



STATE OF WISCONSIN

GOVERNOR'S COUNCIL ON DOMESTIC ABUSE

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GOVERNOR'S COUNCIL ON DOMESTIC ABUSE

MEETING MINUTES

February 12, 2025

9 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

Meeting was held virtually

Approved April 9, 2025

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

Council Members Absent: Dr. Abdul Shour

Guests Present: Shira Phelps, Marianne Hirsch, Tegan Swanson, Sarah Semrad, Jenna Gormal, Kelsey Mullins, Monique Minkens, Sam Hope

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

Call to Order, Welcome and Introductions

Barry called the meeting to order at 9:02 a.m. Members were welcomed and provided introductions. Special welcome to Sen. Keyeski, Rep. Taylor and Brenda Frasser as this is their first meeting. One vacancy on the Council remains. Sippel noted an orientation will be scheduled for the new members.

Approval of October 2024 Meeting Minutes

Motion by Najeeb, second by Snyder to approve the October minutes. All aye. Motion carried.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Policy Procedure and Review Committee

Sippel reported the committee has met a number of times to review the policy and procedures. Another meeting is set and they are making good progress.

Access Committee Report

Co-chair McClain reported the committee continues to work on the draft of the anti-oppression manual and assigned pages for editing. The committee is hoping to have the final draft completed by mid-2025 to present to the Council for approval.

Budget, Finance and Sustainability Committee Report

Sippel reported the committee received updates from OCVS and DCF. Reviewed the Fair Minimum document and how it can be used. A workgroup was formed to work on questions to solicit feedback from programs on the existing fair minimum and further discuss the process.

Legislative and Policy Committee Report

Lucas reported the committee had reports from the three workgroups.

Treatment Standards Review: has two new co-chairs, workgroup continues to meet monthly to update the standards. Will be hearing from a program in Hawaii at the next meeting.

Domestic Violence Fatality Review Initiative: continues to meet monthly. Trying to determine how to move forward with legislation.

Domestic Abuse Guidebook for GAL: finalized draft of Guidebook.

Committee Workgroup: Domestic Abuse Guidebook for Wisconsin Guardian Ad Litem (GAL)

Kelsey Mullins, Office of Court Operations, provided an overview the Guidebook. Council discussed.

Motion by Sippel, second by Lucas to approve the Guidebook as presented. All aye. Motion carried.

Rep. Snyder left the meeting at 9:55 a.m.

DCF Domestic Abuse Grant Program Update

Stacey Cicero, Domestic Abuse Program Coordinator reported:

- The 2023 DCF Annual Report has been released. The link to the report is in the agenda. Highlights to the report include: In calendar year 2023, DCF provided support to 74 nonprofit DV/SA and Dual agencies, 9 tribes and 3 TA providers; of those agencies - 44 are shelter programs. Between Oct. 1, 2022 and Sept. 30, 2023, DCF domestic abuse funding provided 253,946 nights of safe shelter for 5,392 survivors and their children, this is a 17.5% increase over the prior year. Of the 5,392 people staying in safe shelter, 44.1% or 2,382 of those were children and youth.
- 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 October 1, 2025.
- Two other DCF funding opportunities will also be released for competitive requests for proposals in the summer of 2025. These include Children's Programming and Statewide Hmong Family Strengthening Helpline. Both contracts will have a start date of January 1, 2026.

Lobbying Update from End Domestic Abuse Wisconsin (End Abuse)

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

Discussion by the Council members, including a brief update-from DCF by Angi Krueger, Policy Initiatives Advisor.

Office of Crime Victim Services (OCVS) Budget Update

Shira Phelps, OCVS Executive Director, provided an update of OCVS funding.

Sippel shared that a letter of support was sent from the Council to the Governor in favor of the OCVS budget request.

Renewal of the 2025 Council's participation in the procurement process

Sippel reviewed the statutory requirements relating to the role the Council plays in the procurement process and the process that the Council previously voted to adopt in order to meet these requirements.

A motion was made by Sippel that the Council will meet the statutory obligations regarding review of grant proposals by continuing to participate in the procurement process by having Council members participate as members of a review team for each competitive RFP process. Following this process, a report will be given to the Council and the Council will renew this participation annually. Motion withdrawn by Sippel. Agenda item tabled until later in the meeting.

Review of Recent Procurement Awards

Cicero reviewed the two most recent procurements awarded by DCF: Traditionally Underrepresented Population and Immigrant, Refugee and Former Refugees Communities. Items shared included an overview of the specific procurement, composition of the evaluation team and a composite of the evaluation team scores- including which programs were funded.

Renewal of the 2025 Council's participation in the procurement process - continued

Motion by Sippel that the Council meet its statutory obligation regarding review of grant proposals by continuing its current process of having Council members participate as members of a review team for each competitive DCF RFP process; that the Council receive a report from Procurement after the process is completed, that includes information about the grant, which programs applied and which programs were funded and who the reviewers were; and that this motion be reviewed for re-adoption annually. Second by Barry. All aye. Motion carried.

Public Comments

None.

Adjourn

Motion to adjourn made by Najeeb, second by Gittens Escudero. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 11:15 a.m.