



SOUTH CAROLINA

Victim Services Coordinating Council

Barbara Jean (BJ) Nelson - Chair
SC Crime Victim Services
Division Office of the Attorney
General

Nettie Jacobs
SC Department of Probation,
Parole and Pardon Services

Lisa Catalanotto
SC Commission on
Prosecution Coordination

Karin Ho
SC Department of Corrections

Marcia Nobles
SC Department of Juvenile Justice

Nataki Brown
SC Department of Crime Victim
Ombudsman, Crime Victim
Services Division, Office of the
Attorney General

Salley Foster
SC Sheriffs' Association

Vacant
SC Solicitors' Advocate Forum

Tressa Dixon
SC Law Enforcement
Victim Advocate

Sara Barber
SC Coalition Against Domestic
Violence and Sexual Assault

Trisha Allen
SC Attorney General's Office

Joe Corey, Deputy Director
SC Department of Crime Victim
Assistance Grants, Crime Victim
Services Division, Office of the
Attorney General

Chief Dana Crowell
SC Police Chiefs' Association

Dean Kilpatrick, Ph.D.
Medical University of SC

Laura Hudson
SC Victim Assistance Network

Debbie Curtis, Deputy Director
SC Department of Crime Victim
Compensation, Crime Victim
Services Division, Office of the
Attorney General

Thomas Knapp
SC Network of Children's
Advocacy Centers

Jada Charley
SAFE Homes-Rape Crisis
Coalition

Kassy Alia Ray, Ph.D
Serve & Connect

Ginger Dukes, Deputy Director
SC Department of Crime Victim
Services Training, Provider
Certification and Statistical
Analysis, Crime Victim Services
Division, Office of the Attorney
General

Ashley Thomas
The Hive Community Circle

Chief John C. Hicks, Jr.
SC Jail Administrators'

VSCC MEETING MINUTES

Date: Thursday, May 22, 2025

Time: 10:00 a.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Barbara Jean (“B.J.”) Nelson, Debbie Curtis, Missy Knight (Nettie Jacobs), Jennifer Aplin (Lisa Catalanotto), Ginger Dukes, Karin Ho, Marcia Nobles, Nataki Brown, Salley Foster, Sara Barber, Joe Corey, Dean Kilpatrick, Shannon Geary (Laura Hudson), Thomas Knapp, Kassy Alia Ray, Ashley Olayinka, Samantha Hughes

MEMBERS ABSENT: Tressa Dixon, John C. Hicks, Jr., Trisha Allen, Jada Charley, Chief Dana Crowell

OTHERS PRESENT: Steve Yarborough, Patrick Cable, Christina Toler, Genita Snipes, Elizabeth Beckwith, Taylor Petrosino, Amber Bolen, Bonnie Brooks, Cyril Belton, Chief Harold Hatcher (Guest Speaker)

- **CALL TO ORDER**

- Meeting was called to order by Director “B.J.” Nelson.

- **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

- Minutes from the previous meeting (November 21, 2024) were reviewed and approved.

- **BUSINESS**

Guest Speaker (*Chief Harold Hatcher*)

- In accordance with the Strategic Plan “fourth tenet”, Steve Yarborough arranged for a guest speaker for today’s meeting. Steve introduced Chief Harold Hatcher of the Waccamaw Indians.
- Chief Hatcher shared personal testimony and some historical accounts as a Native American. He also enlightened the members from the Native American perspective on many issues.
- Council Members had several questions for Chief Hatcher.
- Discussion was had on future opportunities for Waccamaw representatives to attend VSCC Meetings and/or Council Members attending the Waccamaw Indian meetings.

- **Leadership Training Update (*Ginger Dukes, Deputy Director*):**



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First leadership class for Victim Service Providers began January of 2025. They had twenty-nine participants.

- OVC provided two out of state Consultants at no cost.
- Next class is set for 2027.
- Plans are to host this training every other year.

- **Grants Update (*Joe Corey, Deputy Director*):**

- VOCA grant funds are issued by the U.S. Department of Justice, Office for Victims of Crime (OVC).
- Nationwide cap has been set at \$1.9 billion. South Carolina's award is currently unknown.
- The Attorney General's Office (DCVAG) has requested supplemental state funding; however, the Legislative Conference Committee has not finalized their budget work, so we are not certain of approval, if any.
- DCVAG had a successful application period this year. Staff are reviewing applications.

- **Address Confidentiality Program (ACP) (*Christina Toler, Lead*):**

- The mission of the ACP is to provide a designated substitute address for qualified applicants to prevent their physical address from being located through public records.
- Anticipate ACP will be ready for applicants this fall.
- Program details available on A.G.'s website.
- ACP brochures and business cards are in distribution.
- Establishing contacts and providing accurate guidance on the statutory requirements of the ACP with the Department of Motor Vehicles; school system; school associations, law enforcement, and other agencies and businesses to ensure compliance with the statute.
- Working on developing training materials to be used for VSP's.
- Working with CVST to include ACP Training as a mandatory core class for VSP's.
- Creating specific training for VSP's who want to become an Application Assistant.

- **DJJ Victim Notification (*Jan Nobles*):**

- Discussed concerns/conflicts that have been identified with statutes.
- Detailed several examples whereby these statutes are causing problems for victims of crime every day.
- We have a duty to revisit some of these statutes to try to clarify who has what role, who has what duty etc.
- VSCC members will form a committee to assist Jan in developing a plan of action toward rectifying these issues.



- **COUNCIL MEMBER UPDATES**

Sara Barber:

- Devoting a lot of effort around Federal funding.
- Working on the legalities of some out-of-scope requirements.
- Working with a consultant on a data project that will pull data on domestic and sexual violence from a multitude of agencies such as law enforcement, hospital systems, DSS and DCVC.
- Are in the beginning stages of a large awareness campaign for domestic violence statistics and resources that should roll out later part of summer.
- Working on the lethality assessment protocol with the Maryland Coalition. Kick-off meeting next week. Program will begin with Spartanburg City Police Department.
- Hotel program continues to be funded. So far in this federal fiscal year, they have provided over \$70,000 to their members and partners in support of this program.

Nataki Brown:

- Began meeting with stakeholders regarding the revising of the statutes. In addition, has reached out to Lisa Catalanotto, Prosecution Coordination Commission (PCC). The Commission will help and participate with the revision of the statutes.
- Will continue with the goal of meeting with Police Chiefs and Sheriff's to train about victims' rights.

Kassy Alia Ray:

- As other non-profits, they, too, have been impacted by federal budget cuts.
- Gearing up for a very busy summer with many events. These events provide good opportunity for displaying resources and developing awareness.
- Gaining momentum with the outreach program and resources to assist victims of crime who are Spanish speaking.
- Greg's Groceries program, planned for late July, is directed toward the Hispanic community.
- Would like to host a training for bilingual victim service providers and advocates.
- Continues to offer the Compassionate Acts program.

Jennifer Aplin for Lisa Catalanotto:

- Victim Advocate Core Training this year offering two entire series. They had one on May 16th, another on May 30th (virtual), and the third on June 13th for the total of 15 hours. Scheduled to do this again in August and September.



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Shannon Geary for Laura Hudson:

- Victims' Rights Week (VRW) was very successful. Dates for next year to be announced in June.
- 2026 VRW dates are anticipated for mid-March.
- Victims Matter Rally went great with three speakers and 16 exhibitors.
- Just completed the Fourth Annual Elder Justice Summit which was very impactful. Anticipate some positive action coming out of it in collaboration with the South Carolina Elder Justice Network.
- June is World Elder Abuse Awareness Day (middle of June). Details are available on SCVAN's website.
- In partnership with MUSC, and the Attorney General's Office, the Forensic Nurse Examiners Team launched the World SANE Program in Lancaster and Chester, S.C. area.
- SCVAN has formed some new partnerships, one being with S.C. Thrive. Continuing to expand efforts for new partners and resources to make available.
- Several staff are hoping to go through CISM Training to become CISM certified by this summer.

Samantha Hughes:

- No updates.

Ashley Olayinka:

- Adjusting to legislative changes that have impacted their budget for next fiscal year. Engaged in identifying other funding sources.
- Have filled all Bee Boxes (approximately 500) which are ready to be distributed. Bee Boxes are a resource tool kit for survivors.
- Planning has begun for their outreach initiative for men and boys of color who have been impacted by sexual assault or intimate partner violence.
- In the final phases of rolling out the grant that Benedict College has. The Hive is the partner agency with them for the campus grant. They will have an advocate who will be housed between both to provide services to the students on campus in addition to providing prevention and outreach. Anticipate the rollout for this to be available for students upon their return to campus this fall.

Salley Foster:

- Thanked Council members for their partnership. If there are any training opportunities in which the Sheriff's Association could assist with, please let her know.
- They have a great Board Room and Classroom that could be made available for training needs (good parking availability).



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Dean Kilpatrick:

- Unconfirmed, but hearing that the state's legislative budget committee has approved \$19 million for VOCA grants.
- Facing the same challenges as others as it relates to the adjustments over federal funding conditions.
- Will have, near the end of April, a new half-time senior executive employee at the National Crime Victims Research and Treatment Center (NCVRTC) (former OVC Director Kris Rose).

Karin Ho:

- The Department of Corrections is undergoing several transitions.
- Thanked Council members for their support.
- Concluded two sessions on Victim Offender Dialog Training. It is supported and funded by the National Institute for Corrections should members be interested in participating. In addition, they do another Corrections based training if anyone is interested. She encourages cross training.
- Will research some of the issues highlighted by Chief Hatcher as it relates to the Department of Corrections.

Missy Knight for Nettie Jacobs:

- No updates.

Joe Corey:

- No updates.

Thomas Knapp:

- Registration is open for the next Victim Services Provider Training scheduled for August 6-8, 2025. Details available on website.
- Several members have asked "What's the state's decision not to fund non-profit is going to do with the Children's Advocacy Center services?". In response, Thomas shared that they have lost their state funding (\$1.5 million) this year. Doing all they can to make sure this doesn't impact the wait time for services. Trying to shift some foundation and endowment funding over to CAC's.
- Data Project with the S.C. Department of Social Services (integration of their databases), is moving along. Hope to have the final phase of this done within the next few months.
- CAC Day was a great success. Thanked the Attorney General's Office and A.G. Wilson for hosting the Press Conference.



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Debbie Curtis:

- DCVC has increased allowable reimbursement on the HIV nPEP program, the SAP (Sexual Assault Protocol), the FIP, and on the Child Maltreatment Protocol. Increases go into effect July 1st.
- The turnover of the advocates in the field is high. To have a more impactful influence, will be going out more into the community to different events.

- **FUTURE MEETING DATE(S)**

Thursday November 20, 2025, 10:00a.m. – 12:00p.m.

- **ADJOURNMENT**

- Director Nelson moved for adjournment. Council members seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned.