



NORTH CAROLINA DOMESTIC VIOLENCE COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES August 29, 2014

Archdale Building (Ground Floor Conference Room)
512 N. Salisbury Street, Raleigh NC 27699

Commission Members	Commission Members	Guest
The Honorable Susan Bray	Nathaniel Parker	James Barrett
Bill Bryan	Armor Reece Pyrtle	Kelsey Kolb
Cathy Cloninger	Kate Stahlman	Denise Lockett
David Elliot	Michael Silver	
Julia B. Freeman	Mary Catherine Stevens	Others Present / Staff / CFW
The Honorable Lorrin Freeman	Pamela T. Thompson	Gale McKoy Wilkins
Kristen Fields	Debbie West	Mary Williams-Stover
Monika Johnson Hostler	Eric Zechman	Tara Minter
Phil Kline		Elyse Hamilton-Childres
The Honorable Judge Knox		
Rebecca Macy		
Dana Mangum		

Chairman Phil Kline called the meeting to order at 10:12 a.m. He charged the Commission Members to declare any conflict of interest, or appearance of conflict of interest, that may exist for agenda items being considered by the Commission, as mandated by the State Ethics Act. None were noted.

Chairman Kline requested the Board of Commissioners who were in attendance via the conference phone to identify themselves. He then requested the Board of Commissioners present at the meeting to introduce themselves to the attendees, followed by staff introduction.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: The minutes from the Domestic Violence Commission meeting held on May 16, 2014 were presented. A motion to approve the minutes was made by Commissioner Michael Silver and seconded by Commissioner Reece Pyrtle. Motion carried.

III. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Division Update: Mrs. Gale McKoy Wilkins, Executive Director, NC Council for Women, presented the division report. She noted the following key activities:

- **Introduction of new staff:** Mrs. Wilkins introduced Ms. Elyse Hamilton-Childres, Southern Piedmont Region Director based in Charlotte, North Carolina. She noted that Ms. Childres will be joining the Legislative Committee via phone.



- **Robeson County Briefing Report:** An update on the Status of Women in Robeson County was discussed. The Robesonian News featured an article on the “Status of Women in Robeson County, NC.” The briefing paper event launch was held in Lumberton, NC, on July 23, 2014 at University of North Carolina at Pembroke. Over 140 people attended the community event to hear results of the report. The panel discussed the issues and current activities. They discussed issues related to education, economics, and health. The panel motivated participants to engage in creating solutions.
- **NC Association of Women’s Commission:** Mrs. Gale McKoy Wilkins was asked to be a key speaker at the National Association of Women’s Commissions on July 26, 2014. She noted that it was an honor for the NC Council for Women to present at the event for the first time. The presentation included information on the work and mission of the NC CFW and the DV Commission, as well as closing the leadership gap by achieving the gender equity on the North Carolina’s Boards and Commissions. Suggestions were made to join their organization or partner with other women’s organizations in the state of NC.
- **eNough Campaign:** Wake County based WRAL TV is currently working with a task force of advocates to tailor a media/public relations campaign to promote awareness of domestic violence and sexual assault. It was noted that there is a shortage of trained counselors to handle phone calls. They received 270,000 calls annually in 2013, out of which only 77,000 calls were answered. A task force is exploring other options to deal with this crisis. Call to action for the campaign involves contacting the national domestic violence hotline: 1-888-799-SAFE (7233). It was noted that the NC Council for Women is involved with this campaign.
- **Women and Girls Initiative:** The Women and Girls initiative is scheduled for October 22, 2014 from 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. and will be held in the DENR HQ Building. The panel will discuss issues related to young girls on college campuses. The panel consists of a forty member team which includes twenty five women and fifteen girls (middle-high school and college students). It was noted that an email “Save the Date” will be sent on September 1, 2014.
- **Women Economic Empowerment (WEE) Initiative:** Mrs. Wilkins indicated Dr. Hope Williams, President of NC Independent College, contacted her about the Women Economic Empowerment (WEE) Initiative which is a joint partnership with the NC Independent Colleges and Universities. It recommends supporting science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) programs, as well as career and education counseling for young women (especially college students). The initiative targets African American, Asian American, Hispanic/Latino and Native American female students qualified for need-based financial aid. Goal is to engage ten independent and private colleges and universities to participate. The WEE Initiative will contribute \$3,000 per student towards the STEM program. The program consists of three sessions per semester (August-May). Fund raising continues to meet the goal of raising \$12,000 in matching funds for the program. This program will help build confidence and courage in young women. It will teach young women self-respect, leadership, STEM careers, and engage in community service. It was indicated that an update will be provided at the next Commission meeting.
- **Grants Administration:** Administration of 206 State grants for domestic violence and sexual assault program services is the central focus for the NC CFW during September through November. Once the certified budget is approved, grants administrator and regional team members will engage in processing 206 contract amendments. The elimination of the Displaced Homemaker Program funding was discussed. The funding for the Divorce Filing Fee for the 35 programs across NC was maintained until June 30, 2014.



- **Family Violence Prevention and Services Act (FVPSA):** It was noted that the FVPSA federal grants for the domestic violence shelter services and prevention services (for children and families) funded by US Department of Health and Human Services (NC DHHS) will be administered by the NC Department of Administration (NC DOA) through the NC Council for Women within the next few days. The Council for Women is gearing up to administer the \$2.4 million federal grant and ensure a smooth transition. The new federal fiscal year begins October 1, 2014. Mrs. Wilkins noted that the administration is working on the approval of the FVPSA Coordinator position and the Program Assistant position to oversee and manage the federal grants.
- **New Board and Commission:** Mrs. Wilkins indicated that there are still a few appointments available on the new Council for Women Board and the Domestic Violence Commission. It was noted that applications be sent to Mrs. Daphne Pinto (CFW, Raleigh Office). She indicated that the Governor's office is working on finalizing the selection process.
- **Collaboration:** Mrs. Wilkins and Chairwoman Debbie West met with Secretary Wos of DHHS on August 14, 2014, to discuss how Council for Women can collaborate with Public Health and Mental Health Departments on related issues such as domestic violence, sexual assault and human trafficking. She thanked Secretary Wos for taking time to meet with them.
- **Legislative Update:** Mrs. Rhonda Todd, Liaison for Legislative Affairs and Productivity, NC Department of Administration shared the legislative accomplishment during the Council for Women Board meeting, August 14, 2014. Mrs. Wilkins recommended Board and Commission members create a prioritized list of key issues and concerns they would like to address. Mrs. Wilkins noted that Committee members will discuss the prioritized list during the breakout session.
- **Acknowledgement:** Mrs. Wilkins thanked the members of the Domestic Violence Commission for their dedicated service. She acknowledged their attendance, participation, and commitment.

Chairman Kline acknowledged and thanked Deputy Secretary Bill Bryan for attending the meeting. The Deputy Secretary Bill Bryan thanked Commission members for their services and expressed his support to the DV Commission.

IV. SUB-COMMITTEE UPDATES:

Legal & Legislative Committee: Commissioner Alex Nicely was unable to attend.

Batterer Intervention Committee: Commissioner Mike Silver, Sub-Committee Chair presented this item.

Highlights include lethality assessment sub-committee's process as follows:

- Committee members: Kathleen Balogh, Emily McCool, Jo McCants, Mike Silver, Bernetta Thigpen, Eric Zechman and Ms. Kelsey Kolb (intern).
- Meeting/Communication: Adobe connect and by video/audio teleconferencing.
- Discussion: Introduction and uniform understanding of the mission; A review of lethality assessments from across the state.



- Breakout groups: Reviewed questions organized by administrative code 01 NCAC 17.0704; best practices were discussed.
- Google doc was created for revisions.
- Next steps were discussed as follows: Allow practitioners to use "best practice" assessment on clients; Obtain approval from NC CFW to publish the document; Feedback from practitioners and revise the document; Encourage agencies to use the lethality assessments form.
- Finalize the document (lethality assessment form) and submit to agencies across the state.

The handout presented is attached and is an official part of the minutes.

Victim Services Committee: Commissioner Rebecca Macy presented this item. She indicated the goal is to focus on one target population: Children who are exposed to domestic violence. She noted three goals (1) services, (2) public awareness (3) enhancing partnerships. Commissioner Macy expressed that the sub-committee is in contact via teleconference and is sharing information via email.

Education & Training – Commissioner Charles Campbell was unable to attend.

V. PISGAH LEGAL SERVICES: Mr. James Barrett, Executive Director and Attorney of Pisgah Legal Services and Ms. Denise Lockett, Attorney of Pisgah Legal Services presented this item. Mr. Barrett acknowledged and thanked Ms. Kathleen Balogh, Region Director for NC Council for Women for her support.

Discussion: Ms. Denise Lockett shared information on the following:

- Domestic Violence Protective Court Order example: A women with a mentally and physically disabled child was being domestically abused by her husband for several years. The abuse included verbal, threats, isolation, and physical violence. Ms. Lockett shared the many challenges the mother had to endure. She noted that the mother did not have access to the specially equipped van that was driven by the husband during the day time hours. Medical appointments were monitored by the husband, the mother who was the care taker of the child was not allowed to ask questions or give hints regarding the abuse the child had to endure. The mother had a breakdown and was hospitalized for several days. She was isolated from her family. No treatment or therapy was administered. Upon DSS investigation and case worker testimony, the permanent protective order and other legal matters were handled by Pisgah Legal Services with the help of multiple agencies in two counties. It was noted that the mother won the case. She has custody of the child, the van, receiving child support, part time employed and is moving forward to purchase her own house.

Ms. Lockett expressed that due to the multiple systems of advocacy in place (shelters, courts, DSS, and Pisgah Legal staff) everyone coming together and the mother's incredible love for her daughter, the system worked.

Mr. James Barrett discussed the following:



- Pisgah Legal Services (PLS), Asheville, NC: They provide free legal services. They are a leading, regional organization addressing poverty issues in WNC. They handled problems of poverty through direct services, collaboration and policy advocacy for over 35 years.
- It was noted that Ms. Balogh wanted to introduce the Pisgah Legal Services to the Commission for their comprehensiveness of their services.
- Primary service areas include: Buncombe, Henderson, Madison, Transylvania, Polk and Rutherford Counties. He identified Buncombe and Henderson had high murder rates. They are working with the non-profit agencies to improve their services. Mr. Barrett noted that none of their clients were involved in murder.
- Clients: Helping the vulnerable people such as children, single moms, elderly, people with disabilities, and the working poor at or below 125% of the poverty level (average income @ \$10,600/year to \$29,438/year).
- 2013 help extended to 14,000 plus low-income people to meet basic needs such as food, shelter and protection. The organization also provided services to more than 4,000 people (mostly women and children) to escape domestic violence (DV) and prevented homelessness to over 4,600 people.
- The team for the domestic violence prevention project includes of five attorneys, two bilingual court advocates, screener/social worker, follow up case manager.
- Cases include: DV protective orders (which include temporary custody, possession of home and car, safe visitation exchanges, denying abusers access to firearms); Child custody; Divorce; Property Distribution; Child Support and Spousal Support; and Housing Protections.
- Attorney representation makes a difference in victim's safety.
- DV victims with attorneys are more likely to win their cases.
- Legal services save lives. It reduces incidents of domestic violence.
- Legal services reduce the community wide cost of domestic violence. Civil legal aid is important.
- Bilingual court advocates ensure access to justice for non-English speakers. They provide support to clients through criminal and civil court processes.
- Follow up case manager/social worker connects victims to long-term counseling. Empowers victims to access services to help stabilize their finances. Educates victims about community resources. Creates goals and plans with victims to help them remain separated from abusers.
- Volunteers help with client intake, administrative tasks and fundraising. It was noted that due to these funding resources PLS was able to help over 14, 000 low income clients.
- Discussed leading funding sources for domestic violence.
- Discussed PLS budget reduction. A total of \$254,000 per year reduction from a \$681,000 program budget.
- In conclusion, Mr. Barrett noted that there were not too many options for low income victims to get legal aid other than Pisgah Legal Services. State funding was reduced drastically. Domestic violence has only 11% of the funding from the State of North Carolina. He requested Commission members to approach legislation to increase their funding.

The PowerPoint presentation is attached and is an official part of the minutes.

QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS FROM COMMISSION MEMBERS:



- Questions were asked regarding funding from outside agencies. Mr. Barnett discussed the breakdown of approximate funding resources for the following counties: Buncombe \$130,000/year, Madison \$10,000/year, Transylvania \$18,000/year, and Henderson \$18,000. He noted that Pisgah Legal Services is trying to raise \$150,000 in funds from individual sources
- Impact on the organization.
- Volunteer program: He noted that the agencies have about 30-40 cases each year. Most of them are custody cases, since the abuser uses "custody" as a threat towards the spouse/victim. He expressed that custody cases are very expensive and that private attorneys are not interested in these types of cases. Volunteers are mostly interns from law school who use these experiences towards their career. Ms. Denise noted that local businesses and churches also help out in raising funds for domestic violence.
- Mr. Barrett expressed concerns of losing an additional \$300, 000 in appropriated funds for next fiscal year.
- Commission members sought clarification on follow-up case manager/social workers, and school systems. Mr. Barnett noted that the social workers and attorneys work closely. He noted that the school systems are reluctant to share information due to demands on their curriculum.
- Annual report – A few copies of PLS annual report were distributed.
- Model consists of attorneys and social workers working together.
- Commission members highlighted the eNough campaign. Mr. Barnett expressed that the flyers were posted in his office.
- A suggestion was made to appoint college interns because of their familiarity with technology and social media.

OTHER TOPICS DISCUSSED:

NORTH CAROLINA COALITION AGAINST SEXUAL ASSAULT (NCCASA): Commissioner Monika Hostler, Executive Director for NCCASA, shared the following information on child abuse:

- She noted that NCCASA is partnering with the crisis center and child advocacy center regarding issues related to child abuse.
- How can the school system help? Can an assessment be done at the kindergarten level? She indicated that the organization is looking at various prevention methods to decrease child sexual abuse.
- A meeting is taking place today, August 29, 2014 at 10 a.m., about how the Commission will vote on these issues in the state of North Carolina. A recommendation will be made on how they will gather data and suggest programs to all related entities (such as schools, public health, social services, job training, etc.).
- Campus Save Act – UNC Campus was the first to create a position in the student affairs office related to "Campus Sexual Violence Act" to address gender equality on college campus.
- The report for the UNC system released \$12.8 M to bring all seventeen schools under the umbrella to address prevention of sexual assault on campuses.
- September 17, 1994, 20 years ago President Bill Clinton signed the Violence against Women Act that funds many of the coalitions. It was noted that there will be series of events during the week of September 9-17, 2014 in Washington, DC. Commissioner Hostler expressed that the



entities that are funded through this act need to bring awareness to their state on how the funding has impacted the state regarding violence against women related to sexual assault, stalking and dating violence.

- DVD based on "My Masculinity Helps": The project is through NCCASA to help engage men and boys to end sexual violence. The grant helped create a curriculum that is piloted in several churches within the triangle area for young men ages 14-17 years. Anti-sexual violence is included in the program. It was noted that the military will be using the DVD as a discussion point on how to prevent sexual violence in the military.

NORTH CAROLINA COALITION AGAINST DOMESTIC VIOLENCE (NCCADV): Commissioner Dana Mangum, Executive Director for NCCADV shared the following information:

- Programs: Received training for the CASE program. It focuses on trauma and welfare of children, the DELTA program focuses on prevention, and the Enhance Rules Services (ERS) program.
- Training Institute: Adding new training for the advanced members. Health care professionals on how to screen for domestic violence.
- Research on domestic violence
- Policy: Legislative meeting is tentatively scheduled for fall 2014. Date to be determined.
- eEnough Campaign: NCCADV is collaborating with Capitol Broadcasting on the current and future advertisement.
- NCCADV is focusing on updating shelters and shelter rules and understanding best practices.
- An update will be brought back to the Commission at the next meeting.

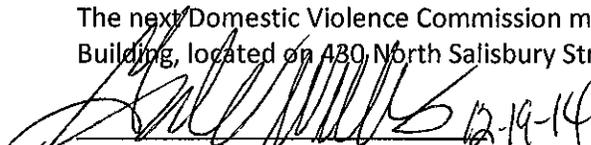
Mrs. Wilkins asked Commission members to share their contact information with Mrs. Tara Minter, Research Assistant for CFW. The data provided will be used to invite the chair to special events hosted by the NC CFW. Mrs. Wilkins expressed that the CFW Region Directors could network and include them for their events. She noted that the Council for Women serves all one hundred counties in the state of North Carolina

Chairman Kline announced a short recess for lunch.

Lunch break, meeting reconvened at 11:50 a.m. (working lunch).

VI. SUB COMMITTEE BREAK OUT MEETING: Chairman Kline announced a Sub Committee breakout session and informed Commission members that they could leave after meeting with their respective committees since it was a holiday weekend.

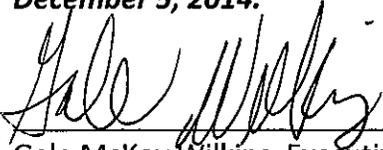
VII. ADJOURNMENT: With there being no further items to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 12 noon. The next Domestic Violence Commission meeting is scheduled for December 5, 2015 at the DOBBS Building, located on 430 North Salisbury Street, Raleigh, NC 27603.

 12-19-14
 Gale McKoy Wilkins, Executive Director (Sign & Date)
 Division of Council for Women, Raleigh, N.C.

 12-5-14
 Daphne Pinto, Recording Secretary
 (Sign & Date)



These minutes were approved by the North Carolina Domestic Violence Commission on December 5, 2014.



Gale McKoy Wilkins, Executive Director
(Sign & Date)