

**Governor’s Council on Domestic Abuse  
February 8, 2023**

**Present:** Susan Sippel, Susan Perry, Milly Gonzales, Senator Andre Jacque, Alena Taylor, Nela Kalpic, Dr. Abdul Shour, Representative Sue Conley, Melissa Baldauff, Tammie Xiong, Rosalind McClain

**Excused:** Senator Melissa Agard, Virginia Gittens Escudero

**Guests:** Marianne Rosen, Amy Vannieuwenhoven, Ahna Barreau, Ricky Ferrari Trainer, Jenna Gormal, Maria Konecke

**Staff:** Stacey Cicero, DCF

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**Call to Order and Approval of Minutes**

Sue Sippel, Co-Chair, called the meeting to order at 9:04 a.m. This meeting was conducted in person at the State Capitol, 415 NW. The minutes of the October 2022 meeting were reviewed. A motion was made by Gonzales to accept the October minutes, second by Baldauff. All aye.

**Presentation: Marianne Rosen, DFES Domestic Violence Task Force Chair  
Amy Vannieuwenhoven, Human Services Area Coordinator  
DV Task Force updates and initiatives**

The power point was emailed out to the full Council during the presentation. Information was shared on the Division of Family and Economic Security’s (DFES) Domestic Violence Task Force and on Wisconsin’s Network for Safety in Child Support (WINS). Each initiative aims to transform safety and economic mobility for survivors of domestic abuse. The panel also discussed Wisconsin’s response to the Safe Access for Victims’ Economic Security (SAVES) grant opportunity. Wisconsin’s Department of Children and Families’ application was approved, and the Department received approximately \$1.2 million and over the next five years will embark on efforts to increase safe and full access to child support and parenting time services for victims/survivors of domestic abuse.

**Dr. Abdul Shour, Council member: Policy Brief update:** Dr. Shour discussed his policy brief. He will update the brief and send to Stacey for distribution to the Council for the next meeting.

**Committee Reports**

***Access Committee:***

Melissa Baldauff, Co-Chair

The Access Committee continues to work on the Anti Oppression manual. The committee is reviewing articles and updating narrative and pictures. Discussion of manual use and best practices for programs. A first draft should be completed by this summer. The manual will be reviewed by DCF and the Governor’s Council.

***Budget Committee:***

Sue Sippel, Co-Chair

The Long Range Plan is still in draft form. The Design Team will meet with DCF staff to review the document next week. The next step will be to present the LRP to the Budget Committee and the full Council. The committee continues to work on updating the Fair

Minimum and a companion piece to address the “why” the fair minimum is needed. The goal is to have this completed in 2024. The committee also discussed the ask End Abuse WI made to the Governor’s office. Also noted was a proposal that Senator Agard’s office has received from Domestic Abuse Intervention Services of Madison (DAIS). Information from this proposal will be shared with others on the Council.

***Legislative and Policy Committee:***

Alena Taylor, Co-Chair

This Legislative and Policy committee has formed two subcommittees:

Batterer’s Treatment Standards review and updates: subcommittee has met and is working on language adjustments throughout the document. They are currently reviewing standards from other states.

Fatality Review Commission initiative: reported by Courtney Olson, subcommittee has been meeting and has divided into three groups: legislation, reviewing other state’s standards, recruitment. A grant has been applied for to support this work. About 40 people are working on this subcommittee.

Children who witness abuse just recently started a subcommittee. Amber Peterson will lead this group and is looking for additional members. The focus will be on education and may review the Guardian ad Litem handbook.

**Legislative Update**

Jenna Gormal, End Abuse WI, reported on the \$50 million budget ask that was presented to the Governor in December.

**DCF Domestic Abuse Grant Program Update – Stacey Cicero**

- DCF has hired for the DV/SA Program Coordinator. Ahna Barreau introduced herself.
- Statewide DV funding update: contracts for the new Statewide DV Services have been awarded to 60 programs. Several new programs were able to secure funding, including two tribes and a culturally specific program.
- After the awards were made, DCF took a look at the distribution of funding and made a decision to use ARPA funding and potentially some turn back funding to fill in some gaps and provide stabilization to programs that saw a reduction in their award amount
  - Gap funding, which covers counties/tribes that did not apply and/or did not receive funding, 5 programs to provide coverage for each county and tribe (that applied).
  - Stabilization funding for core services (non shelter) 7 programs, and shelter care funding, 23 programs. At this time, the funding will cover a one year period (2023). DCF is looking at options for further stabilization.
- Tribal sexual assault funding application is currently open.
- The DVHF program is entering its second year of funding. Programs are reporting successful outcomes. DCF has contracted with the UW Madison to complete a comprehensive evaluation of the programs.

**Open Forum for Council Members**

Representative Conley stated that she is always open for legislative ideas, she serves on the Family Law Committee.

Discussion of the Red Flag Law and restraining order surrendering of weapons requirement.

**Public Comments**

None

**Concluding Remarks**

None

**Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 11:12 am.

Motion by Baldauff, second by Representative Conley to adjourn the meeting. All aye.