



STATE OF WISCONSIN

GOVERNOR'S COUNCIL ON DOMESTIC ABUSE

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GOVERNOR'S COUNCIL ON DOMESTIC ABUSE

MEETING MINUTES

July 8, 2026

9:00am – 12:30pm

Meeting was held virtually

Council Members Present:

Elizabeth Lucas (Co-Chair)	Brenda Frasser
Shannon Barry (Co-Chair)	Sue Sippel
Shannon Jarecki	Courtney Olson
Rep. Taylor	

Committee Members Present:

Bennie Higgins	Jolynn Woehrer
Tracy Plamann	Shannon Jarecki
Gary Zajc	Kari Nielsen-LaScala
Julie Landes	Julie Valadez
Grace O'Meara	Sarah Semrad
Martha Brock	Jasmyne Bass
Steve Thomas	Taylor Talks

DCF/Governor's Council Staff Present:

Dana Johnson	Margaret Straughan
Penny Nevicosi	Angela (Angi) Krueger
Dara Martinovich	

Others Present:

Wisconsin Eye	Sam Hope
Gabi Hart	

I. Call to Order, Welcome and Introductions:

- i. Quorum was not established as 6 members were present, 8 are required.
- ii. Introductions of all those present.

II. Review and Approval of Past Minutes:

- i. No review or approval as no quorum was established.

III. Lobbying Update – End Abuse (Jenna Gormal)

- i. Federal Appropriations – End Abuse rejected proposal to use Victim Of Crimes Act funds to pay for additional programs not usually appropriated outside of Violence Against Women Act. The Victims Stabilization Act is seeing some fluctuations over time and are seeking the same funding as the previous budget cycle.

- ii. Some disagreement in the House of Representatives regarding appropriations. The Senate has not held a session to discuss the appropriations.
- iii. September House/Senate sessions will be required to avoid a government shutdown. Hoping that the same funding will continue into 2027.
- iv. Proposal by DOJ to consolidate Offices of Violence Against Women and the Office (OVW) of Justice Programs (OJP). Currently, OJP is separate because they report to the Attorney General. OVW is a high performing office and consistently monitors federal grants well, including providing technical assistance to states. OVW has provided timely notice of grant funding and is currently experiencing delays at this time. Several organizations have not received funding since September 2025. No additional federal guidance as to the release of those funds has been provided. Some organizations who do not receive funding by October 2026 will close, including organizations in Wisconsin.
- v. Notice of Funding Opportunities (NOFO) partially released by Family Violence Prevention and Services Act (FVPSA) Office to support funding of DV/DA programs, including technical assistance (TA), however TA grants have been withheld as the federal administration has indicated it is not a funding priority.
- vi. Proposed federal rule changes:
 - 1. Housing and Urban Development – comment period has ended related to the ‘End to the Equal Access Rule’ – 22k comments submitted. Hoping for no repeal.
 - 2. Office of Management and Budget – sweeping changes to federal grant making. The proposed changes include the following:
 - i. Allow each administration to make significant changes to grant making and authority, each administration would be allowed to revise, public political appointees can end grants at any time based on national interest and government priorities.
 - ii. Grantees’ organizations affiliations that also are not in the national interest or government priorities could have their grants ended.
 - iii. It is believed this will cause instability across social service programs. There is no statutory authority at this time for revisions recommended in the most recent report to Congress.
 - 3. Members of the Council are encouraged to submit a comment regarding the proposal. Each comment is reviewed and it is important to share as many comments as possible. 65k comments have been provided thus far.

Resource: [Public Comment Guide](#)

Resource: [Council of Nonprofits](#) – Letter to Protect

IV. Training: Open Meeting Laws – Margaret Straughan, Attorney Confidential, DCF Staff

- i. Presentation provided – please contact DCF to obtain a copy of the presentation at: DanaL.Johnson@wisconsin.gov
Resource: [Wisconsin Open Meetings Law Manual](#)

Break started at 10:07 am and the meeting reconvened at 10:22 am

V. Updates to Council Policies and Procedures

- i. Item #13 was revised to include updated language on a 7-year retention policy and removing items that are older from the Governor’s Council website.
- ii. Voting action required at the October meeting regarding this item.

VI. Committee Reports:

- i. **Access Committee**
 - 1. No report provided.

ii. Budget Committee

1. Salary and Wage study presentation provided on 7/7/2026 meeting. Copies were disseminated to agencies for sharing. Voting action required at the October meeting regarding this item.
2. Recommendations from the committee will be forwarded to DCF for future procurement of the statewide DV services procurement. Two additional upcoming meetings will complete the work required for the options to send forward. Voting action may be required at the October meeting regarding this item.

iii. Legislative & Policy Committee

- a. Recommendations for the Wisconsin DVIP Treatment Standards are in FINAL draft and will be a voting action at the October meeting.
 1. **Presentation:** WI DVIP Treatment Standards Review – Gary Zajc
Presentation provided. Reviewed the work of the committee, the recommendations of revised standards, and will share to the Council in October for vote.
 2. **Presentation:** Fatality Review Initiative – Courtney Olson
Presentation provided. Training resource developed and a website published to share information.
 - i. In-person, full-day training scheduled for October 26th, 2026 in a TBD location in Milwaukee. More information will be made available on the WI DV Fatality Review website.
 - ii. Governor's Council is requested to endorse to consider a press release, SAVE A DATE for the training, and awareness of the website and changes in the law. Materials requested in advance of the October meeting for review of the Governor's Council.
Resource: <https://wldvfatalityreview.com/>

VII. Discussion of the Governor's Council 2026 Awards for Outstanding Achievement in Domestic Abuse Issues

1. Establish a Planning Committee - Sue Sippel, Courtney Olson, Shannon Barry, Elizabeth Lucas volunteered to be members of the planning committee.
2. Occurs at the Assembly Room in the Wisconsin Capitol.
3. Light snacks, refreshments will be provided by DCF.
4. Nominations are due on Friday, July 10th, 2026.
5. Governor's Council members and DCF staff are not able to be considered for an award.

VIII. DCF Domestic Abuse Grant Program Updates

- i. Updates provided by Dana Johnson that included DCF staff changes and a reminder that the Domestic Violence Statewide Prevention RFP will be released later this year with a start date of July 1, 2027.

IX. Recent Correspondence (as applicable)

- i. None received.

X. Open Forum for Council Members

- i. New members will be engaging in an orientation with DCF Staff and Co-Chairs. Scheduling will occur and information will be disseminated via email to new members.

XI. Public Comments/Adjournment

- i. No public comment submitted in writing or by voice.

Meeting ended at 11:17am.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Dana Johnson.