

**Governor's Council on Domestic Abuse
February 8, 2017**

Present: Senator Tim Carpenter, Kevin Hamberger, Representative Andre Jacque, Jill Karofsky, Pat Ninmann, Susan Perry, Susan Sippel, Representative Lisa Subek, Mark Thomas, Gerald Urbik

Excused: Shirley Armstrong, Mariana Rodriguez, Renee Schulz-Stangl

Guests: David Fly (community member); Tony Gibart (End Domestic Abuse WI); Stephanie Ortiz (End Domestic Abuse WI); Shira Phelps (Department of Justice, Office of Crime Victim Services); Patti Seger (End Domestic Abuse WI); Chase Tarrier (End Domestic Abuse WI); Leah Varnadoe, (Department of Justice, Office of Crime Victim Services)

Staff: Sharon Lewandowski

Call to Order and Approval of Minutes

Co-Chair Sue Sippel called the meeting to order with a quorum present at 9:00 a.m.

Presentation on Violence Against Women Advisory (VAWA) Committee

Shira Phelps, VAWA Grants Administrator at the Department of Justice/Office of Crime Victim Services (OCVS), gave a presentation on the Violence Against Women Grant Program and the work of the VAWA Advisory Committee.

- The Office of Crime Victim Services administers two formula grants: Services, Training, Officers, Prosecutors (STOP) and Sexual Assault Service Providers (SASP).
- The STOP formula grant promotes a coordinated, multidisciplinary approach to enhancing advocacy and improving the criminal justice system's response to violent crimes against women. The grant promotes the development and improvement of effective law enforcement and prosecution strategies and of effective, victim-centered advocacy and services in cases involving violent crimes against women. STOP funds in WI total \$2.5 million.
- OCVS is implementing a new model for VAWA Resource Prosecutors. Resource prosecutors provide training and support for other prosecutors in a given region on the investigation and prosecution of domestic violence, sexual assault, and stalking cases to promote victim safety and offender accountability. Feedback from prosecutors in the regions has been very positive.
- Funding is provided to the Department of Corrections to achieve compliance with the Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA). DOC facilities were audited on compliance with PREA standards. Funding is also provided to the WI Coalition Against Sexual Assault Provide training and technical assistance to sexual assault service providers on working with sexual assault victims who are assaulted while incarcerated.
- Twelve programs currently receive funding for Victim Services, including programs that provide culturally-specific services.
- The Violence Against Women Act requires states to develop a three-year implementation plan for the dissemination of STOP funds that reflects a multi-faceted planning process. The VAWA Advisory Committee provides strategic direction and assistance with development of the state's plan. Currently, the VAWA program is working on the 2017-2020 Implementation Plan.
- The planning process includes consultation with a diverse group of stakeholders that includes domestic violence and sexual assault coalitions and service providers, culturally-specific organizations and tribes, law enforcement, prosecution, and the courts. OCVS is focusing on building partnerships with tribes and with American Indians Against Abuse (tribal coalition). The

planning process also includes consultation with survivors in ways that address safety and confidentiality. The planning process emphasizes coordination with other funding streams and non-duplication of efforts.

Ideas on how to increase collaboration between the Domestic Abuse Council and the VAWA Advisory Committee include:

- Schedule quarterly meetings between the leadership of the Domestic Abuse Council and the VAWA Advisory Committee.
- Include staff from OCVS on all committees of the Domestic Abuse Council. Currently, staff from OCVS serves on the Budget Committee, but OCVS staff can also be added to the Access Committee and the Legislative and Policy Committee.
- Notify members from each group about scheduled public meetings of the other group, via e-mail, and share minutes and agendas.
- Encourage participation on each other's grant review teams during a competitive procurement process.

Update on Procurement Process for Statewide Management of Domestic Violence Prevention Initiative

Sharon Lewandowski reported that the Department of Children and Families issued a competitive Request for Proposal (RFP) for the Management of a Statewide Domestic Violence Prevention Initiative. A total of \$2 million is available for the initial contract term, which began November 10, 2016 and ends on June 30, 2018. Based on availability of funding, satisfactory performance, and by mutual agreement of DCF and the contractor, the contract may be renewed for up to four (4) one-year periods. The funding available in subsequent 12-month contract terms is \$1,000,000

DCF received only one proposal (from End Domestic Abuse WI), who was awarded the contract. An evaluation team of four technical experts with experience in domestic abuse, prevention programming and/or contracting reviewed the proposal. The evaluators received clear benchmarks to guide them in their rating. The majority of ratings were in the "exceeds expectations" category, with the rest in the "meets" expectations" category. No programmatic concerns were identified by the review team. In addition, a DCF Auditor conducted a review of the financial stability of the applicant agency and noted no concerns.

Presentation on the Statewide Domestic Violence Prevention Initiative

Patti Seger and Stephanie Ortiz of End Domestic Abuse WI gave a presentation on the Statewide Domestic Violence Prevention initiative, which will be managed by End Abuse. End Abuse brings substantial knowledge and expertise to this Initiative. In 2002, End Abuse was selected by the Centers for Disease Control to be one of fourteen statewide domestic abuse coalitions to implement the first-ever federally-funded prevention project focused on domestic violence. Through this project, four local domestic abuse programs received subgrants to take a deep dive into primary prevention by identifying the root causes of domestic violence, working to reduce the risk factors associated with domestic violence, and promoting protective factors that reduce the likelihood of domestic violence.

Primary prevention is often classified as an "upstream" approach. By going upstream, we will be addressing the source/root cause. This will lead to substantive cultural change that will prevent violence from ever being thought of. Primary prevention efforts are guided by theory, strategy, and evaluation. One theory on how to prevent violence is to impact social norms that are believed to contribute to the problem. Social norms are the attitudes, values, and beliefs that exist in our culture to contribute to gender violence.

The goals of the Statewide Domestic Violence Prevention Initiative are:

- to promote the social norms that support healthy, non-violent, and respectful relationships through multi-faceted, coordinated programming and activities at the state and local levels;
- to engage youth as a priority population in preventing domestic and dating violence and promoting healthy relationships;
- to implement an effective, youth-focused, statewide media/social marketing campaign that promotes healthy, non-violent relationships;
- to build the capacity of diverse local victim service providers, schools, and other community organizations to serve as catalysts for prevention efforts in their communities; and,
- to build and disseminate knowledge about the root causes of domestic and dating violence and promising prevention practices.

Major activities of the Initiative include:

- a statewide campaign with robust, comprehensive, and coordinated messages about the prevention of domestic and dating violence;
- funds for local agencies for community-based work aligned with the statewide campaign on the prevention of domestic and dating violence;
- technical assistance, training, and capacity development for local agencies to address the prevention of domestic and dating violence;
- support for an annual Summit on Healthy Teen Relationships, beginning in 2018; and
- an outside evaluation of all aspects of funded Prevention Initiative activities.

End Abuse will be convening an advisory committee for the project. They have also issued a Request for Proposal(RFP) for an outside evaluator for the project, as well as an RFP for a public relations firm to work on the media campaign (seven applications were received). The project will work to engage youth from around the state, and will promote thoughtful, challenging conversations about root causes of domestic violence.

The Council will be kept posted on the work and success of this Initiative.

Legislative Preview

Chase Tarrier and Tony Gibart from End Domestic Abuse WI provided information on potential legislative items for the 2017-18 legislative session.

- **Teen Dating violence Bill** – Ideally, this legislation will direct schools to integrate teen dating violence prevention education into classroom instruction for middle-school and high-school students. The bill would set guidelines for schools’ response to teen dating violence to create an atmosphere in which victims can get help and abuse is not tolerated. The bill will also provide teen dating violence training for teachers and administrators on a regular basis. Last session, a teen dating violence bill was introduced, but died in the Committee on Criminal Justice and Public Safety. New versions are expected to be introduced in the 2017-18 session.
- **Victim Rights Category for Legal Professionals** –In the past several years, there have been several high profile cases in which a director/advocate/employee of a domestic abuse program is themselves a victim of domestic violence. End Abuse is considering legislative changes that would institute protections for victims in the form of a Victim Rights Category in Chapter 950 for those working in the legal profession. A legal profession category would allow victims to seek legal remedies outside the county in which they are employed. This idea is still in the early stages, and there are many factors and unanswered questions to address before drafting legislation.
- **Injunction Amendment Protocol** – End Domestic Abuse WI is currently working to establish a protocol when amending or dropping an injunction that can be implemented uniformly from county to county. The protocol would establish guidelines for courts to utilize when considering

these cases that focus on the autonomy of survivors. This idea is still in the planning phase, and End Abuse will be exploring this proposal to see how it can maximize positive outcomes for victims operating in the judicial system.

- **Removal of Dismissed Evictions from CCAP** – Survivors often face barriers to housing for actions or crimes committed by their abusers. If an altercation between a victim and abuser warrants action on the part of law enforcement, it may result in eviction. Once the eviction has occurred, it will remain on CCAP, creating a red flag for future landlords. End Abuse is hoping to craft legislation that would eliminate unjustified evictions from a victim's CCAP record to ensure that they are not discriminated against while seeking housing.

Council member Gerald Urbik shared information on legislation that he had promoted in a past session. This bill would change aspects of the probation/parole revocation proceedings for persons who are under supervised release for a felony and who are accused of violating a condition of supervised release by committing a new crime or violating a rule or condition that prohibits contact with a victim or witness. If the Department of Corrections alleges that a supervised felon committed a violation but does not seek revocation, the DOC must notify the district attorney for the county where the felon was convicted. More information on this will be shared with End Domestic Abuse WI and the Legislative/Policy Committee.

Election of Co-Chair

Sue Sippel reviewed the policy on nomination and election of Co-Chairs. A Co-chair will automatically be considered for re-election for a second two-year term unless he/she asks to withdraw. Per the policy, Sue Sippel is eligible to be considered for re-election. Sue is willing to serve another term, and asked if there were other nominations. No other nominations for Co-Chair were made.

Jill Karofsky moved, seconded by Mark Thomas, that Sue Sippel be elected as Co-Chair for a second two-year term. The motion passed unanimously.

Council Training and Orientation

Several members have been appointed to the Council within the last year. Consistent with its policies, experienced Council members and staff provided an orientation on Council issues. Some highlights are below:

- The Council was created in 1980, as part of the same legislation that established the Dept. of Health and Social Services' (now Dept. of Children and Families) Domestic Abuse Program.
- Statutory language establishes the Council as advisory to the legislature and Dept. of Children and Families on domestic abuse funding and policy issues.
- The Council has historically acted on this advisory role by sending letters and informational memos to members of the legislature and to the Governor's office.
- The Council provides recommendations to the Dept. of Children and Families on the use of new domestic abuse funds, and includes members of the Council on grant review teams for competitive procurement processes.
- The Council has also historically interacted with other state agencies and systems. Examples include work with the Dept. of Corrections on the adoption of standards for batterers' treatment programming, and work with law enforcement, prosecutors and the courts on firearms surrender issues.
- The Council strives to be a sounding board for citizens of the state on domestic abuse issues.

Expectations of Council Members

- Council members are asked to attend meetings regularly and to notify staff if they are not able to attend.

- Individual Council members should not take public positions or engage in lobbying in the name of the Council without the approval of the majority of the Council.
- The Legislative Liaison of the Council is empowered to represent the Council at public hearings, in meetings, and through written correspondence. However, the Legislative Liaison will not take a public position on a piece of legislation or public policy matter unless the Council has voted to support, oppose, or take any other official position. The Legislative Liaison will clearly state that he or she is providing information only to consider on behalf of the Council.
- Council members are expected to make all decisions in the spirit of fairness and equity to all domestic abuse programs and to all victims/survivors in the State. Council members will strive to avoid any actual or perceived bias, favoritism, or conflict of interest in any action they take as a member of the Council.

Committee Structure, Goals and Activities

Committees meet the day before Council meetings. Committees are composed of both Council members and community members. Much of the work of the Council is accomplished through its committees.

Access Committee

The committee identified questions to take to regional Directors meeting to discuss how to support bilingual advocates in WI domestic abuse programs. The committee decided to include questions on how to support bilingual advocates and survivors in the current social and political climate that has many that has many in the immigrant/refugee community living in fear and uncertainty.

Budget, Finance, and Sustainability

This committee meets on an ad hoc basis, with a flurry of activity in the years when the Long-Range Plan for Domestic Abuse Services is created and implemented. Presently, a subgroup of committee members will discuss how to update the Fair Minimum Budget for Domestic Abuse Programs, taking a fresh look at the suggested “fair minimum” level for optional staff benefits, which is currently set at 20% of salary, and suggested levels for non-personnel costs for agencies of varying size.

Legislative and Policy Committee

The Committee identified potential next steps for working on Guardian ad Litem practice issues. Bridget Bauman from the Children’s Court Improvement provided helpful information on an effort they undertook, in collaboration with the Committee of Chief Judges and District Court Administrators, to improve GAL practices in child welfare and juvenile justice cases. At the next meeting, the Committee will undertake a process to prioritize future projects and directions.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 12:45 p.m.