

Louisiana Domestic Violence Prevention Commission Minutes  
Tuesday, September 26, 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**

Jo Heller (proxy for Scott Gardner)  
Ramona Harris  
Rutha Chatwood  
Amy Dupuy  
Mariah Wineski  
Shanta Proctor  
Kimberly Resetar  
Sunny Funk  
Tommy Clark  
Jane Herwehe  
Tracy Farris  
Gary Smtih  
Lila Hogan (via phone)  
Sheriff Craig Webre (non member)  
Kevin Hinote (nonmember)  
Valerie Martinez (nonmember)

**III. Introductions**

- Quorum was established.

**IV. Approval of the Minutes**

- Review of minutes from April meeting. Motion by Ms. Funk to approve minutes. Seconded by Sen. Smith. Motion passes.

**V. Review of 2017 Laws Addressing Domestic Violence**

- Review of legislation addressing domestic violence that passed in the 2017 legislative session, including HBs 27, 223, 509, 524, 499, 680, and HCR 79.
- Ms. Harris noted that the Louisiana Protective Order Registry forms would be updated to reflect changes in the law and should be available for use by January 2018.

**VI. Discussion of Fiscal Cliff**

- Brief presentation by Dr. Proctor regarding the upcoming fiscal cliff in the Louisiana state budget. An informational handout was distributed from the Governor's office.

## **VII. Subcommittee Reports**

### **1) Legal Issues**

- Ms. Hogan had not yet called in but provided a summary of the subcommittee's work to be shared by Ms. Resetar. The Louisiana State Law Institute, through two separate committees, is in the process of reviewing laws regarding domestic violence in Louisiana. Members who wish to be notified of upcoming Law Institute committee meetings should email Ms. Resetar to be added to a contact list. Ms. Hogan will also be presenting a seminar on domestic violence law at LSU on September 28<sup>th</sup>.
- Ms. Funk expressed that she was pleased the Law Institute was looking at DV laws, as are frequent legislative changes. In addition, the Human Trafficking Commission meets frequently and there is much overlap with DV issues. She suggested the two commissions collaborate and share information.
- Discussion was held regarding potential future legislative changes, including changes to the telephone harassment law, possible crime of interference with a 911 call, and legislation addressing the availability of name and address of victims after a case closes.

### **2) Law Enforcement Subcommittee**

- Mr. Hinote gave a summary of progress on the committee's Firearm Divestiture report, which is half way finished. The report will address the context of firearm divestiture in Louisiana but cannot provide specific legislative recommendations. The current gap in divestiture of firearms should be addressed legislatively. The report will be given to the Commission at the November meeting for approval.
- Sheriff Webre discussed domestic violence fatality statistics, law enforcement reluctance to implement divestiture procedures, and other issues in implementation of a divestiture program. He also discussed approaches to overcoming many concerns and barriers.
- Dr. Proctor, Ms. Wineski, and Mr. Hinote presented a proposal for a Governor's Taskforce on Domestic Violence Prevention and Surrender of Firearms. This taskforce would be a small group focused on ensuring the enforcement of firearm dispossession laws in order to reduce DV homicides. Discussion was held regarding the composition and purpose of such a taskforce, as well as its benefits. A vote was held on the creation of this taskforce, with all members present voting in support.

### **3) Victim Services & Prevention**

- LCADV has finalized the yearlong needs assessment, addressing domestic violence response in Louisiana. The assessment provides useful data and information regarding current gaps in domestic violence services, as well as criminal justice response to domestic violence.
- Ms. Wineski provided a summary of the Needs Assessment findings to the Commission. The full report can be referenced at [leadv.org/statewide-needs-assessment](http://leadv.org/statewide-needs-assessment).

- Ms. Martinez discussed the need for additional annual domestic violence training for law enforcement.

#### **VIII. Commission Report**

- Discussion was held regarding the structure of the commission's annual report, which is due in February 2018. Sen. Smith recommended that the DV Prevention Commission's report be kept separate from the Women's Policy and Research Commission Report, and should be simple in format with an executive summary highlighting key points.
- The Commission agreed that the report should be short and simple, emphasizing the Commission's work on divestiture and needs assessment. It was agreed that a subcommittee would be created at the November meeting that would manage the Commission's report to the legislature. Officers for 2018 will also be voted in at the November meeting.

#### **IX. Public Comment**

- There was no additional comment.

#### **X. Adjourn**

- Meeting adjourned at 3:08 pm.