

**Governor’s Council on Domestic Abuse
July 11, 2018**

- Present:** Senator Tim Carpenter, Nela Kalpic, Susan Perry, Renee Schulz, Susan Sippel, Representative Lisa Subeck, Gerald Urbik, Shirley Armstrong, Kevin Hamberger, Rebecca Sande (on behalf of Rep. Andre Jacque)
- Excused:** Representative Andre Jacque, Patricia Ninmann, Alena Taylor, Mark Thomas
- Guests:** Chase Terrier (End Domestic Abuse WI), Martha Brock (WI Batterers Treatment Providers Association), Michelle Coppens (Sojourner Family Peace Center, High Risk Program)
- Staff:** Kaitlin Tolliver
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Call to Order and Approval of Minutes

Co-Chair Renee Schultz called the meeting to order with a quorum present at 9:06 a.m. The minutes of the April 2018 meeting were reviewed and approved as submitted.

Committee Reports

Access Committee:

The Committee continues to look at issues related to bilingual/bicultural advocate pay and employment support. The Committee collected surveys at the Amplify Conference. The Committee intends to compile those results, alongside the results of the End Abuse salary survey. The Committee will be reviewing resources and best practices already existing and discuss at the next meeting.

The Committee’s language access plan sub-committee continues to meet to work towards creating a language access plan template for domestic violence agencies.

Budget Committee

The Committee reviewed the Fair Minimum Draft document for the last time. Changes were made to the document that included removing the “number of bedrooms” definition on the chart and changing the order of the bullet points so that agencies would read earlier in the document that they can self-identify under the size of agency that they believe best represents their organization. The Committee intends to bring the Fair Minimum Draft to the upcoming regional meetings for final review. Once finalized, disbursement will occur via End Abuse’s website and the OCVS newsletter.

The Committee reviewed the issue brought up at the last Council meeting regarding worker’s compensation insurance costs. Starting around 2011, shelter program employees started to become classified as “Group Home” workers, which costs over \$4.00/\$100.00 more than comparable “Clerical Office” employees cost. The definition from “Group Home” employee is as follows: *“Includes group homes, group foster homes, halfway houses that provide rehabilitation services, shelters, and independent supportive living homes for mentally, physically or emotionally challenged individuals...”* This classification has raised the cost of worker’s compensation significantly for shelter programs. Also participating in this conversation was Carrie Poser, COC Director of the Wisconsin Balance of State Continuum of Care. She acknowledged that the same issue has negatively influenced many traditional homeless shelter organizations as well. The plan is to look into the process of getting this classification changed. The Committee hopes to have a worker’s compensation insurance employee attend the next meeting to discuss further.

The Committee is preparing for beginning the next Long Range Plan. A conference call is to be planned to begin that process.

Legislative and Policy Committee:

The Committee focused on identifying their next steps in working towards improving the revocation process. The Committee formatted questions for sending out to probation and parole, advocacy, and victim witness agencies to get feedback regarding the revocation process. The Committee focused on how to make the revocation process more trauma informed for victims of domestic violence. The Committee hopes to take the results of the surveys and move forward with establishing best practices for revocation hearings. That document may be able to influence legal, statutory changes in the future.

Legislative Update

Chase Tarrier from End Domestic Abuse WI discussed that the legislative study committee on child support, which has been tasked to look at the issue of equal placement, is going to be starting to meet. This group will be comprised of a few legislators as well as some members of the public. End Abuse supported strong candidates to apply. Chase and Adrienne Roach have been meeting with the legislators who are chairing the committee.

Chase discussed the Family Law Research Project that has been meeting in an effort to use data from family law domestic violence cases, as well as a diverse group of participants, to dig into the family law system and identify top areas for survivor and children's safety. Possible solutions are beginning to be identified. Most recently, a focused discussion regarding mediation occurred.

End Abuse is developing a budget ask for next session. They are attempting to build off what was allocated two sessions ago when they had identified the need for 9.7 million dollars and received 5 million dollars. End Abuse wants to ask for the remaining funds, as there is still the same need. End Abuse intends to ask to receive these funds to use them as flexible funding for housing related needs. Flexible funding would be able to fund the variety of roadblocks that affect a victim's need for housing (childcare, transportation, job hunting, schooling, legal, case management, etc.).

Federal funds have been allocated for domestic violence services through HUD (\$50 million) for rapid re-housing purposes. Only one entity per state is allowed to apply for the funds. Adrienne Roach at End Abuse and been working with BOSCO to determine the most appropriate applicant for Wisconsin. Sue Sipple discussed the critical need for ongoing case management, not only the funds to pay for rent.

End Abuse is starting an internal policy committee to set agenda for the next session to make sure that what End Abuse is advocating for always represents what victims need.

Old Business

WI Batterers Treatment Providers Association (WBTPA), Martha Brock:

Martha Brock from WBTPA provided an update on the organization's intentions for the future. The WBTPA has voted to proceed another year with trying to become a nonprofit and obtain their autonomy from End Abuse. End Abuse is going to assist with the startup fees and will provide technical assistance. Martha discussed that the organization is having internal conflicts amongst members that have different desires. Martha is aware that the internal problems within WBTA need to be addressed. Martha also discussed the WBTPA's desire to rewrite their curriculum to be appropriate for women and the LGBTQ populations.

WBTPA would like to continue working with the Governor's Council. WBTPA would like the opportunity to get feedback on their standards, once written, from the Council. Council member, Kevin

Hamberger, also willing to help with standards development. Governor's Council will ask for an update in 6 months on WBTPA.

New Business

Presentation on High-Risk Domestic Violence Cases

Michelle Coppens, manager of special projects and the high-risk domestic violence team at Sojourner Family Peace Center, presented on high-risk domestic violence cases. See attached PowerPoint.

Planning for 2018 Awards for Outstanding Achievement in Domestic Abuse Issues:

Reviewed plans for the Awards Ceremony in October. Conference call to finalize planning to be scheduled amongst Chair's, Nela Kalpic, and DCF Staff.

Public Comments

None

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 12:02 p.m.

