

**Governor’s Council on Domestic Abuse
February 10, 2021**

Present: Representative Lisa Subeck, Senator Andre Jacque, Nela Kalpic, Justine Rufus, Susan Sippel, Kathy Flores, Rosalind McClain, Senator Tim Carpenter, Melissa Baldauff, Susan Perry, Patricia Ninmann, Rosalind McClain

Excused: Tammy Xiong

Guests: Amber Peterson, Jenna Gormal (End Domestic Abuse WI), Tegan Swanson (End Domestic Abuse WI), Marianne Rosen (DCF), Shira Phelps (DOJ OCVS), Skye Alloway (MMIW Taskforce)

Staff: Kaitlin Tolliver

Call to Order and Approval of Minutes

Sue Perry, co-chair, called the meeting to order, with a quorum present at 9:06 a.m. This meeting was conducted virtually due to coronavirus (COVID-19) restrictions. The minutes of the October 2020 meeting were reviewed and approved at 9:08 a.m.

Presentation on the Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women (MMIW) Taskforce

Justine Rufus and Skye Alloway, co-chairs for the MMIW Taskforce, and Shira Phelps presented on the Wisconsin MMIW Taskforce. Presentation attached. Committees of the MMIW Taskforce are looking for participants. An application can be found at <https://www.doj.state.wi.us/missing-and-murdered-indigenous-women-task-force>. The Taskforce will be meeting quarterly (next meeting March 19, 2021) and will move forward on their strategic plan while centering tribal family members.

Committee Reports

Access Committee:

The Access Committee did not meet. The Committee is working on rescheduling.

Budget Committee:

The Budget Committee has expanded to prepare for reviewing the funding formula for the DCF Basic Services grant program. DCF Procurement has requested that the Basic Services grant program be distributed via competitive RFP. Currently it is a continuation application with funding formula (not a competitive RFP like every other grant program). DCF will be partnering with End Abuse and directors to evaluate, not only Basic Services but, the entire DCF grant program. The Budget Committee will then need to recommend funding options for whatever is established. Sharon Lewandowski presented on a history of the DCF grant program and its funding process.

Legislative and Policy Committee:

The Legislative and Policy Committee appointed Alena Taylor as co-chair. The Committee continued to work on developing the Revocation Process training. In an effort to finalize the planning so that trainings can occur, subcommittees were developed to work on completing the flyer and record the mock-revocation hearing prior to the April 2021 Committee meeting. Scheduling of the workshop/training will occur in April.

Amber Peterson of the Wisconsin State Courts Office presented on her work completed in the past few years supporting the training and distribution of the Guardian ad Litem Guidebook. The Committee brainstormed other opportunities existing to support ongoing trainings and promotion of the Guidebook.

Legislative Update

Jenna Gormal from End Abuse reported that the Legislative Agenda will be released March 16, 2021. This is in preparation for the virtual Legislative Advocacy Day on March 23, 2021. This year, End Abuse will be participating in partnership with WCASA.

End Abuse has been focusing a lot of efforts on federal policy development focusing on survivor needs being met in upcoming Covid-19 packages. The next package will be asking for another increase to FVPSA to be distributed to the states.

End Abuse has also been championing the VOCA Fix which would help redirect funds into the crime victims fund.

Senator Andre Jacque has been given a chairmanship for the Committee on Human Services, Children and Families. Public Hearing notice of the updating meeting is attached.

Presentation on Guardian ad Litem Trainings

Amber Peterson from the Wisconsin State Courts Office presented on the work she has been doing to support the ongoing distribution and training of the Domestic Abuse Guidebook for Guardians ad Litem. Conversation was held on ideas for ongoing trainings and potential collaboration with DCF child support section.

Proposal regarding ad hoc committee to address Constituent Letters

The Council has been receiving letters from survivors with system complaints. The Council has received more letters in the past year than expected, and in order to better respond to these letters, the Council would like to create an ad hoc committee (Survivor Centered Response Committee) that would meet separately from the Council to review letters from survivors, identify any action steps for the Council or Committee and respond to the survivor. The ad hoc group would provide brief updates to the entire Council at Council meetings. Melissa Baldauff, Rosalind McClain, and Amber Peterson have volunteered to support the Committee. Kathy Flores will email the entire Council to see if any other members are interested in participating.

DCF Domestic Abuse Grant Program

Kaitlin Tolliver, DCF, informed the Council that DCF Procurement is requiring that the DCF domestic abuse grants titled Basic Services and Outreach Services must be released via request for proposal by calendar year 2023. Instead of only changing processes for one grant, DCF will be reviewing the entire domestic abuse grant program to review for accessibility, equity, and opportunity to reduce administrative burden. A brief overview of the process is attached to the minutes. DCF will be constantly updating the Council on updates to this review throughout the process.

Public Comments

Nela Kalpic addressed the Council about an idea for a future presentation. Nela was introduced to a domestic violence treatment model happening in Outagamie County that is being praised by the District Attorney there. This stimulated a conversation about other potential presentations, with a focus on identifying methods of supporting survivors outside of traditional systems (courts, law enforcement, etc.). Co-chairs will continue to look at options and identify topics moving forward.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 12:26 pm.