

**Domestic Violence Commission Meeting
Minutes – December 4, 2009
Correction Enterprises Conference Room
2020 Yonkers Rd. Door 4
Raleigh, NC 27604**

Commission Attendees: Beth Froehling, David Badger, Marisol Barr, Ericka Shearin (representing Senator Doug Berger), Jennifer Brobst, Lynn Bryant, The Honorable J. Thomas Davis, Tracey Shapiro (representing Julia Freeman), Janeen Gingrich, Dr. Peggy Goodman, Annette Hampton, The Honorable Dianne Hatley, Kathy Hodges, Linda Holden-Cox, Representative Marian McLawhorn, Dr. Beth Moracco, Karen Parker Thompson, The Honorable Lorraine Tweed, Sheriff Richard Webster, Deputy Secretary June Michaux and Marisol Barr.

Department of Administration (DOA) Attendees: Jill Dinwiddie, Jackie Jordan, Courtney Watkins, Christy Agner

Guest Attendees: The Honorable Shannon Joseph, Leah Perkinson, Monika Johnson Hostler

- I. **Opening/Welcome- Beth Froehling (filling in as chair for Lisa Angel)**
 - Beth Froehling welcomed everyone and thanked them for attending the meeting. She is excited to meet the new members who have joined the Commission.
- II. **Introduction**
 - Everyone introduced themselves-- the new members gave a brief overview of their background and what led them to serve on the Commission.
- III. **Oath of Office for New Board Members- The Honorable Shannon Joseph**
 - Annette Hampton, Tracy Little, Dianne Hatley, Jennifer Brobst, and Janeen Gingrich were sworn in and signed the Oath of Office form.
Note: Marisol Barr arrived too late to be sworn in.
- IV. **Approval of Minutes**
 - Beth Froehling made a correction to the legislative summary HB115. In the second to last sentence- should read “to study the issue of sexual assault services” instead of perpetrators.
 - David Badger moved to approve the minutes, Lynn Bryant seconded and all were in favor.
- V. **Executive Director Introduction- Jill Dinwiddie**
 - Jill Dinwiddie is happy to be serving as the new Executive Director of the NC CFW/DVC and the Governor has asked her to focus on raising visibility of the agency. She is getting more familiar and comfortable in her role and as she learns more about the Commission, she hopes to address her goals and vision for the board at the next DV Commission meeting.
 - Jill Dinwiddie wants everyone to be aware of the Governor’s Conference for Women happening on Nov. 9, 2010 at the Raleigh Convention Center. She has been working on a planning committee for the conference. Proposed participants include Cheryl We Dunn, Valerie Jarrett, Maria Shriver, and a panel of women governors. The goal is to help raise the visibility of women’s issues and interests in the state.
 - The Council applied for Z. Smith Reynolds grant money to fund the production of a new Status of Women report, but they were denied funding. Jill Dinwiddie thinks it may be easier to fund the project once the 2010 census data comes out. NC CFW/DVC staff are working with Z. Smith Reynolds to see how the application can be improved and they will

reapply for the grant next year using more up-to-date data. Other possible funding sources are also being researched.

- Overall, Jill Dinwiddie would like the Commission to know that her commitment to servicing women goes back to her early adult life and she is excited about the possibilities for the future.

VI. Grant Administration Status Report- Jackie Jordan

- Jackie Jordan reviewed the grant contract process with the Commission and provided a brief synopsis of where the process is currently.
- The process starts when the programs are trained and given an application at the beginning of the year-- it's usually due in mid-April. The main concern when processing the applications and contracts is accountability of the programs to make sure they are meeting statutory requirements.
- Resources are very limited- problems do exist with the paper process and the limited number of staff assigned to process all of the contracts. Delays with the contracts are usually due to programs not completing the appropriate legal binding documents correctly i.e.) incorrect budgets, notarized signature pages, attachments aren't filled out completely.
- Once the contracts are reviewed for completion by NC CFW/DVC staff they are then reviewed by DOA Fiscal for accuracy, sent to Legal, and then finally to the Secretary's office for signatures.
- Jackie Jordan is in touch with other agencies to see how they run their contract process and she welcomes any ideas people have to improve the process.
- Marion McLawhorn asked how much of the \$4 million DV budget programs have received to date. Answer: Currently about 80% of the 1st quarter money has been distributed for this year. By mid-December, all programs should have their money.
- Kathy Hodges stated that some programs have taken out loans to make payroll, executive directors have contributed personal funds to keep programs in operation. Some shelters have had to cut staff and programs due to the five month lag in funds. There has to be a way to speed up the process so shelters aren't forced to close.
- There seem to be two main issues with the contract process and the delivery of grant funds: 1) resources- not having the staff and the software to manage the process, 2) the delay from the time the state budget is approved until those dollar amounts are actually available to begin the contract process. June Michaux said DOA is looking into how this can be improved from a technology aspect and by working closely with the programs to reduce mistakes and omissions, which delay the process.
- A question was asked if there is anything the Commission can do to support streamlining this process? June Michaux said not at this time but she will let the Commission know if there is anything they can do to help in the future.
- Marion McLawhorn thanked the grants staff for being so careful. By monitoring the programs, they are less likely to misuse the taxpayer's money. Misuse of money leads to bad publicity, which ultimately hinders services to DV victims.
- Lynn Bryant suggested having all the documents ready so when legislation is passed they can be sent out to the programs to begin the process. Also, DH money is on a 15 month contract—perhaps the DV money could be spread out over a longer period of time to help cover the delay in receiving funds.
- Programs do not have to wait to get 2nd quarter funds before all programs receive 1st quarter money.

- Traditionally, MLF funds have been dispersed in Oct/Feb/March/June. Last year was the first year DV funds were issued quarterly. Jackie Jordan has to wait to hear from fiscal when the funds are ready to be released and she is hoping to hear about the release of 2nd quarter funds in the next couple of weeks.
- A new grants administrator is starting Dec. 15th. He's coming from NC State and he is very familiar with the electronic processing of grants.

VII. Report on Study from House Bill 115- Christy Agner

- The Jt. Legislative Committee Meeting update- Senator Malcolm Graham and Representative Marion McLawhorn are co-chairs. Priorities for the committee include prevention issues, abuser treatment programming and methods and timing of protective court orders. During the short session they are not supposed to introduce anything controversial—anything that is not addressed in the short session will be dealt with in the long session. Commission meetings are a great forum to let Marion McLawhorn know of any issues they would like to see brought to the legislature and Commission members were encouraged to create and strengthen relationships with Legislative Committee members.
- Program Evaluation Committee is looking extensively at the way non-profits are managed to make recommendations for how taxpayer's money should be spent and accounted for. They are suggesting that a) competitive grants are in the best interest of the tax payer b)reimbursing programs for money spent is better than giving it to them upfront. It is up to the Commission to inform legislators why these grants should not be competitive or have performance measures- the Commission needs to advocate for the programs.
- In accordance with HB 155 session law, the Commission has been directed to study state coordination and oversight of services to victims of SA and whether SA should be included as a focus area for the Commission. The study shall consult with NC CASA and other state organizations. The final report needs to be ready to present to the Jt. Legislative Committee by Feb. 1. An electronic draft of the report will be sent to the DV Commission for review in mid-January, so if the Commission feels they have not had enough time to review the report and present it to the Legislative Committee they can request an extension. Christy Agner is open to suggestions and welcomes any members who would like to be part of the small group working on the study. Also, to help present comparisons to legislators, if the Commission members have any contacts with other states that have similar budgets, demographics, etc. please let her know.
- There is no funding for this study and there's been no cost because NC CFW/DVC and SA Coalition staff have volunteered their time.

VIII. Delta Project Report- Leah Perkinson

- Leah Perkinson gave a power point presentation summarizing the Delta initiative. It supports primary prevention efforts that target intimate partner violence (IPV).
- The state steering committee for the project approaches IPV as a preventable public health issue rather than a historical fact or inevitable reality.
- The four core strategic components include education, parenting skills/social norms, community engagement, and prevention system capacity.
- The Department of Public Instruction is in support of piloting after school DV prevention projects.
- The State Steering Committee has formed work groups that each focus on a different aspect of the project. There is no set term and you can rotate in and out whenever you would like. Please let Leah know if you are interested in serving on one of the work groups.

- Beth Froehling thinks it would be worthwhile for the Commission to endorse this plan. **Lynn Bryant moved to endorse the plan, Kathy Hodges seconded and all were in favor.**
- The Delta Project is receiving some funding from the CDC, but the amount isn't sufficient to cover the costs of implementing the program. The DV Commission might be able to legislatively advocate for this program.
- Monika Johnson Hostler is working on the School Violence Act and DPI has asked for a menu of curricula addressing the topic. She would love to include the Delta Plan curriculum. Leah Perkinson will send her the full plan.
- The Commission asked what the approach is to getting as much support as possible for this project. Leah Perkinson said they are putting out an executive summary in February to spread the word and she will talk to the interim director about sending a letter to various agencies requesting they endorse the project. The Commission will send Leah a list of agency contacts.
- A suggestion was made to present the Delta Project at the Governor's Conference.

IX. Status Reports from Committees

- Education committee (Peggy Goodman)- they have not met so they have nothing to report. Lynn Bryant would like this committee to look at a web based DV training system for law enforcement. Training seems to be most effective if given in a variety of options (in-person, online, interactive, quizzes, webinar, etc.).
- Law Enforcement committee (Kathy Hodges)- plan to meet in January, nothing to report
- Victim Services and Workplace Policy committee needs a chair
- See Jill Dinwiddie to sign up for a committee or to chair a committee

X. Legislative Agenda Update- Beth Froehling

- Beth Froehling provided a list of members on the Jt. Legislative Committee so Commission members could see who serves their district and try to connect with their members to advocate for DV issues.
- A 2010 DRAFT Coalition legislative agenda was disseminated. It consists of bills that are still pending from the long session and recommendations that haven't translated into legislation.
 - i. Support DV Appropriations- Increase state funding and appropriations for DV programs, reinstate TANF funding to support prevention, increase TANF funding for WorkFirst participants, funding to support construction of DV shelters and funding for supervised visitation and exchange centers
 - ii. Limit liability of DV shelters
 - iii. Human trafficking
 - iv. Amend domestic criminal trespass
 - v. Clarify and enhance chapter 50B
 - vi. Strengthen response to criminal DV offenses
 - vii. Require training for judges, prosecutors, magistrates, mediators, custody evaluators, parenting coordinators, guardian ad litem, and public school educators on DV
 - viii. Support to increase the Housing Trust Fund
 - ix. Support the healthy family/healthy workplaces campaign
- Marisol Barr brought up her concern for immigrants committing DV crimes- they change names and social security numbers to move around the state undetected, then continue to commit DV crimes without being deported. She would like to see legislation that addresses this.

- A Commission member asked how newly passed legislation gets into the hands of law officials- the legislation doesn't serve its' purpose if it's not being practiced. The Administrative Office of the Courts sends out bulletins announcing new legislation and the Coalitions try very hard to get information into the hands of those who can notify law officials.
- The Insurance Commissioner has been very supportive of the healthy families/healthy workplace campaign stating that DV should not be included as a pre-existing condition when applying for health insurance coverage. A rule is being filed to ensure that medical conditions (depression, alcohol abuse, etc) as a result of DV will not be used as a pre-existing condition. Beth Froehling will send the ruling to the Commission.
- The Coalition board meets next week and they will hopefully sign off on this agenda at that time. Beth asked if the Commission would like to support this agenda. **Beth Moracco moved to endorse the agenda, Peggy Goodman seconded and all were in favor.**

XI. Closing Remarks/Adjournment

- NCCADV Biennial Conference will be May 25th-27th in Durham.
- Governor's Conference is Nov. 9, 2010
- Possible DV Commission meeting dates (Beth will check the GCC meeting dates to make sure they don't conflict with their dates): Feb 12th, May 14th, Sept 17th, Dec. 3rd. An email will be sent to Commission members with the final dates.
- Chatham County is hosting a conference next Friday (Mark Wynn will be attending)
- Lisa Angel has stepped down as DV Commission chair—a new chair will be announced by the next meeting.
- Meeting adjourned at 12:30 pm