



STATE OF WISCONSIN

GOVERNOR'S COUNCIL ON DOMESTIC ABUSE

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GOVERNOR'S COUNCIL ON DOMESTIC ABUSE

MEETING MINUTES

November 14, 2024

1:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Meeting was held virtually

Council Members Present (Roll Call): Shannon Barry, Sue Sippel, Rep. Pat Snyder, Rep. Sue Conley, Elizabeth Lucas, Janan Najeeb, Dr. Abdul Shour, Brenda Frasser, Cyrena Martin

Council Members Absent: Virginia Gittens Escudero, Rosalind McClain, Sen. Melissa Agard

Guests Present: Renee Schulz, Jenna Gormal, Ayesha Raheem, Shira Phelps, Ann Kappauf, Barb Fischer, Teresa Nienow, Deb Lee, Marianne Hirsch, Jaime Sathasivam, Alexandra Stanley, Tegan Swanson, Suzi Schoenhof

DCF/Governor's Council Staff Present: Stacey Cicero, Rachel Nili, Ricky Ferrari Traner, Kristen Olsen

Call to Order, Welcome and Introductions

Sippel called the special meeting to order at 1:02 p.m. Members were welcomed and provided introductions. Brenda Frasser was introduced as the newest Council member.

Presentation by Department of Justice regarding the funding proposal

Shira Phelps, Director of the Office of Crime Victim Services (OCVS), provided an overview of current Victim of Crime Act (VOCA) funding levels and how the funding cuts are affecting programs. OCVS is making a request to the Governor to fill the gap left by the VOCA cuts. OCVS sees this as restoring the floor to funding levels. The funding went from \$44.5M down to \$13M per year. OCVS will be asking for \$66M over the biennium (two year period) to provide a funding stream to offset the decrease. Several areas related to victims of crimes will be supported with this ask.

Set Asides:

DV	\$20,335,400	30.7%
SA	\$16,076,700	24.3%
Child abuse	\$8,846,100	13.4%
Victim Witness	\$8,548,500	12.9%
Tribal	\$2,248,000	3.4%
Other	remaining funding	

Question was asked if any federal money may be coming in the future for these programs. This is uncertain. There are many efforts to advocate for additional federal funding. OCVS stated that if additional federal money was received, it may take up to two years for it to be distributed.

Discussion on how the Council may help

Sippel asked how the council can be of assistance. Jenna reported that End Abuse is coordinating with WCASA to meet with the Governor's office today and are in support of the entire package presented by OCVS because of the interconnectedness among victims of crime.

Sippel asked the Council if it was in agreement to write a letter that will be sent to the Governor's office and legislators. The letter would come from the full Council and not name members individually. Discussion on supporting all crime types as they intersect with domestic violence.

Motion by Najeeb authorizing a letter to come from the full Council to the Governor's office and legislators, offering the opportunity to meet to discuss this further. Authorizing the representatives of the Council to continue education and advocacy for this request in the period prior to the next meeting in February – including discussions or letters to be sent, second by Shour. Roll call vote. All aye. Martin abstained.

Review of Draft Letter to the Governor and Legislatures

Letter was updated during the meeting via shared screen in support of the full \$66M ask. Feedback from group.

Motion by Rep. Conley to approve the letter as presented, second by Lucas. Roll call vote. All aye. Martin abstained.

Adjourn

Motion to adjourn made by Najeeb, second by Shour. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 2:05 p.m.