

**VICTIM ADVOCACY AND SERVICES UNIT ADVISORY COUNCIL**

**Regular Meeting Minutes**

1:30 P.M. TUESDAY, JANUARY 20, 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 1:37 P.M. Members present included Ann Lowrance, Lauren Garder, Kristie Chandler, Judge Leah Edwards, Rose Turner, Matt Levey, and Jayra Camarena. Non-members present included Miguel Mojica, Sharla Colbert-Dunbar, Myel Solorzano Sutton, Jessica Hartline, and Jaiden Balthrop.

**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 January 16, 2026, at 10:03 A.M. and on the Oklahoma Attorney General's Office website on January 16, 2026, at 12:24 P.M.

**2. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ON APPROVAL OF REGULAR MEETING MINUTES FROM DECEMBER 16, 2025**

- a. Kristie Chandler motioned to approve the meeting minutes from December 16, 2025. Rose Turner seconded the motion. Motion passed with three abstentions.

**3. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ON VASU ADVISORY COUNCIL STATUTE AND PROPOSED SUNRISE LANGUAGE**

- a. Susan Laib explained that this year, the OAG's office took on a significant number of bills, which prevented the office from sponsoring any new legislation. She stated that the office encourages the Council to pursue the sunrise language independently and across the street, with the OAG's full support; However, it is unclear what the outcome may look like by the end of the year if this effort is not carried forward. Susan reported that she is happy to answer any questions. Kristie asked whether there would be objections from the OAG if the Council were to advocate for this, to which Susan reported none.
- b. Matt asked whether it was too late in the session to pursue this effort. Ann responded that it might still be possible if there were existing legislative vehicles

to which the language could be attached. Ann noted that at this time, there is not an identified vehicle which could present a problem.

- c. Judge Edwards shared that they had not yet had an opportunity to explore this fully and asked whether there were any domestic violence related bills that might be amended to include this language.
- d. Council members discussed one possible path forward could be to closely monitor the bill tracker, identify an enrolled bill, and contact the author to request attachment of the language. Ann stated this would be the only viable option at this point in the session.
- e. Whitney noted that there may be trafficking-related legislation and suggested reaching out to OCAT and their legislative team for additional information. Whitney added that there are several different issues moving this session and that OCAT has a strong lobbying presence that could be helpful.
- f. Rose asked whether EVO's lobbyist could assist with tracking relevant bills. Whitney confirmed that EVO has hired a lobbyist, Tonya, who may be a good resource and potential legislative vehicle for this effort.
- g. Whitney motions to approve the previously approved VASU Advisory Council sunrise language of bill, contingent upon the finding of a willing and active author and sponsor with the permission of the AG and with the active participation of the Council to the extent ethically permitted.

#### **4. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ON 2026 VASU ADVISORY COUNCIL:**

##### **a. REPRESENTATIVES**

- i. Ann discussed the potential positives and negatives of moving forward with the proposed language. She noted that depending on election outcomes, the Council may be working with a very different group, and there could be significant changes in the legislative environment. Ann framed the decision as whether to move forward now while support exists or wait until there may be a new group to engage.
- ii. Judge Edwards stated that the Council currently appears to have the full support of the OAG and emphasized the importance of acting while momentum is strong, with the goal of getting the language passed and codified. It was noted that codifying the language would establish a formal board or body tasked with looking out for the populations served and making recommendations to the state's top law enforcement officer. Council members expressed that there has always been value in having this type of structured oversight and advisory role.
- iii. Lauren asked whether there was sufficient support to move forward with legislative action. She posed VASU Chief, Susan Laib, the question about whether she could meet directly with legislators on behalf of the Council, as well as share the Council's proposed language with legislators who express interest. Susan responded that this would not be an issue at all and the office would be in full support.
- iv. Matt expressed concern about the difficulty of securing a bill author at this stage and noted that pursuing this effort could distract from other Council priorities for the year. He suggested that unless the process could be

handled efficiently, it may detract from planned work. Ann noted that while it may still be possible to identify a willing bill author, timing is a challenge.

- v. Ann asked VASU Chief, Susan, how best to proceed if the Council chose to move forward. It was discussed whether the Council would be willing to share the proposed language with potential legislative authors. Ann stated that willingness to do so would be a key factor.
- vi. Whitney motioned to approve the previously finalized VASU Advisory Council sunrise language of bill, contingent upon the finding of a willing and active author and sponsor with the permission of the AG and with the active participation of the Council to the extent ethically permitted. Matt Levey seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

**b. MEMBERSHIP TERMS**

- i. Council members discussed the original membership terms that were set when the Council was un-officially re-instated in December 2023. Myel Solorzano Sutton reported that she will locate the Council's previous set policies and present them for review during February's VASU Council meeting.
- ii. Agenda item tabled.

**c. SUBCOMMITTEES**

- i. Myel Solorzano Sutton projected a copy of the Council's current subcommittee groups for review. The Council re-visited the discussion from last month's meeting about who could take over Chapter 15 subcommittee's Chair position as Kristie would be stepping back from that role. Council members discussed and it was decided that Kristie would remain as the Interim Chair for that group until the position could be filled.
- ii. All subcommittee Chairs provided their 2026 proposed meeting schedules to Myel for documentation.
- iii. Council members tabled the agenda item for next month's meeting.

**5. DISCUSSION AND UPDATES ON BIP PILOT PROGRAM WORK**

- a. Miguel Mojica introduced VASU's new BIP Pilot Program Consultant staff member, Sharla Colbert-Dunbar. Both VASU members discussed the work that's been completed up until this point to ensure that the BIP Pilot applications are available before the February 1<sup>st</sup> deadline. Sharla presented the completed BIP Pilot application for Council members to review.
- b. Kristie Chandler asked if the programs that apply would be required to have an established MOU with an existing OAG certified DV/SA program within the same county, or if the pilot applicants would be able to have a signed MOU with *any* certified OAG DV/SA program. Miguel Mojica and Lauren Garder explained that when the Chapter 25 BIP Subcommittee was meeting last year, the group was thinking through what this may look like long-term. They noted that they thought it would be important for BIPs operating in rural areas to have the opportunity to

work with a county adjacent OAG certified DV/SA program for a few reasons. Council members discussed and reported that this may be a topic of discussion for EVO.

- c. Matt Levey discussed concerns related to court-ordered compliance for misdemeanors, noting that current practice appears to allow only a single mandated review for clients, whereas it was initially thought reviews would be ongoing. He explained that in Oklahoma County's domestic violence court, regular review hearings have been used, resulting in increased enrollments, improved client behavior, and stronger participation as clients return to court on a consistent basis. Matt suggested this concept may fall within one of the applicable OAG certified programs chapters and expressed interest in adding language to allow for additional or ongoing reviews. Matt also noted that statutes currently include certain deadline dates and suggested considering whether similar deadlines could be applied to completion of program requirements to increase accountability.
- d. Judge Edwards cautioned the group to be mindful of separation-of-powers concerns, noting that statutory language cannot direct or impose requirements on the judicial branch in a way that dictates how judges must act (e.g., mandating revocation if a deadline is not met). Judge Edwards further explained that revocation decisions typically require action by the District Attorney's office, and additional mandates could impose burdens on prosecutorial discretion. Judge Edwards noted uncertainty about how to structure such requirements without infringing on judicial authority.

**6. 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. None reported.

**7. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- a. Myel Solorzano Sutton announced that The Dragonfly Home will be hosting their 14<sup>th</sup> annual AVHST Awareness candlelight vigil on Thursday, January 29<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m. at the Oklahoma Center for non-profits. All were encouraged to attend.

**8. ADJOURNMENT**

- a. Lauren Garder motioned to adjourn. Judge Leah Edwards seconded the motion. The meeting adjourned at 3:04 P.M.

**Next Advisory Council Meeting:** February 17, 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.*