

## **VICTIM ADVOCACY AND SERVICES UNIT ADVISORY COUNCIL**

### **Regular Meeting Minutes**

1:30 P.M. TUESDAY, JUNE 17, 2025  
Office of the Oklahoma Attorney General  
313 NE 21<sup>st</sup> St.  
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73105

*To the extent not otherwise provided below, the Council may, at its discretion, discuss or change the sequence of any agenda item. Possible action includes, but is not limited to, approval, authorization, adoption, rejection, denial, amendment, taking no action, or tabling the item for disposition at a later date or time.*

#### **1. CALL TO ORDER**

##### **a. ROLL CALL AND ESTABLISHMENT OF QUORUM**

- i. The meeting was called to order by Whitney Anderson, in accordance with the Open Meetings Act at 1:39 P.M. Members present also included Meagan McCurley, Jayra Camarena, Shelley Miller, Kristie Chandler, and Matthew Levey. Absent members included Judge Leah Edwards, Lauren Garder, Ann Lowrance, Kelsey Samuels, and Rose Turner. Non-members present included Miguel Mojica, Sara Wray, Betty Camacho, Karen Ting, Ashley Henson, Angelica Brooks, Mary Wickstrom, Stephanie Lowery, and Laura Russell.

##### **b. ASSURANCE OF COMPLIANCE WITH OPEN MEETING ACT**

- i. Miguel Mojica 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 June 16, 2025 at 9:57 A.M. and on the Oklahoma Attorney General's Office website on June 16, 2025 at 8:53 A.M.

#### **2. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ON APPROVAL OF REGULAR MEETING MINUTES FROM JUNE 17, 2025**

- a. Kristie Chandler motioned to approve minutes with two amendments, which involved correcting two references to OAC Tit. 75, Ch. 15 instead of Ch. 1 under May minute's agenda item 7. Shelley Miller seconded. By roll call, minutes approved unanimously by those present.

#### **3. UPDATE REGARDING VASU ADVISORY COUNCIL'S APRIL 2025 CHAPTER 25 SUBCOMMITTEE QUESTIONS AND CONCERNS RAISED TO OAG LEADERSHIP**

- a. Miguel provided an update that there has not been a response from leadership communicated to VASU staff and Miguel reported from Susi Laib that it might not come up again. Next month's agenda will include this item. No votes or action taking at this time.

**4. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION AND POSSIBLE PRESENTATION BY  
OAG GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS STAFF ON VASU ADVISORY COUNCIL  
STATUTE – POSSIBLE REVIEW OF POTENTIAL SUNRISE LANGUAGE**

- a. This agenda item was listed as number five but, due to having a guest under this agenda item, this item was heard before the conflict-of-interest policy agenda item. OAG Government Affairs staff, Macey Whitehouse, joined the Council meeting to answer member questions and review the idea of legislatively sunrising the Council statutorily under 74 O.S. § 18p-2. The Council reviewed pros and cons of reviving the statute, as well as reviewed potential statutory amendments, including Council size, membership, and representation, as well as more emphasis on relationship-building between certified and tribal service provider programs. Matt Levey brought up the need to make Council meetings more accessible to the public and service providers, possibly by a virtual option, which was discussed. It was recommended that the idea of sunrising the statute be run by the service provider field as a whole, possibly through EVO and other groups. Macey suggested that the Council try to have a proposal for Government Affairs by around October. Shelley Miller discussed the impact of the divide between certification status and non-certified programs, specifically tribal programs. The language and distinction can be counterproductive, and the Council discussed being aware of the impact certification has on non-certified programs. Kristie Chandler also notes that there is an othering of Family Justice Centers for not being certified, as well. Perhaps the Council can pursue relationship-building opportunities while balancing its main objective of annually reviewing & updating the certification administrative code chapters. This discussion included the idea that the rules and conversations around certification may be able to choose more thoughtful language. The scarcity mentality among programs was discussed and that it is also each program's responsibility to build bridges, but perhaps the Council and Office can set an example and support that process. Council will continue developing statutory amendment proposals at future meetings and take no votes or actions at this time.

**5. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ON CREATION OF CONFLICT-OF-  
INTEREST POLICY FOR VASU ADVISORY COUNCIL MEMBERS**

- a. Council members requested a conflict-of-interest policy and clarity on expectations for members regarding what can and cannot be mentioned about their Council membership status, particularly when engaged in discussions regarding DVSA/HT/BIP-related legislation. VASU staff drafted language based on the Council's feedback and reviewed a draft with the Council. Council discusses whether the VASU Director or the Council Chair would oversee the process of determining violations and responses. The question was asked whether, if the VASU Director is in charge, would that individual attend all meetings. Due to several members being absent, the Council agrees to revisit this potential policy at future meetings and takes no vote or action at this time.

**6. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ON TITLE 75 ATTORNEY GENERAL  
CHAPTER 1: STANDARDS AND CRITERIA FOR ADMINISTRATIVE  
STANDARDS**

- a. No update. Ann Lowrance, the Ch. 1 Subcommittee Chair, was unable to attend this meeting. No votes or action taken on this item.

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

- a. Kristie Chandler gave an update on the Ch. 15 Subcommittee. She recently held two meetings and provided an overview of what is being discussed in those meetings, including reviewing defined terms. The subcommittee discussed the requirements of “in-person services” and considered developing multiple pathways for service and access, based on current needs and concerns. Reviewed the “emergency housing” definition survey results among programs and whether the Council wants to more narrowly define the term. Kristie discussed safe virtual services, as well as the possibility of condensing the number of questions required in the rules to be asked of victims. Kristie wants to hopefully bring suggested language changes to the Council in upcoming meetings. Council discussed how a particular population that is currently impacted and need additional avenues of service access is undocumented immigrant victims. Such victims seeking services are afraid due to checkpoints and other fears and face added barriers to seeking victim services, particularly the fear of kids being left alone. No votes or action taken on this item.

**8. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ON TITLE 75 ATTORNEY GENERAL  
CHAPTER 25: STANDARDS AND CRITERIA FOR BATTERERS  
INTERVENTION PROGRAMS**

- a. Lauren Garder, the Ch. 25 Subcommittee Chair, was unable to attend this meeting. Meagan McCurley and Matt Levey provided updates. The subcommittee is meeting most Fridays, and the last meeting included a guest presentation on Colorado’s differentiated model by Caroleena Frane. Members discussed what they liked about the presentation and model and how it may apply to pilot program or general program standards and criteria. Subcommittee members also discussed the need in the rules to address how programs wind down or close down, instead of relying on the goodwill of programs to do this. Consider how to protect clients who are court-ordered or otherwise using programs from having the program close without notice or direction. Sara reviewed the BIP Pilot Program survey draft to gather information and perspectives from programs. Miguel reviewed the statute, OAC rulemaking, and application window timelines and that Thomas Schneider told Miguel that Ch. 25 rules for the pilot program will need to go through the emergency rulemaking process. Miguel updated that the last round of permanent rules will go into effect July 11, 2025. No votes or action taken at this time.

**9. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ON TITLE 75 ATTORNEY GENERAL  
CHAPTER 30: STANDARDS AND CRITERIA FOR ADULT VICTIMS OF  
HUMAN SEX TRAFFICKING PROGRAMS**

- a. Whitney Anderson provided an update on Ch. 30 Subcommittee. Whitney and Meagan discussed streamlining defined terms for DVSAHT chapters under Tit. 75.

Whitney is seeking cohesiveness between chapters, terms, and rules. Kristie Chandler asked about other state certification program rules and updates. No votes or action taken at this time.

#### **10. NEW BUSINESS**

- a. Ashley Henson, attending as a public guest, notes that she is seeking more information on documenting services under the recent budget-based billing change. There is discussion and shared concerns and questions, including tracking metrics that legislators want to know about and how to demonstrate services. Members also have questions about what happens with programs that underspend for the 1/12<sup>th</sup> amount received, what happens with those dollars, and the mechanism for other programs who exceed their 1/12<sup>th</sup> amount in seeking access to more funds. There are questions about how more experiences or larger programs can support the smaller programs. Discussion included demonstrating at least some of the work through FVPSA requirements and adding to what VASU requires in annual reports. Members indicate they want to be intentional about what they are tracking but not redundant. VASU will add this as an agenda item next month and invite Stephanie Lowery and Laura Russell, OAG grant staff, to answer questions.

#### **11. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- a. None at this time.

#### **12. ADJOURNMENT**

- a. Kristie Mitchell motioned to adjourn. Whitney Anderson adjourned the meeting at 3:24 p.m.