

South Carolina Victim Services Coordinating Council
Meeting Minutes

November 10, 2009
10:00 AM – 1:00 PM

Edgar Brown Building, Room 415, 1205 Pendleton Street, Columbia South Carolina

Present: Larry Barker Ph.D., William Bilton, Mark Fallaw, Barbara Grissom, Shelton Hughes, Jeffrey Moore, Veronica Swain – Kunz, Susan Walkup, Hope Blackley, Sandi Wofford, Dean Kilpatrick, Ph. D., Tom Lucas, Carol Woodard, Nataki Brown, Marvin Bryant Sr.

Absent: Leigh Caldwell, Vicki Bourus, Nancy Barton, and Surleaner Lakin – Smith.

The meeting was called to order and the facilitator read a statement regarding VSCC operation in compliance with the Freedom of Information Act and Americans with Disabilities Act.

Jeff Moore motioned to approve the Council's compliance with the Freedom of Information Act; this was seconded by Barbara Grissom and approved by the Council

J.J. Gentry from the Senate Judiciary and Bonnie Goldsmith of the House Judiciary conducted a presentation informing the Council on the formation of the Sentencing Reform Committee and its formation and an overview of what has been done by the committee. Act 407 of 2008 established the Committee. The Committee consists of, Senator Gerald Malloy, Chair, Senator John M. "Jake" Knotts, Jr., Senator George E. "Chip" Campsen III, Representative G. Murrell Smith, Jr., Co-Chair, Representative Douglas Jennings, Jr., Representative R. Keith Kelly, Justice Donald W. Beatty, Judge Aphrodite K. Konduros, Judge William P. Keesley and Governor appointed Jon Ozmint, Director, South Carolina Department of Corrections. The primary duty of the Committee is to review and prepare a report to be submitted by the beginning of February that will include recommendations dealing with several areas of criminal law in the state of South Carolina.

Laura Hudson of the South Carolina Crime Victims' Council presented an overview of information that she has obtained due to her attendance of the Sentence Reform meetings to the Victim Services Coordinating Council.

Shelton Hughes introduced concerns from the Jailers Administration regarding the certification hours currently mandated for Jail notifiers. It was the suggestion of Mr. Hughes and the Jail Administration to have the Council look at doing a tiered system for certification for these hours that would be feasible training for the services that the jail notifiers provide. Mr. Bob McCurdy from Court Administration along with Judge Womble and Judge Maurer presented similar concerns regarding the certification of Judges and court notifiers. A subcommittee was formulated by chaired by Hope Blackley

that included Jeff Moore and William Bilton. This committee will meet with Court Administration to review certification criteria and recommend any necessary changes that would affect the number of hours needed for Jailers, Judges, and Court Staff.

Dr. Larry barker introduced Ms. Richelle Copland to the Council. Ms. Copland will be conducting audits statewide on the proper usage of victim services funds. She will be apart of the State Office of Victim Assistance staff.

The Council reviewed the suggested expenditure guidelines. This information will be provided to agencies across the state as a suggestion from the Council on how to properly spend victim services funds.

The Council was notified of the vacancy of the seat previously held by Dr. Lorena Gonzalez.

The meeting was motioned for adjournment by Marvin Bryant and seconded by Mark Fallaw.