

**Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Advisory Council
Regular Meeting Minutes**

Tuesday, July 16th, 2024, at 10:00 a.m.
Oklahoma Judicial Center, Room E123
2100 N. Lincoln Blvd., Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73105

1. CALL TO ORDER

a. ROLL CALL/ESTABLISHMENT OF QUORUM

i. The meeting was called to order by Ann Lowrance, in accordance with the Open Meetings Act at 10:05 a.m. Members present included Ann Lowrance, Whitney Anderson, Kelsey Samuels, Judge Leah Edwards, Brandon Pasley, Rose Turner, Shelley Miller, and Kristie Chandler. Non-members present included Mary Wickstrom, Stephanie Lowery, Myel Solorzano Sutton, Miguel Mojica, Susan Laib, Reagan Graeme, Tara Tyler, Alicia Mercer, and Leslie Clingenpeel.

b. ASSURANCE OF COMPLIANCE WITH OPEN MEETING ACT

i. Myel Solorzano Sutton announced that the meeting was in compliance with the Open Meetings Act. An agenda was posted at the principal office of the Oklahoma Attorney General's Office on July 15th at 9:00 A.M. and on the Oklahoma Attorney General's Office website on July 15th at 8:52 A.M.

2. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ON APPROVAL OF REGULAR MEETING MINUTES FROM TUESDAY, June 18th, 2024:

a. Whitney Anderson motioned to approve the meeting minutes. Kristie Chandler seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

3. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ON CHANGING DATES, TIMES, AND LOCATION OF VASU COUNCIL MEETINGS

a. Myel Solorzano Sutton reported that moving forward, the VASU Advisory Council is approved to meet at the Oklahoma City Attorney General's Office on the fourth (4th) Tuesday of every month. She also proposed moving the meeting times from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. The Council agreed that the new meeting dates, times, and location will work moving forward.

b. Judge Leah Edwards motioned to approve the new meeting dates, times, and location. Brandon Pasley seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

4. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ON SUBCOMMITTEE'S WORK

a. BIP WORKING GROUP

i. Kristie Chandler reported that the BIP subcommittee had met once since the previous Advisory Council meeting. The meeting went well and the

group discussed seeking out more research regarding virtual BIPs and codes of ethics for providers, looking into the possibility of changing “batterers” to “battering”, and analyzing all Attorney General certified 2023 BIP’s annual statistics.

- ii. Kristie Chandler reported that she has been unable to find research that strongly supports or goes against providing BIP classes virtually. She has recently spoken with a Kansas BIP manager about their standards and was told that they allow virtual BIP classes sparingly and only in specific situations. Additionally, they do not allow their virtual classes to be intermingled with their in-person classes.
- iii. Kristie Chandler reported speaking with an Oregon BIP Director and was told that they do not have specific policies regarding virtual classes. Ultimately, it is left up to the programs to decide; however, if they allow it, they get to determine what training their staff is required to go through, which files are required, etc.
- iv. Kristie Chandler stated that in Colorado, their standards have a section surrounding individuals providing services via teletherapy. They also include training guidelines for providers before they allow them to facilitate BIP virtually. She reported that the Colorado clinicians she spoke with stated how difficult it is to have in depth discussions about the client’s use of control and/or violence virtually as opposed to in-person. Kristie asked that the Council give the BIP subcommittee another month to continue researching before coming back with recommendations.
- v. The Council agreed to give the BIP subcommittee another month to work on their recommendations.
- vi. Kristie Chandler reported that through her research, she has not found any standards that speak to excused and unexcused absences. She stated that she would assume this decision is left up to programs to make sure absences are minimal and whether an absence is excused or unexcused. If programs were afforded the right to determine their own excused versus unexcused absences, she reported that she believes they would do fine.
- vii. Judge Leah Edwards reported to the Council that she and others had met with the Department of Mental Health regarding using recently received settlement funds for diversionary programs, i.e., conditions of bonds or evaluations while people are in jail. Their group was considering funding DVI assessments, but the assessment results they are receiving, even in strangulation cases, are not recommending BIP classes. Judge Edwards asked the Council what their thoughts were on continuing to fund these assessments. Kristie Chandler explained that in the past, her and Jacqueline Steyn had called and talked with the DVI creators and were not happy to

learn that the assessment results can be changed by request. She is not favorable to the tool as it has morphed over the years, but she recognizes that it is something that most people are familiar with. Mary Wickstrom with the Court Assistance Program also reported that her program typically has DVI assessment results come back and not recommend BIP for clients. She stated that her program also conducts a bio-psych social and does not rely solely on DVI assessment results.

- viii. Ann Lowrance asked if a BIP services map exists for Oklahoma. Myel Solorzano Sutton reported that she has provided Anthony Hernandez-Rivera with information for all Attorney General Certified BIPs in order to create an accessible map for our website. Ann Lowrance asked when the map will be completed, to which Anthony reported by the August 27th VASU Advisory Council meeting.

5. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ON SUBCOMMITTEE'S WORK

a. BILLING CODES AND DEFINITIONS

- i. Kelsey Samuels reported to the Council that the billing codes and definitions subcommittee has been meeting weekly and having good discussion. They have noted that a lot of the billing definitions don't match the standard's definitions. They are working to make sure that moving forward, the definitions do match. Their subcommittee is hoping to bring a recommendation back to the Council in August or September.
- ii. The Council discussed reaching out to the Department of Mental Health (DMH) to review and compare their billing rates. Rose Turner reported that she has a contact with DMH and can reach out to them for information. The Council recommended the Attorney General's Office reach out to create a connection with DMH for case management training.
- iii. Ann Lowrance asked Shelley Miller if NAAV has a recognition process for personnel's level of training or professional skills for their domestic violence programs. Shelley reported that their advocates go through training so that they are all following the same practices, but this doesn't always mean they have the letters behind their name (i.e., CDSVRP title).
- iv. Kelsey Samuels reported that since the subcommittee has finalized their billing definitions, their goal is to secure higher billing rates. Ann Lowrance asked if this would create billing issues with the Attorney General's Office to which Stephanie Lowery reported it will not. Additionally, Stephanie stated that the goal is to finalize the billing rates with the Council as soon as possible, and have the higher billing rates put in place by October 1st, 2024.

**6. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ON TITLE 75 ATTORNEY GENERAL
CHAPTER 15: STANDARDS AND CRITERIA FOR DOMESTIC VIOLENCE
AND SEXUAL ASSAULT PROGRAMS**

- a. The Council continued reviewing Chapter 15 and making changes/updates where deemed necessary.
- b. Ann Lowrance recommended all Council members continue reviewing and noting updates or changes before the next meeting scheduled for August 27th, 2024.

7. NEW BUSINESS

- a. Stephanie Lowery strongly suggested that with the recent increase in funding to DVSA programs, agencies who have not already, should consider purchasing an updated database system. Preferably one that the Attorney General's Office can also work with.
- b. Kelsey Samuels stated that she would be happy to host an EmpowerDV call for programs searching for a database. She reported that the system is affordable and a good option for programs.

8. ANNOUNCEMENTS

- a. Myel Solorzano Sutton announced that she has been promoted and is now the Program Certification Manager within the Victim Advocacy and Services Unit at the Attorney General's Office.

9. ADJOURNMENT

- a. Brandon Pasley motioned to adjourn. Rose Turner seconded the motion. Meeting adjourned at 12:18 p.m.