



Meeting Minutes

Thursday, November 21, 2024 | 10:00 a.m.

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

Veronica Swain Kunz
SC Department of Crime Victim
Ombudsman, Crime Victim
Services Division, Office of the
Attorney General

Salley Foster
SC Sheriffs' Association

Nataki Brown
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'

MEMBERS PRESENT: Barbara Jean Nelson, Debbie Curtis, Ginger Dukes, Sara Barber, Thomas Knapp, Dean Kilpatrick, Nataki Brown, Trisha Allen, Jan Nobles, Veronica Swain-Kunz, Kassy Alia Ray, Shannon Geary (Laura Hudson), Chio Nunez (Ashley Olayinka), Missy Knight (Nettie Jacobs), Billy House (Joe Corey), Jennifer Aplin (Lisa Catalanotto)

MEMBERS ABSENT: Chief John Hicks Jr., Jada Charley, Chief Dana Crowell, Joe Corey, Tressa Dixon, Salley Foster, Karin Ho

OTHERS PRESENT: Steve Yarborough, Patrick Cable, Sheila Hoffman, Christina Toler, Cyril Belton

I. Call to Order

Today's meeting was called to order by Director Nelson

II. Approval of Minutes

Director Nelson asked the members for any discussion of the minutes from August 22, 2024 meeting. Sara Barber, requested the reference to \$6,500 be corrected to reflect "\$65,000". She also requested a correction that the grant from Allstate is for survivors of "domestic" and sexual violence. Thomas Knapp asked for correction to the statement "Victim Services Provider Training". With the inclusion of these corrections, the minutes were accepted and approved by members of the Council.

III. Business

Leadership Program & Non-Compliance Policy: Ginger Dukes announced being able to have a leadership program for victim service providers in the state of South Carolina. Ginger spoke with OVC and they were able to give them a grant to do this training. She stated that they will be having consultants from around the country to work with them and they will be leading the training. She shared they reached out to different state agencies, law enforcement, non-profits, solicitors and asked them to make a recommendation for someone that they felt would qualify based on their qualifications. Ginger stated they received about 40 entries, and they are recommending 29 victim service providers to be in their first class. She said they were sending letters out today and their first meet and greet will be in December where everybody can come and have an opportunity to get to know each other. Some of the classes are going to be virtual and they are going to have a three-day class in March. The classes are going to begin in January and carry through the month of July, similar to that of CPM. Ginger also mentioned that they have been working on a noncompliance policy and this policy is going to set forth how noncompliant VSPs will be reviewed for sanction. She stated that they might have certified VSPs that might be noncompliant, and they have some that applied to become a VSP and failed to complete the basic. Although, they may still be out there in those agencies. In the beginning of January 2025, one of the things they intend to do is reach out to all of those that they believe are noncompliant based on their system. This will be based on the people turning in the hours that they take and the agencies turning in the hours in terms of training. They are trying to set forth some sanctions if they don't turn in those hours. For example, if you're noncompliant within a two-year period, they will have you to take an additional period of hours on top of the twelve hours you are required to take every year. Right now they are looking at different classes that they intend to do like



Victim Services Coordinating Council

Ethics and Time Management. They are up for suggestions, from the Board, about other topics that are appropriate. Ginger said they want to put this on their website for better information. She mentioned that in January they will be sending out notifications to the executive directors of all the nonprofits and solicitors' offices to request updated lists of those that are employed. She said they are working really hard to make sure that those that are compliant remain compliant and those that aren't, they work towards being compliant and what sanctions can occur if they are not. If they find someone who is noncompliant, they will notify them, and a notice will also go to their director. Trisha asked if emails can be sent to the different agencies to give a balance of their training hours. BJ stated that the training department tries to notify those at the end of the year of their balances, but they only have two people in that department to give those notices. Veronica suggested they may be able to pull information in the system, make it a PDF and post it twice a year. That information would comprise of the agency names, VSP numbers (whether they work there or not), and hours and they can only use the VSP numbers and no names. Thomas Knapp said, at some point people have to be held accountable for their own certification hours. He said that CVST can do the best that they can, but ultimately it all comes down to that person and if they don't know they should be giving them a call inquiring about their status. Ginger agreed that it would be nice if they could keep track of their trainings, and most do, but sometimes they may forget to turn in some of their training hours.

Strategic Plan Presentation: Steve Yarborough thanked several members of the Council for their assistance with the data that was collected leading up to this presentation. A copy of this presentation is attached along with the minutes. During his presentation, Steve pointed out the fact during Focus Group meetings, Debbie, Patrick and himself were not permitted in the same room. The NCJA suggested this so that they would not have any bearing on any of the discussions they may have had. Following the presentation BJ asked the Council if they wanted to take a vote on what was presented or would they like to wait and come back after further thought. Thomas asked what would be the timeline for how quickly do you want to proceed, because February is a long time to wait. BJ said that she did not want to prolong this decision. She explained that we have gone out into the community, and we've identified possible gaps and what is needed. A lot of work went into this, and she'd like to see some action take place. She agreed that this was a lot to take in. Dean Kilpatrick responded that it's very comprehensive and thoughtful. He thinks that it is also general, and he would have no problem voting today on the general plan, but more importantly is the specifics under each of them. For example, if we are going to have in-person meetings, how many, when do we start, who are all going to be involved. He feels in terms of a strategic plan it's good because it gives us general outlines of where we're going to go. He further commented on how we are going to implement the plan with more specifics. Thomas commented that in his experience using a strategic plan dashboard on how we accomplish these individual details is beneficial. He further commented he would overall approve with a strategic plan dashboard to figure out what those details are. BJ made a motion to approve the plan, with the authority to start working with the standing committee. It was so moved, and seconded by members of the Council. Kassy Alia Ray suggested that the data that was shared could be put into a fact sheet and could be helpful. She complimented those that worked on this strategic plan process with all the hard work that went into it. Veronica supported Kassy with the Council approaching county municipalities, inform them about what they do and even with the services available and the impact of the funding.

IV. Council Member Updates



SOUTH CAROLINA

Victim Services Coordinating Council

Christina Toler (non-member attendee) is with the Confidentiality Program and shared their membership with the National Association Confidential Address Program is pending. They have plenty of resources that she may take advantage of. She had a meeting with one of the members who runs the DC program. A lot of information was gleaned from this meeting. She mentioned that she will probably be meeting with Council members, individually, in the near future. She said they are in the initial development phase. Once they have made some progress she will be doing outreach with the members of the Council with more information on how the program works. Christina announced the program is going to be a part of Core Training, earning VSP hours. Sara asked if this will be an additional requirement with core training. Ginger responded they would like to add it as an additional requirement, because that's the only way they will get others to learn about the program. This will be an additional hour upon approval.

Nataki Brown spoke about the experience of attending the DCVC training in Aiken, SC in October and commented that it was an enlightening refresher for seasoned advocates to receive updated information. She has since been sharing the word and commended the Strategic Planning Committee for offering this much-needed training. She also mentioned training for senior advocates. She's looking forward to information being forwarded to them about the Leadership Program to come. Nataki mentioned that she reached out to their President to see if there was anything globally pertaining to victim services and their solicitor advocates. The feedback was that they have the last series of part three of basic training. Nataki announced that they have a Full Time Victim Advocate position open with Domestic Violence experience. For any candidates that are interested please have them submit their resume', expressing interest and that information can be forwarded to her personally via email.

Billy House (Joe Corey) mentioned that the grant award contracts were sent out in October and the awards have been activated. They are looking to hold their 2025 grant solicitation workshop in February. Funding picture for 2025 is still unclear and they still have some settlements that are hung up in Washington. They should have more information pertaining to future funding within a month or two. They will be asking the legislature for funding again next year. Discussion was had by members over the interest of making this funding recurring.

Ginger Dukes encourages people if they're doing a training and it's good for victim advocates to know about, please do an accreditation to the CVST. She feels that there is a lot of training going on out there that people are not aware of. She further encourages agencies to reach out to them so they can accredit it and people can get hours. She said they have a lot of trainings on their website, and they have links, such as SCCADVASA and SCVAN, that people would have access to.

Patrick Cable (non-member) said that he will be working on that fact sheet that was strongly suggested.

Jennifer Aplin stated their agency would be happy to help in getting the word out about trainings and identifying topics of interest. Their agency sends out a weekly alert that could be useful if anyone is interested.



SOUTH CAROLINA

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Dean Kilpatrick commented on the discussion about General Assembly by asking the question, “What would it exactly cost if the state had to come up with everything to implement the constitutionally mandated services and compliance with the victim rights that our state mandates?” He feels like that would be a high number. He said if the General Assembly could just understand that this is a state obligation. He asked “How they would feel if the state had to pick up the whole tab?”

Shannon Geary (Laura Hudson) announced that registration for VRW opened yesterday. Three options are being offered: virtual only; In-person only; and both. She stated that the training courses are different. There are a couple of training courses that overlap into very few, but you are going to get a completely separate set of training at both, so they have a number of people registered for both, which is great. They are trying to bring in as many partners as possible with currently 90% of the schedule is full, at this point. They will release more details in December. She also announced that they awarded the 14th Circuit Victim Services Center as a safe designation as a level two designation and that happened in October. Their staff have been doing a lot of outreach at different events and wrapping up Domestic Violence Awareness month in October.

Veronica Swain-Kunz mentioned that CVO’s caseload increased by 39% this year and 26% the year prior. Last year 22% of victims’ complaints about victims’ rights violations were founded (true), which is the highest number of violations since the program began tracking data. CVO’s goal will be to meet all new Chiefs of Police and Sheriffs to train them about victims’ rights in the upcoming year. Veronica discussed the establishment of South Carolina’s Address Confidentiality Program in the Crime Victim Services Division under the Crime Victim Ombudsman Department. Christina Toler was selected to develop the program, which should be launched within the year.

Trisha Allen had no updates.

Thomas Knapp spoke on the 2nd Annual Symposium on Child Abuse in Myrtle Beach, from May 27-30, 2025. Registration will open early December. Last meeting he reported that they were forming an advisory group to help develop some professional accreditation standards for Children’s Advocacy Centers in SC. They did have 70 professionals to sign up to serve in that advisory group. Thomas also mentioned that they have an agreement with VOICE, which is an interpreter service that provides service for 240 languages and they just expanded that to all of their CAC’s. This service costs anywhere from \$600-\$1500 a month, depending on how often their CAC’s use it. He mentioned that the languages were primarily Spanish, but nine times they provided interpreter services for K’iche’, which he believes is a Spanish dialect. He stated that the average time when requesting assistance was on average 26 seconds. The average length of these calls were about 27 minutes. He said that this service works well for them and can be located on their website.

Chio Nunez (Ashley Olayinka) shared that they provide several interpreting services as well, even to include interpreting for someone from Egypt. She also expressed her willingness to volunteer her services where needed with the Council.



Debbie Curtis announced that there will be another Basic Core training scheduled for February 20, 2025 in Florence, SC at the Central United Methodist Church from 8:30am-4pm. Debbie encourages the more seasoned advocates to attend these trainings because the rules/processes change. She also mentioned that their HIV nPEP Program is close to being an official partner with Greenville Hospital Systems and several Rape Crisis Centers in Greenville and surrounding areas. In response to the surveys given in the trainings, there was interest in having one on one, step by step training. They will start with a live webinar on lost wages, on January 30th. Participants will be able to earn credit hours for that. Debbie also mentioned the TeleSANE Program with McLeod/Cheraw is up and running, but nothing much to report on that. There is a TeleSANE Program that is set up here that you can communicate with virtually, with the Council's permission. It is a pilot program at this point. Debbie mentioned there is no update on the VOCA Rule at this time.

V. Next Meeting Dates:

Thursday, February 20, 2025	10:00am – 12:00pm
Thursday, May 22, 2025	10:00am – 12:00pm
Thursday, August 21, 2025	10:00am - 12:00pm
Thursday, November 20, 2025	10:00am – 12:00pm

VI. Adjournment: Director Nelson moved for adjournment. Council members seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned.