



STATE OF WISCONSIN

GOVERNOR'S COUNCIL ON DOMESTIC ABUSE

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GOVERNOR'S COUNCIL ON DOMESTIC ABUSE MEETING MINUTES

July 9, 12, 2025

9 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

Meeting was held virtually

Approved October 21, 2025

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

Council Members Absent: Sen. Sarah Keyeski, Rep. Sequanna Taylor

Guests Present: Marianne Hirsch, Sam Hope (Rep. Snyder), Courtney Olson, Isabel Williston, WisconsinEye, Jessica Honish, Liz Marquardt, Jenna Gormal, Keshawn Williams (Rep. Taylor), Sarah Rego, Sarah Semrad (Sen. Keyeski), Tegan Swanson, Milly Gonzales, Suzi Schoenhof

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

Call to Order, Welcome and Introductions

Barry called the meeting to order at 9:01 a.m. Members were welcomed and Cicero provided roll call of members. Barry noted the public comment procedures for the meeting.

Approval of April 2025 Meeting Minutes

Motion by Najeeb, second by Gittens Escudero to approve the April minutes. Barry noted that Minkens and Hope were listed twice.

Jarecki abstained. All aye. Motion carried.

Presentation: Wisconsin's Implementation of the MNADV Lethality Assessment Program 2.0

Courtney Olson and Jessica Honish, Rainbow House, Marinette

Since October 2024, the leadership team from Rainbow House has served as the Wisconsin statewide coordinators for the Lethality Assessment Program (LAP 2.0). The Lethality Assessment Program (LAP) Maryland Model is a multi-prong validated tool used to assess the level of danger in an intimate partner relationship. This is used by first responders to assess the level of danger and trigger the LAP protocol. Survivors identified as being identified as high-risk are connected with their local domestic violence service provider from the scene of an incident. This warm introduction facilitates safety planning, emergency services, and resources of trained advocates. First implemented in WI in 2017, LAP 2.0 has been updated to place greater emphasis on the risk-factor of strangulation, to introduce technology improvements, & to connect with nationally recognized academic research partners in further understanding outcomes for survivors.

Council members thanked Courtney and Jessica for their hard work and dedication.

Discussion.

Rep. Snyder left the meeting

Realignment of Committee Work

Barry reported the Co-Chairs reached out to Committee Co-Chairs and collaboratively made the decision to cancel the July meetings to re-establish focus and goals.

Committees will be asked to reconvene in October to come up with 1-3 different projects or action items they would like to work on to advance in 2026. Committee Co-Chairs will bring their ideas to the Council in February to discuss and align with the Council goals.

Najeeb felt this was backward and asked the Council to provide direction to the Committees. Barry noted it may be beneficial for Committee Co-Chairs to meet with the Council Co-Chairs to have discussion around Council priorities. Barry stated the Co-Chairs will reach out to the Committee Co-Chairs prior to the October meetings to provide direction.

Lobbying Update from End Domestic Abuse Wisconsin (End Abuse)

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

Discussion.

Discussion of the Governor's Council 2025 Awards for Outstanding Achievement in Domestic Abuse Issues

Meeting and Award Ceremony moved to October 21 due to room availability at the Capitol. Meeting will be held in person. Barry reviewed the three different awards. Nomination forms will be sent out soon.

Sippel asked for volunteers to form a small committee to plan the event and review the nominations. Barry, McClain, and Najeeb offered to help.

Review of Council Member Terms, Including Council Co-Chair

Barry, Martin, and Lucas have renewed their terms. Jarecki is the newest member. The Council now has full membership.

Sippel has maxed out on the co-chair term requirement. A new co-chair will need to be elected at the October meeting. Barry asked for Council members to think about nominating a person at the next meeting.

DCF Domestic Abuse Grant Program Update

Stacey Cicero, Domestic Abuse Program Coordinator reported:

- New Committee Members
 - Access: Isabel Williston, Jeni Haddad
 - Legislative & Policy: Julie Valadez
 - Budget: None
- DCF would like to recognize Michelle Rawlings, the Bureau Director for the Division of Safety and Permanence, for her many years of state work. Michelle will be retiring on July 11th.
- DCF is currently in the review process for the Tribal Training and Technical Assistance RFP. This RFP was due 7/1. 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. As reported in April, a portion of this funding was added to current DVHF contracts and also added to current Sheltercare Stabilization contracts. The remaining \$4.1M will be provided to programs that currently receive the Statewide DV Services contract. These 60 programs have the ability

to submit a brief, non-competitive questionnaire to request up to \$68,632 in funding. This funding will go from July 1, 2025 – October 31, 2026. Request for this funding is due July 9.

- DCF is also working on a competitive RFP for DV Training and Technical Assistance that will be released soon with a start date of January 1, 2026.
- Two other DCF funding opportunities have been released for competitive requests for proposals. These include Children’s Programming and Statewide Hmong Family Strengthening Helpline. Both contracts will have a start date of January 1, 2026.

Recent Correspondence

Barry informed the Council that a letter was received from a constituent outlining concerns about the former Wisconsin Batterer’s Treatment Provider Association (WBTPA). This letter was sent to some Council members and other partners. The Council Co-Chairs responded to the letter inviting the constituent to the Council meeting during public comment and also informing her that the Council has no oversight of the WBTPA.

Open Forum for Council Members

Najeeb is curious if anyone has heard from programs of how funding cuts are affecting programming. Gormal stated End Abuse completed a survey of programs in February and is working on a format to share it with programs and potentially the Council. Gormal noted 80% of programs stated they have been affected by the funding cuts, most notably with staffing cuts.

Public Comments

None.

Adjourn

Motion to adjourn made by Sippel, second by Najeeb. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 11:35 a.m.