

Louisiana Domestic Violence Prevention Commission Minutes
Tuesday, November 28, 2017, 1-3 pm
Meeting location: Governor's Press Room, 4th Floor, LA State Capitol

I. Meeting Called To Order

- Meeting Called to Order by Kimberly Resetar at 1:11pm

II. Roll Call

Members Present

Kimberly Resetar
Scott Gardner (via phone)
Ramona Harris
Rutha Chatwood
Amy Dupuy
Mariah Wineski
Shanta Proctor
Sunny Funk (via phone)
Mary Claire Landry (via phone)
Tommy Clark
Jane Herwehe
Tracy Farris
Gary Smith
Lila Hogan
Twahna Harris
Kevin Hinote (nonmember)
Valerie Martinez (nonmember)
Taylor Robison (nonmember)
Taryn Branson (nonmember)

III. Introductions

- Quorum was established.

IV. Approval of the Minutes

- Review of minutes from September meeting. Motion by Senator Smith to approve minutes. Seconded by Ms. Chatwood. Motion passes.

V. Subcommittee Reports

1) **Legal Issues**

- Ms. Hogan stated that the Louisiana State Law Institute has begun its work on reviewing domestic violence laws. Civil laws are being addressed by the Marriage and Persons Committee, and criminal laws will be addressed by the Criminal Law Committee. She explained that, due to the deliberative nature of the Law Institute process, there may only be a few recommended changes for the 2018 legislative session. The next meeting of the Marriage and Persons

Committee will be the upcoming Thursday at 10:00am at the LSU Law School.

2) **Law Enforcement Subcommittee**

- Mr. Hinote gave a summary of progress on the Governor's Taskforce on Domestic Violence Prevention and Surrender of Firearms and the importance of keeping the issue of firearm divestiture on the forefront of policy discussions.
- Dr. Proctor distributed a one-page fact sheet on firearm divestiture and discussed the potential scope of work for a divestiture taskforce, including legislative recommendations, identification of pilot sites, and protocol implementation.
- Senator Smith explained the importance of clearly defining firearm divestiture for the legislature and explaining who is affected by it. He stated that the legislature is poised to act on the issue of divestiture if presented correctly.
- The commission agreed that the issue of divestiture should not be addressed by the Law Institute as their procedure could take too long.
- Ms. Farris explained that the procedural issues surrounding firearm divestiture are complex and further discussion with law enforcement is needed. A taskforce would be beneficial because it could drill into the procedural aspects of divestiture and become a vehicle for the implementation of this subcommittee's report recommendations.
- Ms. Farris and Judge Gardner stated that successful divestiture initiatives should have the buy-in of the District Attorneys Association and the judiciary.
- Ms. Farris requested that Commission members provide additional feedback on the draft Divestiture report. Further details should be finalized prior to moving on to legislation
- Ms. Landry explained that a divestiture pilot project was written into a recently received grant in the New Orleans area and would be implemented in the upcoming years. She agreed to keep the Commission informed of its progress.
- Discussion was held regarding the potential benefits of a Governor's Taskforce on Divestiture, including stronger buy-in from various entities.
- Ms. Hogan moved that a representative from the Domestic Violence Prevention Commission be appointed to any future Divestiture Taskforce so that the work of the two entities can be connected. Motion seconded by Ms. Farris. Motion passed with no opposition.
- Chief Clark stated that conversations with law enforcement regarding divestiture should emphasize the low number of firearms that are being held by law enforcement in existing divestiture programs.

VI. Commission Report

- A subcommittee was established to lead the compilation of the Commission's annual report, which is due February 1st. Ms. Chatwood and Ms. Wineski agreed to lead this subcommittee.

- The commission members reiterated that the report should be simple, short, and focused largely on divestiture efforts of the Commission.

VII. Election of Officers

- Dr. Proctor nominated the following slate of officers for 2018:
 - Chair – Mariah Wineski
 - Secretary – Kimberly Resetar
- Ms. Hogan moved to accept the nominations. Ms. Harris seconded the motion. Motion passed without opposition.

VIII. Future Meetings

- The Commission needs to meet prior to the February 1st report deadline and again prior to legislative session commencing. The following meeting dates were set:
 - January 23, 2018 at 1pm – meeting to focus on approval of Commission Report
 - February 27, 2018 at 1pm – meeting to focus on legislation for 2018 legislative session

IX. Public Comment

- There was no additional comment.

X. Adjourn

- Meeting adjourned at 2:40 pm.