



STATE OF WISCONSIN

GOVERNOR'S COUNCIL ON DOMESTIC ABUSE

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GOVERNOR'S COUNCIL ON DOMESTIC ABUSE

MEETING MINUTES

February 11, 2026

9 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

Meeting was held virtually

Approved: April 8, 2026

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

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

Guests Present: Amanda Powers, Sen. Keyeski office: Sara Semrad, Rep. Taylor office: Gabi, Jenna Gormal

DCF/Governor's Council Staff Present: Stacey Cicero, Penny Nevicosi, Angi Krueger

Call to Order, Welcome and Introductions

Barry called the meeting to order at 9:03 a.m. Members were welcomed and Cicero provided roll call of members.

Approval of October 2025 Meeting Minutes

Motion by Sippel, second by Gittens Escudero to approve the October minutes.
All aye. Motion carried.

Cyrena Martin joined the meeting

Lobbying Update

Jenna Gormal from End Domestic Abuse Wisconsin provided an update.

Presentation: Domestic Violence Prevention Funding

Amanda Powers, Director

Department of Administration, Division of Enterprise Operations

Office of Violence Prevention

Powers provided an overview of the State Violence Prevention Grant program.

\$10M in funding was available for awards. Over \$110M was applied for under several categories. \$15.9M was applied for under the Domestic Violence Prevention Initiatives category. This funding ends December 31, 2026.

Cyrena Martin left the meeting

Committee Reports on proposed goals for 2026

Access: McLain reported:

Antonia Norton of the Asha Family Services was named co-chair of the committee. The committee discussed concerns regarding the completion of the anti-oppression manual. Barry noted that the manual does not align with statutory requirements of the Council. The committee has been assigned the task to advance policy recommendations to enhance access to victims' services across the state.

Budget: Barry reported:

Suzi Schoenhof of New Beginnings was named co-chair of the committee. The committee has been assigned the task of reviewing the DCF funding formula to advise the procurement process for Statewide DV Services. A smaller, workgroup for this project will be formed to begin work in March.

Legislative and Policy: Lucas reported:

The committee reviewed the workgroups. The Domestic Abuse Guidebook for GAL has completed. The two current workgroups are Domestic Abuse Treatment Standards Review and Fatality Review Initiative. A presentation was given to the committee by DV Treatment Standards. The workgroup is finalizing two documents: Statement of Values and Operational Standards. Once completed, the final documents will be presented to the Council for approval. The Fatality Review Initiative continues to move forward. There is currently a Bill that has been introduced, however there is no funding attached. If the Bill does not pass this session, the workgroup will continue to move forward and be in a better position to pass in the next round.

Barry noted that all committees are back up and running after taking a break since April 2025. This time allowed for realignment of committee goals to meet the statutory requirements of the Council.

Review/Renewal of the Council's participation in the procurement process

Motion by Barry 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 Sippel. All aye. Motion carried.

Review of Recent Procurement Award: Children's Programming

Stacey Cicero, Domestic Abuse Program Coordinator reported: Cicero reviewed the most recent procurements awarded by DCF: Statewide Hmong Family Strengthening Helpline, DV Training and Technical Assistance, and DV Tribal Training and Technical Assistance. Items shared for each procurement 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.

Statewide Hmong Family Strengthening Helpline

The request for proposal for the Statewide Hmong Family Strengthening Helpline was released June 30, 2025 with a start date of January 1, 2026. This is a long standing contract, beginning in 2003. This RFP follows the DCF 5 year contract cycle. The goals of this program are to:

- provide immediate, confidential, 24-hour assistance to Hmong-speaking survivors of domestic abuse, concerned family members and friends, and community partners working with survivors;
- provide back-up coverage and support to Hmong advocates in Wisconsin's domestic abuse programs that do not have 24-hour bilingual/bicultural access;
- provide training, technical assistance, and support to mainstream domestic abuse programs and community partners to enable them to serve Hmong survivors in a culturally-sensitive manner.

A total of \$75,000 annually was available to make a single contract award under this RFP.

Review Composite Score: 1 agency applied and was awarded this procurement.

Review Evaluators: 4 evaluators that completed the review process. 1 evaluator was included from the Council.

DV Tribal Training and Technical Assistance

The RFP for the DV Tribal Training and Technical Assistance was released April 7, 2025 with a start date of October 1, 2025. This is a new contract to help support tribal programs. This RFP follows the DCF 5 year contract cycle. The goals of this program are to provide:

- Staff training including but not limited to serving survivors and victims and their families using current and emerging domestic violence intervention best practices, including culturally specific service provision to tribal survivors and victims of domestic abuse.
- Staff training including but not limited to crisis response to domestic violence using a trauma informed lens, crisis de-escalation techniques, confidentiality, professional boundaries, self-care in the workplace, and mental health for direct service workers providing services to tribal survivors and victims of domestic abuse.
- Training for leadership including but not limited to staff retention techniques, equitable compensation for staff, and building partnerships among tribal domestic abuse programs to leverage resources and expertise.
- Conduct formal needs assessment to identify tribal domestic abuse programs' needs within the first year of the contract and working with DCF staff to use the results of the needs assessment to inform ongoing training and technical assistance.
- Attend quarterly meetings with DCF and quarterly regional domestic abuse program directors' meetings.
- Organize and facilitate quarterly tribal advocacy meetings with tribal programs, coalitions agencies, DCF staff, and other state agency representatives as applicable.

A total of \$200,000 annually was available to make a single contract award under this RFP.

Review Composite Score: 1 agency applied and was awarded this procurement.

Review Evaluators: 7 evaluators completed the review process. 2 evaluators were included from the Council.

DV Training and Technical Assistance

The RFP for the DV Training and Technical Assistance was released July 11, 2025 with a start date of January 1, 2026. Although DCF has been supporting DV training and technical assistance for many years, DCF procurement determined a competitive RFP was needed to continue providing this contract. This RFP follows the DCF 5 year contract cycle. The goals of this program are to provide:

- Staff training including but not limited to serving survivors and victims and their families using current and emerging domestic violence intervention best practices, including culturally specific service provision to survivors and victims of domestic abuse.
- Staff training including but not limited to crisis response to domestic violence using a trauma informed lens, crisis de-escalation techniques, confidentiality, professional boundaries, self-care in the workplace, and mental health for direct service workers providing services to survivors and victims of domestic abuse.
- Training for leadership including but not limited to staff retention techniques, considerations related to equitable compensation for staff, and building partnerships among domestic abuse programs to leverage resource sharing, including co-advocacy services and professional expertise.
- Developing, in collaboration with DCF, and conducting a formal training and technical assistance needs assessment to identify domestic abuse programs' needs within the first year of the contract and working with DCF staff to use the results of the needs assessment to inform ongoing training and technical assistance.
- Attend quarterly meetings with DCF and attend quarterly regional domestic abuse program directors' meetings that are attended by DCF staff, coalition agencies, and other state agency representatives.

A total of \$900,000 annually was available to make a single contract award under this RFP.

Review Composite Score: 2 agencies applied. One was awarded this procurement.

Review Evaluators: 8 evaluators completed the review process. 3 evaluators were included from the Council.

RFP

DCF Domestic Abuse Grant Program Update

Stacey Cicero, Domestic Abuse Program Coordinator reported:

- In 2026, DCF is contracting with 69 DV programs and 2 technical assistance providers. Through 8 separate contracts, DCF supports 44 shelter programs and 25 non-shelter DV programs.
- There will be no competitive requests for proposals offered in 2026.
- The DCF DV program is working with a student intern through May. One of her tasks is to update the DCF DV webpages. I will share the progress as it moves forward.

Recent Correspondence

Received a correspondence from an individual in Pierce County. This person has reached out to the Council in the past. Motion by Sippel to allow Council Co-chairs to send a response to the person reiterating that the council does not have oversight of this concern and invite her to attend future meetings and express her concerns during public comment. Second by Najeeb. All aye. Motion carried.

Open Forum of Council Members

Sippel: Discussed providing other options to person reaching out with the concerns noted above.

Najeeb: Curious about anti-oppression manual and if the committee discussed changing wording. McLain stated this was not discussed during the Access committee meeting. Barry indicated that the manual was discussed at the October Council meeting where it was determined that the manual was more of a training and technical assistance document and was not aligned with the statutory requirements of the Council.

Public Comment

None

Adjourn

Adjourned at 11:05 a.m. Motion by Gittens Escudero, second by Najeeb. Motion carried.