

**Governor's Council on Domestic Abuse
July 14, 2021**

Present: Representative Lisa Subeck, Senator Andre Jacque, Justine Rufus, Susan Sippel, Melissa Baldauff, Susan Perry, Alena Taylor, Nela Kalpic

Excused: Senator Melissa Agard (appointed March 19, 2021, in replacement of Senator Tim Carpenter), Tammie Xiong, Rosalind McClain, Patricia Ninmann

Guests: Amber Peterson, Jenna Gormal (End Domestic Abuse WI), Tegan Swanson (End Domestic Abuse WI), Marianne Rosen (DCF), Kari LaScala (End Domestic Abuse WI), Kelsey Mullins (End Domestic Abuse WI), Amanda Merkwae (DCF), Christian Gossett (Winnebago County District Attorney)

Staff: Kaitlin Tolliver

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Call to Order and Approval of Minutes

Sue Perry, co-chair, called the meeting to order, without a quorum present at 9:04 a.m. This meeting was conducted virtually due to coronavirus (COVID-19) restrictions. The minutes of the April 2021 meeting were reviewed and approved when quorum was present at 9:23 a.m.

Presentation on DCF Domestic Abuse Grant Program Updates

Kaitlin Tolliver, DCF, reviewed the feedback obtained from Wisconsin domestic violence agency directors as part of feedback sessions conducted in May 2021 regarding DCF Domestic Abuse grants. Powerpoint is attached.

2021 Governor's Council Awards Ceremony

Kaitlin Tolliver provided an update. A room at DCF has been reserved for the event should we be able to hold it in person. Nomination forms have been distributed with low responses at this time.

Council would like to find someone to do poetry, spoken word, or music at the event. Discussed highlighting the MMIW Taskforce and the lives of MMIW. Discussed that we will be unable to say the names of domestic violence homicide victims due to the rules put forth by the Crime Victim Rights Board. We will now have to decide how to pay homage as we have historically during the "Say Their Names" section of the Ceremony.

DCF Domestic Abuse Program 2019-2020 Annual Report

Kaitlin Tolliver provided a brief overview of the 2019-2020 Annual Report released by DCF. A copy is attached.

Committee Reports

Access Committee:

The Access Committee is beginning to look at an opportunity to highlight culturally specific programs within the state. The Committee discussed interviewing different agencies and then coordinating short webinars to educate advocates. At the next meeting, the Committee will come up with a template of questions to ask as part of the interview.

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.

The Budget Committee reviewed the current funding formula and began a discussion regarding what different factors should influence the funding formula. It is looking like funds will first be distributed regionally through a formula and then, through the application process, distributed to awarded agencies. The Committee will be meeting more regularly in the upcoming months.

Legislative and Policy Committee:

The Committee has been working on the revocation process and providing education on the process for victims of domestic violence/sexual assault. Since Covid-19, many courts have moved to video conferencing for survivors and then need for training/education on that process is no longer evident. The Committee is finalizing a flier/tip sheet for victim witness/advocates to use with survivors in preparation and in education of the hearing.

The Committee also discussed moving on to their next task regarding Child Exposure to Domestic Violence. The Committee will discuss what team members need to be recruited for this project and will review past proposed legislation at the October meeting.

Legislative Update

Jenna Gormal from End Abuse provided a legislative update (attached).

Presentation on Intimate Partner Violence Treatment

Winnebago County District Attorney, Christian Gosset, was invited to the Council to discuss the work in Winnebago County around using Cognitive Behavioral Therapy with domestic violence perpetrators to reduce jail usage and recidivism rates.

The Governor's Council on Domestic Abuse appointees who were present at the presentation agree that DA Gosset's topics on the benefits of cognitive behavioral therapy may be acceptable. However, his presentation of the analysis and description of the domestic violence movement, philosophy regarding the movement, and research claims are not supported by the Governor's Council on Domestic Abuse and not supported by well-reviewed, evidence-based research.

Governor's Council on Domestic Abuse Co-Chair

Kathy Flores, Governors' Appointee, is no longer able to fulfill her appointment. As such, the Council needs another volunteer to fill the co-chair position. We will conduct a vote at the October meeting.

Public Comments

None

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 12:03 pm.