

**VICTIM ADVOCACY AND SERVICES UNIT ADVISORY COUNCIL**

**Regular Meeting Minutes**

1:30 P.M. TUESDAY, MARCH 17, 2026

**Office of the Attorney General**

313 NE 21<sup>ST</sup> ST.

Oklahoma City, OK 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 Ann Lowrance, in accordance with the Open Meetings Act, at 1:31 P.M. Members present included Ann Lowrance, Ashley Henson, Whitney Anderson, Meagan McCurley, Kelsey Samuels, Matt Levey. Non-members present included Tressie Chapman, Melinda Chen, Bethania Santana, Mel Fillmore, Tara Tyler, Miguel Mojica, Sharla Colbert-Dunbar, and Myel Solorzano Sutton.

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 March 13, 2026, at 11:31 A.M. and on the Oklahoma Attorney General's Office website on March 11, 2026, at 5:01 P.M.

**2. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ON APPROVAL OF REGULAR MEETING MINUTES FROM FEBRUARY 17, 2026**

a. Whitney Anderson motioned to approve the meeting minutes from February 17, 2026. Ashley Henson seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

**3. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ON VASU ADVISORY COUNCIL BY-LAWS**

- a. Miguel Mojica presented the by-laws document VASU staffers have been editing.
- b. Kelsey highlighted that the language still needed to be updated to include BIPs (Batterers Intervention Programs) and AVHST (Adult Victims of Human Sex Trafficking), rather than limiting language to DVSA services.
- c. Ann asked how the group would like to proceed with reviewing the updates. She suggested members review the bylaws this month and provide feedback, including proposed language changes, to Myel and Miguel via email. She shared her perspective that bylaws should remain as concise as possible while still fulfilling their purpose and accurately reflecting the role of the body.
- d. The Council agreed to individually review the by-laws document and submit suggested revisions or thoughts to Myel and Miguel before the scheduled April VASU Council meeting.

**4. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ON REPLACING VASU ADVISORY COUNCIL CULTURALLY SPECIFIC PROGRAM REPRESENTATIVE**

- i. Council members agreed to table the discussion until next month's meeting and will email Myel or Miguel with suggestions for possible representatives.

**5. SUBCOMMITTEES WORK UPDATES**

**a. CHAPTER 1 SUBCOMMITTEE**

- i. Subcommittee Chair, Ann Lowrance, reported that there were no updates from the Chapter 1 subcommittee.

**b. CHAPTER 15 SUBCOMMITTEE**

- i. Subcommittee Chair, Kelsey Samuels, reported that the group met and solicited feedback from all certified DVSA programs regarding potential concerns.
- ii. The subcommittee received multiple responses and plans to review and address the feedback during the April meeting.

**c. CHAPTER 25 SUBCOMMITTEE**

- i. Subcommittee Chair, Lauren Garder, was absent.
- ii. Myel Solorzano Sutton reported that the subcommittee met and discussed a priority list for Chapter 25 revisions, including proposed language to formalize the client transfer process.

**d. CHAPTER 30 SUBCOMMITTEE**

- i. Subcommittee Chair, Whitney Anderson, reported that the group is actively working on setting a reoccurring meeting date and time that works for everyone.

**6. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ON OAG CERTIFIED PROGRAM FAQs**

**a. PROGRAM APPLICATIONS RECEIVED FOR ALREADY SERVICED AREAS AND UPDATES TO CURRENT APPLICATIONS**

- i. Myel opened the discussion by referencing where the group concluded at the previous meeting. She reported that since then, VASU staff have met with various stakeholders to gather additional feedback to inform the Council's ongoing discussion.
- ii. Myel and Miguel met with Carrie Little, Executive Director of the Child Advocacy Centers of Oklahoma, who provided resources for the Council's consideration.
- iii. VASU staff also met with two representatives from the National Network to End Domestic Violence (NNEDV), who shared information on how other states are addressing similar issues.
- iv. Kelsey noted the need to take a thoughtful and responsible approach to implementation as additional programs seek certification, particularly in defining appropriate catchment areas.

- v. Ann emphasized that funding constraints remain a significant concern, including limitations across state funding, VOCA, and other grant sources.
- vi. The group discussed the challenge of approving new programs when funding instability could potentially impact existing programs.
- vii. Members discussed factors to consider when evaluating new applications, including whether existing programs are at capacity or have waitlists, program performance or concerns, geographic service gaps, and jurisdictional needs by county or district.
- viii. The group explored potential solutions, including: satellite program models, particularly in rural or underserved areas; shared office spaces or partnerships with existing agencies; and scheduled or hybrid service delivery models to improve access.
- ix. Ann provided context on prior funding models, which included a base funding structure to ensure statewide service coverage and a data-informed allocation system used under the Department of Mental Health. It was noted that current data limitations make it difficult to replicate this model or justify funding disparities.
- x. Council members acknowledged the complexity of balancing expanding services to meet unmet needs and maintaining stability for existing programs. Ann emphasized the importance of ensuring that all victims in Oklahoma have access to quality services when needed.
- xi. Miguel noted that the group's discussions will help inform updates to the application process and justification criteria. VASU staffers Myel and Miguel will begin working on updates to the program's applications and bring the revisions for review at next month's meeting.

## **7. DISCUSSION AND UPDATES ON BIP PILOT PROGRAM WORK**

- a. Sharla Colbert-Dunbar reported that VASU is waiting on applications for the BIP pilot and that the deadline to have those submitted is March 31<sup>st</sup>.

## **8. NEW BUSINESS Not Known or Which Could Not Have Been Reasonably Foreseen Before the Posting of the Agenda in Accordance with 25 O.S. § 311(9)**

- a. Kelsey presented on a strangulation bill that has passed the House and is now moving to the Senate. This was the 17th attempt to pass similar legislation, with increased momentum during this legislative session. She also announced that there is a bill to add a definition of coercive control, authored by Senator Nice and Representative Tim Turner.

## **9. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- a. SB 1379 was highlighted and discussed by Council members.
- b. Myel Solorzano Sutton announced that dates for the annual OAG's Partners for Change (PFC) Conference and Oklahoma's Victim Assistance Academy (OVAA) events have been scheduled and registration for both are open and available on the OAG's website.
- c. Matt Levey announced that Whitney Anderson recently presented at Oklahoma county's CCRT meeting and did a phenomenal job.

## 10. ADJOURNMENT

- a. Whitney Anderson motioned to adjourn. Ashley Henson seconded the motion. The meeting adjourned at 2:39 P.M.

**Next Advisory Council Meeting:** April 21, 2026 at 1:30 p.m.  
Oklahoma Attorney General's Office  
313 NE 21<sup>st</sup> St.  
Oklahoma City, OK 73105

*Should you have a disability and need an accommodation, please notify the Victim Advocacy and Services Unit in advance at (405) 521-3921.*

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