



## 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

**John Dunn**  
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 Olayinka**  
The Hive Community Circle

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

## VSCC MEETING MINUTES

**Date:** Thursday, May 21, 2026

**Time:** 10:00 a.m.

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Ginger Dukes, Lisa Catalanotto, Jan Nobles, Nataki Brown, Trisha Allen, Dean Kilpatrick, Thomas Knapp, Missy Knight (Nettie Jacobs), Shannon Geary (Laura Hudson), Karin Ho, Ashley Olayinka, Kassy Alia Ray, Joe Corey, Dexter Boyd (Debbie Curtis), Sara Barber, John Dunn, Salley Foster

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

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Steve Yarborough, Christina Toler, Cyril Belton, Sheila Hoffman, Tabitha Marchant, Patrick Cable, Lauren Hamblin

## CALL TO ORDER

- Meeting was called to order by Deputy Director Ginger Dukes.

## ● APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- Minutes from the previous meeting (February 19, 2026) were reviewed and approved.

## ● BUSINESS

### Suggested Revisions for Statutes (Nataki Brown, Deputy Director)

- The Ad Hoc Statutory Review Committee's report is not quite complete. The committee is still reviewing some of the language to make certain that it is appropriate and adaptable to state statutes.
- An example she provided regarding issues slowing their work is their review of the definition of a victim.
- The committee's hope is to finalize the revisions and present them to the Council at the next meeting in August, so that the changes can be discussed and a plan to move forward adopted.



## **Annual Report/Basic Core Changes (Ginger Dukes, Deputy Director)**

- Ginger presented CVST's first Annual Report. It is a brief overview of what their department does and what they are required to provide.
- Requested that if any of the Council have suggestions they send them to her or the CVST staff. She also thanked Patrick Cable for his work on the report.
- She reported that they have manually logged into the system 27,691 hours of training over the past year.
- Working with Nataki, John, Debbie, SCCADVASA, and the Prosecution Coordination Commission, CVST has undertaken a revision to the Basic Core VSP Training that some are calling VSP 2.0. The training will still require 15 hours, but there is a significant change within those hours.
- Whereas two hours of training on Victims' Rights and Statutes has been the requirement, it is reduced to one, with a recommendation that the hour be added to specialized training on Criminal Justice & Court Procedures, rendering it five total hours, rather than four. Organizations may opt to still do two hours of training on Rights and Statutes if they wish.
- As an example of how this could benefit the training overall, she noted the usefulness of an Advocate Safety Training offered by Tammy Irwin. She also suggested additional emphasis on Restraining Orders and Orders of Protection.
- Nataki echoed Ginger's example, with confirmation from Christina that the single hour would be sufficient.
- The changes to the training hours required will take effect July 1.
- Ginger thanked Nataki and Debbie for their help with this.
- Tom asked for the sake of clarification whether the change in the Rights and Statutes time required was the only significant one. Ginger said that was correct.
- Ginger stated that there are no changes to the two hour Notifier Training.

## **• COUNCIL MEMBER UPDATES:**

### ***John Dunn:***

- The Solicitors' Conference will be held during the last week of September 27 - 30, slightly earlier than last year.

### ***Christina Toler:***



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- Christina reported that the ACP program is still going very well.

## ***Shannon Geary (Laura Hudson):***

- SCVAN has wrapped up the VRW Conference and has begun working on next year's 40<sup>th</sup> Annual VRW Conference which will be held in March 2027.
- Involved with the SC Elder Justice Network (SCEJN) and held their Elder Abuse Awareness Summit this week in Lake City. Sara Barber attended and presented. They hope to take their Elder Abuse Program state-wide, and are applying for a grant from the NIJ.
- She referred the members to other activities listed on their website through June.
- FNE Team developed a partnership with the Criminal Justice Academy and were given permission to record a training for law enforcement that was added to ACADIS.
- Over 4,000 law enforcement officers have been trained through ACADIS and there has been a tremendous increase in that number over the past few months.
- Law Enforcement is a focus this year. They have identified some service gaps, with some victims not receiving services at all from a Victim Advocate. They are reviewing supervisor roles in law enforcement positions to better determine what those roles entail.
- Ginger inquired about areas they may have found more need; Shannon responded that since they have been told by victims that some are not getting calls from Advocates, they are trying to determine who is and who's not utilizing Victim Advocates throughout the state. She said that Nicole has the most contact with law enforcement and Ginger suggested that she might consider working on this matter with them at the LEVA Conference.
- The LEVA Committee is looking at their program for the conference, and there is speculation that some individuals may have been moved into victim service roles without having a victim service background.
- Ginger noted that their Leadership Class had identified Supervisors as being an issue, and their having had nothing to do with victim services and being unfamiliar with what the Advocates do. Shannon added that they are developing a leadership training for their staff, with the thinking that leadership should be at all levels.



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## ***Sara Barber:***

- Sara passed around cards with QR codes linked to their Annual Report and informed the group that they had provided 12,073 hours of training and provided legal services to 436 survivors. They have also delivered 142 trainings.
- On March 5<sup>th</sup> they had their first Joint Advocacy Day with SCVAN with 12 exhibitors. Also had bipartisan recognition for Victim Advocates from both chambers.
- Senate Bill 143, which would expand Orders of Protection eligibility to victims of dating violence was passed out of Senate Judiciary last February 2025 and has remained on the Contested Calendar there since.
- House Bill 3569 passed and provides limited relief for victims of domestic violence who have signed a lease to be released without penalty. SCCADVASA hopes to get that protection expanded to other victims as well.
- Senate Bill 702, Senator Goldfinch's Coercive Control Bill did receive a subcommittee hearing, but it is a huge bill that needs more study and would completely change the way the state codifies domestic violence.
- SCCADVASA has just applied for their third year of Allstate Foundation funding, which provides money to give flexible assistance to providers of domestic violence. Over the past two years they have received over \$60,000, which they have gone through that in about two weeks working with different programs to purchase different necessities.
- She is currently working on a grant for restorative practices with older adults or their care takers who have experienced domestic or sexual violence. This is commensurate with their work on the Elder Justice Network.
- Working on implementing a Lethality Assessment Protocol, which is a program where responding officers talk with survivors on scene and try and connect them with a community level Advocate to talk about safety planning or the potential for other services. Working now with the cities of Spartanburg and Marion, in hopes of pushing the program out to others.
- Two training webinars coming up, one on Sextortion in the Digital Age, on June 26, and on July 17 they have a webinar called "Seeing the Warning Signs", Domestic Violence Histories and Mass Shootings, by Dr. Allen Kennedy from Prisma Health.

## ***Ashley Olayinka:***

- On January 19<sup>th</sup> they had their ribbon cutting of Casita of Care (*casita = little house in English*), a community pantry for individuals that have been impacted by sexual assault or intimate partner violence.



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- Casita of Care is similar to a “she shed” that contains hygiene items, household cleaning items and other care kits. Casita of Care is open on Thursdays and by scheduling a visit by emailing [monique@thehivecc.org](mailto:monique@thehivecc.org). They hope to add Saturday to its availability.
- Casita of Care was completed by a community member and her husband who have a construction company called We Love Construction, along with 30 other business owners to renovate this “she shed” that was donated by Stanley Martin. Samantha, the spouse, lost her best friend Breanna in December 2025. They have crochet and painting kits available for survivor families, coloring kits for children, etc.
- Aim is to create a one-stop-shop so that victims don’t have to go to multiple providers for services.
- June 23<sup>rd</sup> they are planning to have a virtual panel, “Speak Up and Speak Out”. It is being held as a result of an increase in black femicide nationally.
- In July they are partnering with another non-profit called Girl Get Up Society, which provides free mental health services to women and girls, hosting a Community Circle called Bees and Boundaries. This circle will teach young girls about what boundaries are, why they’re important, and how to establish them. The original circle was launched in April at All Good Books.
- The Hive is holding community circles and using Plant Therapy to help teach and promote healthy relationships and the importance of boundaries. They are trying to destigmatize conversations about sexual assault and IPV among black women. These circles are held quarterly, and information about them is on the Hive’s website.
- Sara asked if the Community Circles were for everyone. Ashley said that they were. Karin also asked where information about them can be found. Ashley pointed to their website, Instagram, and other social media. Prospective attendees can register on the website prior to the date of the Circle.

## ***Trisha Allen:***

- Trisha thanked SCVAN for looking into the services that are being provided on the front end of the victim services progression, because they receive cases where the victims may not have known of the services being offered, or during the trauma of the event, may have forgotten that the services are available to them. The victim may then apply with DCVC later – past the 180 day application deadline, because of a latent realization that they need services, or the fact that they were just unaware that the services are available. She specifically mentioned her office’s handling of ICAC cases where the review of digital evidence may take a long time, making late applications a common occurrence.
- She mentioned that minors especially may only realize well after the crime that they need services.
- Referred council members to SCAG’s website for a soon to be released significant opinion regarding the Sexually Violent Predator Program. She is unable to disclose it at this time, but thinks it will be significant.



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***Joe Corey (Deputy Director):***

- DCVAG received a record number of applications for grant funding – over 160 applications. Currently reviewing them.
- OVC has not yet provided the final VOCA or VAWA amounts for South Carolina. These are usually received around May.
- DCVAG is trying to come up with a funding plan for the coming grant year. Once the plan is established, their recommendations will be presented to the Public Safety Coordinating Council in August.
- The grant award program was audited by OVC recently, resulting only in a recommendation for a single policy development.
- Sara noted that the federal grant landscape is in disarray and asked Joe if DCVAG had applied for funding yet. He said that there was no application available yet. She also mentioned to the Council members that some DOJ projects from October, due to be released in January, had not been yet. She stressed to the body that many organizations are facing a funding cliff. Joe underscored that by reminding the group that DCVAG did not receive notification from VOCA for the current grant year's funding until July 25 of last year.

***Dexter Boyd (Debbie Curtis, Deputy Director):***

- DCVC expects to go live in late fall with the new Claims Management System.
- Some new features include the ability to submit applications, invoices, bills, and other documents through the portal itself.
- The system will provide online portals for victims, advocates, and providers; as well as a portal for the submission of SAP/CAP and HIV nPEP claims. All internal and external users will be able to create their own accounts, track submissions, view payment statuses, and communicate with staff through the portal.
- Before going live, DCVC staff will conduct workshops around the state and offer live webinars to showcase what to expect in the new system. Workshops are tentatively planned for August and September.
- DCVC has partnered with Walgreens Pharmacy to ensure after-hours access to HIV medications when hospital pharmacy services are unavailable.

***Missy Knight (Nettie Jacobs):*** No updates.



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## ***Karin Ho:***

- Karin commented in general about the challenges of working in the post-conviction world.
- SCDC has three staff performing notifications with some others trying to help, whereas they should have sixteen, but are not able to hire.
- The National Association of Victim Assistance in Corrections (NAVAC) is hosting their annual conference in Savannah where Captain Robert Johnson will be a keynote speaker. The conference is scheduled for the week of June 8<sup>th</sup>. She talked about Captain Johnson's background and dedication, and said he is an inspiring speaker. She recommended that members avail themselves of the opportunity to hear him if possible.
- In a recent single unit shakedown, over 100 cell phones were seized. She also said that drone drops are regular occurrences. Some can be operated from four miles away and can carry up to forty pounds.
- Through the National Institute of Corrections, they will be hosting the next Victim Offender Dialog Training, which is free. There is some federal funding ambiguity about this conference, with approval coming less than a month prior to the conference's beginning. The basic class is in June and the advanced, a class specifically on Sexual Assault, is in July.
- Karin told the members that she and Sherry are both available by email for specific questions.
- Missy brought up frequent difficulty in getting information from solicitors' offices, which led to further discussion about the importance of victims registering as such with the Department of Corrections. She mentioned, too, that protecting victim information is often a challenge.

## ***Thomas Knapp:***

- The Seaside Symposium on Child Abuse is May 26-29 in Myrtle Beach, with 450 registrants right now. They accept walk-ins and you can still register online. Seven other states, aside from S.C. and N.C., are sending participants, so it is evolving into a regional conference.
- SCNCAC is working on a project to replicate a low country endeavor on Human Trafficking and Criminal Sexual Exploitation of Children (CSEC), where they have specialized multidisciplinary teams at both the Key Phillips CAC and Dee Norton CAC. These specialized teams work with children that have been victims of human trafficking.
- They were recently awarded an endowment grant just last week for a five-year project that will allow them to open up three more of those CSEC-specialized MDTs embedded in Children's Advocacy Centers. They are also working with the Human Trafficking Task Force on this initiative.
- The next initial Victim Service Provider Training is August 11-13 in Columbia. These training courses can earn 24 credit hours. It is open to all who want to attend.
- CAC Day was a great success. Tom offered thanks to the Office of the Attorney General and Attorney General Wilson for hosting the press conference on April 1<sup>st</sup>. The event was livestreamed on social media sites.
- SCNCAC's live data project has been successful. Using AI, they are posting updates for their work.
- So far this year, CACs have served 7,826 children and the total number served in 2025 was 14,184. Additionally, they have responded to 2,628 technical assistance requests received through their website.



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Last year's number was 3,280, so there has been an uptick in these requests. Technical assistance requests can be legal, training, administrative, or personnel in nature.

- They have provided 1,476 Continuing Education hours as well.
- If you click on any of the data blocks displayed on their site, the data shown are live, it will give you a break down on the information.
- Tom added that he believes that the data available is useful to legislators and that it may help with state funding issues.

## ***Salley Foster:***

- She will send her updates via letter to the Council. She thanked Nataki for the statutory updates that she provided.

## ***Lisa Catalanatto:***

- Lisa thanked Nataki for guiding the Statutory Review Committee. Their office is currently preparing for the Solicitors' Annual Conference on September 27-30, 2026.

## ***Dean Kilpatrick:***

- The National Mass Violence Center is in its ninth year, and provided an RFP is issued, they plan to submit an application for competitive renewal.
- Announced the National Crime Victims Research Treatment Center of MUSC will be celebrating its 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary next year in April and they are planning a variety of events and trainings between now and then.

## ***Kassy Alia Ray:***

- Kassy noted that Peace Officer Memorial Day was last week, and mentioned to Shannon that she hopes there may be upcoming training opportunities regarding law enforcement line of duty deaths.
- She said she believes there was a bill passed designating First Responders as Gold Shield Families. Over time, she hopes to help mobilize some additional support. Sally confirmed this to the group, pointing out that there are victims on both sides of the gun in situations where there is a victim in which law enforcement come to help, they then can also become a victim.



- Since handling turnover and filling shifts is a problem for some law enforcement agencies, one of their agency's goals is to ensure that resources are provided to individuals who need them. She gave the example of someone making a food delivery to an officer or their family, and having an individual who may have been a victim disclose other needs.
- She reminded the members that Greg's Place on Decker Blvd. is up and operational providing space to any interested partners.
- They are hosting an anonymous gun drop-off with Julian's Justice.
- Continuing Uplift Lexington Network focusing on mental health, geared toward support of mid-level or front-line staff with the next partnership meeting on June 10<sup>th</sup>.

## ***Jan Noble:***

- Thanked Nataki for her assistance provided pursuant to the Statutory Review Committee's work. She also echoed Karin's comments and concerns about the post-conviction services landscape.
- Jan plans to attend the NAVAC Conference on June 8<sup>th</sup>.
- One of their employees will be going to the Victim Offender Dialog Training in Colorado. Jan said they will be getting that program running at DJJ.
- Jan had a suggestion pertaining to the statutes. She recommends that if you have an advocate who is switching from a LEVA to a Solicitor Advocate or post-conviction or anywhere within the system that it be highly recommended that they take the trainings specifically to their new position, because there is a difference and their advocacy is different depending on the agency that their working with.

## ***Ginger Dukes (BJ Nelson):***

- Ginger introduced three additional attendees to the Council members: Tabitha Marchant, Patrick Cable, and Lauren Hamblin, the current CVST Intern.
- Tricia Allen added that she had not previously mentioned the recently passed ICAC statute that enhances the penalty for CSAM. She urged the members to visit the website to review the information and to follow how it plays out in the courtroom.



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- Ginger informed the Council that she will be retiring June 30.
- Ginger provided the future meeting dates shown below

- **FUTURE MEETING DATE(S)**

Thursday, August 20, 2026, 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Thursday, November 19, 2026, 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

- **ADJOURNMENT**

- Deputy Director Ginger Dukes moved for adjournment. Council members seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned.