

**NORTH CAROLINA DOMESTIC VIOLENCE COMMISSION BOARD MEETING**  
**Friday, October 23, 2020: 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM**

**Microsoft Teams Virtual Meeting**

**Minutes**

**Presiding Chairperson:** April Burgess-Johnson

**Board Members Present:** April Burgess-Johnson, Tiffany Bell, Shelby Benton, Kriquette Davis, Jacqueline Dienemann, Sherry Everett, Regina Gurley, Casandra Hoekstra, Tonya Horton, Holly Jones, Annette Taylor, Deborah Weissman, Saira Estrada, Sarah Kirkman, Bryan Miller, Christine Strader, Amy Vaughan-Jones, Sarah Owens, Starleen Scott Robbins,

**Board Members on call:** Larry Pierce

**Board Members Absent:** Carolina Alzuru, David Byrd, Cathy Cloninger, Hilary Cooper, Kristy Dickerson, Karen Fairley, Surabhi Gawande, Cheryl Howell, Jennifer Howell, Maureen Krueger, Hans Miller, Catherine Stevens, Nora Salinas, Robert M. Wilkins, Terri Sharp

**Special Guests Present:** Betty Marrow-Taylor, DOA Deputy Secretary, Katie Hall, DOA Legislative Liaison, Catherine Rivera, DOA Boards and Commissioners Coordinator, Governor Office Fiscal Research Team, Susie Camiller, Grant Schwab, Morgan Weiss, Julia Horrocks, Helpmate a Domestic Violence Agency, LaToya Chancey, DHHD, Angela Harper King, DHHD, Maggie Slocumb, Helpmate a Domestic Violence Agency, Carianne Fisher, NCCADV

**Staff Members Present:** Mary Williams-Stover, Executive Director, Sandra Welch, Deputy Director, Allison Whitenack, Diane Blumel, Deborah Torres, Philisa Fowler, Lori Gerber, Jackie Jordan, Alisa Milliken, Rose Saltz, Holly Foz, Deatrice Williams, Molly Overholt, Gabrielle Smith, Kiricka Yarbough-Smith

**Call to order-** Ms. April Burgess-Johnson, Chairperson called the meeting to order at 10:00 AM. She read the Ethics Statement and invited any member who has a conflict of interest to identify. No conflicts reported. Ms. April Burgess-Johnson then opened the floor for public comment. There were no public comments. Chairperson, April Burgess-Johnson did the roll call and introduction of new members every Commissioner member stated (present). Approval of Minutes August 28, 2020, motion by Kriquette Davis and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Saira Estrada. Voting is tabled to the last part of meeting for other needed votes.

**Chairperson's Report – April Burgess-Johnson, *Chairperson***

- Impact of COVID-19 and unemployment rates on domestic violence survivors and victims.
- Agencies are sharing collective wisdom with one another by utilizing peer sharing calls statewide, regionally, and locally.
- Update on Advocacy for DV / SA Program Grant Funding to support needs in response to Covid-19 pandemic/ Provider Viewpoint on Impact
- April shared Helpmate's October Fundraiser was a High Tea. This program is normally in person but that could not happen this year, so they mailed each participant a tea bag and information to view a recorded program which is available for viewing on HelpmateOnline.org.

## **Executive Director's Update/DVAM/Client Services Report – Mary Williams-Stover, Allison Whitenack**

- Briefly discuss the Child Marriage Report and recommendations from the Legislative Committee to endorse the changing legal age for marriage in NC.
- Implementation continues with 2 technical assistance Zoom meetings this week facilitated by NCCASA and NCCADV partners to help DV and SA grantees understand criteria for spending funding i.e., \$12 million to DV and SA agencies. Working with NCPRO to resolve questions from agencies related to US Treasury guidance and fiscal requirements. Funding must be spent by 12/30/20.
- Participated in planning meeting with DV Commission Legislative Chairperson and DV Commission Domestic Violence Intervention Program Chairperson regarding strategies for advocacy, promoting availability of funding from GCC for regional programs in 2021 and position support.
- Mary Williams-Stover stated this will be April Burgess-Johnson last meeting as Chair for NC Domestic Violence Commission, she will continue to be a member.  
The website for Mary and Allison presentation <https://ncadmin.gov/about-doa/divisions/council-for-women>

### **Updates from Sub- Committees:**

#### **Legislative Committee, Committee Co-Chairs **Sherry Honeycutt Everett, and Holly Jones****

**Legislative Short Session:** NC DOA, NCCADV, and NCCASA worked to put together a request for funding for DV and SA agencies from the CARES Act. Meeting with partners and stakeholders to have statistics and statements of financial impact for agencies of COVID.

The following items are recommended by the Legislative Subcommittee for adoption to the full Domestic Violence Commission.

- The DVC Legislative Committee recommends that the Commission support an increase to the General Assembly budget appropriation for DV Services. The funding for agencies was cut in 2009 and has remained at the 2009 level since that time.
- The DVC Legislative Committee recommends that the Commission support an appropriation to establish a position within the NCCFWYI to oversee DV Intervention Services.
- The DVC Legislative Committee recommends that the Commission support efforts to amend Chapter 50B of the North Carolina General Statutes to clarify which subsequent court orders can supersede provisions of a Domestic Violence Protective Order.

#### **Victim Service Sub-Committee: Chair **Shelby Benton****

##### **Update on Mini-Committees**

###### **#1 LGBTQ Mini-Committee**

April: Had 2 meetings, solid group of 5 that are putting together a presentation, with 4 recommendations. In the process of putting the data sets that match the 4 recommendations. They should be ready for the November meeting. They probably have a little longer than a 10-minute presentation. Shelby said to plan on 10 minutes presentations, but there could be space available if needed.

###### **#2 Deaf and Hard of Hearing Mini-Committee**

Shelby: Terri Sharp is reaching out to Saira – they are still trying to get together. Shelby will find out in early November if they will be ready to present.

### #3 Teen Mini-Committee

Diane: After reviewing our 48 contract amendments, many of our agencies identified the Teen Population as unserved, underserved or inadequately served. This means that our agencies have been working on programs to provide service to these individuals. We will be ready to present in November – but right now we are very busy reviewing the contract amendments. Diane will reach out to Jennifer Howell.

Shelby: Asked Diane to share with the other committees any information about their populations if they were mentioned in our contract amendments as unserved underserved or inadequately served.

### #4 American Indian Mini-Committee

Shelby: Nikki and Shelby met – they have some outreach going on – they should be ready for November.

### #5 African Black/African Caribbean Mini-Committee

Planning to meet in late October to gather information so they can be ready for November's meeting.

### #6 Trans and gender non-conforming Mini-Committee

Molly is meeting one-on-one with her group to gather information. Finding out what are needs vs. what is currently happening. Will be ready by November to make presentation.

### #7 Male survivor Mini-Committee

Shelby: no member of this mini-committee was present – Shelby will reach out to them.

## **NC Council for Women & Youth Involvement's Statistical Report and Statistical Brief**

Allison (NCCFW&YI Data Analyst) is responsible for compiling the annual client services statistics for NCCFW&YI. She provided two documents for our review. The 2019-2020 Statistical Brief is an overview of the data collected from all the service agencies grant funded by the CFW and provides a look at trends in data. The other document is a more in depth look at trends in the data. Allison noted that when we compare the past two fiscal years, we see that the number of clients and number of calls decreased. This is not only surprising because of what we are hearing anecdotally about COVID-19's impact on survivors but also is counter to the 5-year trend. The 5-year trend reflects calls and clients have been increasing steadily, but this year both numbers are down.

(The Statistical Brief final version is here: <https://files.nc.gov/ncdoa/2019-2020-Statistical-Brief-Final.pdf>) contains info on COVID-19 impact on these agencies, such as decrease in services, etc.

## **Updates**

Mary gave these updates:

- LoveIsRespect.org – Mary said there is a trend towards text messages to get help and support vs. crisis telephone hotline calls and in person request for services - The Love Is Respect reports are published on the NCCFW&YI website: <https://ncadmin.nc.gov/about-doa/divisions/council-for-women/women-statistics>
- Access to Services – due to our political and social climate, our immigrant populations are the most impacted and experiencing more barriers to service and should be considered a priority – especially our Latin population.

## **COVID-19 Update**

Going back to the Reports provided to us by Allison. Shelby again suggested there should be a disclaimer on the data collection regarding COVID-19. This needs to be prominent, so people are aware when

reviewing the reports. Being transparent on how we put it out there is important. Diane again discussed noting that the data may not be correct due to the definitional issue of in person/virtual help.

Seema advised that in March 2020 they started to using WhatsApp to communicate with clients because you cannot trace calls. It is great for clients to use so the abuser cannot see previous calls.

### **Sub-Committee Meeting November 18<sup>th</sup>**

#### **Domestic Violence Offender Management Committee: Committee Co-Chairs **Judge Robert Wilkins and Tiffany Bell****

10/20/2020

#### **Attachments: Provided as handouts for DVC attendees**

- NCPAT Letter of Support

#### **DVOM Activity since last DVC meeting**

- Sherry Honeycutt-Everette presented at NC Judges Commission on DVIPs and need for funded DVIP Oversight Position
- NCCADV agreed to endorse/support the advocacy for the CFW position for a person to oversee DV Intervention Programming.
- DVC Legislative Sub-Committee supports DVC endorsing the CFW position for a person to oversee DV Intervention Programming

#### **Program Updates:**

Sandhills Behavioral Center

- Agency remains non-compliant to date; agency director is in fragile health which may explain delinquency especially given the current pandemic.

COOL Program

- Agency has complied with most elements of compliance plan. Does not have an MOU with DV Agency in Davidson County, citing personal conflict with agency personnel.
- Upon resolution of the outstanding MOU issue, agency will regain approval and a follow up On Site Monitoring Visit will be scheduled as soon as practicable.

SPARC DVRNA Pilot Project

- Classes continue to be exclusively virtual.
- Assessments can be in-person.
- Progress report on end of grant year results to be completed at end of October-Full results will be available by next DVC.

#### **Action Items:**

Requesting the Continuation of Virtual Classes past the pandemic

- DVIPs approved by CFWYI and DVOM be allowed to continue to offer services virtually after the expiration of social distancing and other requirements related to the Pandemic State of Emergency as DVOM develops best-practice guidelines for operating DVIPs in this manner.

Requesting Endorsement of DVIP Oversight Position

- DVC endorses funding for a state DVIP Oversight position to provide oversight, support, and accountability to state DVIPs.

### Short Term Goals:

- Distribute survey to DVOM to determine which program are currently operating available services (in-person and virtual) and current fee structures.
- Work with DHHS to explore possible solutions to timing of case closure of domestic violence cases when an offender is ordered to attend a DVIP. Explore options to keeping a DV case open until there is documented completion of the DVIP (not just enrollment and attendance for a few weeks). Statistics demonstrate that an offender ordered into DVIP by DSS will comply up to when DSS closes their case, usually before the 26-week class is completed. The case closure is due to apparent adherence to DSS orders, yet once DSS closes the case, the offender drops out as there is no need to be accountable to DSS.
- Formalize process/procedure of removing approved programs from the Directory that formalizes *01 NCAC 17.0715* Abuser Treatment Program Investigations and Removal from approved list, section (j). Committee formalized sections (a)-(i) dealing with complaints and this information is available in the Best Practices Manual available on the CFW & YI website on the BIP page of resources.

### Long Term Goals:

- Begin a comprehensive review of the Administrative Code governing DVIPs. Create a working group that could include individuals not on the appointed DVC representing cohorts in working with offenders.

**Access to Health Services Committee:** Committee Co-Chairs, **Starleen Scott Robbins, Regina Gurley**

#### **Key Topics Addressed:**

- **Discuss Lunch & Learn trainings series & continued planning regarding DV/SA screening in primary care setting.**
- **Recommended to the Committee:**
  - 3 Live, online webinar training: January 2021, March 2021 & May 2021 (1 hour plus 15-minute Q & A)
  - Potential topics: ACES/DV/SA/Resiliency, SUD & DV/SA, DV/SA Provider Collaboration with Behavioral Health
  - Dr. Kelly Graves at UNC -Greensboro agreed to present on ACES/Resiliency and provided dates in December & January. We decided based on availability of UNC School of SW recommendation for marketing timeframe to go with one of the January dates.
  - DMHDDSAS in collaboration with UNC SW BH Springboard will host trainings, obtain CEUs, provide marketing materials & registration.

- Reaching out to all committee members regarding 2 other topics for trainings based on the survey results and potential (free) experts to present.
- **Discussed including outreach to NC DV Coalition, NC Nursing Association, Division of Public Health, NC Medical Board & the NC Home Health Assoc. to determine current DV/SA screening protocols in primary care & home health visits.**

**Action Steps for Committee Members:**

<b>Activity</b>	<b>Person(s) Responsible</b>	<b>Due Date</b>
<b>Coordinate date with Dr. Graves for webinar</b>	<b>Bernetta Thigpen</b>	<b>10/21/2020</b>
<b>Reach out to UNC School of Social Work BH Springboard to determine what information they need to move forward with training coordination</b>	<b>Starleen Scott Robbins</b>	<b>10/21/2020</b>
<b>Send email to Access to Healthcare Comm members for Lunch &amp; Learn series topics and speakers</b>	<b>Bernetta Thigpen</b>	<b>10/21/2020</b>
<b>Outreach to home health provider Assoc. re: DV/SA screening protocols/standards</b>	<b>Angela Harper King</b>	<b>11/10/2020</b>
<b>Outreach to NC Nursing Association re: DV/SA screening protocols/standards</b>	<b>Stacy Smith</b>	<b>11/10/2020</b>
<b>Outreach to NC Medical Board re: DV/SA screening protocols/standards</b>	<b>Starleen Scott Robbins</b>	<b>11/10/2020</b>
<b>Outreach to NC DV Coalition re: DV/SA screening protocols/standards</b>	<b>Bernetta Thigpen</b>	<b>11/10/2020</b>

**Next Meeting Dates: November 10, 2020 conference call (full committee)**

**Access to Transportation Committee: Chairperson: Kriquette Davis**

Key Topics Addressed:

1. Recruiting members to committee
2. Reaching out to YMCA and agencies that may have vehicles available to sell and or use to help with transportation in rural areas.

**Adjournment** – There being no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 11:45 a.m. and New Members Orientation Presentation conducted by: April Burgess Johnson and Mary Williams-Stover started and ended at 12:30pm.

**NEXT MEETING: Friday, February 19, 2021**

Submitted by Deborah Torres, NC Council for Women & Youth Involvement