

**Domestic Violence Commission Meeting
February 8, 2013 Minutes
Public School Forum
3739 National Drive, Suite 100, Raleigh NC**

Commission Member Attendees: Karen Parker, Chair; Marisol Barr, The Honorable Sharon Barrett, Sherry Bradsher, Misty Brown on behalf of Gwendolyn Burrell, Charles Campbell, Senator Warren Daniel, Brandon Madden on behalf of David Elliot, Representative John Faircloth, Beth Froehling, Cheryl Howell, Monika Johnson Hostler, Jo Liles, Rebecca Macy, Marjorie Menestres, Alexander Nicely, Mary Catherine Stevens, Marie White and George York, Jr.

Guest Attendees: Rhonda Todd, NC DOA Legislative Liaison, Melissa Goodwin, Southern Pines Police Department, and Stephanie Satkowiak, Domestic Violence Specialist, Administration Office of the Courts.

NC Council for Women Staff Attendees: Kathleen Balogh, Beth Briggs, Charlotte Hanemann, Tara Minter, and Mary Williams-Stover

A. OPENING/WELCOME – Karen Parker

Chairperson Karen Parker welcomed everyone to the meeting and asked Commission members to introduce themselves. Karen thanked the members for their commitment and attendance. Ms. Parker reviewed the agenda for this meeting with the focus on strategic conversations. There have been a lot of changes to the structure of this Commission and membership so this is a good time to review the Commission's purpose and mission.

B. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – Karen Parker

Rebecca Macy moved to accept the minutes as written and seconded by Monika Johnson Hostler, the motion passed unanimously.

C. Mission and Purpose of the Domestic Violence Commission – Karen Parker

Ms. Parker read the "*Powers and Duties of the Commission*". Ms. Briggs reiterated the importance of our commitment to domestic violence and sexual assault programs. Over \$12,000,000 goes to support domestic violence, sexual assault programs, the North Carolina Coalition Against Domestic Violence and North Carolina Coalition Against Sexual Assault including \$8,000,000 in appropriations and \$4,000,000 in Divorce Filing Fees and Marriage License Fees.

D. Domestic Violence Commission's Vision – Beth Briggs

Ms. Briggs led a lengthy discussion with the Commission members to identify the goals, vision and purpose over the next year. The following are the suggestions, comments and goals discussed:

- A powerful voice in North Carolina on key issues regarding domestic violence.
- Identify and evaluate trends pertaining to domestic violence and sexual assault.
- There are a few systematic ways to track data and advocate for data collection.
 - Accurate data from the courts – AOC data analysis, better data on crimes (better data collection for pleading to lesser charge: cases not being presented to judges as DV cases)
 - Hospital data (pertaining to victims of violence)
 - Partner with universities doing research
- Identify gaps in service, areas for improvement and coordination across systems that improve services to victims.
- Advocacy and education with local municipalities to support local programs.
- Focused training on capacity building
- Educate judges about DV and SA, Justice Reinvestment Act.
- Better domestic violence training for law enforcement, courts, communities and victims. Awareness of the cycle of domestic violence.
- In response to the Crawford Ruling: Train officers to investigate assuming victims will not appear in court. Build a "case" with evidence instead of victim testimony.

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- Increased/stiffer punishment if the defendant contacts witnesses, or intimidating witness or obstruction of justice.
- NC Aware: Get orders entered quickly into systems, specific orders with up-to-date information that allow officers to arrest for pre-trial violations.

D. Legislative Overview – Representative John Faircloth and Senator Warren Daniel

Representative John Faircloth stated that legislators have been in session for a couple of weeks. With 60% of the lawmakers serving in their first or second term, there is a lot of mentoring with the large freshman class. Legislative committees have been assigned. In his opinion, if General Assembly is looking to increase spending in one area, funds will be taken from other areas. There are no extra dollars coming in at this point. Agencies and departments will be presenting their budgets and changes to the General Assembly for review. The process of budget is a joint effort for the next several weeks and then Senate and House committees will focus separately on the state budget document. The Assembly is expecting the Governor's budget in early April. Rep. Faircloth and other members will look carefully at the organizations of state departments, review organizational charts, to learn how things are operating in each department.

Rep. Faircloth discussed his background in law enforcement and understands the effect of domestic violence in the community very well. Domestic violence was hidden for a long time and was viewed differently in the 1960s. The way law enforcement officers now respond to domestic violence cases has changed dramatically. Police agencies are working to put together programs that get at the core causes of domestic violence. A local High Point agency working with federal grants developed a call-in system that is very effective and could be shared with other agencies across our state. Rep. Faircloth looks forward to working with the Domestic Violence Commission.

Senator Warren Daniel's background is as a general practice attorney. Sen. Daniel's and the legislators main focus is the state budget. His participation with the Domestic Violence Commission is to get feedback from the Commission to benefit policy making. Sen. Daniel stated the Commission is in place to make recommendations that improve the lives of our citizens and the state. Like the General Assembly, he commented that legislators are regular people who try to collectively make decisions on behalf of North Carolina citizens. He stated that there is not a lot of expertise in the General Assembly pertaining to Domestic Violence. Awareness depends on groups to bring attention to the members of the legislature. He expressed the importance of knowing and contacting your legislators with concerns, ideas and suggestions. Rep. Faircloth followed up by saying the real work is done during committees. When a bill is introduced it will be assigned to an active committee. Often when an idea goes into committee, that bill is changed several times and this is the time to engage legislators. Sen. Daniel encouraged members to review House Bill 24 that was recently introduced to see if the language addresses the issue in an effective way. If there are any comments, contact the bill drafter or plan to attend the committee meeting. This is an immediate way to have an effect on domestic violence laws.

Ms. Briggs stated Rhonda Todd, DOA's legislative liaison, will keep the Commission informed on bills that affect domestic violence.

E. NCCADV and NCCASA Reports – Beth Froehling and Monika Johnson Hostler

Ms. Beth Froehling Executive Director of North Carolina Coalition Against Domestic Violence shared with the Commission members the 2013 NCCADV legislative agenda. The Coalition's main focus this year will be funding/budget. The Coalition will encourage their members to engage their legislators and invite legislators to visit programs and shelters in their communities. Funding recommendations to the General Assembly includes maintaining state funding for domestic violence programs funded by the Council for Women, support the recommendations issued by the Domestic Violence Commission, reinstate TANF funding and ensure that Victims Compensation Fund is adequately funded and accessible to domestic violence and sexual assault victims. Other items on the Coalition agenda include to clarify and enhance

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Chapter 50B (Domestic Violence Protective Order), to strengthen the response to criminal domestic violence offenses, and require training on domestic violence for prosecutors, magistrates, clerks, mediator, custody evaluators, probation officers, parenting coordinators, juvenile justice courts counselors, and educators in the public school systems in collaboration with NCCADV.

Ms. Monika Johnson Hostler Executive Director of North Carolina Coalition Against Sexual Assault shared with the Commission the 2013 NCCASA legislative agenda. The Coalition's focus this year is to restore the Rape Crisis Center funding from the General Fund to the Department of Administration to restore the Rape Crisis Program in the amount of \$302,240. Several Crisis Centers are unable to provide services due to funding reductions.

The Coalition is introducing the Teen Dating Violence Act, a bill that would educate NC high school students by adding "teen dating violence and abuse" to health education classes. Other focuses are legislation that addresses human trafficking; a Sex Offender Study to review of North Carolina laws and statues and proposed legislation related to sex offenders and child sexual abuse prevention/intervention. Ms Hostler expressed the need for more training of sexual assault for law enforcement and the courts. More than twenty-five percent of sexual assault reports never make it to court.

F. Training for the Courts and Law Enforcement

Commission member Lt. Charles Campbell spoke from a law enforcement prospective. Police officers are the first responders to domestic violence. How an officer handles the situation will either help or hinder the victim of domestic violence. There is a real need for quality domestic violence training for law enforcement. Current law enforcement's mandated domestic violence training includes 12 hours of during BLET (Basic Law Enforcement Training). In 2004, additional domestic violence training was expanded to include two additional hours of in-service training for officers. This year the domestic violence training focus is on children in the home. Lt. Campbell recommends the Commission work with community colleges to offer statewide domestic violence training for officers, specifically asking the Justice Academy to help plan the domestic violence curriculum. He also expressed concern about coordination with the military and in fact the Fayetteville Observer recently wrote an article about the lack of military representation on the Domestic Violence Commission. The Commission should develop a strategy for engagement and possible training with the military as well since domestic violence is such a important issue among service members.

Commission member Alex Nicely commented on issues he would like the Commission to address. He recommends providing greater information and education about Domestic Violence to District Attorneys, law enforcement, judges, the media and community leaders. People still view domestic violence as an abuser/victim issue. If a victim goes to court and drops charges or doesn't appear, the perception is that "if she is okay with abuse then so are we". There continues to be a great deal of misinformation about the cycle of domestic violence. Even if the victim says it is okay, **it should not be okay with everyone else.** Mr. Nicely mentioned the Crawford case and the impact on the courts in domestic violence cases. Defendants continue to contact victims, often threatening them not to appear in court. He recommends harsher punishment for intimidating witnesses or obstruction of justice when defendants contact the witness and recommends no bond for defendants who do intimidate witnesses in domestic violence cases. Officers should be able to arrest defendants when they violate pretrial orders. NC Aware must be updated in a timely manner so officers have access to current information. He also recommends clarification on protective and consent orders and notice requirements.

When the Commission members were asked what the DVC can do to address these issues; it was unanimous that the focus should be expanded training and education within a variety of sectors.

G. Domestic Violence Awareness eNOugh Campaign – Karen Parker

Ms. Parker updated the Commission on the status of the Domestic Violence eNOugh campaign. The

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enabling legislation states that creating public awareness is a key goal for the DVC. A committee was created in Charlotte to develop a pilot project. Wells Fargo was recruited as a sponsor to produce a video to raise money. The Charlotte committee included Jenny Ward (Chair Council for Women), Karen Parker and Jill Dinwiddie (former CFW ED), PR firms WrayWard and Vision Point, Wells Fargo, Council for Women, Domestic Violence Commission, Domestic Violence Coalition and local programs. To date \$625,000 in cash and in-kind has been committed. The copy of the January 2013 press release announcing the campaign kickoff was distributed to Commission members. The committee has produced printed materials, TV and radio ads, and recruited movie theaters to screen information about the eNOugh campaign. Fund raising will continue throughout the year. The goal is to measure input and outcome in order to determine effectiveness of the campaign at the end of the year.

Survivors share their stories, in order to educate victims and bystanders about how to get help. The website www.enoughviolence.com is connected to the national domestic violence hotline, the Council for Women and NC Domestic Violence Coalition. The pilot will last a year and focus on Mecklenburg and Iredell counties, The goal is to expand the program into a state wide initiative.

H. Committee Assignments – Beth Briggs

Ms. Briggs encouraged Commission members to join a sub-committee. Last year's sub-committees were reviewed and three subcommittees were selected for this year: Batterer Intervention, Legislative and Education and Training. The committees convened to set strategies for the year.

➤ **Abuser Treatment:** Jo Liles, Chair

Ms. Liles chair of the batterer intervention subcommittee gave a recap. Ms. Liles has run a batterer intervention program since 1999. Her philosophy is that as long as you continue to do nothing with the batterer you will always have a victim. This committee reviews and certifies batterer intervention programs within our state. All batterer intervention programs must be certified in order to receive referrals from the courts. Kathleen Balogh, Western Region Director for the Council for Women and Program Manager for BIP training updated the Commission on the upcoming release of the Batterer Intervention Program Best Practice manual that will be available at the NC Council for Women website in March. Ms. Balogh is the only manager to oversee all of the state's batterer intervention programs. Limited resources allows only for monitoring visits if there is a complaint about a program. There is no support staff for BIP and funding for BIP is greatly needed.

➤ **Education and Training Committee**, the new Chairperson is Lt. Charles Campbell. This committee will assume responsibility for the work of the previous Law Enforcement and Pro Arrest Committee. The Committee will focus on training first responders, courts officials and work with the Justice Academy to develop curriculum.

➤ **Legislative Committee:** Sharon Barrett, Chair

This committee met to discuss plans for the coming year. This committee will continue working on pending bills as needed. There is an ongoing commitment to ensure that the funds for Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault are maintained to support programs throughout the state.

I. New/Old Business

- Ms. Briggs discussed that in August several members' terms will end. She encouraged members to contact the appointing authority and to reapply if they wish to continue to serve.
- March is Women's History Month. The NC Status of Women report will be released on March 11 at the Women's Roundtable in Greensboro.
- The Women's History Month Celebration luncheon is scheduled for March 25, 2013 at Meredith College. Members will receive invitations to both events.

**Domestic Violence Commission Meeting
February 8, 2013 Minutes
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- Women's Advocacy Day is April 9, 2013
- Innovation in Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Research and Practice Conference April 9-10, 2013. This conference is co-sponsored by NCCADV, NCCASA and UNC-G program to advance community responses to violence against women.
- NCCASA "Our State...Our Movement" Conference will be held May 8-9, 2013 at the Doubletree Brownstone, Raleigh. For more information visit <http://www.nccasa.net>

CLOSING REMARKS/ MEETING ADJOURNED

Beth Briggs encouraged members to email any ideas, topics or recommendations for future meetings to her and thanked everyone for their attendance and support. The meeting adjourned at 1:10pm. The next meeting will be at 9:00, April 12, 2013 at the Public School Forum.