



STATE OF WISCONSIN

GOVERNOR'S COUNCIL ON DOMESTIC ABUSE

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GOVERNOR'S COUNCIL ON DOMESTIC ABUSE

MEETING MINUTES

October 9, 2024

9 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

Meeting was held in person

Approved February 12, 2025

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, Rosalind McClain

Sue Conley left meeting at 10:26 a.m., returned at 10:52 a.m.

Rosalind McClain joined the meeting at 10:29 a.m.

Council Members Absent: Cyrena Martin

Guests Present: Sam Hope, Ricky Ferrari Traner, Milly Gonzales, John Elliott, Taylor Gilbertson, Therese Durkin, Kristen Olsen, Nadya Perez-Reyes, Holland Dvorak, DV Housing First evaluation team – Kate Walsch, Mariel Barnes, Makenzie Peak, numerous students.

DCF/Governor's Council Staff Present: Stacey Cicero

Call to Order, Welcome and Introductions

Sippel called the meeting to order at 9:05 a.m. Members were welcomed and members provided introductions. Meeting will end at approximately 11:15 am to adjourn to the award ceremony to practice.

Approval of July 10, 2024 Meeting Minutes

Motion by Najeeb, second by Barry to approve the July minutes. All aye.

Election of Co-Chair by Council Appointees

Sue Perry has timed out as co-chair of the council and has also tendered her resignation on the council as of today. Sippel offered a thank you to Sue Perry for all her service on the council, particularly as co-chair and for bringing the voice of survivor to the council.

Sippel opened the floor for nominations. Lucas nominated Barry for co-chair position. Senator Agard seconded. No other nominations. Sippel approved the nomination for co-chair. Called for vote, all aye.

Lobbying Update from End Domestic Abuse Wisconsin (End Abuse)

Milly Gonzales, Associate Director for End Abuse, provided a lobbying update. Presented information on Why Wisconsin authored by Jenna Gormal, Public Policy Director at End Abuse. 2023 DV Homicide report was released yesterday. It will be forwarded to the Council members and includes the Why Wisconsin.

Governor's council is looking into supporting the DOJ ask for funding to the Governor. Sippel reached out to DOJ to ask what type of support would be appropriate. Jenna is on sabbatical and will return the end of October. There is a meeting set with DOJ early November. Sen. Agard suggested reaching out to legislatures as soon as the election is over. Sippel - What role could the Gov Council play since it is an advisory board to the Governor. Rep. Snyder

offered to advocate at the joint finance committee level. Rep. Conley also offered to lift up the DOJ ask to the Governor.

Advocate for the DOJ funding ask and draft a letter to the Governor – need to have a special meeting in mid November to make sure it is on the agenda. A draft letter should be done ahead of time to review at the meeting.

Rep. Snyder posed a question to Lucas, DOC, regarding restitution and how the victim receives it.

Najeeb asked if the media is invited to Council meetings. Suggested the Council may want to do this.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Sippel noted there was a special training on open records for committee and workgroup members. Materials are posted on the DCF Gov Council webpage.

Policy Procedure and Review Committee

Rep. Snyder reported the committee has met twice and is about half way through reviewing the policy document. The final draft will be presented to the council at the February meeting.

Access Committee Report

Co-chair McClain not present for report. Perry noted that the current, working draft of the anti-oppression manual was found and will be edited. The committee is hoping to have the final draft completed by mid 2025 to present to the council for approval. Najeeb added the original document was from almost 20 years ago and the new manual will be updated to reflect current language.

Legislative and Policy Committee Report

Lucas reported the committee has a new committee co-chair, Samantha Collier from Team Teal365. The committee also had reports from the three workgroups.

GAL guidebook: working on final draft to present to the council in February.

Fatality Review Initiative: looking to draft legislation specific to DV.

Standards workgroup: presentation from the Vermont team and will also hear from Hawaii.

Budget, Finance and Sustainability Committee Report

Sippel reported the committee did not meet.

Presentation by UW Madison Evaluation Team: Domestic Violence Housing First Pilot Project (DVHF)

Mariel and Kate presented on the preliminary findings of the DVHF project.

2025 Meeting Schedule

DCF will send out a list of dates for 2025 council and committee meetings.

Topic suggestions for 2025:

Overview on legislative cycle, budgets, etc and how to engage with legislatures and staff.

DV Housing First update on evaluation and support/funding.

What policy and law changes are needed and how do we advocate for these changes.

Presentation from DV Task Force.

DCF Domestic Abuse Grant Program Update

Stacey Cicero, Domestic Abuse Program Coordinator reported:

- DCF has hired for the SA and DV Prevention Coordinator. Kristen Olsen began her position about two months ago.

- DCF DV Housing first contracts are funded with ARPA and will end 12/31/2025. At this time, there is no plan to continue the pilot project.
- DCF is currently reviewing proposals for the Domestic Abuse Services for Immigrant, Refugee and Former Refugee, and the Domestic Abuse Services for Traditionally Under-represented Populations grant funding. Award notifications should be released in November. The new contracts will begin January 1, 2025.
- DCF is working on a new, competitive request for proposal for Tribal Training and Technical Assistance. It is our hope to release this in early spring with a start date of July 1, 2025.
- Two other DCF funding opportunities will be released for competitive requests for proposals in the summer of 2025. These include Children’s Programming, Statewide Hmong Family Strengthening Helpline. Both contracts will have a start date of January 1, 2026.

Open Forum for Council Members

Sue Perry thanked everyone and state she will continue to support victims of domestic violence.

Public Comments

None.

Adjourn

Motion to adjourn made by Barry, second by McClain. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned to award ceremony at 11: 08 a.m.