

**Domestic Violence Commission Meeting  
Minutes – April 8, 2011  
Public School Forum  
3739 National Drive, Suite 100, Raleigh NC**

**Commission Member Attendees:** Chairperson Karen Parker Thompson, The Honorable Sharon Barrett, Marisol Barr, Sherry Bradsher (representing Secretary Lanier Cansler), Jennifer Brobst, Lynn Bryant, The Honorable J. Thomas Davis, David Elliott (representing Attorney General Roy Cooper), The Honorable Lorrin Freeman, Beth Froehling, Janeen Gingrich, Dr. Peggy Goodman, Linda Holden-Cox, Alisa Hunt-Lowery, Monika Johnson-Hostler, Sheriff Dewey Jones. Representative Marian McLawhorn, Deputy Secretary June Michaux, Dr. Aleese Moore-Orbih, Dr. Beth Moracco, The Honorable Beverly Scarlett, and Ben Thalheimer

**Guest Attendees:** Dr. Tripp Ake, Sandy Dixon, Alex Johnston, Michael Lewis, and Susan Macon

**Department of Administration (DOA) Attendees:** Mary Williams-Stover and Charlene Kea

**A. OPENING/WELCOME – Karen Parker Thompson, Chairperson**

Chairperson Karen Parker Thompson welcomed everyone to the meeting.

**B. INTRODUCTIONS – Karen Parker Thompson, Chairperson**

Members introduced themselves and their affiliations. The Chair pointed out that the meeting would focus strictly on agenda items.

The Chair gave one last reminder to all members regarding the Ethics Economic Interest (SEI) forms which are due next week, Friday, April 15, 2011. If you have not gotten your form in already, please do so! The Chair stated she will not send out any more emails on this matter. However, if you have any questions, please ask Chairperson Karen Parker Thompson and if she does not know the answer, she will research the answer for you.

The Chairperson announced that Representative McLawhorn was here at the meeting this morning and could not stay for the after lunch session. The Chair asked if Representative McLawhorn had anything she wanted to share with the DV Commission from the legislature.

Representative McLawhorn began by commending everyone for their support, hard work, and attendance with the DV Commission. She stated that these are difficult times in the legislature. These are times of change. Representative McLawhorn stated that she will continue to do her best in representing the DV Commission's efforts and work.

The filing deadline for the House of Representatives was Wednesday for public bills. She encouraged everyone to go to the website at [www.ncqa.state.nc.us/](http://www.ncqa.state.nc.us/) and look at what has been filed. There are a few bills that pertain to domestic violence which have been filed this session.

Representative McLawhorn informed the DV Commission that the projected end date for the Legislative Session for this fiscal year may be either the first or middle of July, 2011. She asked everyone to be attentive and focus on the current issues because they are moving forward quickly.

**C. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – Karen Parker Thompson, Chairperson**

The Chair asked if everyone had a chance to review the minutes from the February 11, 2011 meeting and if there were any additions or corrections. Since there were none, a motion was made (Beth Froehling), seconded (Dr. Peggy Goodman) and passed that the minutes of the

February 11, 2011 DV Commission meeting be approved as written.

#### **D. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT – Mary Williams-Stover, Assistant Director**

The Chairperson announced that Jill Dinwiddie, Executive Director, could not attend this meeting due to being out of the country. Mary Williams-Stover, Assistant Director, will give the report on Jill's behalf.

- Mary greeted everyone and began to give updates on activities at the CFW.
- Last month DVC member Alisa Hunt-Lowery moderated a panel during the Women's History Month Celebration on March 30, 2011 at the Museum of History. She did a wonderful job of engaging women in a conversation about careers and how careers in the STEM area could be made attractive to young girls. As you know, one of the issues observed with the Displaced Homemaker program is financial empowerment. The Women's History Month program called attention to this issue, and included a presentation by a representative from AAUW who reported on that organization's research which focused on the reasons so few girls and women succeed in the STEM area. We hope to have the taped version of the Women's History Celebration linked on the CFW website. There were over 100 people who attended this celebration and reception, which was streamed live on the internet. The Council partnered with several women organizations such as NC Women United, UN Women, and Wake County Commission for Women for this event.
- The Council is gearing up for the April 15, 2011 deadline for grant applications to arrive in the Raleigh office for the DV, DH, and SA programs. Applications are coming in steadily. We have a temporary employee on board to assist with the processing of grant applications.
- We have received good news from the Youth Advocacy Internship program. CFW will have an Intern for the summer. There were 900 applicants, but only 50 slots for the paid internship. The Intern will be working on helping CFW create tools to expand awareness of the agency and its programs.
- Greg Richardson, Director of the Commission on Indian Affairs met with the CFW in an effort to begin collaborating on ways to best serve the needs of American Indian Women. There are definitely challenges for the American Indian community to receive services and seek shelter. Greg is working with CFW to assist with the understanding of needs of the Native American community. He and the CFW hope to establish relationships across counties so that victims could go outside of their county to receive services in cases of domestic violence.
- The CFW has been invited to give a presentation to the Commission on Indian Affairs regarding the services available through the DV, DH, and SA programs.
- The CFW has been communicating with Rick Zechman of the Department of Social Services to encourage DV programs to use the his departments' resources for DV clients. CFW will make sure the Regional Directors are serving as motivators to raise awareness of those resources among the DV programs.
- The CFW is currently working on an impact statement related to the legislative issues and their potential effect on the DV, DH, and SA programs.

#### **E. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

##### ➤ **AD-HOC Allocations Task Force - Karen Parker Thompson, Chair**

The Chairperson began by stating the Allocations Task Force is currently working on a response to a bill which was submitted last year and then sent on to a committee for review.

##### ➤ **Victim Services - Lynn Bryant**

Lynn Bryant had nothing to report at this time.

➤ **Abuser Treatment – Jo Liles**

The Chairperson stated Jo Liles could not be at the meeting. A handout was given with brief notes from the subcommittee's last meeting on March 16, 2011. The meeting focused on review of three new applications for certification. The next meeting for this committee will be held May 11, 2011. The handout is included here as an attachment.

➤ **Law Enforcement & Pro Arrest – John Guard**

The Chairperson stated John Guard could not attend this meeting and no report would be given. Sheriff Dewey Jones announced that the Sheriff's Association will be meeting next week. Sheriff Jones's will inform the Sheriff's Association of current legislative issues.

➤ **Workplace Violence – David Elliot**

David Elliot began by informing the Commission that committee had met. The group's focus will be to adopt the previous subcommittee's Best Practices Manual. The group is working on revising the mission statement used by the previous committee. David stated the group is currently looking at ways to raise awareness by using social media and other technology. David will continue communicating with the DV Commission regarding updates from this group.

➤ **Professional Education – Dr. Peggy Goodman**

Dr Goodman advised everyone to keep informed on the current bills submitted to the legislature. She had nothing to report at this time.

➤ **Legislative – Judge Beverly Scarlett**

Janeen Gingrich stated this committee met on April 6, 2011. She distributed a handout which summarized the committee's discussion on several bills and the committee's response and/or reactions to those bills. The handout is included here as an attachment.

**F. SPECIAL REPORT – Collection of Domestic Violence Data – Lorrin Freeman & Alex Johnston**

- The Chair began by stating the committee will take a look at the collection of data, the gaps, and the improvements. Some of the systems being used currently are at least 20 years old and they don't communicate with each other.
- A handout was distributed outlining the CJLEADS system.
- Lorrin stated they will talk about the different systems currently in place for law enforcement and legal personnel to utilize when obtaining information on cases and/or background information. The two systems Lorrin Freeman and Alex Johnston focused on are the CJLEADS and NC AWARE. The handout is included here as an attachment.

**G. SPECIAL REPORT – Strong Fathers Program – Dr. Tripp Ake**

- Dr. Ake began by distributing a handout which summarized the Strong Fathers Program.
- The program is funded by the NC Division of Social Services and was developed by the Center for Child and Family Health, UNC at Chapel Hill, NC Central University, and Child and Parent Support Services.
- The Strong Fathers Program was implemented in 2009 as a pilot project by the Family Services, Inc. in Winston-Salem NC.
- The Strong Fathers Program uses previously developed models to assist in the

development of the program to reduce child maltreatment and intimate partner violence.

- Dr. Ake provided examples of eligible recipients/situations as follows:
  - Fathers in families with backgrounds of abuse, neglect, including family reunification or preservation.
  - Fathers in families identified as “In Need of Services”.
  - Fathers with a child in foster care.The handout is included here as an attachment.

#### **H. MEETING ADJOURNED**

Chairperson Karen Parker Thompson thanked everyone for coming and for all their support. She also advised any committees that wanted to meet briefly after this meeting could do so in this conference room until 2:00pm. Meeting adjourned at 1:40pm. The next meeting will be September 16, 2011.