

**Governor's Council on Domestic Abuse  
October 10, 2018**

**Present:** Senator Tim Carpenter, Susan Perry, Renee Schulz, Susan Sippel, Kevin Hamberger, Rebecca Sande (on behalf of Rep. Andre Jacque), Alena Taylor, Mark Thomas

**Excused:** Representative Andre Jacque, Patricia Ninmann, Gerry Urbik, Shirley Armstrong, Nela Kalpic

**Guests:** Chase Terrier (End Domestic Abuse WI), Amber Peterson (Director of State Courts – Office of Court Operations)

**Staff:** Kaitlin Tolliver

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***Call to Order and Approval of Minutes***

Co-Chair Renee Schultz called the meeting to order without a quorum present at 9:03 a.m. The minutes of the July 2018 meeting were reviewed and approved as submitted by a quorum at 9:39 a.m.

***Review of the National Domestic Violence Hotline 2017 Data***

Kaitlin Tolliver from the Department of Children and Families (DCF) discussed reports from the National Domestic Violence Hotline and loveisrespect.org that were released in July 2018. The reports identify the number of contacts each party received in 2017 from Wisconsin residents. Reports attached.

***Committee Reports***

**Access Committee:**

The Committee has had a change in leadership and membership. They took time to regroup and look again at the short and long-term goals of the committee. Current goal is to come up with a resource/handbook to give to directors of domestic violence agencies and their staff on how to hire and retain bilingual/bicultural staff. The Committee intends to begin by looking into best practices already being used nationally and across the State.

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

Council co-chairs, Sue Sippel and Renee Schulz, discussed their hope that the Access Committee would continue to look at issues around underserved populations, but additionally look at serving male clients, transportation challenges, and rural access issues.

**Budget Committee**

The Committee finalized the Fair Minimum document. Ways to disseminate were discussed and decided upon. The document will be placed on the DCF Domestic Abuse webpage, VOCA will release in their quarterly report, it will be emailed to the Directors ListServ, and shared through the Office of Crime Victims Advisory Committee.

The Committee also met with Tad Cleveland from the Wisconsin Compensation Bureau to continue to learn more about worker's compensation insurance costs for domestic abuse programs. Tad provided some suggestions on ways to take action. One option is to create a new code; unfortunately, that is probably not the solution as the domestic abuse programs do not have the critical mass to handle the volatile nature of their own category. The other option is to gain information on what other states are doing for classification. If they are using the same codes that Wisconsin currently is, likely no change can

be made. If other states are using different codes, the Committee can put together the facts and take the information to the Wisconsin Compensation Bureau for appeal.

The Committee also discussed the Long Range Plan process. This product will be representative of DCF, DOJ, End Abuse, WCASA, AIAA, and the Governor's Council's goals for 2020-2023.

#### **Legislative and Policy Committee:**

The Committee continued their conversation on the Revocation process. Information gained from the survey completed by Victim Witness (VW), Department of Corrections (DOC), and advocacy agencies was reviewed. Potential goals and next steps were discussed. The Committee wants to move forward with a plan to create a toolkit for DOC, VW, and advocates to help these groups understand how to build relationships and communication amongst each other and with victims as well as any other relevant information to help in the revocation process. Toolkit will inform on best practices.

#### ***Legislative Update***

Chase Tarrier from End Domestic Abuse WI discussed that the Family Law Study Committee has met two times at this point. Broad topics within the family law system are being discussed. The Committee may potentially recommend to have increased training for GALs on the family law process. The Committee also appears to have broad consensus on there being issues related to child support accruing in situations where it should not be (i.e., parents are incarcerated). Some Committee members are promoting equal placement while other members are demonstrating that equalized placement is happening all the time, without a policy, and that it does not need to be made law. The Committee will meet at least two more times.

The Policy Team at End Abuse is currently focused on being prepared for the upcoming Legislative Session. Their current priorities are housing, family law, and prevention work.

The Family Law Research Project is still occurring. Chase is confident that a report will be released at the end of 2018 or the beginning of 2019. That project looked at 364 family law cases where prior to the family law case, there had been a domestic violence conviction from one parent to the other.

A Housing Research project is beginning and will be conducted through 2019.

DOJ has an elder abuse task force that End Abuse is participating in. Recently this Task Force made some legislative recommendations that End Abuse is reviewing. Currently End Abuse is promoting some of the recommendations but continues to have questions around the recommendations that increase criminal penalties.

End Abuse External policy Committee is convening in November/December 2018.

#### ***Election of Co-Chair***

Current Council policy allows for a 2-year term for co-chair; the policy was created by the Council and is not in statute. Sue Sipple is at the limit for her co-chair position. Sue Sipple nominated Mark Thomas to take the co-chair position.

Sue Sipple moved, Kevin Hamberger seconded to have Mark Thomas be in the seat for Governor's Council co-chair for the next two years. The motion passed unanimously.

#### ***Topics and dates for 2019***

Scheduling dates was discussed as a Council. Final dates planned to meet as a Council are February 13, April 10, July 10, and October 9, 2019.

The entire Council participated in conversation to discuss potential topics for 2019, which are as follows:

- Males accessing services (especially shelter services)
- Prevention and preventative services
- Human trafficking and available services
- Update on Batterers Treatment

***Adjournment***

The meeting adjourned at 11:13 a.m. to prepare for the 2018 Awards for Outstanding Achievement in Domestic Abuse Issues Ceremony.