Louisiana Domestic Violence Prevention Commission Minutes

Tuesday, May 15, 2018, 1:00pm

Meeting location: Governor’s Press Room, Fourth Floor, LA State Capitol

**I. Meeting Called To Order**

* Meeting Called to Order by Mariah Wineski at 1:13pm
1. **Roll Call**

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| **Members Present**Mariah WineskiKimberly Resetar Ramona Harris Rutha ChatwoodTracy FarrisLila HoganDr. Shanta ProctorSunny Funk (via phone)Lindsey Blouin (via phone)Tom Clark (via phone)Judge Lila Sylvester (via phone)Judge Laurie Hulin (via phone)Amy Dupuy (nonmember)Lee Ann Wall (nonmember)Taylor Robinson (nonmember)Valerie Jordan (nonmember)Mary Jo Milam (nonmember)Sara Margaret Smith (nonmember)**Members Absent**Connie CouvillonConstance HesterMolly BrannonSen. Gary SmithRep. Patricia SmithTwahna Harris |

1. **Introductions**
* Roll was called and Quorum was established.
1. **Approval of the Minutes**
* Review of minutes from February meeting. Request made to add members who are not present to minutes. Motion by Ms. Hogan to approve minutes. Seconded by Ms. Farris. Motion passes.
1. **Criminal Justice Data Subcommittee Report**
* This subcommittee is to identify what data is out there and what is missing from current data collection. Take note of how information is collected and what types of information is currently available. Confirm what law enforcement collects and all the different documentation styles.
* Ms. Farris noted that she is the current chair of this subcommittee and will be retiring in June, but intends to stay involved in some capacity.
* Ms. Jordan informed commission that there is a Nichols graduate student by the name of Jennifer Richard who works with LCLE on data gathering systems and is willing to share data with commission.
* Mr. Clark requested to be added to this subcommittee.
1. **Victimization Data Subcommittee Report**
* Ms. Wineski noted the current lack of good domestic violence homicide tracking and non fatal domestic violence reporting.
* Ms. Wineski proposed that the subcommittee look further into the new data collection described by Ms. Herwehe in our February meeting.
* Ms. Landry and Ms. Chatawood were added to this subcommittee.

1. **Legal Subcommittee Report – Law Institute**
* Ms. Hogan informed the commission that the two Law Institute bills passed and are awaiting the Governor’s signature. The first addressed that spousal support will be a presumption (instead of shall) in domestic violence divorces. The second addressed attorney fees being the separate obligation of the perpetrator not a community debt.
* Ms. Hogan also informed the commission that Kim Sport and Guy Holdridge will be heading a domestic violence subcommittee in the Criminal Law section of the Law Institute, but they have not met yet.
1. **Legal Subcommittee Report – 2018 Legislative Session Update**
* HB 261 adds texting to phone harassment criminal charge.
* HB 474 adds Post training for law enforcement regarding domestic violence will be modeled after the current sexual assault training.
* HB 896 states the crime of battery of a dating partner or domestic abuse battery involves strangulation or a pregnant victim, or is committed in the presence of a child who is 13 years of age or younger, the offender shall be imprisoned at hard labor for not more than three years.
* SB 231 encompasses the firearm transfer process. It will get serious tweaking next year to address massive procedural and implementation problems.
* SB 291 adds that in determining an award of custody or visitation in cases involving a history of family violence, the court may consider whether a party has sought relief. This bill saw opposition on the House floor and compromising amendments were added.
1. **Work Plan**
* The commission discussed a work plan regarding the implementation of firearm transfer.
* A grant is in place to help with the program and there will be an initial roll out in eight locations.
* Commission plans to work with LCLE to develop general forms and a curriculum. Forms will cover all aspects of legality and will be editable for each jurisdiction to customize for ease of application. Curriculum will outline the procedure to help guide law enforcement and explain to them how to work with other government entities for successful implementation.
* Ms. Wall mentioned possible grant for community outreach that may be able to help with enforcement training.
* Advocates should be invited to training as the parties holding law enforcement accountable locally.
* An official subcommittee was created for firearm transfer implementation consisting of Ms. Landry, Ms. Funk, Ms. Hogan, Ms. Wall, Ms. Wineski, Ms. Farris, Mr. Clark, Ms. Smith, and Ms. Robinson.
1. **Public Comment**
* There was no additional comment.
1. **Adjourn**
* Meeting adjourned at 2:35 pm.