

**Governor’s Council on Domestic Abuse  
February 12, 2020**

**Present:** Senator Tim Carpenter, Representative Lisa Subeck, Senator Andre Jacque, Nela Kalpic, Susan Perry, Renee Schulz, Susan Sippel, Alena Taylor, Kathy Flores, Melissa Baldauff

**Excused:** Tammie Xiong, Rosalind McClain, Patricia Ninmann

**Guests:** Amber Peterson, Tyler Council (Zero Abuse Project), Victor Vieth (Zero Abuse Project)

**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. The minutes of the October 2019 meeting were reviewed and approved following the below changes at 9:10 a.m.

1. Correction – Susan Sippel’s last name is spelt *Sippel*.
2. Correction – Council is interested in hearing from the *WBTPA*.

***Child Advocacy Studies (CAST)***

Tyler Council, Director of the Center for CAST, and Victor Vieth, Director of Education and Research, provided a presentation on the CAST programming. A description of its development and international implementation was provided (attached).

***Committee Reports***

**Access Committee:**

The Committee developed a “Best Practices” document for diversifying Board of Directors that was reviewed. Edits suggested and will be implemented prior to the next meeting. The Committee members intend to bring ideas to the next meeting regarding how Board’s can retain diverse members and suggestions on how Board members can support the financial development of the agency without giving their own finances.

The Council members shared that technical assistance around what time Board meetings are occurring and looking at the potential of reimbursement for Board members who carry the emotional burden of being the lived experience may be additional topics for the Committee to address prior to finalizing this project.

The Committee also reviewed the “Developing A Language Access Plan” document. Edits suggested and will be implemented prior to the next meeting.

**Budget Committee:**

The Committee met via phone conference. The initial portion of the meeting was spent discussing the status of the Long Range Plan. Historically, the Budget Committee would expand approximately every 6 years in order to coordinate the Long Range Plan alongside DCF and End Domestic Abuse. This Plan has been used for legislative work, funding expansions, and as a guide for future service delivery. The current plan is intending to highlight the needs of domestic and sexual violence in Wisconsin so is including Governor’s Council, DCF, End Domestic Abuse, WCASA, AIAA, and Department of Justice. With the larger partner and additional partners, the development of the plan has moved slower than in other times. There are four workgroups that have developed (Survivors, Community Partners,

Advocates/Agencies, and Marketing). The next stakeholder meeting is March 4<sup>th</sup> and the workgroups will share out at that time where they are on their activities.

The Committee also discussed potential projects that it may want to focus on in the upcoming year, since the Budget Committee's role in the Long Range Plan is smaller than historically. Four potential topics were identified: a clearinghouse to establish buying power so that goods that all domestic violence agencies use could be purchased at a smaller rate, housing crisis, fund development, or guidance on VOCA. The Committee will rank its interest in a survey and discuss the results at the next meeting.

Council member, Nela Kalpic, discussed her frustrations about how the court ordered parenting class for parents going through a divorce was not domestic violence informed. The class was triggering and unhelpful for her. The Council discussed the challenges of influencing the parenting classes due to each county having their own authority over if they offer a class, who runs that class, and the majority of the content. There is a statute (767.401) that discusses parenting classes. The Council agree to look into that statute at a later date to assess if there is any value in looking to propose statutory change.

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

The Committee reviewed the pamphlet being developed to provide education to survivors on the revocation process. Edits will be made. The Committee will have people who do not intersect with the revocation process review the pamphlet at that time.

The Committee continued to work on developing the three trainings to occur in September following November 2019 Family Law Training as a model guide. A subcommittee is being established to meet monthly to work on developing the details of the training. Some general ideas already established included the need for an Action Plan for the Teams to work on at the training, use of the Brain Game for a icebreaker and team development, time to role play hearings, and to go through the cycle of revocation from a victims perspective.

### ***Legislative Update***

Jenna Gormal from End Abuse was unable to attend the meeting but her update is provided at the end of the meeting minutes.

### ***Results on Support Services Competitive RFP***

Results of the Support Services Grant Competitive RFP were given to the Council members for review as the Council advisees DCF on matters related to state funding.

### ***Review of Written Statements from Wisconsin Citizens***

The Council was provided with two correspondents from Wisconsin citizens who are survivors of domestic violence reaching out to share their experiences. In each correspondence, numerous systems interacted with the citizens (child welfare, law enforcement, legal, judicial, etc.) and the survivors regularly experienced a lack of understanding regarding the dynamics of domestic violence. The Council discussed options for responding to each survivor. Staff will follow up with letters to each. Additionally, the Council wants to look further into the law enforcement system. With each case, law enforcement were the first responders and were unable to recognize the signs of abuse.

### ***Public Comments***

None

### ***Adjournment***

The meeting adjourned at 12:25 pm.

# Legislative Report

Wednesday 12, 2020

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## **OPPOSE**

### **Elder Abuse**

**What:** This bill will increase penalties for crimes against elder persons; restraining orders for elder persons; freezing assets of a defendant charged with financial exploitation of an elder person; sexual assault of an elder person; physical abuse of an elder person; and providing a penalty.

**Where:** AB480 passed in the assembly floor. SB427 has been passed out of committee and is available for scheduling a floor vote

### **Tough on Crime Package**

This is a package of several partisan bills that have been introduced in the legislature that are moving swiftly. There are a couple in there that we have invested some time in. Specifically, AB 802/SB 765 (Videoconferencing) and AB804/SB767 (DV AND PENALTY).

**AB 802/SB 765:** Currently the court may consider certain criteria when determining whether to permit the use of videoconferencing technology, such as whether undue prejudice would result; the cost of producing a witness in person versus the importance of the offered testimony; and whether the person presents a security risk to transport and present personally.

**Where:** Public hearings held and passed but did not move out of committee.

**AB804/SB767:** regarding intimidating a victim of domestic abuse and providing a penalty which would increase the crime of intimidating a victim from a Class A misdemeanor to a Class G felony, an increase in sentencing of approximately 10 years.

**Where:** Hearings have been held by each committee. AB804 passed on the assembly floor. Senate version passed out of committee and is scheduled for a floor vote on 2/18.

## **SUPPORT**

Sex trafficking self-defense

**What:** SB211/AB228 self-defense for victims of sex trafficking.

**Where:** Passed unanimously in the Senate committee and is available for scheduling. Assembly version has been referred to committee on Criminal Justice and Public safety but is stuck there.

## **TDV**

**What:** [SB420/AB378](#) The bill has 3 major components; age appropriate dating violence curricula taught at least once in middle school and once in high school, a requirement that every school have an official protocol for its response to dating violence and a requirement that school staff receive regular training on their district's protocol.

**Where:** Assigned to committees on education and awaiting hearings.

### **Housing**

**What:** AB 123/ SB 119 would appropriate \$900,000 in additional funds to provide housing and supportive services to homeless individuals and families. The key component is that with more funding, communities can look at their data and determine what tools are missing to address their unique needs and create possible solutions.

**Where:** Public hearings held and now awaiting vote in each committee.

**What:** AB119/SB122 This bill would provide a 500k increase of funding to the State Shelter Subsidy Grant

### **PASSED 2019 ACT 76**

**What:** SB 120/AB 121 would fund housing navigators to identify affordable housing opportunities, act as liaisons between tenants and landlords, and serve as mediators if needed.

**Where:** Had public hearings in Committees on Utilities and Housing but have not moved out of committee.

### **MMIW**

**What:** AB 548/SB 493 Introduced with bipartisan support in October. This legislation will create a task force to address missing and murdered indigenous women and girls. The task force would examine the factors that contribute to higher rates of violence among Native American women and girls and what can be done to mitigate the violence. The group would present a report to the Legislature and tribal leaders with its recommendations in December 2020.

**Where:** Assigned to committees and awaiting hearings. Assembly committee on state affairs and Senate committee on government operations, technology and consumer protection.

### **Gun legislation:**

**What:** AB 577/SB 517 This bill would prohibit those who have committed a misdemeanor crime of domestic violence from possessing a firearm. Brings state law in line with federal law.

This bill has bipartisan support and it seems like it might have success in the legislature this session. We support this but know that it will not be truly effective until we close the loopholes and have universal background checks and reinstate the 48-hour waiting period.

**Where:** Assigned to committees and awaiting hearings.

## **Stalking**

**What:** AB259/SB235 - this bill simply adds language to the existing statutory definition of stalking, to include electronic stalking: text messages/social media posts.

**Where:** Passed in the senate and is available for scheduled a vote in the assembly.