

**Governor's Council on Domestic Abuse  
February 13, 2019**

- Present:** Shirley Armstrong, (by phone), Senator Tim Carpenter (by phone), Kevin Hamberger (by phone), Sen. Andre Jacque, Nela Kalpic (by phone), Pat Ninmann (by phone), Susan Perry (by phone), Renee Schulz (by phone), Susan Sippel (by phone), Alena Taylor (by phone), Gerald Urbik (by phone)
- Guests:** Tony Wilkin Gibart (End Domestic Abuse WI), Chase Terrier (End Domestic Abuse WI), Cody Warner (End Domestic Abuse WI)
- Staff:** Sharon Lewandowski

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

Co-Chair Renee Schultz (by phone) called the meeting to order, with a quorum present at 9:00 a.m. The minutes of the October 2018 meeting were reviewed and approved as submitted at 9:39 a.m.

***Presentation on Statewide Domestic Violence Prevention Initiative***

Cody Warner from End Domestic Abuse WI provided an update on the Statewide Domestic Violence Prevention, which is funded through the Department of Children and Families and managed by End Domestic Abuse WI. The Initiative has three parts: subgrants to local programs to work on youth-focused primary prevention issues; a youth focused statewide media and social marketing campaign, and the annual Teen Summit on Healthy Relationships. The Powerpoint from the presentation is attached.

***Committee Reports***

**Access Committee:**

The Committee was cancelled due to weather. The Committee is working on resource materials to support domestic abuse program directors in hiring, retaining, and supporting bilingual/bicultural staff.

**Budget Committee**

The Committee met by phone. The Committee discussed follow-up activities to support the Fair Minimum budget. Some domestic abuse programs are getting pushback on the document from Board members or other funders. At the next meeting, the Committee will gather ideas for a resource document on *Why a Fair Minimum?*, which will address issues such as the ability to recruit and retain staff, the impact of turnover, the need for economic justice, etc.

The Committee continues to research Worker's Compensation classifications for shelter employees in other states. If other states are using different classification codes with lower rates, we might be able to influence the Wisconsin Compensation Bureau to make a similar change. Several members have reached out to their counterparts in other states, but have not yet obtained much information. The Committee will continue to reach out to states in the National Council on Compensation Insurance as well as independent bureau states (as is Wisconsin). Several Committee members will request research assistance and advice from their insurance agents.

The process will soon begin for the Long Range Funding Plan, which will cover the years 2021-2026. In the past, the Long Range Funding Plan was a collaborative effort between the Domestic Abuse Council and End Domestic Abuse WI, and served to advise the Department of Children and Families. This time, the Plan will address the needs of both domestic abuse and sexual assault programs, and will be meant to advise other state funders (VOCA, VAWA, SAVS) as well.

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

The Committee was cancelled due to weather. The Committee had intended to undertake an interactive exercise to identify subcommittees/activities to work on ideas generated through the revocation process survey. As this activity is best conducted in person, it will be postponed until the April meeting.

### ***Legislative Update***

Chase Tarrier from End Domestic Abuse WI shared that End Abuse is advocating for a funding increase through the Department of Children and Families to support housing assistance for domestic abuse survivors. End Abuse is also supporting an increase in funding for the Sexual Assault Victim Services program.

The Family Law Study Committee concluded its work on February 11. Domestic violence was a major consideration in all the deliberations. Most of the legislation that End Abuse had concerns about will not be scheduled for a vote.

End Abuse plans to introduce proactive legislation to allow survivors to break rental leases by obtaining a letter from a domestic violence agency. Similar legislation exists in other states; currently in Wisconsin, a survivor needs a domestic abuse injunction, which is not always the best option for all survivors. Sue Sippel mentioned that many leases also have a provision of “no winter move outs”, which is also problematic for survivors. Chase will consider this as legislation is drafted.

The Teen Dating Violence Prevention Bill will be introduced again this session. This legislation will direct schools to integrate teen dating violence prevention education into classroom instruction for middle-school and high-school students. The bill will also set guidelines for schools’ response to teen dating violence to create an atmosphere in which victims can get help and abuse is not tolerated.

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

Mark Thomas, who was elected as Co-chair in October, has since taken a job outside of the domestic violence field and has resigned from the Council. Sue Sippel nominated Kevin Hamberger to serve as Co-Chair; Jerry Urbik seconded the nomination. The motion passed unanimously.

### ***Results of Request for Proposal Process for Domestic Abuse Services for Immigrant, Refugee, and former Refugee Communities***

Sharon Lewandowski shared a summary of the results of a Request for Proposal (RFP) process for grants for *Domestic Abuse Services for Immigrant, Refugee, and Former Refugee Populations*. Eight grants were awarded to programs serving Hmong, Khmer, Latinx, Muslim, and Russian-speaking immigrants and refugees. DCF collaborated with the Department of Justice-Office of Crime Victim Services on the RFP, and DOJ was able to fund organizations that were not awarded grants by DCF.

### ***Domestic Abuse Program Client and Services Data***

Sharon Lewandowski shared the summary of Domestic Abuse Program Client and Services data for the period October 1, 2017 – September 30, 2018. The summary is included in the attachment.

### ***Impact of Federal Government Shutdown***

The Department of Children and Families has continued to make payments to domestic abuse program grantees. The payment system through the federal Department of Health and Human Services has remained operational during the shutdown. In addition, most of the domestic abuse grant funding through DCF is state funding rather than federal funding and therefore not affected by the shutdown.

Although the federal Department of Justice was among the agencies affected by the shutdown, the Office of Justice Programs and OVC have been operational during the shutdown. While grantees were able to request draw-down payments all along, there was a short period (6 business days) when these payments were briefly delayed. The Wisconsin Department of Justice, Office of Crime Victim Services, which funds VOCA and VAWA grants, has been able to continue payments to grantees.

***Recognition of Senator Andre Jacque***

Sue Sippel expressed the Council's appreciation to Senator Andre Jacque for his service on the Council for the last six years. Senator Jacque has sent an e-mail to Council members announcing that he will no longer be serving on the Council. Senator Jacque has been particularly helpful to the Council in understanding legislative issues, and has been a good champion for many domestic abuse related issues in the legislature.

The meeting adjourned at 11:21 a.m.