takeover outreach program with 104.3, 103.9 and 97.5 radio station. The campaign flyer and information provided from Ms. Yarbough-Smith was shared in the MS Teams chat box.

**Dr. Rebecca Macy, Dr. Cindy Fraga Rizo, Tonya VanDeinse, UNC-CH Project Study:**

- Impact of COVID-19 on Domestic Violence, Sexual Assault and Human Trafficking Services in NC is the focus of the new study.
- Investigate how the COVID -19 crisis has impacted intimate partner violence (IPV), sexual violence and assault (SVA), and human trafficking (HT) services.
- Goal is to develop and refine guidelines for adapting IPV, SVA, and HT services in response to COVID-19 and other public health emergencies.
- Input needed from impacted intimate partner violence (IPV), sexual violence and assault (SVA), and human trafficking (HT) services.

**Action Taking:**

- Develop preliminary, evidence-informed guidelines
- Rapid literature review of violence service provision during public health emergencies
- Feedback sessions with service providers and practice experts
- Quantitative survey of NC violence organizations
- Refine and disseminate final guidelines
- Qualitative focus groups with practice experts

**Adjournment** – There being no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 12:06 p.m.

**NEXT MEETING: Friday, October 23, 2020**

Submitted by Deborah Torres, NC Council for Women & Youth Involvement