



STATE OF WISCONSIN

GOVERNOR'S COUNCIL ON DOMESTIC ABUSE

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**GOVERNOR'S COUNCIL ON DOMESTIC ABUSE
MEETING MINUTES**

October 21, 2025

9 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Meeting was held in person only

Approved February 11, 2026

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

Council Members Absent: Rosalind McClain, Cyrena Martin, Dr. Abdul Shour

Guests Present: Shira Phelps, Rep. Taylor Staff, Rep. Keyeski staff, Mahogani Boe, Kate Walsh, Mariel Barnes, Teresa Ward

DCF/Governor's Council Staff Present: Stacey Cicero, Ricky Ferrari Traner, Kristen Olsen, Ragen Shapiro, John Elliott, Penny Nevicosi, Sarah Henery

Call to Order, Welcome and Introductions

Sippel called the meeting to order at 9:08 a.m. Members were welcomed and Cicero provided roll call of members. Sippel noted a card was being passed for the Governor. Also reminded attendees of the public comment procedures for the meeting.

Approval of July 2025 Meeting Minutes

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

Election of Council Co Chair

Sippel thanked the Council for her four years as Council Co-Chair. Per Council policy, she has timed out. Barry nominated Elizabeth Lucas, second by Sen. Keyeski. Rep. Snyder moved to close nominations, second by Barry. Nominations closed.
Motion to elect Lucas as co-chair by Barry, second by Sen. Keyeski. All aye. Motion carried.

Lobbying Update

No one present from End Domestic Abuse Wisconsin

State Victim Services Grant Program Update

Shira Phelps, Executive Director, State of Wisconsin Department of Justice, Office of Crime Victim Services
Provided an update on the \$20M received to distribute to crime victim service agencies, including domestic violence programs. Funding announcement is out, due Friday (October 24). Award announcements will be made the beginning of November.
Discussion.

Virginia Gittens Escudero arrived at meeting

Realignment of Committee Work to Council Purpose & Discussion of Committee Co-Chairs

Barry reported she has had conversations with all committee co-chairs.

The co-chairs for the Budget Committee are both stepping down. Barry will co-chair the Budget Committee and is looking for a non-council member co-chair.

Lucas will continue to co-chair the Legislative and Policy Committee, along with non-council member Samantha Collier.

McClain will continue to co-chair the Access Committee and is looking for a non-council member co-chair.

Sippel noted that Committee co-chairs should set priorities for 2026 and bring them forward at the February Council meeting. The Council will prioritize goals and decide what should be the focus for the committee.

Zoom Meeting Process Update

Sippel reviewed the new procedure for Zoom meetings. DCF will now set up all virtual meetings using a Zoom Webinar process. This will include virtual Council, Committee and Workgroup meetings.

Rep. Taylor arrived at the meeting

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

Kate Walsh, Mariel Barnes

Presented on preliminary findings. The Evaluation Team will submit a final report by the end of the year.

Discussion.

DCF Domestic Abuse Grant Program Update

Stacey Cicero, Domestic Abuse Program Coordinator reported:

- DCF has two staffing updates. Penny Nevicosi started this month as the Bureau Director for the Division of Safety and Permanence, and Ricky Ferrari Traner, currently the Manager for the Prevention and Early Intervention Section of the Division of Safety and Permanence will be leaving early next month.
- DCF is currently in the review process for the Tribal Training and Technical Assistance RFP and the DV Training and Technical Assistance RFP.
- DCF is currently in the review process for the Statewide Hmong Family Strengthening Helpline. This contract has a start date of January 1, 2026.
- DCF has published the Domestic Abuse Program Annual Report for 2024. The document and link was shared in the scheduling email.

Review of Recent Procurement Award: Children's Programming

Stacey Cicero, Domestic Abuse Program Coordinator reported:

The request for proposal for Children's Programming was released May 6, 2025 with a start date of January 1, 2026. The goals of the Domestic Abuse Children's Programming are to:

- promote the safety, well-being, and resilience of children and youth who have been exposed to domestic abuse or who are victims of teen dating violence;
- strengthen the bond between protective parents and children/youth and to heal the damage that has been caused by domestic abuse;
- to provide trauma-informed, family-centered services to children, youth and protective parents.

Total funding available: \$2,500,000, the request was capped at \$50,000.

Review Composite Score: 53 applied, 52 awards, 46 at \$50,000, 5 between \$30,000-\$44,000, 1 at \$21,000 (which was the remaining funding after all other awards were granted)

Review Evaluators: 14 evaluators that completed the review process. 2 evaluators were included from the Council, but had to cancel just prior to evaluation.

Recent Correspondence

Sippel discussed an email received by Council Staff. This email will be sent out to the full Council.

Motion by Barry to allow Council Co-chair to draft a response to the constituent and invite her to a future meeting and offer resources. Second by Lucas. All aye. Motion carried.

Adjourn

Motion to adjourn made by Barry, second by Escudero. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned to award ceremony at 11:15 a.m.

Break/Practice for ceremony.

Award ceremony, 12:00 – 1:00 p.m.