

**Governor’s Council on Domestic Abuse**  
**April 15, 2020**

**Present:** Representative Lisa Subeck, Senator Andre Jacque, Nela Kalpic, Susan Perry, Renee Schulz, Susan Sippel, Alena Taylor, Kathy Flores, Tammie Xiong, Rosalind McClain, Patricia Ninmann

**Excused:** Senator Tim Carpenter, Melissa Baldauff,

**Guests:** Amber Peterson, Nik Rettinger (Chief of Staff for Senator Andre Jacque), Jenna Gormal (End Domestic Abuse WI), Amanda Powers (DOJ-OCVS), Chee Lor (Golden House), Adrienne Roach (End Domestic Abuse WI), Holli Fisher (Golden House)

**Staff:** Kaitlin Tolliver

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

Co-Chair Renee Schulz called the meeting to order, with a quorum present at 9:04 a.m. This meeting was conducted virtually due to coronavirus (COVID-19) restrictions. The minutes of the February 2020 meeting were reviewed and approved at 9:15 a.m.

***Housing First Presentation***

Amanda Powers from the Department of Justice, Office of Crime Victim Services (OCVS), and Adrienne Roach from End Domestic Abuse WI, co-chairs of the OCVS Housing Committee, led a presentation discussing the Housing First Philosophy (presentation attached) and how it aligns with the largest unmet need of survivors of domestic violence. Holli Fisher and Chee Lor from Golden House discussed their experience in providing Housing First Programs, which they have done since March 2016. Significant successes have been documented in decreasing length of stay, increasing safety, and helping survivors heal. The Governor’s Council engaged the presentation group in a conversation about how the Governor’s Council could support the OCVS Housing Committee in its work around Housing First. The OCVS Housing Committee reported that the current available HUD funding is not sufficient and, additionally, is challenging when working with domestic violence survivors. The Housing Committee believes that domestic violence specific funding needs to be allocated and distributed in Wisconsin. Additionally, support for Housing First in the Long Range Plan may be a way to encourage an increase in utilizing Housing First in more agencies throughout Wisconsin, as well as possibly supporting increased funding for Housing First services.

***Committee Reports***

**Access Committee:**

The Committee developed a “Best Practices” document for diversifying Board of Directors that was reviewed. No additional edits needed. The Committee members hope to attend regional directors meeting to share this document and get feedback about what would be most helpful for directors moving forward.

The Committee finalized the “Developing A Language Access Plan” document. The Governor’s Council has also approved for distribution. There is a small group of Committee members who are going to meet to plan the distribution of the document with a partnering conference call which will be implemented prior to the next meeting.

**Budget Committee:**

The Budget Committee appointed a new co-chair, Stacey Cicero. The Committee was joined by Sharon Lewandowski from DCF who led the Committee in a discussion about potential distribution opportunities for DCF when DCF receives FVPSA Stimulus funds in response to the coronavirus pandemic. DCF expects to receive \$509,000 in additional FVPSA funds. These funds would have no match requirement. Options discussed included (1) distributing the funds equally amongst all DCF funded DV agencies or (2) providing some funds to all DCF funded DV agencies and then providing additional funding to agencies/communities that have experienced particularly extreme challenges related to coronavirus (traditionally marginalized communities, shelter programs, etc.). No decision was made at this time. DCF has not yet received the Notice of Award from FVPSA which may outline other FVPSA requirements.

The Budget Committee discussed the current status of the Long Range Plan process. The Budget Committee then discussed potential next projects. The two projects of most interest to the group involve looking at Organizational Sustainability/Fund Development and Preparing for VOCA Decrease. The Committee began discussing the overlap between the topics and the numerous challenges organizations and executive directors face regarding Fund Development. At this time, no determination was made on a next step, but the Committee will discuss at the next meeting. Additionally, the Committee is hoping to review the OCVS Survey results at the July meeting.

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

The Committee continued to work on developing the three trainings to occur in September following November 2019 Family Law Training as a model guide. The Committee discussed the possibility that the trainings may occur remotely depending on the status of the coronavirus pandemic. The Committee reviewed the agenda for the training days and made edits to add to the planned content. The Committee will meet again in one week to continue to review the updated agenda and to begin telling the “story” of the survivor who is having to go through the Revocation Process with her abuser.

#### ***Presentation on the Wisconsin Battered Treatment Provider Association (WBTPA)***

Darald Hanusa provided an update on the WBTPA. The WBTPA have become their own nonprofit. Unfortunately, their 2020 Annual Conference was cancelled due to coronavirus. The largest challenge for the Association continues to be the lack of practice protection. Darald believes there are two options to pursue. First being to create a licensure, but there is concern the legislature would say no. The Second is to ask Governor Evers to issue an Executive Rule requiring the standards. The WBTPA has published 40 hours of training that can be completed online and it will meet the requirements of certification. The WBTPA will continue to update the Governors Council on any developments.

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

Jenna Gormal from End Abuse updated the Council on what was passed or did not pass during the last regular session which ended in March. A significant number of bills did not pass, including the Elder Abuse Bill Package, Sex Trafficking Self Determination, Teen Dating Violence, Housing Bills, and Gun Legislation. The Intimidating Victim bill did pass. There was a legislative special session called yesterday and today focused on coronavirus relief.

#### ***DCF Domestic Abuse Program Annual Report***

Kaitlin Tolliver presented the Governor’s Council with a copy of the FFY 2018-2019 Domestic Abuse Program Annual Report. The Report is not yet approved by DCF Secretary’s Office but will be released to the Council.

#### ***Planning for 2020 Awards Ceremony***

Numerous Council members have volunteered to help review the criteria for the Courage Award so to increase the application pool for potential recipients. Due to so many agency employees working

remotely at this time, we hope to get the application information out early. Additionally, we will reach out to Cody at End Abuse to learn if any Dare2Know participants would be interested in doing the entertainment for the Ceremony. Patricia Ninmann, Rosalind McClain, Amber Peterson, Nela Kalpic, and Sue Sippel volunteered to review applications.

***Public Comments***

None

***Adjournment***

The meeting adjourned at 12:25 pm.