

**DOMESTIC VIOLENCE PREVENTION COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES**

April 25th, 2023

Capitol Press Room

**Members in Attendance**

Amy Dupuy

Bonnie Mckneely

Karen Webb

Chief Tommy Clark, Jr.

Rutha Chatwood

Francis Robinson (Proxy for Ramona Harris)

Twahna Harris

Mariah Wineski

**Guests in Attendance:**

**In person**: Annie Sheehan - Dean, Lauren Pete, Zachary Bonser, Megan Sheehan - Dean, Billie Lacomb, Traci Morgan

**Virtually**: Tammy Jump, Hope Levins NOHD, Ayn W. Stehr, Summer Palmey, Gail Gowland, Jocelyn Pinkerton, Pris Ashworth, Doug Horn

**Staff in Attendance:**

Renee Antoine, Executive Director, Governor’s office of Women’s Policy

Jy’Asia Sams, Assistant to Director, Governor’s office of Women’s Policy

**Call to Order:**

Chair Mariah Wineski called the meeting to order at 1:05 p.m. and conducted roll call. A quorum was not met.

**New staff updates and Introduction:**

* + Introduction of new Commission Member Bonnie Mckneely

**Approval of Minutes**

* January 2023
  + Not approved

**Shared of Learning (Annie Sheehan - Dean presenting)**

*Shared learning is an opportunity for members and guests to highlight the focus of work that is being completed around the state on various issues regarding domestic violence.*

Mariah Wineski introduced Annie Sheehan - Dean of Louisiana State University. She holds leadership for the student organization “Feminist in Action”. The main goal of the organization is to produce a safe space for individuals who comes from various ethnic and cultural backgrounds. The program was implemented in the 1970s, to oppose sexual and domestic violence, specifically in the Baton Rouge / LSU area. Her focus will be directed toward the organization's annual event “Take Back the Night”. This events educates individuals on domestic violence, their LSU Experience dealing with domestic violence, and sharing testimonials from survivors. The goals for the annual event of TBTN are to provide a supportive space for survivors, bring attention to rape culture across college campuses, and urge Louisiana State University to be a leader in acknowledging the public issue while being proactive within the issue. She suggests that college students are most vulnerable during their first 6 months of college, to experience sexual violence, which also enables them not seek out assistance, due to a lack of network or help from surrounding societies and communities. Women outside of college are equally vulnerable to sexual assets, and are in dire need of assistance from committees such as DVPC, to bring actual change to the issue. She provided data from the “ LSU Power-Based Violence Report of 2022”, which showcased that 126 cases were reported to Title IX, 22% of cases of forcible Rape, and 16% of Dating and Domestic Violence. She proposed that we need to increase communication and community education, specifically understanding the definition of “consent”, to enable women to function in life safely. She concluded her presentation by emphasizing that we must empower police and first responders, however, she explained that there is a great disconnect between officers being properly informed and trained on how to deal with an interaction with a domestic violence calls. Ms. Sheehan-Dean, also advocated for the “Justice for Survivors ACT (SB 215), along with a Justice Reinvestment Package, explaining that the package seeks to provide justice for survivors and increase expert testimony to supplement cases involving domestic violence. The package will inevitably allow state funds to be reinvested into the community of survivors to create resources to support them in their recovery

**Commission Bylaws**

* Chair Mariah Wineski expressed that the working group has placed great focus on preparing a draft for the bylaws meeting, and has succeeded with the production of a working draft
* Chair Mariah Wineski presented the draft to receive feedback from the commission members and to decide a proper direction to take within the ByLaws packet
* Copy of Bylaws Draft is attached

**Review Of legislation - 2023 regular Legislative Session**

• Chair Mariah Wineskin prepared a handout expressing all of the current bills within this current session regarding Domestic Violence

• Chair Mariah Wineski briefly read over each bill within the session explaining its purpose, and how each bill will function if it seeks to pass during this current session

• Descriptions of each Legislative Bills discussed will be attached

**Subcommittee Reports**

* An email was established and sent out to prepare confirmation of membership for each subcommittee

1. ***Law Implementation and Training*** *( Tammy Jump Presenting )*

*This subcommittee focuses on improving implementation of existing laws, in furtherance of Purpose area 6: Develop a plan that ensures state laws on domestic violence are properly implemented and provides training to law enforcement and the judiciary.*

Current Commission members on subcommittee:

1. Tammy Jump
2. Chief Tommy Clark
3. Ramona Harris

• Tammy Jump suggested an additional video to be implemented regarding training for law officers, to ensure proper education for all law enforcement agencies

• Ms. Jump, is endeavoring in teaching a curriculum regarding Domestic Violence in June and would like suggestions for more topics to place importance on within her teachings. She wants to focus on a broad variety of information to navigate that can apply to more areas and not just law enforcement

• Ms. Jump, expressed that the education within this subcommittee is imperative to supplement the disconnect that law officers face due to not knowing how to accurately handle domestic violence occurrences

1. ***Victimization Data (****Karen Webb Presenting )*

*This subcommittee was established to identify and address areas for improvement in data collection and reporting related to domestic violence in Louisiana. This subcommittee’s work typically addresses purpose area 7: Develop a framework to collect and integrate data and measure outcomes.*

Current Commission members on subcommittee:

1. Karen Webb
2. Mariah Wineski
3. Mary Claire Landry
4. Rutha Chatwood

* A meeting was conducted on March 15, discussing the “National Violent Death Reporting System”.
* The subcommittee submitted an abstract for the first conference that will be prepared by chair Mariah Wenski
* The subcommittee proposed a question for LPOR to decipher if they were able to narrow it down by zip code
* They have implemented a domestic abuse fatality revive database, and are awaiting to receive confirmation from OTS
* They have successfully prepared and sent out drafts to multiple organizations, and are awaiting a response to confirm cooperation amongst these surrounding organizations

1. **Needs Assessment Working Group** ( Mariah Wesnksi Presenting )

*This subcommittee was established during the latter meeting to develop an approach that efficiently meets the needs of all domestic violence victims*

Components of the subcommittee

* **Survivor survey** 
  + The survey is currently translated into English, Spanish, and Vietnamese and was administered through a public link to receive responses from survivors partnered with domestic violence shelters
  + The subcommittee conducted interviews and surveys with “two-on-one” survivors, to gain a more profound and personal look at the resources survivors require
  + The subcommittee hosted round table events with several specific groups of advocates, minorities, LBGTQ, and children and Domestic Violence advocates.
    - Feedback from the events was implemented into the need assessments committee
  + They have combined with culturally specific providers, community centers, churches, and schools to communicate with them to understand how domestic violence occurs within their community and the resources they require
    - The subcommittee also incorporated Interviews of staff within domestic violence shelters, to get additional perspectives on the resources survivors need to produce a more effective program

**Law Institute Liaison Update**

* No updates

**Public Comments**

* None

**Adjournment**

* With no additional business the meeting was adjourned at 2:39 pm.