

**Domestic Violence Coordinating Council**  
**Quarterly Meeting Minutes**  
**May 13, 2019**

**Call to Order:** The Chair, Chief Judge Michael Newell called the DVCC Quarterly meeting to order at 1:08 p.m.

**Introductions:** In attendance were the following DVCC members and designated representatives: Chief Judge Michael Newell (Chair, Family Court), Chief Defender Brendan O’Neill (ODS), Secretary Robert Coupe (DSHS), Judge Carl Danberg (CCP), Attorney General Kathy Jennings (DOJ), Secretary Josette Manning (DSCYF), Representative Krista Griffith (General Assembly), Laura Graham, Esq., (CLASI), Cpl./3 Adrienne Owen (DSP), Professor Jennifer Naccarelli (University of DE), and Ariana Langford.

DVCC Staff: Maureen Monagle, Natasha Smith, and Tracie Dixon-Stanley.

Also in attendance were: Ellie Torres (Family Court), Ava Carcirieri (Family Court), Linda Carmichael (Superior Court), Erin Connelly (DOC), Terica Jones (CJC), Sergeant Jamie Leonard (NCCPD), Mariann Kenville-Moore (DCADV), Lori Sitler (Child Inc.), Monica Shockley-Porter (DBH), Stephanie Hamilton (WPVS), Mary Skaats (Probation & Parole).

**Minutes:** A motion to approve the March 11, 2019 minutes was made, seconded and the minutes were approved.

**VAWA Implementation Committee Funding Recommendations**

Terica Jones sought approval from the Council for the following grant program:

▪ **FY2018 S.T.O.P. Violence Against Women Formula Grant Program**

Delaware was awarded \$950,489.00 for the FFY 2018 S.T.O.P VAWA Grant. The grant is in the second year under the “FFY2017-FFY2020 Four Year Implementation Plan”. The VAWA Implementation Committee recommends:

- \$50,000 be awarded to the Georgetown Police Department (GPD) to maintain a Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Investigator. The Investigator will continue domestic violence and sexual assault investigations, follow-up with victims and review of LAP reports, work with victim support services for community outreach and officers working with allied professional and social service organizations.
- \$36,158 be awarded to the Department of Correction (Probation & Parole) to maintain a casual/seasonal Victim Services Agent to provide outreach serves to victims of domestic violence and sexual assault – where the perpetrator is active on probation and parole and to assist the victim in the criminal justice process and serve as a resource to victims and the DOC.
- \$15,000 be awarded to the Domestic Violence Coordinating Council to offer conference and training events for law enforcement officers statewide. Topics will focus on domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence, stalking and other violent crimes against women. DVCC staff will work with the Law Enforcement Training Conference Planning Group.
- \$46,957 be awarded to Family Court to contract a DV Coordinator to serve as the primary contact with other courts, advocates, prosecutors and law enforcement and assist with routing monitoring of compliance of respondents with court orders.
- \$35,000 be awarded to Wilmington Police Department for assistance with overtime funding to increase attempts of PFAs and Warrants services. Teams would make service attempts once a week.

A motion was made to approve; motion was seconded. The funding recommendations were approved with two abstentions due to participation on the VAWA Implementation Committee.

### **Sexual Assault Network of Delaware (SAND)**

Council members received a copy of the SAND Ad Hoc Transition Subcommittee Report. Stephanie Hamilton and Mary Skaats, Co-chairs of SAND were invited to provide an overview of the statewide coalition.

SAND was created in 1998 from national funding provided by the Office of Violence Against Women (OVW). Purposed to develop a system to raise awareness of and provide information on gender-based violence. SAND also provided coordination and oversight of services [no direct services] to individuals who had suffered the trauma of sexual violence; a coordinated effort between the states/territories and the OVW national office. SAND has identified four strategic objectives for 2019-2023:

- I. *Coordination* – to communicate and collaborate on activities related to advocacy, education, and build capacity for victim services. To maintain and strengthen the activities of SAND to better serve survivors and prevent sexual assault while SAND invests in its organizational development activities.
- II. *Organizational Capacity* – to build the organizational capacity to better serve survivors and sexual assault and prevention service organizations. Currently, funding is only provided for 1 staff person while other staffing is comprised of volunteers.
- III. *Restructure* – to transition from a project of ContactLifeline to an independent coalition organization.
- IV. *Performance Measurement* – to develop a structure for performance measurement for the activities that SAND engages with members.

On June 6, 2019, members of the Sexual Assault Network of Delaware will be asked to vote on one of the three proposed options submitted by the AD Hoc Transition Subcommittee. The Ad Hoc Transition Subcommittee sought the recommendation and support of the Domestic Violence Coordinating Council as to which option the committee would favor and cast a vote.

A motion was made to approve the recommendation of selecting Option 1: to create a 501 (c)(3), stand alone, non-profit entity (Sexual Assault Coalition of Delaware); motion was approved; seconded with no abstentions or opposed.

### **Follow-Up: Lethality Assessment Protocol (LAP) and pretrial release**

During the March 11, 2019 quarterly council meeting concerns were posed regarding the Lethality Assessment Protocol (LAP) being used as an assessment tool in the interim bail rule to trigger secured bail. The Lethality Assessment Protocol was not designed to assess offender risk nor provide services to victims. Language was drafted and submitted to the Chief Justice and the Administrative Office of the Courts in opposition to the LAP being used as an assessment tool. During the presiding judges meeting in April 2019, there was agreement and support without opposition affirming the LAP should not be used as a triggering event to set a secured bail.

### **DVCC Committee Updates**

- **Children and Domestic Violence:** Secretary Josette Manning reported the committee met on April 29, 2019, and is awaiting feedback for approval on the court bench card. The next meeting is scheduled for August 26, 2019 at 10:00 a.m., Cambridge Building – University Plaza, Newark, DE. to develop agenda items for the upcoming year.
- **Immigration:** Laura Graham reported the committee met on April 30, 2019, and continues to review plans and the strategic direction of the committee for the upcoming year. The next meeting is scheduled for September 3, 2019 at 10:30 a.m., CLASI, Dover, DE.
- **Legislative:** Krista Griffith reported the committee met on April 3, 2019 and discussed pending legislative bills:
  - Request from the DCADV to file a bill for Victim/Advocate Privilege. Draft is forthcoming.



- Request for changing the Persons Prohibited Statute – current language includes persons prohibited from possessing firearms cannot be charged if they only have received an Ex Parte court order. Proposal to statute recommends extending charging capability to anyone who has been served an Ex Parte court order.
- HB142 – will add an official member of the medical community to the Fatal Incident Review Team (FIRT).

**Executive Director’s Report and Announcements**

- Announced Aimee String (Criminal Justice Sr. Planner – Milford State Service Center) took an opportunity with the Department of Transportation. The position will be posted shortly.
- Reported the Elderly & DV Committee chairperson vacancy has been filled by Secretary Robert Coupe who has appointed Deputy Secretary, Kimberly Chandler as designee.
- The Nomination period for the 2019 Domestic Violence Coordinating Council Outstanding Service Award opens to the public during the month of July 2019. The winner will be announced during the September 9, 2019 quarterly council meeting.
- The Law Enforcement Training Conference will be held on November 4, 2019 at the Del-One Conference Center at Delaware Technical Community College in Dover, DE.
- Provided an update for the High Risk Domestic Violence Coordinator – Galen Purcell was not able to attend today’s meeting. Since March, the following activities have been completed: conference calls with four established HRDV Teams in other jurisdictions. He met with 5 Delaware agencies/organizations who will be potential HRDVT Member agencies. He participated in a domestic violence training with the Capitol Police; and a Lethality Assessment training with the New Castle County Police. Moe Monagle and Galen met with staff from the Office of Child Advocate (OCA), to discuss their recent case management database system overhaul project. The OCA recently moved to Apricot Case Management System from Social Solutions. The DVCC will continue to explore options and potential costs for secured case management and data storing programs. There may be an opportunity to utilize this system to securely maintain FIRT and HRDVT files.
- On May 9<sup>th</sup>, Representative Kim Williams met with staff from DCADV, CHILD Inc., DSCYF, the Family Court and DVCC. She wanted to explore if minors should be allowed to file for a PFA without parental consent. She hopes to draft a House Resolution to study the issue of expanding services. The DVCC was identified to be the leading body to conduct the study.
- There have been 7 DV related fatalities from January – April 2019 in the state of Delaware encouraging the need for domestic violence related fatalities to be a standing item for discussion during quarterly council meetings.

**Public Comment**

- Mariann Kenville-Moore (DCADV) made the following announcements:
  - The Coalition along with the Criminal Justice Council is developing plans for a statewide public awareness campaign to release in September 2019. The initiative will produce Delaware specific marketing materials. The DCADV has been approved through the States administrative offices to be a provider of sexual harassment/violence in the workplace trainings, and trauma informed service trainings.

The meeting adjourned at 1:50 p.m.

Submitted by,

Tracie Dixon-Stanley

**Next Meeting Date: Monday, September 9, 2019 @ 1:00 p.m., Buena Vista – Buck Library**