



STATE OF WISCONSIN

GOVERNOR'S COUNCIL ON DOMESTIC ABUSE

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GOVERNOR'S COUNCIL ON DOMESTIC ABUSE

MEETING MINUTES

April 9, 12, 2025

9 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

Meeting was held virtually

Approved July 9, 2025

Council Members Present (Roll Call): Shannon Barry, Sue Sippel, Rep. Pat Snyder, Janan Najeeb, Sen. Sarah Keyeski, Brenda Frasser, Rosalind McClain, Cyrena Martin

Council Members Absent: Dr. Abdul Shour, Virginia Gittens Escudero, Elizabeth Lucas, Rep. Sequanna Taylor

Guests Present: Marianne Hirsch, Tegan Swanson, Monique Minkens, Sam Hope, Courtney Olson, Jaime Sathasivam, Isabel Williston, Julie Valadez, Milly Gonzales, Kari La Scala, Jan Bruder

DCF/Governor's Council Staff Present: Stacey Cicero, Ricky Ferrari Traner, Rachel Nili, Angi Krueger, Michelle Rawlings, Nadya Perez-Reyes, Kristen Olsen

Call to Order, Welcome and Introductions

Sippel called the meeting to order at 9:04 a.m. Members were welcomed and provided introductions.

Approval of February 2025 Meeting Minutes

Motion by Barry, second by McClain to approve the February minutes. All aye. Motion carried.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Policy Procedure and Review Committee

Sippel thanked the committee for its work and noted the updated policies and procedures were sent out with the agenda.

Motion to approve the updated policies and procedures by Barry, second by McClain. Discussion. All aye. Motion carried.

Access Committee Report

Co-chair McClain reported the committee discussed the continuation of the draft anti-oppression manual and the potential for another entity or one of the coalitions to take on finishing the document, setting it aside to work on emergent issues related to Access given the current funding climate. Completing the manual is still up for discussion. End Domestic Abuse Wisconsin reported they will not take on this project and feel it is best housed with the Council. Najeeb stated the manual has very old articles and may need to be looked at in a more modern light. Barry stated DCF will be going through a new procurement process in 2026 and really hopes that Access can take a look at options and ensure victims across the state are supported as programs and shelters downsize or close. McClain stated she will meet with the Committee Co-Chair and the Council Co-Chairs to discuss next steps.

Budget, Finance and Sustainability Committee Report

Sippel reported the committee met to discuss work on the Fair Minium. An ad hoc group met prior to the committee meeting and developed questions to take to regional meetings, but didn't get a chance to report to the committee. Committee discussed options to include sexual assault and culturally specific programs. Discussed how to move forward and if to move forward. Co-chairs will meet to discuss next steps.

Legislative and Policy Committee Report

In Lucas's absence, Cicero reported:

Treatment Standards Review: continues to meet and had a presentation from the Hawaii program.

Domestic Violence Fatality Review Initiative: continues to meet and are trying to determine how to move forward with legislation.

Domestic Abuse Guidebook for GAL: finalized the draft of Guidebook and are working on publication.

Discussion of language in current domestic violence statutes

Sippel noted the Domestic Violence statute number 49.165 needs review and updating. Tabled this discussion until Lucas is in attendance because it will likely be sent to the Legislative and Policy Committee. This will be placed on the July agenda.

Rep. Snyder left the meeting

Presentation: Expanded Venue for Restraining Orders in Domestic Violence Cases and Peer Support Network

Presenters: Courtney Olson, Executive Director at Rainbow House in Marinette; Kari LaScala, Attorney at End Domestic Abuse Wisconsin; and Jan Bruder, Executive Director at Brighter Tomorrows in Sparta.

2017 brought forward the change of venue law which allows survivors to seek orders of protection outside of their home county.

The Peer Support Network is a group of volunteer advocates serving those within the domestic abuse profession who may be personally experiencing domestic abuse and are uncomfortable going to their place of employment for services. The WI Advocate Peer Support Network is housed on the End Domestic Abuse website.

Jan shared her experiences as an advocate that experienced abuse and dealt with the court system, including an order of protection.

Discussion. Appreciate the meaningful actions to move legislation forward.

Lobbying Update from End Domestic Abuse Wisconsin (End Abuse)

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

Sam Hope, an aide to Rep. Snyder, provided additional information.

DCF Domestic Abuse Grant Program Update

Stacey Cicero, Domestic Abuse Program Coordinator reported:

- DCF has released a new, competitive request for proposal for Tribal Training and Technical assistance. This RFP can be found on eSupplier. This contract has a start date of October 1, 2025.
- DCF received \$8M in one time Department of Administration funding to support the domestic violence initiative. The purpose of the funding is to assist domestic violence programs in providing survivors with emergency crisis shelter and other safe housing options. A portion of this funding was added to current DVHF contracts to extend this program through 12/31/2026. These contracts were set to end December 31, 2025. It was also added to current Sheltercare Stabilization contracts to fully fund the contracts through 12/31/26. These contracts would have seen a 50% reduction in 2026. DCF is currently working on options for the remaining approximately \$4M in funding to assist with sheltering and other housing options.
- DCF is also working on a competitive RFP for DV Training and Technical Assistance that will be released early summer with a start date of January 1, 2026.

- Two other DCF funding opportunities will be released for competitive requests for proposals this spring. These include Children's Programming and Statewide Hmong Family Strengthening Helpline. Both contracts will have a start date of January 1, 2026. DCF is looking for members of the Governor's Council to participate in the review process.

Public Comments

Julie Valadez – thanked the presenters, and spoke to address confidentiality, legal services, and Federal legislation Keeping Children Safe From Family Violence.

Adjourn

Motion to adjourn made by Najeeb, second by Barry. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 11:16 a.m.