



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, February 19, 2026

Time: 10:00 a.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Barbara Jean (BJ) Nelson, Debbie Curtis, Lisa Catalanotto, Jan Nobles, Nataki Brown, Trisha Allen, Dean Kilpatrick, Thomas Knapp, Missy Knight (Nettie Jacobs), Shannon Geary (Laura Hudson), Karin Ho, Kassy Alia Ray, Billy House (Joe Corey)

MEMBERS ABSENT: Tressa Dixon, Chief John C. Hicks, Jr., Ashley Olayinka, Jada Charley, Chief Dana Crowell, Sara Barber, John Dunn, Ginger Dukes

OTHERS PRESENT: Steve Yarborough, Christina Toler, Cyril Belton, Sheila Hoffman, Bonnie Brooks, Jennifer Aplin

• **CALL TO ORDER**

- Meeting was called to order by Director Barbara Jean "BJ" Nelson.

• **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

- Minutes from the previous meeting (November 20, 2025) were reviewed and approved.
- BJ Nelson announced that Steve Yarborough has assumed a new role and that one of his new duties was to serve as an asset to the Council.
- Steve acknowledged this and announced his availability to the Council. He later handed out updated business cards.

• **BUSINESS**

VSCC By-Laws (Debbie Curtis, Deputy Director)

- A recent review found that the By-Laws have not been reviewed or updated since at least 2017.
- Debbie offered the proposed updates to the By-Laws to the members. The changes had been sent to the members along with a reminder e mail about the meeting on February 4, 2026. A copy was also provided at the meeting.
- The proposed changes were offered as a remedy to some misalignments with the current statute, SC Code 16-3-1430.



- Debbie also asked the members to submit any additional input that they might have to Steve for discussion at the next meeting.
- Nataki raised a question about the mention of three Deputy Directors in the proposed revision and Debbie responded that the wording was consistent with the statute. BJ Nelson suggested that this might be an issue worth raising with Matt.
- Copies of the By-Laws were passed on to the Council members.

Address Confidentiality Program Update (Christina Toler, ACP Lead)

- The program has been busy and has now enrolled 15 Primary participant addresses located in 5 counties, soon to be 6. Among these 15 households, they have 32 total documented individuals with the program.
- The addition of a Primary Participant creates an Apartment Number because all Primary Participants and their household members will share an address of 1205 Pendleton Street. Each participant and the individuals residing with them share the same Apartment Number.
- These individuals are household members who have also enrolled in ACP, as well as individuals who have acknowledged by signature that they have a participant living at their residence, but they are not themselves enrolled participants.
- Every County with a participant has established procedures with ACP to identify the tax district without sharing their confidential address with the County.
- There has been further success with DMV, including procedures for participants to visit their local DMV branch to get a driver's license instead of having to go to the headquarters in Blythewood.
- Continued success receiving, repackaging, and forwarding all mail, with improvements to decrease mailing delays.
- Plans for a Spring ACP Application Assistant Training push. Christina asked the members to please let her know if they are aware of anyone who might be interested in the program.
- ACP seeks to expand their informational trainings. For example, they gave a presentation at the Department of Revenue's annual conference.
- The Dept. of Revenue expressed interest in having ACP speak to other groups/associations who otherwise have limited victim services experience.
- Collaborating with the Criminal Justice Academy and County officials as they begin to implement the new Law Enforcement Personal Privacy Protection Act (LEPPPA).

• COUNCIL MEMBER UPDATES

Nataki Brown:

- The Statutory Review Ad Hoc Committee has met twice a month, every month, for the past four months.



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- Anticipated completion date is in April, with hope of sharing the final product at the May VSCC meeting.
- There have been many discussions of what victim services look like in SC.
- She announced that John Dunn was unable to be present because he was involved in a double homicide planning session. He asked Nataki to share that a paramount concern of the Statutory Review Ad Hoc Committee is that victims are always kept abreast of the process. At some point he will have an official statement to present to the Council.

Billy House (Joe Corey):

- The Annual Grant Workshop will be virtual and held on February 25th at 10:00am. Invitations were sent out a couple of weeks ago to all interested parties.

Missy Knight (Nettie Jacobs):

- They have posted a third Victim Advocate Supervisor position that closes on February 27th. This will make their office fully staffed, which should provide relief to some other supervisors who are covering the ten staff and twenty plus counties they supervise.

Shannan Geary (Laura Hudson):

- Announced they got approval for up to 25 hours for VRW, VSP credit.
- They are almost maxed out for registration with over 100 survivors planning to attend this year at VRW.
- A chaplaincy team is set up and a support dog team will also be present for support.
- 60 workshops available during the two-week period of VRW.
- Next year will be the 40th VRW conference.
- In reference to the last meeting, FNE Team has recorded the video this month with the Criminal Justice Academy, hoping that it will be loaded into the system soon.
- Sara Barber has joined their SC Elder Justice Network (SCEJN) on a few projects and trainings. Shannon noted that June is Elder Abuse Awareness Month. SCEJN is developing its calendar accordingly.
- SCVAN is also collaborating with many groups, including colleges, for various streamings and is working with these groups to examine the victim services landscape.

Dean Kilpatrick:

- Chris Rose, former OVC Director, has asked if we wanted to be involved or support other national organizations trying to organize from the field - just some acknowledgement and participation in some activities about Crime Victims' Rights Week.



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- They will be cooperating with NOVA and a couple of other groups during VRW and also in the month of April, to try and remind the people in the field and outside of the field about how important it is not to lose the gains that we've made.
- BJ asked Dean to send the information to either the Steve or Cyril so that they may send this information out to the Council.

*This information was sent to Council membership in an e mail on April 13, 2026. The website address for the event is: www.uniteforvictimsrights.org.

Jan Nobles:

- Continuing to rebuild and improve their victim services at DJJ.
- Developing a Facility Advocate position.
- Shout out to Nataki for efforts on behalf of the Review Ad Hoc Committee.

Trisha Allen:

- Shout out to SCVAN legal services actions regarding the Sexually Violent Predator Commitment Process and the legal impacts.
- Noted a law change about two years prior that altered the Department of Mental Health recommendations, observing fewer recommendations for commitments and more for releases.
- Reported increased use of the State obtaining second opinions and independent evaluations.
- Warned of rising hearings and legal work as releases are contested.
- Thanked SCVAN's Legal Services for the numerous referrals she has made to them for Permanent Restraining Orders (PRO's) upon an individual's release from the SVP program.
- Emphasized victims' heightened fear due to releases without Permanent Restraining Orders available.
- Described an unprecedented surge in notification hearings.

Karin Ho:

- Echoed Trisha's comments about the Sexually Violent Predator Commitment Process and encouraged learning about it through tours.
- Karin also gave a shout out to Nataki for her work on the Statutory Review Ad Hoc Committee.
- Promoted the National Association of Victim Assistance in Corrections upcoming conference in Savannah on June 8-11.
- Announced Victim Offender Dialogue Facilitator training in June and July with National Institute for Corrections.
- Karin offered to assist those interested because the NIC requires an endorsement from an existing corrections-based VOD program.



- She reminded the Council that automated VINE notifications are reliant upon input accuracy.
- Offered their Victim Services as a possible source of guidance for ICE related detainees.

Kassy Alia Ray:

- Greg's Place on Decker Boulevard has begun renovations of three buildings of a former church into a training space located near Richland Northeast High School.
- Facility consists of a small computer lab, a kid's lounge, and a breakout room for families. A ribbon-cutting was held on October 3, 2025.
- She invited partners to visit and consider office or program presence there.
- The whole point of the property is to serve the community and its neighbors through both Greg's Place and Greg's Groceries.
- The church space holds approximately 176 people, with two smaller rooms holding 20-30 people.
- Highlighted survivor leaders affected by gun violence and emphasized elevating their work with them.
- Expressed concerns about serving non-English speaking community members and sustaining the *Si Se Puede* initiative to build trust between first responders and the Hispanic community.
- Continuing quarterly gatherings and outreach to ensure victims from immigrant communities feel safe reporting crime.

Lisa Catalanotto:

- Additional space acquired in the Wade Hampton Building for trainings. Ways & Means has so far provided the space for only a year. If recurring funding can be obtained, they hope to proceed with renovation. The room would accommodate as many as fifty people.
- A smaller conference room is also available in the Wade Hampton Building accommodating up to 25. These spaces are offered to partner use for free.
- Upcoming trainings include VA Core for their staff in May and June and their Annual Solicitors' Conference in Myrtle Beach, September 27-30.

Thomas Knapp:

- The Governor has declared April 1 as Children's Advocacy Center Day for the State of South Carolina and they have a press conference with the Attorney General scheduled for the Grand Jury Room in the Dennis Building at 10:00 a.m. that will be live streamed.
- Seaside Symposium on Child Abuse is May 26-29 in Myrtle Beach.
- As of today we have 170 registrants. We are anticipating the same number as last year (500).
- The initial Victim Service Provider training for the year begins March 3-5. Registration is now closed.
- The second training course is August 11-13. These training courses can earn 24 credit hours.
- A new near-live update website data display on children served and training metrics is now available.
- Budget risks after losing \$1.5M previously, and the House Ways and Means recommended the budget deletion of the requested line item. There is ongoing advocacy in the Senate, however.



Debbie Curtis:

- DCVC's new Claims Management System is being tested and portals are in development, System is not yet ready to go live.
- Echoes the numerous shout-outs to Nataki and the committee.

BJ Nelson (Ginger Dukes):

- CVST is in the process of recording two courses to aid advocates who are non-compliant.
- Upcoming trainings include: LEVA kickoff in February; VRW in March; and the CAC Seaside Symposium in May.
- 2025 CVST numbers at-a-glance:
 - VSP totals 3,772 (2,297 Basic VSP's, 1,386 Notifiers, 89 VSP Human Trafficking)
 - 27,691 training hours logged.
 - 554 new VSP applications
 - 205 accreditation applications
 - 1,774 Continuing education records
- Nataki asked if ACP was included in the numbers. BJ said she wasn't sure, but would ask.

- **FUTURE MEETING DATE(S)**

Thursday, May 21, 2026, 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

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**

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