



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

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 Sonny Ledda
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'

Meeting Minutes

Thursday, May 23, 2024 | 10:00 a.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Barbara Jean (BJ) Nelson, Debbie Curtis, Lisa Catalanotto, Sherri Rhodes (Karin Ho), Salley Foster, Tressa Dixon, Sara Barber, Marcia (Jan) Nobles, Trisha Allen, Joe Corey, Dean Kilpatrick, Shannon Geary (Laura Hudson), Thomas Knapp, Ginger Dukes, Ashley Olayinka, Kassy Alia Ray, Katie Allgood (Nettie Jacobs), Christina Toler (Veronica Swain Kunz)

MEMBERS ABSENT: Nataki Brown, Chief Sonny Ledda, Jada Charley, Ashley Thomas, Chief John Hicks, Jr., Nettie Jacobs, Karin Ho, Veronica Swain Kunz, Rhonda Holman, Laura Hudson

OTHERS PRESENT: Steve Yarborough, Patrick Cable, Bonnie Brooks, Jenifer Aplin, Sheila Hoffman, Alexis Cooney (NCJA), Cyril Belton

I. Call to Order

Today's meeting was called to order by Director Nelson.

II. Approval of Minutes

Director Nelson asked members for any discussion of the Minutes from the February 22, 2024, meeting. No changes were recommended. The minutes were accepted as prepared and approved by members of the Council.

III. Business

Needs Assessment Survey Update: Steve Yarborough and Patrick Cable gave a Power Point presentation of the VSCC 2024 Survey results. Patrick reminded the Council that the Survey went live on February 14, 2024 and would be open until March 22, 2024. Contacts for the survey were from the VSCC database. The Survey went out to more than 3,125 contacts via email, 1,565 of those emails were opened, 424 of those emails were respondents and 246 of those emails were completed responses. Steve did mention during this presentation that the Council will be receiving this presentation in an email. Steve encouraged the Council to take this information, review it to see how this information can be used at their own agencies and also used as a Council. He reminded the Council members that it is up to them as to how they use this information. BJ commented that she appreciates Steve and Patrick for all of the information that was presented, the time that was put into this research and all of the training that is going to come out of this. Dean shared that he wouldn't be too concerned about the low response rate. He stated there is an overall decline in response to surveys. Dean emphasized it was a strong survey and gave some good ideas. Was especially great to have input from victims!



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Steve relayed that they made a decision as a work group to focus, at least for now, on providers. The logistics of trying to do providers and the victims at the same time, and keeping the data separated and compiled appropriately was too complicated. The focus is now on providers, but responses from victims were very interesting.

Proposed VOCA Rule: Debbie mentioned that when VOCA funding comes into South Carolina, it comes through Joe's office or her office. In recent months OVC sent out a proposed VOCA Rule that are changes to the conditions of the Grant. Debbie stated that she has some concerns with a couple of suggested changes in the VOCA Rule if they pass as is, because we have a Statute that is in contradiction to what they are proposing. One of the concerns is that we would have to pay people who's status is incarcerated, on probation or on parole. Statute (16-3-1200) states we do not pay compensation to those people that are incarcerated. If the VOCA Rule passes as is, we will need to discuss this further. Debbie reminded the Council that opportunity for commentary on this proposed VOCA Rule closed April 5, 2024. We are waiting for the final decision. Dean explained his understanding of how the process works. Should these proposed conditions be adopted, this could be a real problem for us. The final Rule will have the full force of the law.

IV. Council Member Updates

Kassy Alia Ray mentioned that they will be moving forward with hiring or contracting out for credible messengers in North Columbia. This will be an important part of their ability to provide support as it relates to gun violence. Kassy also thanked Sara Barber for her support as a partner in many ways for their Compassionate Acts program as well as other ways. Kassy also mentioned speaking with Sara and Leah about trainings and that she's not only thinking about victims advocate trainings, but she can say for those that are not always direct responders to victims of crime be at best a support system and further the positive progress forward to support victims. Kassy spoke on first responders' education in police departments as to advocates, who to reach out to for domestic violence situations and how to better educate them in those situations. Kassy, speaking through the lens of a victim, appreciates the information Patrick and Steve delivered during their presentation. She thinks about having better coordination among victim advocates when speaking with surviving family members of crime victims. She is suggesting a clear description of expectations in the process of assisting victims.



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Christina Toler announced the hiring of a new employee that started a month ago. She also mentioned that Veronica ran the stats from the same time period of 2023. The calls for assistance are up 175.

Trisha Allen mentioned that COVID has backed everything up with court in her area.

Sara Barber mentioned that they are revamping their VSP curriculum for online training. Their expected launch date is next May. They had a summit where they discussed overhauling the Domestic Abuse Act. On June 21st they sponsored training on cyber intimate partner abuse. Sara was invited to DC to attend a discussion on U.S. gender based policy. She also mentioned U.S. House Bill HR8061 which provides stability for the VOCA fund. Sara spoke about a Lethality Assessment Protocol app for use by law enforcement.

Sally Foster shared a story regarding an SRO's commitment to serving by learning every Hispanic child's name. Very impressive SRO. She also offered having her legal staff take a look at the VOCA matter.

Debbie Curtis had no additional information.

Thomas Knapp mentioned that they had their first annual Child Abuse Symposium in Myrtle Beach the last week of April with 450 people to attend, which was a good turnout for the first event. They are already planning next year's event. He thanked the staff with CVS for assisting with the VSP credit applications. He also mentioned that they received some foundation and endowment support for a five year grant project to develop a five year quality improvement program for children's services across South Carolina. It will involve establishing South Carolina accreditation standards that enhance the national standards, which are reviewed every five years by the national body. This endowment support will allow them to hire four new full time staff members at their network. He mentioned that they will be hiring an Improvement Coordinator, Program Coordinator, a Database Specialist and someone in the DSS integration. He further mentioned that they need a General Counsel to help lead the support for their children at centers. The job postings will be on their website, so if we know anyone who is interested please direct them to the website.

Dean Kilpatrick stated that if the General Assembly does not come close to what the Attorney General requested it is going to be a catastrophe for crime victims. He stated that the funding has gone from 50 million dollars in 2000, to the amount expected this year of 12 million dollars. He said what happens on October 1 of this year is dependent on what the General Assembly does. If the Legislature approves the full amount requested by the Attorney General, things will be roughly the same with a little bit of cut that could probably be dealt with. If they do not then it's going to be a catastrophe. BJ stated that the Attorney General asked for 15 million from the House and Senate and the House said 3 million, the Senate said 5 million.



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Joe Corey stated that we're going to get 12 million from the OVC which is a 40% cut from 2023 when we had 21 million. He mentioned that we have 4 million in state funding that we got two years ago that we held back. He said that the strategy is to put almost everything we have to projects. His thinking is if not now when. Joe stated they are looking at reverted funding that was spent in previous years. He said that they are looking at a two-tier cut if they have to, if we don't get the full 15 million. He further said that they will look at what agencies have reverted in the previous years and are still tweaking their formula to see how to deal with that. BJ asked, "and if we get 3 million?" Joe responded that if we get 3 million the cut to subrecipients could be 25-30% and if we get 5 million it would be a little closer to 20% and these are merely estimates. Dean commented that there is no way to do that without drastically cutting employees. Joe agreed with Dean saying that about a little over 90% of our grants are personnel. Joe said that we fund 711 positions and a 20% cut could be 142 positions. Joe stated that they would work on Trisha's idea of giving a breakdown full-time, part-time positions and break it out by types: law enforcement, private, nonprofit, and state agencies, and get back with the Council on his findings. Dean announced that the Mass Violence Center is holding a virtual summit on Mass Violence which will be happening on June 17, 2024. It is free with more than 1,300 people signed up for it.

Sherri Rhodes mentioned that they noticed court picking up from victim notifications and that they are working on their battery intervention programs going into two of their institutions. She mentioned that Karen was training more of their peers, because it seems like every day they're getting more notifications of assaults on their staff and a lot of inmate on inmate crime within the institutions. She also mentioned that they need more help, but cannot hire. They are down three staff members. Sherri announced the Victim Offender Dialogue Training with Katie and herself is being conducted over the summer. She also announced the Facilitator Trainings that are coming up as nationally based Trainings, so she'll be going to Colorado to do that training. The National Corrections training in Arizona will be held in June.

Ginger Dukes introduced Antonia Maloney, an intern that will be working with the Training Department all summer and possibly in the fall from USC. She announced that they will be having a Basic Core class on October 8-10, 2024 which is going to be live and in-person. Ginger mentioned that she and Debbie have been going out to a lot of agencies and nonprofits and informing them of what we do. Doing all they can to get more people to become more compliant with their hours.

Katie Allgood had no information to share.

Shannon Geary mentioned the wrap-up with VRW with 260 credits for 263 individuals with an overall successful conference. Shannon announced that June is World Elder Abuse Awareness month with three of them sitting on that Task Force from the agency. They are involved in activities all month which is posted on their website. SCVAN is going to be sponsoring a Peer to Peer Training on June 21st where they'll have a day broken out where they have environmental indicators of abuse, neglect and exploitation, understanding behavioral healthcare within elder abuse and prevention strategies. That training will be in Greer. Shannon also mentioned that they have some faith based round-tables scheduled. FNE is doing several Safe Designation training in the next few months. Their Financial Relief account for victims has already spent about 80% of their budget. They're going through their third round of cutting spending limits to try to get through the last quarter. They are also trying to anticipate the VOCA cuts coming up in the next few months.



Jennifer Aplin relayed information from Lisa stating that they have a Victim Advocate Core Training Part One scheduled for June 7th in the Blatt Building from 8:30am-5pm as an in-person training. They will split the training into three parts this year since we went back to in-person. The only part that will be on Zoom will be held later in the summer in August or September. They have a tentative date for the third in-person training on December 6th. A Victim Advocate track at their annual conference to be held October 13-16 at Myrtle Beach and they also will have multiple sessions during the main track that counts as VSP credits.

V. Next Meeting Date(s)

Thursday, August 22, 2024	10:00 – 12:00 p.m.
Thursday, November 21, 2024	10:00 – 12:00 p.m.

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