

**Domestic Violence Commission Meeting
August 9, 2013 Minutes
Public School Forum
3739 National Drive, Suite 100, Raleigh, NC**

Commission Member Attendees: Karen Parker, Chair (via teleconference), Marisol Barr, David Elliott, Julia Freeman, Representative John Faircloth, The Honorable Lorrin Freeman, Cheryl Howell, Jo Liles, Alexander Nicely, Mary Catherine Stevens and George York.

Guest Attendees: Pearl Burris Floyd, Trishana Jones, Garrietta Proutey, Stephanie Satkowiak, Susan Taylor, Tony Taylor and Kiricka Yarbough-Smith.

NC Council for Women Staff/Volunteer Attendees: Anita Bennett, Jackie Jordan, Tara Minter, Gwen Moragne, Pat Vaughn, Mary Williams-Stover and Gale Wilkins.

A. Opening/Welcome – Karen Parker/Gale Wilkins

Chairperson Karen Parker was on via teleconference for only the first 30 minutes. Gale stepped in to facilitate this meeting. Gale welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced herself as the new Executive Director for the NC Council for Women and then introduced the CFW Staff and Volunteers. She then asked members and guests to introduce themselves.

B. Approval of Minutes – Mary Williams-Stover

Meeting minutes for April 12, 2013 were accepted as written and passed unanimously.

C. Council for Women Report – Gale Wilkins

There will be a meeting today with Boards and Commissions at 3:30 p.m. They are working on finalizing the board lists and sending to the Governor for approval. Boards and Commissions have already placed more than 1,000 persons to date. The Domestic Violence Commission Board and the Council for Women Board positions should be filled before the next Boards and Commissions meeting in November.

- Status of Women in Eastern NC Report was briefed. These counties include: Beaufort, Bertie, Camden, Carteret, Chowan, Craven, Currituck, Dare, Gates, Halifax, Hertford, Hyde, Jones, Martin, Northampton, Pamlico, Pasquotank, Perquimans, Tyrell and Washington.
 - Progress = More than 1 in 3 women hold a professional/managerial job. 19% have a bachelor's degree or higher and 71% of women work full time.
 - Challenges = 45% of women didn't earn a high school degree, or have a high school degree or equivalent.
 - Harsh Reality = 18% of women live in poverty and 22% live in near poverty. They have higher heart disease and diabetes mortality rates and 38% of households receive food stamps.
- Department of Administration Update: The new website for the Department is ready. We encourage you to visit the site. DOA is moving in more of a technological direction. Bill Bryan became our new Deputy Secretary on July 1, 2013.
- 2013-14 Grants/Client Summary brief:
 - Abuser Treatment Programs - 3,274 Accepted Referrals (from criminal court system and DSS) in which 1,667 participants completed the program.
 - Displaced Homemaker Program – Served 5,697 clients in 2010-11 and has seen a 2% increase in 2011-12. Women comprise 93% of clients served. Of these clients served 11% (663) obtained full-time employment and 12% (681) obtained part-time

**Domestic Violence Commission Meeting
August 9, 2013 Minutes
Public School Forum
3739 National Drive, Suite 100, Raleigh, NC**

employment. 21% of clients were placed in a four year (111), community college (707) or trade course (165).

- Domestic Violence Program – Served 61,283 clients in 2010-11. The 2012-13 total (51,563) represents a 19% decrease. Women comprised 85% of the total number and men 15%. All counties have a DV funded program. Each program provides a 24 hour confidential crisis hotline, crisis intervention services, referrals, emergency shelter, advocacy counseling and community education. A majority of services provided by the programs included distributing information to clients followed by advocacy.
- Sexual Assault Program – Served 13,881 clients in 2010-11 and has seen a 5% decrease (13,214) in the total number of clients served for 2011-12. Women comprised 88% of the total number while men accounted for 12%. Of the total number of assaults 22% were child sexual offenses. In 2011-12, 37% of the offenders were a relative of the victim while 30% were an acquaintance.

D. Committee Reports:

- Education and Training Committee – Charles Campbell, Chairperson
Stephanie Satkowiak is speaking for Charles today. All is quiet however they are preparing a training protocol for first responders.
- Batterer Intervention Committee/Abuser Treatment Program – Jo Liles
Abuser Treatment Committee has met 3 times in 2013 and will also meet in September. They have completed the best practices guidebook for the State of NC and it is available on the website. Surveys for Victim Service Providers, Probation/Parole, Department of Social Services and a Court Survey are almost ready and they will be sent out to different agencies soon. The committee has developed several self-monitoring tools thanks to the help of interns that worked with Kathleen Balogh (CFW) and Susan Taylor (NC Coalition Against DV) for abuser treatments in the state. These tools should provide an important perspective into what is actually happening in DV criminal cases and to assess the role of abuser treatment programs.

E. NCCADV Update – Susan Taylor

- Legislative Reports
HB 24 passed and becomes effective December 1, 2013. This bill provides for notification to the DA's office if the abuser fails to complete an abuser treatment program or does not follow orders to comply with the judgment. This measure should improve the rates of Batterer Intervention Program completion.
The Mecklenburg County DV Fatality Review Team is very successful and SB 302 renewed the legislation. Pitt and Alamance County have also been authorized to form a domestic violence fatality review team.
There were no cuts to the Domestic Violence Programs however the Displaced Homemaker Program was eliminated. Divorce Filing Fees were reduced by \$20 for each fee. FY 2014-15, the DH Program will cease in its entirety.
Some additional bills were passed; SB 409 has made changes to NCGS section 50B-2 to clarify no costs or attorneys' fees shall be assessed for the filing, issuance, registration or service of a protective order or witness subpoena, except as provided in GS 1A-1, Rule 11. The session also saw significant changes in firearms laws. HB 937 sets out the new laws regarding firearms and becomes effective on Oct 1, 2013. Many aspects of firearm usage affect the permitting and possession of firearms, and sentence laws for illegal use.

**Domestic Violence Commission Meeting
August 9, 2013 Minutes
Public School Forum
3739 National Drive, Suite 100, Raleigh, NC**

- Services to Children Exposed to Domestic Violence Survey – Trisha Jones
CFW data from FY 2011-12 = 5,504 Children stayed in a Domestic Violence shelter. DHHS reported that 4,982 children were found to be in need of services where domestic violence was a factor. Studies show that children exposed to domestic violence have trauma and face numerous short and long term challenges in physical and mental health, social connections and educational outcomes. The NC Coalition Against Domestic Violence has created an electronic survey that is available at www.surveymonkey.com to help create the change we want to see for children exposed to domestic violence in NC.

F. NCCASA Update – Kiricka Yarbough Smith

- Victims of Human Trafficking Commission
SB 683 (Safe Harbor/Victims of Human Trafficking) passed. This provides protections to victims 18 and younger. It also decriminalizes prostitution related offenses for any child under 18, which includes language that the child can neither be arrested nor convicted of these crimes. It also increases the penalty to a “Class E” for human trafficking.
HB 495 (Modify NC Human Trafficking Commission). The Commission has been expanded from 12 to 15 members. The Commission reformed includes: NCCAHT, hospital/health care representative, area sexual assault response teams, faith-based shelter or benefits organization, public at large, Legal Aid, Department of Labor, NC Justice Center, a trauma expert, SBI, State Highway Patrol, a county sheriff’s department, a city/town police department and a district attorney.
- US Attorney General has a symposium on human trafficking September 12 & 13, 2013.
- Sale of a Minor Law enacted. This is a result of the recent attempt of the purchase of a 5-year old autistic child in Cumberland County.
- For more information please visit www.nccasa.net (key word: NCCAHT)
- Gale is encouraging everyone to watch “The Abduction of Eden” video.
- Youth Conference was held July 13, 14 and 15 at NCCU. There were 175 attendees between the ages of 13-17. Young advocates discuss human trafficking, bullying, body image, social media and violence against women. Conference focuses on learning through poetry, art and music. At the end of the conference the students work was presented to the parents.

G. Domestic Violence Issues - Mary Williams-Stover

We have so few Sub-Committee members here today that we will just have an open discussion on the following: what do we do with our client information (client statistics/policy recommendations)? You have all received the Statistical Bulletin which is a wealth of information and insight. Look at this statistical information – what issues jump out? What should the Domestic Violence Commission focus on in FY 14-15?

Summary of Responses:

- Yearly data – need data from 3-5 years.
- Quantitative analysis – increase technology. SAS? For data and trends on crime.
- Evaluate time frame that participants can stay at shelters 15 days/6 months.
- Look at age range-increased age (55-60). Elder abuse? Are specific agencies doing more outreach like Meals on Wheels?
- Lack of space in shelters – 8,000 referred to other areas, still an ongoing issue.

**Domestic Violence Commission Meeting
August 9, 2013 Minutes
Public School Forum
3739 National Drive, Suite 100, Raleigh, NC**

- What are the time periods that shelters are full? Peak periods (holidays) to accommodate more people.
- Review children's programs and services – high trauma. Partner with Mental Health, DHHS, DSS, etc.
- Over 5,000 children were served at shelters and most do not have children's programs.
- Teenage males are not served at some shelters which could split up families.
- Look at all partnerships with other agencies or private partners.

H. Discussion and Planning for Commission Priorities 2014

- Educate policy makers-explain what the numbers/ statistics mean.
- Who are the offenders? 67% is a relative/someone they know. How do we get these statistics regarding offenders to the families?
- Funding of specific agencies (child advocacy agencies).
- Prevention treatment – long term.
- Link conviction rates to statistics.
- Look at success rates and determine strategies to get the most with current funds.
- Greater collaboration of all DV/SA programs and services.

CLOSING REMARKS/MEETING ADJOURNED

Gale 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 1:15 p.m. The next meeting will be at December 13, 2013 at the Public School Forum.

These minutes were approved by the North Carolina Domestic Violence Commission on December 13, 2013.