

**DOMESTIC VIOLENCE PREVENTION COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES**

July 25th, 2023

Capitol Press Room

**Members in Attendance**

Amy Dupuy

Lindsay Blouin

Bonnie Mckneely

Karen Webb

Chief Tommy Clark, Jr. (Proxy Mariah Wineski)

Rutha Chatwood

Mariah Wineski

Tammy Jumpy (Proxy Melanie Fields)

Ramona Harris

Mary Claire Landry

Hon. Suzanne deMahy

**Guests in Attendance:**

**In person**: Traci Morgan, Tewabetch Negatu, Stephanie Guidiry, Christina Jones, Crystal Brookings, Chasity Perrodine, Taylor Robinson, Lauren Pete, Christina Barras, Francis Robinson, Melinda Butaud, Path Freeman

**Virtually**: Katiana Semein-Smothers, Shaunda Mitchell, Wanjannia Atkins, Kim Kurby, Hope Levins, Jocelyn Pinkerton, K Carpertner

**Staff in Attendance:**

Renee Antoine, Executive Director, Governor’s office of Women’s Policy

Jy’Asia Sams, Assistant to Director, Governor’s office of Women’s Policy

**Call to Order:**

Chair Mariah Wineski called the meeting to order at 1:05 p.m. and conducted roll call. A quorum was met.

**New staff updates and Introduction:**

* + None

**Approval of Minutes**

* January 2023
  + Lindsay Blouin moved to approve minutes from the January meeting. Karen seconded the motion. The motion carried.
* April 2023
  + Lindsay Blouin moved to approve minutes from the April meeting. Karen seconded the motion. The motion carried.

**Shared of Learning (Christina Jones, Esq. Battered Women’s Justice Project presenting)**

*Shared learning is an opportunity for members and guests to highlight the focus of work that is being completed around the state on various issues regarding domestic violence.*

* Christina Jones, Esq. discussed the organization's mission, core values, and how the occurrences of Domestic Violence within Louisiana correlate with the work being done at the Battered Women’s Justice Project.
* BWJP has the mission to promote change within the civil and criminal legal system providing safety, security, and justice for survivors.
* BWJP structure is made of a collection of national policy and practice centers at the intersection of gender-based violence and legal systems.
* The program provides educational activities, training, consultations, reports, and assessment’s within the legal system and rural communities ( for survivors who cannot physically receive help in person)
* The organization is dived into seven sectors, to provide comprehensive care to all survivors and their specific needs
  + Advocacy
  + Children
  + Defense
  + Gun Violence
  + Legal Approach
  + Protection Orders
  + Reimagining CCR
* BWJP strategizes its priorities to reach every survivor adequately and ensure all survivor's voices are equally heard in four distinct ways
  + Center their work in historically marginalized communities
  + Expand their policy work and open a research center
  + Invent in staff who understand the full scope of gender-based violence
  + Amplify their reach by expanding their external team
* In 2021, BWJP launched the National Gender-based Violence Learning Community, which is an online learning software that provides training for professionals, advocates, and survivors across the country.
* Christina Jones Esq highlighted that BWJP has resources on how to reimagine coordinated community responses for survivors including marginalized survivors
* Christina Jones Esq, also highlighted that apart from all of the professional work to care for survivors, they also cater to the needs of incarcerated survivors.
  + Every year they send cards to remind these survivors that they’re not forgotten, and BWJP is thinking of them and is there to assist them through their journey
  + This act of kindness is dear to BWJP, for they’re more than just a corporate organization, they aim to uplift, promote, and support all walks of gender-based violence.

**Commission Bylaws**

* Chair Mariah Wineski , discussed the newly develop Bylaws packet, and its changes.
* Article 5, section 4
  + Adopted the changes of the process of which new appointments could be sought for members who failed to attend an appropriate amount of meetings.
* She directed the members to section 4 of the Bylaws packet, for them to review the new adopted language.
* Misty moved to adopt the new bylaws. Bonnie second the motion. The motion carried.

**Review Of legislation - 2023 regular Legislative Session**

• Mariah Wineski, provided the members with a one-page overview of domestic violence-related bills that passed within the 2023 regular legislative session

• Document of 2023 regular Legislative Bills reviewed will be attached

**Subcommittee Reports**

* An email was established and sent out to prepare confirmation of membership for each subcommittee

1. ***Law Implementation and Training*** *( Tammy Jump Presenting )*

*This subcommittee focuses on improving implementation of existing laws, in furtherance of Purpose area 6: Develop a plan that ensures state laws on domestic violence are properly implemented and provides training to law enforcement and the judiciary.*

Current Commission members on subcommittee:

1. Tammy Jump
2. Chief Tommy Clark Jr.
3. Ramona Harris

• Tammy Jump spoke on Domestic Violence at the Nuts and Bolts Judicial Seminar the first week in June. Francis from the LPOR provided her with slides that she incorporated into her presentation regarding protective orders, information about the LPOR, etc. She had a lot of good feedback from the presentation. This seminar had judges, clerks of court, court reporters, and law enforcement.

* She is also continuing to work on a video similar to the one that Sunny’s office did. The purpose of this is to get the most information out to as many law enforcement officers as we can-even those who may not go to a class. Her video is going to focus more on rural areas and how to gather evidence to prosecute especially when victims are uncooperative. She hoping to be able to provide a link to the video when Judge Cox and I begin teaching our legal updates in August.
* She’s also writing the Domestic Violence chapter in the True Blue Drew Book that is provided at the legal updates that Judge Jeff Cox and she teaches as well to the academy classes (Bossier SO, LSP, and Wildlife and Fisheries). It is also available online. She emphasizes 46:2140 which gives the law enforcement requirements when working a DV case. We taught over 1,500 law enforcement last year and all received this book and teaching on how to work these cases.

1. ***Victimization Data (****Karen Webb Presenting )*

*This subcommittee was established to identify and address areas for improvement in data collection and reporting related to domestic violence in Louisiana. This subcommittee’s work typically addresses purpose area 7: Develop a framework to collect and integrate data and measure outcomes.*

Current Commission members on subcommittee:

1. Karen Webb
2. Mariah Wineski
3. Mary Claire Landry
4. Rutha Chatwood

* DAFR Abstractor - LCADV has hired the DAFR Abstractor, Deon Sumer. Deon is currently a student at the Southern University Law Center. Her struggles with domestic violence encouraged her to pursue a law degree to create positive change for victims of domestic abuse. Once she receives her degree, she intends to practice family law and work in the domestic violence field. She began in May and immediately began working with the DAFR Coordinator to prepare case summaries for the July DAFR Meeting.
* NVDRS Conference & IPV Presentation - Mariah attended the NVDRS Conference in Milwaukee and gave a presentation entitled, “Better Data, Better Solutions: Surveillance of Louisiana's Intimate Partner Violence Homicides” on Wednesday, May 17th. She reported that the presentation was well received.
* BRFSS IPV Data - Laurie Freyder, BRFSS Coordinator, has completed a draft BRFSS IPV report that addresses prevalence.
* July DAFR Meeting - The July DAFR Meeting was Wednesday, July 19, 2023. They reviewed 7 cases. Before the meeting, the DAFR Coordinator and Abstractor met with DAFR Panel members who assist with gathering records. It has been a challenge to access law enforcement records for suspects even if cases have been fully adjudicated. Our Panel representatives from the La Association of Chiefs of Police and the La Sheriffs’ Association are reaching out to their association presidents to request DAFR be added as an agenda item at an upcoming meeting to get more law enforcement partners on board.
* DAFR Database - The DAFR team has reached out to Element74 for a database solution after coming to a standstill with EmpowerDB. The LDH Office of Technology Services received Element74’s security questionnaire and has responded with some follow-up questions.
* DAFR Annual Report - The DAFR Panel is preparing the annual report to provide to the governor, legislature, and stakeholders with data and recommendations gathered from their meetings.

1. **Needs Assessment Working Group** ( Mariah Wineski Presenting )

*This subcommittee was established during the latter meeting to develop an approach that efficiently meets the needs of all domestic violence victims*

* Chair Mariah Wineski informed members that the Needs assessments are complete and that they have gathered comprehensive data from survivors, providers, advocates, communities, and other sectors to fill the gaps present in assisting domestic violence survivors.
* She informed members that the needs assessment will be presented at the upcoming commission meeting in November.

**Law Institute Liaison Update**

* No updates

**Public Comments**

* None

**Adjournment**

* With no additional business the meeting was adjourned at 2:32 pm.