



STATE OF WISCONSIN

GOVERNOR'S COUNCIL ON DOMESTIC ABUSE

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**GOVERNOR'S COUNCIL ON DOMESTIC ABUSE
MEETING MINUTES**

July 10, 2024

9 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

Meeting was held in person with a virtual option

Approved October 9, 2024

Council Members Present (Roll Call): Shannon Barry, Sue Sippel, Sue Perry, Rep. Pat Snyder, Rosalind McClain, Virginia Gittens Escudero, Rep. Sue Conley, Sen. Melissa Agard, Elizabeth Lucas, Janan Najeeb, Dr. Abdul Shour

Council Members Absent: Alena Taylor, Cyrena Martin

Guests Present: Sam Hope, Jenna Gormal, Ricky Ferrari Traner, Milly Gonzales, Tegan Swanson, Aaron Collins, John Elliott, Rachel Nili, Nadya Perez-Reyes, Angi Krueger, Janice Turben, Marianne Hirsch, Jaime Sathasivam, Kelsey Mullins, Paul Ferguson

DCF/Governor's Council Staff Present: Stacey Cicero

Call to Order, Welcome and Introductions

Perry called the meeting to order at 9:15 a.m. Members were welcomed and members provided introductions.

Approval of April 10, 2024 Meeting Minutes

Rep. Conley noted that she was present for the vote related to motion made by Rep. Snyder to suspend workgroup work until clarification is received from legislative council. Sen. Agard moved to approve the minutes from the April 10, 2024 meeting with the change noted, Barry seconded the motion. Motion carried. McClain not present for the vote.

Updates to the Governor's Council Policies and Procedures

Motion by Sen. Agard to table this discussion until after the Department of Justice presentation. Barry seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Council reviewed the current policies and procedures and noted they were outdated.

Motion by Barry to assign a workgroup to include at least one Council Co-Chair and no more than three council members to review and update the policies and procedures and bring back to the full Council to approve at a future meeting. Second by Rep. Snyder. Motion carried.

Perry asked for volunteers to form the workgroup. Rep. Snyder, Barry and Sippel volunteered to update the policies and procedures. A meeting date will be determined.

Presentation by the Wisconsin Department of Justice, Office of Open Government: Paul Ferguson

Open meeting requirements and open records were reviewed and discussed.

Lobbying Update from End Domestic Abuse Wisconsin (End Abuse)

Jenna Gormal, Public Policy Director for End Abuse, provided a lobbying update.

Review of council mission/vision by Council Co-Chairs

Perry referred to the Governor's Council webpage and read the Council description.

Review of Committee Goals and Objectives by Committee Co-Chairs

Perry noted that at previous Council meetings each committee was tasked with updating their goals and objectives. Access Committee and Legislative & Policy Committee noted no changes. Budget Committee reviewed and approved their updates. Sippel reviewed the updates with the Council.

Perry noted that Alena Taylor resigned her position as Legislative and Policy Committee Co-Chair and also as a Council member effective immediately. Taylor was asked to submit a letter of resignation to government appointments. A letter of commendation thanking Alena will be sent by the Council Co-Chairs.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Access Committee Report

Perry reported the committee is in need of a co-chair that is also a Council member. Najeeb attended the meeting and reported that the committee reviewed open meeting requirements, reviewed goals and objectives, and discussed the progress of the Anti-Oppression manual.

McClain noted she would like to move to the Access Committee and will Co-Chair as the Council representative.

Legislative and Policy Committee Report

Lucas reported the committee did not meet due to zoom issues.

Budget, Finance and Sustainability Committee Report

Sippel reported the committee reviewed open meeting requirements, discussed goals and objectives and approved the changes. Also discussed current funding opportunities including the pending award of the VOCA funding and Act 241. The committee referred the policy brief: Securing Adequate Funding for Domestic Abuse Services in Wisconsin to the full council for approval. The committee discussed how to disseminate the brief.

Presentation on the Policy Brief: Securing Adequate Funding for Domestic Violence Services in Wisconsin

Sippel and Shour gave highlights of the brief and asked that the Council approve the brief as a product of the Budget Committee. Sippel noted the brief is not a funding request, but a research paper that is for informational purposes only; in essence, a way to open the door for further discussion. Rep. Snyder and Rep. Conley both discussed how the wording related to the state budget felt more like a funding request. Shour reiterated that the objective of the brief was to summarize information on domestic violence to help influence policies. Barry noted the brief would be used as a tool to assist programs in applying for private funding. Motion by Sen. Agard to approve the policy brief as presented. Second by Barry. Discussion on how the brief will be disseminated. Roll call vote; Rep. Snyder votes no, all others vote yes. Motion carried.

Discussion of the Governor's Council 2024 Awards for Outstanding Achievement in Domestic Abuse Issues

Perry reviewed the different awards and the process for the award ceremony. Nomination forms have been released. Perry asked for volunteers to form a workgroup to plan the ceremony and review the nominations. Volunteers for the workgroup include: Perry, Sippel, Rep. Conley, and Lucas. Barry offered the assistance of DAIS staff and Jaime Sathasivam also offered to participate. A workgroup meeting will be determined.

Review of Council member terms, including Council Co-Chair

Cicero reported that no Council member terms will expire in 2024.

A new Council Co-Chair will need to be named in October as Perry's term expires and she is not eligible for renewal.

Review and Discussion of Future Council and Committee Meeting Locations

There is no requirement to hold council meetings in a governmental building. Council discussed various locations. The October meeting will be held at the capitol. Sen. Agard suggested that the Council Co-Chairs make the determination and set future meeting locations.

DCF Domestic Abuse Grant Program Update

Stacey Cicero, Domestic Abuse Program Coordinator reported:

- DCF is currently hiring for the DV/SA Program Coordinator position. The previous person left in May.
- DCF currently released the request for proposal (RFP) for the Domestic Abuse Services for Immigrant, Refugee and Former Refugee. The RFP for the Domestic Abuse Services for Traditionally Under-represented Populations grant funding will be released shortly. The new, competitive RFP's will be reviewed separately later this summer with a start date of January 1, 2025. Several members of the council that have indicated a desire to be part of the review teams.
- DCF has partnered with the Office of Crime Victim Services to help distribute the \$2.4M domestic violence funding as part of Act 241. OCVS will be announcing the awards very soon.
- The ARPA funding for Sexual Assault programs will be coming to an end on Sept 30, 2024. DCF awarded four different contracts for the sexual assault funding that includes grants to dual domestic violence and sexual assault programs, stand-alone sexual assault programs, tribal programs and training and technical assistance. DCF is currently reviewing options to ensure the full spend down of this funding.

Open Forum for Council Members

Rep. Conley offered encouragement to the newly formed workgroup to review the Council's policies and procedures.

Rep. Snyder commended the Budget Committee and Dr. Shour for the work done on the policy brief. He noted that he voted no to the motion moving the document forward due to the state budget reference.

Public Comments

Milly Gonzales noted a concern that the previous Governor's Council meeting was held at a DV program. She believes this could be seen as a conflict of interest and inappropriate. Milly, as Associated Director of End Domestic Abuse WI, offered the coalition as a meeting location for the council and noted that technology has been upgraded. Milly expressed her gratitude to Dr. Shour and the Budget Committee for the work on the policy brief. She is concerned that a reference was made to the brief being presented as a "mini long range plan" and believes the brief should be represented as a separate document.

Adjourn

Motion to adjourn made by Rep. Conley, second by Rep. Snyder. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 12: 26 p.m.