

Louisiana Domestic Violence Prevention Commission Minutes
Tuesday, April 25, 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 1:12pm

II. Roll Call

Members Present

Sheriff Craig Webre (non member, via phone)
Twahna Harris (via phone)
Ramona Harris (via phone)
Mary Claire Landry
Rutha Chatwood
Kevin Hinote (nonmember)
Valerie Martinez (nonmember)
Connie Couvillon
Amy Dupuy
Mariah Wineski
Shanta Proctor
Kimberly Resetar
Sunny Funk
Tommy Clark
Karen Webb (proxy for Jane Herwehe)
Tracy Farris
Leigh Ann Wall (nonmember)
Shawnee Oswald (proxy for Scott Gardner)
Ayn Stehr (nonmember)
Lila Hogan
Constance Hester
Molly Brannon
Colin Reingold
Laurie Hulin

III. Introductions

- Quorum was established.

IV. Approval of the Minutes

- Review of minutes from January 24th meeting. Motion by Ms. Wineski to approve minutes. Seconded by Ms. Couvillon. Motion passes.

V. Review of Prefiled 2017 Bills Addressing Domestic Violence

- Discussion was held regarding the extent to which the Commission would endorse specific bills. Consensus was that, for the 2017 session, each individual entity would provide legislative advocacy as governed by their organizational roles, rather than any endorsement by the Commission as a whole.
- In future sessions, the Commission should make general recommendations as opposed to presenting specific legislative instruments.

- Ms. Landry noted that several recommendations from the first year’s Commission report remain unattained, and a worthwhile focus of this year could be emphasizing remaining recommendations from prior years.

VI. Guest Presentation

- Brief presentation by Mr. Joey Strickland, Secretary of Veteran’s Affairs.
- Provided an overview of the Military Family Assistance Fund and a discussion of 2016 legislation establishing veterans’ courts.

VII. Subcommittee Reports

1) Law Enforcement Subcommittee

- This subcommittee has focused on two issues: firearm divestiture procedures and gaps in statewide data collection.
- They intend to provide a summary of how current divestiture processes work in Louisiana and other states, with recommendations for various models
- Valerie Martinez with Lafourche Parish Sheriff’s Office provided an overview of their divestiture procedure. Subcommittee intends to work with LPSO to incorporate their protocol into recommendations from the Commission.
- Lt. Martinez has a powerpoint presentation on their divestiture process for those who are interested in learning more.
- Sheriff Webre discussed issues with prior years’ divestiture legislation. Creating a firearm prohibition in law without a process for divestiture creates a false sense of security.
- Mr. Hinote with LCLE stated that very few statewide divestiture programs exist. They usually start at local level.

2) Victim Services & Prevention

- LCADV has been performing a statewide needs assessment. Report is scheduled to be released in May 2017.
- Ms. Wineski provided a summary of preliminary findings to the Commission.

3) Legal Issues

- Ms. Wall described the process for LDAA approval or endorsement of legislation.
- Ms. Hogan and Ms. Stehr proposed working in conjunction with the Louisiana Law Institute to review domestic violence legislation that has passed in recent years and make recommendations for consistency and minor changes to strengthen the laws.
- Ms. Wineski, Ms. Farris, and Ms. Landry emphasized that the Law Institute should work in conjunction with the advocacy community in their review of existing laws.
- Consensus was that the subcommittee should move forward with their proposal to work with the Law Institute.

VIII. Public Comment

- There was no additional comment.

IX. Adjourn

- Meeting adjourned at 2:39 pm.