

South Carolina Victim Services Coordinating Council  
Meeting Minutes

February 12, 2009  
2:00 – 4:30 PM

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

**Present:** Nancy Barton, William Bilton, Hope Blackley, Vicki Bourus, Marvin Bryant, Leigh Caldwell, Barbara Grissom, Joanna Katz, Dean Kilpatrick, Ashlie Lancaster, Thomas Lucas, Jeffrey Moore, Burke Fitzpatrick (BJ Nelson), Veronica Swain - Kunz, Surleaner Lakin - Smith, Carol Woodard

**Absent:** Mark Fallaw, BJ Nelson (family emergency), Tricia Phaup (ill), Robert Rightsell, Sandi Wofford (Court Proceedings).

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.

Dean motioned to approve minutes as distributed, and Leigh seconded, with minutes being approved unanimously.

The facilitator introduced herself to the Council Members that were not in the last meeting. The new Council Member, Tom Lucas, was also introduced to the Council.

Hope introduced herself to the new Council Member before providing an update on the concerns being voiced regarding the certification process. Questions have continued to arise relating to the definition of a victim service provider. This was a big problem in the Charleston area. A letter was received in the CVO from a Representative inquiring where the authority came from to have the certification implemented in the detention centers. William referenced Act 141, in that if a person is providing those services outlined in Act 141 they should be considered a service provider.

The council discussed options for addressing the concerns of supervisors in regards to tasking an entire office to be certified. It was suggested by Vicki that supervisors be provided the opportunity to use their discretion in who needs to be supervised within that particular office.

As it relates to the question of who needed to be certified within an office, it was motioned by William and seconded by Jeff and voted affirmatively by the Council that Act 141 duties would be the referencing factor; therefore, if a person is fulfilling the duties listed then they would need to be certified.

It was also motioned by Dean and seconded by Ashlie and voted affirmatively by the Council that a work group be formed to further discuss the classification of a victim service provider. The work group will consist of Hope Blackley, Surleaner Lakin – Smith, William Bilton, and Dean Kilpatrick.

Hope also mentioned that she met with William Floyd from the Criminal Justice Academy and reviewed programs that would service those that are certified law enforcement as well as victim service providers. The facilitator introduced certification programs that were being utilized in Connecticut, Pennsylvania, and Colorado for volunteers. It was made known that the only mandated certification program for volunteers was found in Connecticut. The statute was attached in the handout provided. It was also noted that the certification courses in all of the States could be done during in service as long as it is approved. Hope also referenced there is a program for law enforcement that allows the officer to log in and obtain instruction during an online session.

After a review of the information provided by the facilitator, a suggestion was made by Ashlie to formulate a working group to collaborate on a volunteer certification program. After further discussion, it was concluded that the volunteers wanting to be certified could go through the current OVSEC program and would have it notated on their application when received in the office that they were volunteers; therefore, receiving a volunteer certification Victim Service Provider number and card.

Hope will provide the stats on the number of volunteers that have currently been certified through OVSEC at the next meeting.

Ashlie discussed some issues as is related to Programmatic Reviews of the ACT 141 monies. A discussion has transpired with Rep. Gilda Cobb- Hunter, L. Aiken – Furtick of CASA, and Vicki Bourus to discuss additional accountability on how the dollars are being expended. The original discussion was to move the entire Court Audit under SOVA, but after discussion with the Treasurer's Office and the State Auditor's Office a division duties outline was established.

Proviso 89.70 has been amended by Representative Cobb - Hunter stating that the State Auditor will continue to do the court audits as outlined. SOVA will be responsible for conducting programmatic reviews of the expenditures at the local level per this proviso to make sure that the monies are being spent properly.

Rep. Hunter also suggested the Council take the Proviso and work on making it permanent legislation as well as look at revising the expenditure guidelines currently being used and make them more specific.

William suggested giving SOVA the authority to promulgate the rules and regulations as it related to the guidelines.

Jeff motioned and it was seconded by Dean to form a working group to draft a piece of legislation that would give SOVA the authority to promulgate the rules and regulations as it relates to the guidelines as well as work to codify Proviso 89.70.

The working group consists of William Bilton, Jeff Moore, and Ashlie Lancaster.

The facilitator provided information from the LAC recommendation #2 regarding Grant Housing. The Council was provided with information on the current grant housing for South Carolina as well as nation wide.

The Council will take a further look at grant housing consolidation and ask DSS, DHEC, and SCDPS representatives to attend and present their positions on grant housing combination at the next scheduled meeting.

The Council did not feel they should take on the responsibility of Grant distribution.

The facilitator provided information on the VSCC website and the information to include updated bios and publications needed from members by March 31<sup>st</sup>.

Information was also provided regarding the attempts to contact the representative from the South Carolina Jail Administrators Association to participate on the Council; however, there has not been a response.

Jeff motioned and it was seconded for the meeting to be adjourned.