

**Domestic Violence Commission Meeting**  
**Minutes – April 9, 2010**  
**Governor’s Crime Commission**  
**1201 Front Street, Raleigh, NC 27609**

**Commission Member Attendees:** Marisol Barr, Ericka Shearin (representing Senator Doug Berger), Jennifer Brobst, Lynn Bryant, Tim Hinnant (representing Gwendolyn Burrell), David Elliott, Beth Froehling, Janeen Gingrich, Dr. Peggy Goodman, Annette Hampton, Kathy Hodges, Linda Holden-Cox, Cheryl Howell, Tracy Little, Deputy Secretary June Michaux, Dr. Beth Moracco, Karen Parker-Thompson, and Sheriff Richard Webster.

**Department of Administration (DOA) Attendees:** Jill Dinwiddie, Tara Minter, Cindy Olsen, and Christy Agner

**Guest Attendees:** Keith Sutton, Dr. Sandy Martin, Brenda Rivera-Sanchez, Cindy Williams and Tim Moose

**I. Opening/Welcome - Karen Parker-Thompson**

- Chairperson Karen Parker-Thompson welcomed everyone and thanked them for attending the meeting. She stated that all Commission members who have not turned in their Ethics forms and completed the required training need to do so. Ethics training is being held at several locations across the state.

**II. Introduction**

- Everyone introduced themselves and stated their affiliation. Chairperson Parker-Thompson requested that members get their comments on the draft of the “Annual Report to the NC General Assembly” back to her within the next few weeks.

**III. Approval of Minutes**

- Chairperson Karen Parker-Thompson asked for approval of the minutes. Lynn Bryant made the motion and Dr. Beth Moracco seconded. All were in favor and the minutes of the February 12, 2010 meeting were approved as written.

**IV. Executive Director’s Report - Jill Dinwiddie**

- The March 22<sup>nd</sup> Women’s History month event held at the NC Museum of History was a success. A video of the event can be found on the Council for Women website.
- The Council for Women website is changing almost daily. Copies of the approved minutes from previous DV Commission meetings will now be placed on our website.
- The Council for Women has established a taskforce to look at increasing women’s participation on Boards and Commissions.
- Ms. Dinwiddie attended a Legislative Study Committee meeting on Work and Family Balance issues. This new committee is one of the first in the country to look at paid sick days, paid maternity leave, flex schedules, extended medical leave and subsidized childcare. Addressing the “Right to Request” flex time from their employer to accommodate their family responsibilities without fear of recrimination from their employer is one of the committee’s priorities.

- The Soroptomist organization, an International Women’s Organization, has begun to address the Human Trafficking issue and several of the Raleigh women have become excellent spokespersons’ on this issue. They are very knowledgeable and well-informed and they are travelling around the state participating and conducting some of the training. The Council for Women Region Directors may be participating in training programs in June, so that they can train our program staff across the state.
- The grants process has been streamlined for DV and SA grants so that a condensed grant application will only need to be completed every 2 years and a two-page contract amendment will serve as the renewal documentation, along with a program status update report. This change has been very well received by our grant funded programs.
- The CFW/DV Commission gave a powerpoint presentation before the Joint Legislative Committee on Domestic Violence, chaired by Representative Mclawhorn. Their presentation included the DV Commission’s recommendation that a new Sexual Assault Commission be established. Ms. Dinwiddie stated that the Governor is not inclined to establish a standalone Commission on Sexual Assault during this time of budget constraints. The Governor hopes that you will reconsider this important issue and find some way to embrace and include Sexual Assault in your agenda.
- Ms. Dinwiddie reiterated her desire to change the name of the agency to “The NC Council for Women and Girls” and after that, to add to the functions of the CFW agency--domestic violence, sexual assault, pay equity, education and empowerment of girls and young women, alongside education and employment, which is currently provided in the statute for the CFW. These changes are very much in line with the report of Representative Deborah Ross’s Agency Review subcommittee of the Joint Legislative Committee on DV last year and the Council for Women’s desired emphasis on prevention.
- Ms. Dinwiddie has met with several legislators and was excited to hear so many of them reiterate their interest in prevention of violence against women as a focal point. Also, a member of the Joint Legislative Committee on DV indicated her interest in focusing more on girls and young women as a prevention measure and for it to be included in our mission.
- The agency wishes to place more emphasis on Prevention of Violence against Women, more so than in the past; targeting girls and young women in particular. Ways to partner with other organizations to empower middle, high school and college students focusing on financial literacy, healthy life choices, relationship choices and dating safety have been explored. The focus on prevention also includes men, so men’s groups are being recruited to the cause.
- The Council for Women has requested funding for the Abuser Treatment Coordinator position.
- The CFW/DV Commission office would like for the Commission to support a statewide Domestic Violence awareness campaign, which is stated specifically in the DV Commission statute. Ms. Dinwiddie would like to see billboards across the

state, public service announcements, and a white/purple/blue color ribbon or a bracelet campaign.

Chairperson Karen Parker-Thompson began the discussion regarding the addition of a Sexual Assault Commission and name change for the CFW/DV Commission. Chairperson Parker-Thompson made several key points on the pro's and con's of creating an SA Commission.

**PRO'S –**

- More attention would be given to a broad range of issues affecting DV victims.
- It's an opportunity to enhance the relationship between domestic violence and sexual assault stakeholders.
- There would be an increase in public relations opportunities and an increased focus on prevention.
- Sexual Assault does not have a commission so this would help them with legislative advocacy efforts.

**CON'S –**

- It could dilute attention to either or both issues.
- A new name would not specifically address male victims.

**Comments included:**

- \* We cannot target only women in our education and prevention activities; it goes hand in hand with boys and girls.
- \* A subtext is needed that shows that we are inclusive or we will be set back.
- \* We don't want the subject of pay equity and education to be lost.
- \* There has been a large increase in the number of men applying for displaced homemaker benefits.
- \* There should be clear partnerships.
- \* The name change and the creation of a Sexual Assault Commission should be two separate decisions.
- \* Christy Agner pointed out the timeframe issue and stated that it's possible to look at changing it statutorily during the next long session. She added that when you have a variety of stakeholders, it's important to have everyone's input and to bring collaborators together.

Jill Dinwiddie made a recommendation that the DV Commission add Sexual Assault to its' name and mission. Beth Froehling made the motion and Janeen Gingrich seconded. All were in favor.

The name change was discussed and it was suggested that it would be helpful to have a few more names to choose from. It was stated by some that ideally, it would work best as a separate commission.

Chairperson Parker-Thompson recommended that we go with this name change and then change the mission statement. David Elliott stated that he is in favor of the Council for Women name with a corresponding outreach effort and we can figure out how to sell it later. A vote was taken to keep the name NC Council for Women, with a change in the

mission statement and goals, as well as adding partnerships. David Elliott made the motion and Jennifer Brobst seconded it. All were in favor.

#### V. Committee Reports

- **Victim Services Committee** – Chairperson Karen Parker-Thompson gave their report. She stated that they are working on establishing a Chair and compiling a list of key projects they want to work on for the next year. They will report more on that at the next meeting.
- **Abuser Treatment Committee** – Jo Liles was not present, but sent her report. Their committee has reviewed (3) applications for certification and approved one. They are surveying the local programs to find out what happens when a batterer is not able to pay for their abuser treatment. They are determining what the training needs are for the Abuser Treatment Program staff and looking at ways to strengthen the monitoring piece and best practices. Two additional committee members are needed.
- Deputy Secretary Michaux stated that the Abuser Treatment Coordinator position will be funded and in this tight budget time, they will be looking within the department for additional funds.
- **Legislative Committee** – Beth Froehling reported that their committee met on March 11<sup>th</sup> and attendance was great. They are working on forming a subcommittee to work on making changes to Chapter 50B. Cheryl Howell is head of that subcommittee.
- **Law Enforcement Committee** – Kathy Hodges reported their committee has been looking at the homicide statistics that are being collected and the issues that have arisen. A mini training on NC AWARE was held. Their committee will meet next month.
- **Professional Education Committee** – Dr. Peggy Goodman reported that an Eastern NC student was awarded a Schwartzer Fellowship and she will begin working with the local county family violence programs to look at victim needs assessment in rural areas and physician outreach. This project will begin in July and has been endorsed by the NC Medical Society. Parenting counseling is being offered pro bono. Dr. Goodman will report more on this later.
- **Workplace Violence Committee** – The committee has not met.

#### VI. Presentation “Partnership with Omega Psi Phi Fraternity” given by Keith Sutton, Crime Victims Liaison with the Governor’s Crime Commission

Mr. Sutton stated that the focus has been on awareness, prevention and education for victims. As a Victim Advocate Liaison at the Governor’s Crime Commission, as well as for the NCCADV and NCCASA, he would like to see the focus be on getting more men at the state level to take on this issue. As part of this effort, he has joined with his fraternity, Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, to form a partnership to work with the CFW, Coalition Against DV and SA. April is Sexual Assault Awareness month, so they have requested to hold a press conference with the Governor one day next week to announce this partnership.

Mr. Sutton distributed copies of a handout entitled, "Men Can Stop Rape". He reported that this is a national program that has a youth development component that includes going into middle and high schools to talk with young men in hopes of shaping their behavior and thought patterns early (related to how they view women). There is also an outreach program on college campuses and their graduate's can then serve as mentors. He stated that they have asked several fraternities to join their efforts.

Mr. Sutton distributed copies of the (3) billboard slogans that they hope to use for their public campaign against domestic violence. The Fairway Company has donated 50 billboards around the state to get the message out.

**VII. Presentation "NC Consensus Practices on Service Delivery for DV and SA Programs" given by Dr. Sandy Martin, UNC School of Public Health.**

Dr. Martin began her presentation by talking about work that she and her colleagues are doing with the NC domestic violence and sexual assault agencies. This includes recommendations that experts make for core services and practices and about the reality that currently exists in NC. She pointed out that her colleague Rebecca Macy was not able to attend, but was a part of this research. Dr. Martin added that the majority of their funding for research has come from the Governor's Crime Commission. In 2005, they funded a Ms. Macy's project that included consensus practices in the provision of services to survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault. This publication can be found on the website.

In 2007, she and Ms. Macy teamed up. Ms. Macy had learned from the earlier study that a lot of the practitioners in the field stated that they would like to be able to assess survivors' needs and goals when they come in for services and later when they leave. This would allow them to look at the impact and outcomes of their services. In response, for the past several years, they have been developing assessment tools for use by our programs statewide.

Dr. Martin pointed out some of the core services and practices that experts believe should be provided. Ms. Macy collected information from programs, funders, the coalitions, etc. and the core services that were recommended most were: Crisis, Legal, and Medical Advocacies, as well as support services and shelter. A survey of the agencies' and their crisis practices, found that "being emotionally supportive" and "providing a safe place" are most important. Legal practices should include "providing information on their legal options", "helping them to complete legal paperwork" and "going with victims to court".

They developed a form to gather information about services and selected four pilot agencies to participate. After six months of collecting data, the results showed that of the 500 who sought services, the vast majority were for crisis advocacy. Medical advocacy was provided the least, although it was found to be a needed service.

**VIII. Report on WomensLaw Project by Brenda Rivera-Sanchez, Legal Program Coordinator, NCCADV**

Ms. Rivera-Sanchez reported that the Legal Empowerment and Advocacy Project is a National non-profit that provides legal information on their website WomensLaw.org, as well as through their telephone hotline. They provide legal remedies for sexual assault victims' by providing legal definitions, as well as a summary of what they can do to prepare for court. They are given information about where to find help, such as law students providing legal help (with the assistance of a licensed attorney). They currently have 26 pro bono attorneys who are referred to clients through Legal Aid. The new rule began in January 2010 and it asks that attorneys volunteer their assistance at least 50 hours per year.

**IX. Presentation "Probation Supervision of Domestic Violence Cases" by Tim Moose, Director, NC Division of Community Corrections**

Tim Moose, Director for the division, gave a powerpoint presentation and distributed copies of their handout. He stated that their division has returned to the Basics of Supervision using Evidence-based Practices (EBP). Mr. Moose pointed out that the major issues in Evidence-based Practices are:

Risk and Needs Assessment, Supervision Levels based on Risk and Needs, Minimum Contact Standards and Addressing Non-compliance. He reported that they have established four levels of supervision (as minimum standards) for Supervisors to interact with offenders. The four levels are:

**Stage 1: Intake** (all offenders) includes face to face contact with the offender and collection of basic information. Offenders are assigned a probation officer and court-ordered sanctions are immediately implemented.

**Stage 2: Initial Period of Supervision** (all offenders) is initiated within the first 60 days of supervision, where the assessment and case planning process begins.

**Stage 3: Active Supervision** includes face to face and home contact with the offender. Appropriate restrictions/incentives are put in place in response to the offender's behavior.

**Stage 4: Transition** is completed at least 120 days prior to the end of the offender's supervision. During this time, pro-social behaviors are reinforced and any needed referrals are made.

Mr. Moose pointed out the risk to re-offend is extremely high so they are working towards reducing it. He added that research shows that general re-offending and domestic violence recidivism have similar risk factors that include: young age, male, criminal history, history of child abuse, anti-social attitudes, unemployment, substance abuse and low education.

Mr. Moose reported that they have a Domestic Violence Policy in place that is used by the Probation and Parole Officer (PPO).

#### **X. Closing Remarks/Adjournment**

- Ms. Parker-Thompson announced that Beth Froehling and April Burgess-Johnson have been made permanent co-directors for the NC Coalition Against Domestic Violence. She reminded members to turn in their Ethics forms and complete the required Ethics training. Ms. Parker-Thompson stated that the next scheduled meeting of the DV Commission will be on Friday, September 17<sup>th</sup>, at the Public School Forum office off Glenwood Avenue. Beth Froehling announced the NC Coalition Against Domestic Violence' conference will be held at the end of May 2010. You are all invited to attend. The deadline for early registration is April 15, 2010. Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted by Cindy Olsen