



STATE OF WISCONSIN

**GOVERNOR'S COUNCIL ON DOMESTIC ABUSE**

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**GOVERNOR'S COUNCIL ON DOMESTIC ABUSE  
MEETING MINUTES**

**April 10, 2024**

**9 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.**

**Meeting was held in person with a virtual option**

**Approved July 10, 2024**

**Council Members Present (Roll Call):** Shannon Barry, Sue Sippel, Sue Perry, Rep. Pat Snyder, Rosalind McClain, Alena Taylor, Cyrena Martin, Virginia Gittens Escudero, Rep. Sue Conley, Sen. Melissa Agard, Elizabeth Lucas

**Council Members Absent:** Janan Najeeb, Dr. Abdul Shour

**Guests Present:** Julie Fisher, Sam Hope, Jenna Gormal, Courtney Olson, Ricky Ferrari Traner, Carly Hirsch, Angie Trudell Vasquez, Monique Minkens, Milly Gonzales, Tegan Swanson, Ka Vue, Aaron Collins

Live Streamed by Wisconsin Eye

**DCF/Governor's Council Staff Present:** Stacey Cicero

**Call to Order, Welcome and Introductions**

Sippel called the meeting to order at 9:02 a.m. Members were welcomed and members provided introductions. Sippel noted this was Elizabeth Lucas' first Council meeting.

Sippel began the meeting noting several procedural clarifications moving forward including not counting legislative aides in votes or quorums, noting when council members leave the meeting for voting purposes, Governor's Council members speaking first and then guests (if time allows), restating motions prior to votes, ensuring that the council is dotting all I's and crossing all T's. This will be discussed more as council policies and procedures are updated.

**Approval of February 14, 2024 Meeting Minutes**

Sippel noted a change to the minutes. One correction to the second page, Budget, Finance and Sustainability Committee Report Section – input was received from committee, not programs. Barry moved to approve the minutes from the February 14, 2024 meeting with the change noted, Senator Agard seconded the motion. Motion carried. Escudero not present for the vote.

**Lobbying Update from End Domestic Abuse Wisconsin (End Abuse)**

Jenna Gormal, Public Policy Director for End Abuse, provided a lobbying update.

**Review of Committee Goals and Objectives by Committee Co-Chairs**

Sippel noted that at the last Council meeting committees were tasked with updating their goals and objectives. Each committee reported on their progress. Draft updates will be sent to committee members. Update on progress will be reported to the Council at the July meeting. No action taken.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

Sippel noted that historically committees did not keep attendance or minutes. Committee work would be brought to the full Council for decisions. Committees cannot act without bringing it to the full committee. Committees did take minutes and keep attendance at the April meeting. This process needs to be reviewed with policy updates so clear guidelines and structure can be determined.

Discussion on the structure of committee workgroups and how they should function. Workgroups are smaller breakout groups of a standing committee or of the Council that focus on one specific topic. The workgroups have no decision making authority and bring all materials forward to the standing committee or Council. Council discussed if these workgroups need to be posted and publicly noticed, and have minutes/attendance records kept. It was also discussed if these workgroup meetings should stop until a formal decision is made. Committee co-chairs had concerns about halting the work of these groups and stalling progress.

Motion by Rep. Snyder to discuss the status of the workgroups at a future meeting after consulting with Legislative Council and the Office of Open Government at DOJ. No second. Motion died for lack of a second.

Motion by Rep. Snyder to vote on the status of the workgroups continuing on as present. He will discuss status with Legislative Council and the Office of Open Government at DOJ. Workgroups should take minutes and publicly notice meetings. Second by Taylor. Discussion regarding how these requirements may impact the productivity of workgroups, be burdensome to council staff, and impact e progress. Rep. Snyder withdraws this motion.

Motion by Rep. Snyder to suspend workgroup work until clarification is received from legislative council and open government at DOJ. Second by Sen. Agard for discussion. Discussion of workgroup structure and purpose. Workgroups are resource gathering and do not make any decisions. Friendly amendment to motion: workgroups will continue to move forward, take minutes and attendance and provide information to full committee until clarification is received from Legislative Council and the Office of Open Government at DOJ. Motion carried. Rep.

Sen. Agard asked that a representative from Legislative Council attend the July Governor's Council meeting to answer questions. Rep. Snyder offered to schedule this.

### **Access Committee Report**

Perry reported the committee is in need of a co-chair. Reviewed goals and objectives. Current project is updating the Anti-Oppression manual. Discussed press releases regarding the Governor's Council that were released in February 2024.

Discussion about co-chair requirements. Sippel noted that these policies need revisions and will be updated. Question arose if a committee co-chair needs to be a Council member. Perry read the current requirements. The current structure requires that each committee has a council member as a co-chair. Nothing prohibits both co-chairs being council members.

Rep. Snyder questioned if committee meetings were publicly noticed and if there was a list of committee members published. Sippel responded yes and noted the new Governor's Council webpage that includes meeting information and committee member listings.

### **Legislative and Policy Committee Report**

Taylor reported the committee reviewed goals and objectives. Committee workgroups did not meet since the last Council meeting and are waiting for clarification on how to move forward. Direction needs to be given regarding posting, publicly noticing, and documentation of minutes/attendance for workgroups.

### **Budget, Finance and Sustainability Committee Report**

Sippel reported the committee reviewed goals and objectives. Also discussed how the committee could assist programs with pending budget cuts. A former DAIS board member and strategic planning consultant has offered a free opportunity to provide change management sessions for programs. Discussion on how the Council could support this effort. The question was raised if the Governor's Council could host or endorse an event. Rep. Snyder would like clarification.

Motion by Rep. Snyder to ask Legislative Council to clarify hosting requirements. Sen. Agard seconded for discussion. Minkens offered that End Abuse has time set aside for directors and offered this space if needed. Barry stated the offer could be rescinded if it is duplicative. Motion carried

### **Discussion of Updates to Policies and Procedures**

Sippel noted this was placed on hold after the last Council meeting until clarification on meeting notices was obtained. Sen. Agard suggested the Governor's office could assist with this. This process will be reviewed after the Council meeting with Legislative Council at the July meeting.

### **Presentation on the Policy Brief: Securing Adequate Funding for Domestic Violence Services in Wisconsin**

Sippel gave highlights of the brief. This will be placed on the agenda for the July meeting.

### **Discussion of Council Votes/Motions/Decisions Not Appropriately Posted**

Council reviewed the meetings that were not properly posted.

Motion by Barry to approve the motions and votes from Council meetings between October 2021 and July 2023 that were not properly posted. Second by Lucas. Rep. Snyder abstained. Motion carried. Rep. Conley not present for vote.

### **Review and Discussion of Future Council and Committee Meeting Locations**

Discussion of number of Council meetings and dates. Barry moved not to have a Council meeting in December. Snyder seconded the motion. Motion carried. Rep. Conley not present for vote.

Motion by Rep. Snyder to hold Committee and Council meetings in a government building with the capacity for a virtual meeting, parking, and accessibility. Rep. Snyder withdraws this motion. Discussion of Council and Committee meeting locations. Lucas will check to see if the meetings can be held at DOC offices for July. Sen. Agard asked to review the need to have meetings in a governmental building placed on the July agenda.

### **DCF Domestic Abuse Grant Program Update**

Stacey Cicero, Domestic Abuse Program Coordinator reported:

- DCF has released a webpage that will house council information and documents, including agendas and minutes. The page is linked to other DCF related pages as well.  
<https://dcf.wisconsin.gov/domesticabuse/council>
- DCF is currently working on the new request for proposals (RFP) for the Domestic Abuse Services for Immigrant, Refugee and Former Refugee, and the Domestic Abuse Services for Traditionally Under-represented Populations grant funding. The new, competitive RFP's will be released separately this summer with a start date of January 1, 2025. The application reviews will take place late summer. An email will be sent out at a later date asking for reviewers from the Governor's Council.
- The DV Housing First Pilot Program is currently in its 3<sup>rd</sup> year of funding. The evaluation team has issued early preliminary findings that I would like to share with you. Highlights include:
  - In preliminary survey data, more than 50% of survivors reported reductions in exposure to violence from wave 1 to wave 2, suggesting that this program is helping to make people safer.
  - Case management is critical to the success of DVHF and should be included in budgets along with flexible financial assistance for DV survivors.
  - Transportation is a significant need for survivors that impacts ability to maintain employment and stable housing and can be addressed via DVHF.
  - The average amount of money distributed to survivors was \$995 and the median amount was \$724. Funding distributed ranged from \$6 to \$13,255.

- The largest funding categories were: rent and security deposits, personal transportation and vehicle maintenance and utilities.

### **Open Forum for Council Members**

Rep. Snyder asked questions surrounding the violation of the 72 hour no contact after a domestic violence arrest.

### **Public Comments**

None

### **Adjourn**

Motion to adjourn made by Barry, second by Perry. Motion carried. Rep. Conley, Sen. Agard not present for the vote. Meeting adjourned at 12: 09 p.m.