



STATE OF WISCONSIN

GOVERNOR'S COUNCIL ON DOMESTIC ABUSE

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GOVERNOR'S COUNCIL ON DOMESTIC ABUSE

Legislative & Policy Committee

Workgroup Meeting: Domestic Abuse Treatment Standards Review Committee

MEETING MINUTES

June 29, 2026

Meeting was held virtually

Council Members Present

None

Committee Members Present

Gary Zajc
Kevin Hamberger
Julie Landes
Darald Hanusa
Bennie Higgins
Kelsey Mullins
Julie Valadez
Tracy Plamann

DCF Staff

Dana Johnson
Kristen Olson

Call to Order, Welcome, and Introductions

1. DCF new PEI Section Manager – Dana Johnson, MSW.

Topics Discussed

1. **Review of Public Comments on Revised Standard on DA Treatment Standards:**

<https://dcf.wisconsin.gov/domesticabuse/council/legislative>

- a. End Abuse is submitting a response to the DA Treatment Standards by EOD on 6/29/26.
- b. Feedback regarding '**certifying body**' does not identify the Gov. Council as the body to address the 'who' of the certifying body. The Gov. Council will present this viewpoint at the upcoming full Gov. Council meeting for additional feedback and/or action.
- c. '**Dosage Minimums**' feedback discussion. Minimums, maximums, and ensuring review of national data, empirical support memo, when determining dosage, and providing responses to public comment from the chair.

- d. **'Innovative structures'** feedback discussion. Language in standards may not address accountability for all structures, and that there should be ability to use an alternative structures as each see fit. Promoting guard rails, requesting external review of structures not already approved, and providing oversight to assist.
- e. **'Good Faith and Effort'** of CCR's - feedback discussion regarding benchmarks and consider a gap analysis, later referral pathways established, maintain one functioning coordination mechanism (e.g. system consultations, iterative check-ins). 6-9-12 month build up timeframe recommended.
- f. **'Risk Tools'** feedback discussion to create language that risk tools and assessments should consider gender neutral language, consider how validation of assessments related to gender can provide a lack of clarity, fidelity, and standards should not require assessment be assigned to particular gender categories. Programs should use tools based on the tools' manual for implementation and use. Limitations of tools should be documented whenever applied. An alternative approval method for use of assessments may be developed. No person should face forced gender marker designation or placement for purposes of using an assessment tool.
- g. **'Virtual Participation'** will be added to the revised standards. There is concern that participants may be switched with another participant, posing online as a different participant. Programs should operationalize how to verify identity and ensure concerns and procedures are understood.
 - i. There is some concern when in a telehealth session, that a person can switch their cameras on and off, may be engaged in other activities while in a group session, and there may be others viewing the sessions. In most cases, the facilitator provides redirect and instruction to assist the participants.
 - ii. Consent for telehealth treatment should be incorporated.
- h. **ACTION:** Revisions will be made on 6/29/2026 and prepared for review with the Governor's Council meetings

2. DOC Standards and Impact on Governor Council's Efforts:

- a. Governor's Council intent was to create a universal standard to improve the continuum of care, create stronger relationships in advocacy and support work, ultimately to create a safety net for all.
- b. Two sets of standards will thus appear in courts. Examples of implications on unique experiences provided. Including court officials not recognizing one standard over another and may require additional time and efforts by citizens who use or require services defined by court intervention (i.e. family court vs. criminal court). Standards revision work in the 1990's was similar, where two separate standards were created (no collaboration occurred).
 - i. The DOC Standards do incorporate some of the Gov. Council's previous iterations of standards and are more aligned than previously.
 - ii. DOC has held the viewpoint that they have a unique population to serve and requires a separate standard. This treats the entire population of those incarcerated as 'one', rather than the Gov. Council standards supporting the uniqueness of the individual, as recommended by empirical research.
 - iii. It is important to keep 'safety' at the forefront of future conversations so that both Standards provide and improve 'safety' for all.

- c. Conversation with DOC recommended. The topic will be added to the discussion of this committees agenda item at the upcoming Governor Council's scheduled meeting.
 - i. There could be a MOU developed to assist in these interactions in use of two standards *if* we were unable to find common ground to use a single standard.
 - ii. DOC requires a fee for their assessment process, on occasion, and important for the Governor's Council to keep in mind going forward.

Next meeting: July 27, 2026 from 3:00pm to 4:00pm

Adjourn

Adjourned at 4:04pm.

Respectfully submitted by Dana Johnson on 7/1/2026, approved by Chair Gary Zajc.