

South Carolina Victim Services Coordinating Council
Meeting Minutes

May 18, 2010
10:00 AM – 1:00 PM

Edgar Brown Building, Room 467, 1205 Pendleton Street, Columbia South Carolina

Present: Larry Barker Ph.D., William Bilton, Leigh Caldwell, Nancy Barton, Jeffrey Moore, , Susan Walkup, Hope Blackley (via phone), Sandi Wofford, Dean Kilpatrick, Ph. D., Tom Lucas, Carol Woodard, Nataki Brown, Surleaner Lakin – Smith, Shelton Hughes, BJ Nelson, Vicki Bourus, and Barbara Grissom.

Absent: Mark Fallaw and Veronica Swain – Kunz

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.

BJ Nelson motioned to approve the Council's compliance with the Freedom of Information Act; this was seconded by Dean Kilpatrick and approved by the Council

The new chair Barbara Grissom of the VSCC addressed the Council introducing the new agenda format and her desires for the Council as it moves forward under her direction. This includes but not limited to a planning session, more concise meetings, and hot topic discussions that are relevant to the field of Victim Services.

Tom Lucas expressed the importance of having the minutes available to recap what was discussed in the meetings. It was agreed upon that the meetings minutes would be available to the Council prior to the meeting.

Ethel Ford from the Auditing Section of SOVA addressed the Council with concerns regarding the spending of the ACT 141 monies to provide lunch for victim services trainings. It was agreed upon by the Council that monies could be spent for this purpose.

James Irby provided a report on the current amount of those awaiting victim service provider certification within South Carolina. There are 870 summary court judges and and 1,095 victim service providers. James also brought up some concerns regarding funding for the OVSEC office to meet the demand that his being made on his office.

Jeff Moore requested a letter of support of the Council in the request for a grant to continue to supply funding for the SAVIN system. The SAVIN system is currently on a grant that is set to expire and there is currently not enough funds within the Department of Corrections to maintain the system.

William Bilton reminded the Council that the expenditure guidelines do state that Act 141 monies can be used to fund an automated notification system. Surleaner Lakin asked for clarity if this would be the same grant that other agencies would be applying for. After it was clear that it was, the same portion of money Nataki Brown voiced her concern that this was not something that on behalf of the Forum in which she represents that she would not feel comfortable in writing a letter of support. It was the consensus of the Council not to support by writing the letter after further discussion.

Larry Barker gave an update on the RFP process for the grant of 1.8 million. He informed that it would be a one-time grant only. It does have the possibility of going to several entities and being separated. He will keep the Council updated as more information becomes available.

Larry Barker also provided an update on the cancellation of the Victim Services Academy due to low enrollment. He informed that his staff was looking at ways to assist those that did submit applications for the academy to receive some victim service provider training ours via online courses.

Barbara Grissom introduced the "Hot Topic" addition to the agenda and provided information on a recent decision from the U.S. Supreme Court stating that the federal government has the power to hold some sex offenders incarcerated indefinitely.

Marvin Bryant suggested to the Council that it become more regulated in their meeting schedule so that it can be placed on individuals calendars in advance. After detailed discussion, it was agreed that the Council would meet once a quarter on the first Thursday, leaving the availability for a called meeting if needed. The next meeting will be held July 1, 2010.

The meeting was motioned for adjournment by Barbara Grissom and seconded by Sandi Wofford.