

South Carolina Victim Services Coordinating Council
Meeting Minutes

July 22, 2009
10:00 AM – 1:00 PM

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

Present: Larry Barker, Nancy Barton, William Bilton, Vicki Bourus, Nataki Brown, Marvin Bryant, Mark Fallaw, Lori Gonzalez, Barbara Grissom, Shelton Hughes, Dean Kilpatrick, Thomas Lucas, Jeffrey Moore, BJ Nelson, Veronica Swain – Kunz, Susan Walkup, Carol Woodard, Sandi Wofford

Absent: Hope Blackley (prior engagement), Joanna Katz (prior engagement), and Surleaner Lakin-Smith (prior engagement).

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 Tom Lucas and approved by the Council

Tom Lucas motioned to approve minutes as distributed, and Sandi Wofford seconded with minutes being approved unanimously.

The new Council Members, Susan Walkup - Children's Advocacy Center, Lori Gonzalez - USC Student Health Services, Sexual Health and Violence Prevention, and Shelton Hughes - SC Jailers' Administration and Chief Fallaw - SC Police Chiefs' Association.

The Council reviewed recommendations by the Legislative Audit Council with specific attention provided to number one and number 10.

With discussion there was a motion made by Larry Barker and seconded by William Bilton to form a sub – committee that will take a more in depth look at recommendation #10 as it relates to supplementary schedules. This motioned was voted on in favor by a unanimous vote. The subcommittee will be chaired by Larry Barker and the committee members consist of: Sandy Wofford, Jeff Moore, William Bilton, and Tom Lucas. It was recommended by Larry Barker to make sure that the Council includes representation from the agencies listed in the recommendation.

After discussion, a motion was made by William Bilton and seconded by Sandi Wofford to renew the request in the next budget cycle to amend the current proviso and have the responsibilities of the Policy Committee transferred to the Victim Service Coordinating Council and the Policy Committee dissolved.

Tom Lucas also asked for historical data as is related to the Legislative Audit Council report and its findings.

Council Members were provided an at a glance sheet of Proviso 72.25 pertaining to a assessment and surcharge study of victim witness funds, Proviso 89.70 pertaining to Auditing, and H3677 – 16-3-1350 (A) and (B) – VAWA Compliance.

As it relates to H3677, Lori Gonzalez provided information which she obtained while at a recent national meeting held in Texas. Some concerns that were voiced as South Carolina comes in compliance is the storing of the examination kits once they have been used. Vicki Bourus also provided some insight on the same concerns from the state level and efforts will continue to be fine tuned. Sandi voiced her concerns on the payment to the hospitals if there is no incident report due to the fact that SOVA has required claims to have an incident report. Larry Barker informed the Council that modifications are under way to make sure that SOVA is able to pay for exams. Vicki Bourus and Lori Gonzalez agreed to present at the September meeting; thereby, bringing view points from the State and County level.

After discussion, a motion was made by Dean Kilpatrick and seconded by Larry Barker to take a more in depth look at the expenditure guideline currently utilized as a suggested guide. The committee will be chaired by Sandi Wofford and the members are, Veronica Swain – Kunz, Jeff Moore, Nataki Brown, Dean Kilpatrick, Susan Walkup, Nancy Barton, and Marvin Bryant. Dean also suggested possibly having the Victim Services Coordinating Council adopt these guidelines.

It was suggested that the facilitator be made aware of the sub-committee meetings in order to make the entire Council aware of the meetings so that if they would like to attend they would have the logistical information and an opportunity to attend if they so desire.

Although Ms. Blackley was not present, she provided notes from the Sentence Reform Commission that were provided by Anne Seymour. William Bilton, Barbara Grissom, Marvin Bryant, Larry Barker, Jeff Moore, and Hope Blackley attended the latest meeting held in Charleston. William Bilton informed the Council that legislation was introduced last year to form a Commission consisting of three Senators, one representative from the office of the Governor, three House Representatives, and three Judges. South Carolina has joined with the Pew Foundation which is providing funds for experts to view sentencing practices in South Carolina. The report will be submitted February 2010. Three Subcommittees consist of Classification of Crimes, Alternative Sentencing, and Prison Release.

Barbara Grissom voiced her concern regarding the Sentence Reform Committee and stated there were members of the Council that knew about the initial meeting of the Reform Commission and did not inform the entire Council.

After discussion it was agreed that the facilitator will join the listserv for Mr. Gentry to receive information on hearings that may interest the Council as a whole. It was also asked if there is a need to have persons show their support for members of the Council who have been called to testify on victim issues and letting the Council know; therefore, allowing them to assist as best they could.

The facilitator informed the Council of the upcoming openings on the Council due to term expiration. The Crime Victims seat which is an appointed position by the Director of SOVA, Dr. Barker. The current representative Joanna Katz has opted not to seek re-appointment. Dr. Barker extended the invitation for suggestions from the Council that could be forwarded to either the facilitator or Dr. Barker. The second seat is the At- Large seat held by Dean Kilpatrick. The Council is asked to submit the bios of the recommendation to the facilitator by the 25th of August. The Council voted to conduct the voting process for the new seat via email.

The facilitator provided a sheet for the Council members to write down areas they would like to focus on during the new fiscal year and asked them to submit that list back to her.

Motion was moved for adjournment of meeting by Marvin Bryant.