

**Governor's Council on Domestic Abuse  
October 3, 2023**

**Present:** Susan Sippel, Milly Gonzales, Senator Andre Jacque aide/Malik Staude, Alena Taylor, Representative Sue Conley, Melissa Baldauff, Rosalind McClain, Virginia Gittens Escudero, Sue Perry, Janan Najeeb

**Excused:** Dr. Abdul Shour, Senator Melissa Agard, Cyrena Martin

**Guests:** Jenna Gormal

**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 9:15 a.m. This meeting was conducted in person at the State Capitol building, 2 East Main Street, Madison. The minutes of the July 2023 meeting were reviewed. A motion was made by Taylor to accept the minutes, second by Gonzales. All aye.

**Election of Co-Chair by Council Appointees:**

Sue Perry noted that the Co-Chair position held by Sue Sippel was up for election. Co-Chairs are elected for a two year term. Sue Perry opened nominations, Taylor nominated Sue Sippel for another term as Co-Chair. There were no other nominations.

Representative Conley seconded the motion. All aye, Sippel abstained. Sue Sippel will serve as Co-Chair for another term.

**Legislative Update**

Jenna Gormal, End Abuse WI, reviewed current legislation.

Report is attached.

Council spent time discussing the impending funding cuts from the Department of Justice.

Jenna also reported that the new DV Homicide report will be released soon and Wisconsin has seen a 20% increase in homicides over the last report.

**Committee Reports**

**Access Committee:**

Melissa Baldauff, Co-Chair/Report by Milly Gonzales

The Access Committee completed the review of the Anti-Oppression manual. A subcommittee will be formed to finalize the manual and present it to DCF and the full Council. Committee reviewed next topics and will be choosing a new project.

**Budget Committee:**

Sue Sippel, Co-Chair

The committee continues to work on updating the Fair Minimum and is looking for input from AIAA and BBWPC.

Dr. Shour's policy brief was shared with committee members and he is currently working on an update to include feedback.

**Legislative and Policy Committee:**

Alena Taylor, Co-Chair

This Legislative and Policy committee has three subcommittees:

Batterer's Treatment Standards review and updates: subcommittee continues to meet to work on updating the standards. Alena would like to schedule a presentation for the Council from the Center for Justice Innovation regarding the survey results from programs. This report is expected to be done this fall.

Children who witness abuse just recently started a subcommittee. They have not met to date. Amber Peterson has left her position and Kelsey Mullins is the new contact.

Fatality review committee is looking at current legislation in Wisconsin. End Abuse is also supporting this. Homicide rates continue to rise in Wisconsin.

**Meeting Schedule and Topics for 2024**

Stacey will send out calendar holds for the 2024 meeting dates. Council members discussed adding a meeting in December. Stacey will survey the group. December and February meetings will be held virtually.

Council discussed several topics for 2024.

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

- The position for the DV/SA Program Coordinator is still under review. We are hoping for a replacement by the end of October.
- DCF is currently reviewing two contracts, Domestic Abuse Services for Immigrant, Refugee, and Former Refugee and the Domestic Abuse Services for Traditionally Underrepresented Populations to see if the contracts may be combined. BBWPC is facilitating stakeholder meetings to gain an understanding of the needs of underrepresented populations.
- The Statewide DV Services Gap Jurisdictions competitive RFP has been completed and was awarded. This RFP includes three counties and one tribe that were not covered by the Statewide DV Services RFP that was released last summer. The newly released RFP will have a contract that begins 1/1/24 and end 12/31/2027 to coincide with the current Statewide DV Services contract.
- The Statewide DV Stabilization Sheltercare funding has been extended through 2024 using ARPA funding. It is our hope to continue this funding in some capacity through 12/31/2027 to provide shelter programs that received reductions in their awards due to the restructuring of the Basic Services contracts for 2023.
- In order to establish a better baseline for shelter funding, I have asked shelter programs in each region to complete a survey on shelter only funding requirements. I hope to have the data compiled in early 2024 and will share the results with the council.
- DCF, in conjunction with End Abuse, and Child Protective Services Professionals updated the 2010 DV Handbook for CPS Professionals. This new document is currently being approved through communications and will be ready for release later this month. It is our intention to release it to both CPS and DV programs, so they may collaborate and share resources as they pertain to DV cases.

- Also of note, is the DV pre-service training module for CPS professionals was also updated earlier this year and the updated manual will serve as a reference tool for ongoing services.
- Currently DCF is funding 10 tribal programs with DV and/or SA funding. To better support tribal programs, DCF has created a quarterly tribal meeting that includes DCF, OCVS and the state coalitions. The first meeting was held a few weeks ago and 8 of the 10 tribes attended. We are hoping to encourage open communication and support for tribal programs.

**Open Forum for Council Members**

None

**Public Comments**

None

**Concluding Remarks**

None

**Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 11:15 am.

Motion by Perry, second by Gonzales to adjourn the meeting. All aye.

Council adjourned to practice for the award ceremony.