

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

Tuesday, March 19th, 2024, at 10:00 a.m.

Oklahoma Judicial Center, Room E123

Lincoln Blvd., Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73105

1. Call to Order

a. Roll Call / Establishment of Quorum

- i. The meeting was called to order by Danni Johnson, in accordance with the Open Meeting Act at 10:06 a.m. Members present included Ann Lowrance, Kristie Chandler, Jacqueline Steyn, Eileen Meadows, Kelsey Samuels, Rose Turner, and Brandon Pasley. Non-members present included Mary Wickstrom, Stephanie Lowery, Danni Johnson, Myel Solorzano Sutton, Alicia Mercer, Ashley Henson, and Caroline Drummond.

b. Assurance of Compliance with Open Meeting Act

2. Discussion and Possible Action on Approval of Regular Meeting Minutes From Tuesday, February 20, 2024:

- a. Kristie Chandler stated that the list of members and non-members would need to be updated to list Rose Turner as a member and Ashley Henson as a non-member.
- b. Kristie motioned that once the member and non-member lists are updated, the minutes from Tuesday, February 20, 2024, be approved. Danni Johnson seconded. **Motion carried unanimously with two abstentions.**

3. Discussion and Possible Action on Changing DVSA Council Name to Victim Services Council:

- a. Danni Johnson reported that she believes the Council should consider changing the name from the DVSA Advisory Council to Victim Services Council for inclusivity purposes. Danni stated that she has received feedback from a few agencies who stated they don't feel as if they are welcome to the meetings, since the Council's title alludes to victim services only. The Council discussed what other names might be appropriate.
- b. Jacqueline Steyn motioned to name the group the 'Victim Advocacy and Services Unit (VASU) Advisory Council.' Brandon Pasley seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

4. Discussion and Possible Action on Adding Members to the Council:

- a. Danni Johnson suggested adding an individual from a BIP agency, such as the Latino Community Development Agency, and a sexual assault expert. Kelsey Samuels suggested a sexual assault expert witness from Ray of Hope in Bartlesville. Ann Lowrance suggested SANE Nurse, Amanda Kemp. Rose Turner suggested SANE Nurse, Kasey Magness. Jacqueline Steyn highlighted how different the role of a sexual assault nurse is versus a sexual assault expert and said that the Council would need to decide if both roles needed to be added to the group. Kristie Chandler

reminded the group that the Council's main goal is to update and/or change the certification standards for BIPs, DVSA, and AVSHT programs and the standards don't certify SANE nurses. Kristie also mentioned that the individuals represented on the Council from certified programs need to be following the standards to an acceptable extent and this needs to be taken into consideration when deciding their membership.

- b. Stephanie Lowery asked how the group felt about adding representatives from VOCA, VAWA, and RPE. The Council felt that if we continued to add members, the group would become unmanageable.
- c. Rose Turner asked if it was acceptable to have Ashley Henson as her designee. Ann Lowrance stated that the Council has not historically had members elect a designee. The Council agreed that it would be best if Rose Turner was recognized as a member and Ashley Henson as a non-member.
- d. Jaqueline Steyn recommended someone from the Court Assistance Program serve as a member representing an urban BIP. Kristie Chandler asked for clarification on how many current members we have on the Council. Danni Johnson reported nine. The group agreed that the current number of members should remain the same.
- e. Danni Johnson asked how the group felt about Corrie Obanion remaining on the Council as she has missed every meeting thus far. The Council agreed that Corrie Obanion's invitation to serve as a member should be retracted and we should try to recruit a representative from the Native Alliance Against Violence (NAAV) organization instead. Danni Johnson will reach out to extend an invitation.
- f. Brandon Pasley motioned that due to Corrie Obanion's inability to appear at Advisory Council meetings, we replace her membership spot with a NAAV representative. Kristie Chandler seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

5. Discussion and Possible Action on Procedures for Submitting Changes for Standards and Criteria:

- a. Danni Johnson reported that she had sent all Council members copies of the edits she made to Title 75, Chapter 1 according to the recommended changes/updates from the February 20th, 2024, Advisory Council meeting. Danni will send the Council members an email with the deadline for all updates/changes to be made. Danni also mentioned that if the changes/updates are not completed by the original deadline, an emergency deadline also exists. Ann Lowrance advised against missing the original deadline, as it is more difficult to get changes/updates implemented if they are submitted on the emergency deadline.
- b. Danni Johnson announced that the current protocol for any updates/changes to be made to the certification standards is to go through the VASU Advisory Council and then to the Attorney General's General Counsel unit.
- c. The updates/changes for Title 75, Chapter 30 certification standards regarding AVHST programs have already been completed for this year.

6. Discussion and Possible Action of Changes to Title 75 Attorney General Chapter 1 Administration on Certifications:

- a. Kristie Chandler asked if the changes that Whitney Anderson requested regarding including adult human sex trafficking services throughout Chapter one when mentioning DVSA and BIP programs were added into the updated Chapter. Danni Johnson reported that it has not, but she will search the document and add that verbiage where necessary.
- b. Kristie Chandler motioned to add language that included adult human sex trafficking programs in 75:1-3-15 and other portions of the Chapter where necessary. Rose Turner seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

7. Discussion of Grants:

- a. Stephanie Lowery reported on the current status of the OAG's funding formula committee. Currently, the OAG's office has contracted with two Professors from the University of Oklahoma to come up with new funding formulas that the funding formula committee can implement in the next fiscal year. The deadline to have the new formulas ready for review is 5/15/24. The new formula will include the six programs that are not currently included in the formula and set a higher base pay amount for programs.
- b. Kelsey Samuels asked what the OAG's stance is on the DVSA programs requesting additional funding for programs. Stephanie Lowery stated that the OAG's office has not reported any official stance on the matter to her, but the office cannot make the independent decision to add new programs into the funding formula.
- c. Stephanie Lowery reported that she has considered changing FVPSA's cycle from a state fiscal cycle to a federal fiscal cycle, but has not brought it to the attention of OAG leadership yet. If this were to happen, the grant cycle would be for 15 months from July 1st, 2024, to September 30th, 2025. Starting October 1st, 2025, the grant cycle would go back to being 12 months. Stephanie asked for insight from the Council on how programs may feel if this happens. Brandon Pasley, Kelsey Samuels, and Rose Turner reported that they would not be opposed to the change. Ashley Henson highlighted that larger agencies might have a more difficult time with the change as they may currently have staggered deadlines for reporting multiple things and this would impact that.
- d. Stephanie Lowery reported that the FVPSA funds should remain steady, and she doesn't see it changing. The DHHS ARP grant that is set to end in 2025, may become a permanent grant.
- e. Stephanie Lowery asked the Council if anyone knew if there is an official state definition of 'urban,' 'rural,' and 'suburban' and stated that if there is, we should be cognizant of that moving forward.
- f. Stephanie Lowery reported that the billing codes and amounts have not been updated in a while and the Council should keep that on the radar. Brandon Pasley responded that the last change he knows of was in 2011.

- g. Eileen Meadows asked if the Council could revisit Stephanie Lowrey's question regarding changing the FVPSA grant cycle at the next meeting. Stephanie agreed and said that she would also speak with leadership before moving forward.

8. Discussion and Possible Action of Title 75 Attorney General Chapter 15: Standards and Criteria for Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Programs:

- a. Jacqueline Steyn suggested that the Council considers creating a code of ethics for victim service providers and advocates to be added into Chapter 15. The Council agreed that the suggestion was a great idea. Jacqueline stated that the group could create a sub-committee to accomplish this task and bring the work back to the Council for further review.
- b. Jacqueline Steyn made a motion to lead the "code of ethics for victim service providers and advocates" sub-committee. The sub-committee will be comprised of Jacqueline Steyn, Eileen Meadows, Rose Turner, and Ann Lowrance. Brandon Pasley seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.
- c. Ann Lowrance reported that all mentions of OCADVSA need to be removed from Chapter 15. Kristie Chandler stated that mentions of CDSVRP can still remain.
- d. Jacqueline Steyn suggested adding the word "coercion" after abuse and before oppression in line 1 of 75:15-1-1.1 Mission and underlying philosophy. The new line would read, "(1) All persons have the right to live without fear, abuse, coercion, oppression and violence." In line 3 of 75:15-1-1.1 Mission and underlying philosophy, Jacqueline also suggested adding the word "coercive" before assaultive and before abusive. The new line would read, "(3) No one deserves to be victimized by assaultive, coercive or abusive behavior."
- e. Eileen Meadows suggested adding a comma on line 2 of 75:15-1-1.1 Mission and underlying philosophy. The new line would read, "(2) There should be equality in relationships, and survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault and stalking should be helped to assume power over their own lives."
- f. Kristie Chandler suggested removing the first word on line 7 of 75:15-1-1.1 Mission and underlying philosophy. The new line would read, "(7) Perpetrators must be held accountable for their behavior."
- g. Eileen Meadows suggested changing the definition of "Admission" in 75:15-1-1 Definitions to delete the words "or treatment." The new definition for "Admission" would read, "'Admission' means to accept a client for services."
- h. Kristie Chandler suggested removing "face to face" in the "Assessment" definition in 75:15-1-1 Definitions. Jacqueline Steyn stated that the Council should consider changing the term "Assessment" to "Screening and Assessment."
- i. The Council recognized a need for the term "Case management" in 75:15-1-1 Definitions to be updated. This definition led to a lengthier discussion regarding the current billing codes and definitions being utilized by programs. Jacqueline Steyn suggested reviewing all of the current billing codes and definitions before updating or

- changing them. The Council discussed the creation of a sub-committee to review the billing codes and definitions before further action on Chapter 15. Jacqueline Steyn motioned to create a sub-committee workgroup to review the current codes and definitions and present their findings to the Council at the next meeting. Stephanie Lowery will lead the sub-committee and include Brandon Pasley, Ashley Henson, Danni Johnson, and Jacqueline Steyn. Ann Lowrance seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.
- j. Jacqueline Steyn stated that at this time, nobody knows who will become the new coalition. As everyone waits, Jacqueline has talked with a few Universities about providing monthly training opportunities that meet standards in Chapter 15 for programs. She would need to talk to leadership within OSU-OKC in order to ask about offering CEU Certificates for trainings completed, but the trainings offered would be virtual and a good way for continuing education credits to be earned across the state. An example provided was a webinar training covering ethics. Eileen Meadows stated that would be perfect as that is one of the hardest continuing credit trainings to cover. Jacqueline offered to assemble a training team. Kelsey Samuels stated that she will message Tara Tyler of the Survivor Resource Network and EVO to connect them.
 - k. Ann Lowrance suggested the Council table the review of Chapter 15 until all members are able to read the Chapter in its entirety and note any changes or updates for the next meeting.
 - l. Kristie Chandler inquired if any Council member knew why the first line on core services was stricken. Jacqueline Steyn reported that it was taken out when the Council was not meeting, but not at the request of the Council.
 - m. Ann Lowrance asked if the Council was okay with reviewing Chapter 15 individually and allowing Stephanie Lowrey's sub-committee to meet before moving forward with discussion of updates or changes to Chapter 15. The Council agreed that that would be fine.

9. New Business:

- a. Danni Johnson reported on HB3775 and notified the Council of the concerns she's been receiving. HB3775 highlights that DOC is an exempt entity from BIP certification and would allow inmates serving sentences with 85% DV charges to enroll and complete a BIP course and then be immediately released after completion. The Council expressed extreme concern and Danni stated she would raise the concern to leadership within the OAG. The District Attorney's Council, End Violence Oklahoma, and Kelsey Samuels have also reached out to Representative Duel and expressed concern regarding the bill.
- b. Myel Solorzano Sutton reported reading the crisis line

10. Announcements

- a. Brandon Pasley announced that over the past weekend, the 24-hour crisis line, Safeline, had an interruption of service and victims could only text the line. As of 3/19/24, the

- hotline, email, and text were all back online and fiber is now being installed to avoid any future outages.
- b. Stephanie Lowery announced that the OAG's annual Oklahoma Victim Assistance Academy (OVAA) is set for June 23rd-28th at the University of Central Oklahoma. Applications can be found on the OAG website.
 - c. Jaqueline Steyn announced that the Spring BIP Facilitator Training will be held at OSU-OKC on April 10th-12th.
 - d. Kelsey announced that due to major budget cuts, many programs are having trouble sending personnel to conferences and trainings that are costly. She stated that the OAG's office will more than likely see that reflected in the Partners for Change conference attendance this year.
 - e. Brandon Pasley stated that if speakers are available, the YWCA OKC is able to broadcast the training to all interested programs from their agency. Jaqueline Steyn said she will attempt to connect OSU-OKC leadership with EVO to try and offer webinars that meet some of the training requirements for programs.

11. Adjournment:

- a. Rose Turner motioned to adjourn. Kristie Chandler seconded the motion. The meeting adjourned at 12:34 p.m.