



SOUTH CAROLINA

Victim Services Coordinating Council

Meeting Minutes

Thursday, January 19, 2023 | 10:00 a.m.

Barbara Jean (BJ) Nelson - Chair
SC Crime Victim Services
Division Office of the Attorney
General

Nettie Jacobs
SC Department of Probation,
Parole and Pardon Services

Lisa Catalanotto
SC Commission on
Prosecution Coordination

Karin Ho
SC Department of Corrections

Angela B. Kelly
SC Department of Juvenile Justice

Veronica Swain Kunz
SC Department of Crime Victim
Ombudsman, Crime Victim
Services Division, Office of the
Attorney General

Jarrold Bruder
SC Sheriffs' Association

Nataki Brown
SC Solicitors' Advocate Forum

Tressa Dixon
SC Law Enforcement
Victim Advocate

Sara Barber
SC Coalition Against Domestic
Violence and Sexual Assault

Trisha Allen
SC Attorney General's Office

Joe Corey, Deputy Director
SC Department of Crime Victim
Assistance Grants, Crime Victim
Services Division, Office of the
Attorney General

Mark Fallaw
SC Police Chiefs' Association

Dean Kilpatrick, Ph.D.
Medical University of SC

Laura Hudson
SC Victim Assistance Network

Debbie Curtis, Deputy Director
SC Department of Crime Victim
Compensation, Crime Victim
Services Division, Office of the
Attorney General

Thomas Knapp
SC Network of Children's
Advocacy Centers

Jada Charley
SAFE Homes-Rape Crisis
Coalition

Kassy Alia Ray
Serve & Connect

Ginger Dukes, Deputy Director
SC Department of Crime Victim
Services Training, Provider
Certification and Statistical
Analysis, Crime Victim Services
Division, Office of the Attorney
General

Ashley Thomas
The Hive Community Circle

Vacant Seat
SC Jail Administrators'

PRESENT: Barbara Jean (BJ) Nelson, Debbie Curtis, Trisha Allen, Jada Charley, Joe Corey, Ginger Dukes, Sherry Rhodes, Shannon Geary, Nettie Jacobs, Angela Kelly, Dean Kilpatrick, Thomas Knapp, Kassy Alia Ray, Veronica Swain-Kunz, Tricia Phaup

ABSENT: Sara Barber, Nataki Brown, Jarrod Bruder, Lisa Catalanotto, Tressa Dixon, Mark Fallaw, Laura Hudson, Ashley Thomas

OTHERS PRESENT: Cyril Belton - VSCC Admin., Steve Yarborough – DCVAG, Bonnie Brooks – CVS, Patrick Cable - CVST

I. Call to Order

Today's meeting was called to order by Director Nelson.

II. Business

Strategic Plan: Mr. Steve Yarborough gave a Power Point presentation on the efforts thus far in developing a strategic plan for the Council. The presentation included a summary of the Council's operative statutes, the current mission of the Council, a summary of the survey results and a request for additional input from the Council members. More than one member asked for the survey to be re-sent so that they could complete it. After some discussion of the comments provided, both in the survey and the meeting, Steve reminded the group that two representatives from the National Criminal Justice Association (NCJA) would be present virtually at the April 27th meeting and that by the end of the meeting the group should have a better idea of the time-line for developing its strategic plan. Steve encouraged all members to contact him with any information, suggestions, ideas and thoughts.

New Initiative – Police/Prosecutors: Deputy Director Veronica Swain Kunz gave a presentation informing the Council that SC is one of three states in the nation that allows police to prosecute crimes against people. Veronica mentioned that upon her legal research SC allows the unlawful practice of law and the Supreme Court permits this to happen. Veronica stated that victims' lives are in danger because of it. Domestic violence cases are still being prosecuted by only the arresting officer. This decision was made through litigation. Victims' Rights attorneys are interested in litigating this issue. The way to do this is a writ of mandamus.

CVST: Deputy Director Ginger Dukes spoke on changes in trainings and collaboration with DCVC, Debbie, and provide basic trainings from our office out in the field for people. "One reason we do this is because it is in our statute and another is because we have a lot of turnover in agencies." Ginger mentioned that we are adding five trainings over a period of a year which should help with the need for the people. Ginger informed the Council that she may call on members to participate with guidance as well as help us train in certain areas.



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III. Additional Information & Updates

Ms. Trisha Allen mentioned that they are beginning to feel the impact of the sex offender registry, petitions for removal. The concern comes with victim notification notices to be sent out and in some cases the victims don't want to be notified because of the time that has passed and other circumstances.

Deputy Director Joe Corey announced the 2023 Grant Solicitation Workshop is tentatively scheduled for March 13, 2023.

Deputy Director Debbie Curtis announced the first DCVC training February 17th at West Columbia. Her target is to also offer this training in Charleston, Greenville, and the Myrtle Beach area, so if anyone is interested please let her know. Seats are filling up.

Deputy Director Ginger Dukes shared the dates of their basic training will be October 17-19, 2023. She is going to be sending out notices to different agencies to include Detention Centers and Court personnel for employers to update their lists in order for CVST to clean up their data.

Ms. Shannon Geary mentioned VRW (April 17-26) is heavily in the works. Monday-Friday is a full week of virtual and two and a half days of the next week will be in person. Shannon announced Elder Abuse Awareness Month is in June with an in person training that last week to be held in Charleston.

Executive Director Thomas Knapp mentioned that they held their first initial victim service provider training last week with twenty seven people that completed the training and will be conducting another training in July. Thomas also mentioned that Dee Norton Advocacy Center for years has held a symposium on child abuse conference in Charleston and is now being discontinued. This will be the last year for that conference. Thomas stated that they are working with the North Carolina Children's Advocacy Center to do a joint symposium conference on child abuse once a year starting in 2024 in Myrtle Beach. The dates for this conference will be April 30th - May 2nd of 2024.

Ms. Angela Kelly informed the Council of a 1:00pm meeting with her HR and training department today being cancelled. This meeting was concerning the loss of a staffing program that worked closely with VOC Rehab and other phenomenal partners. Angela also commented as a result of staffing challenges they are getting assistance on some solutions with Karen Ho playing a key role in that direction.

Ms. Tricia Phaup (representing Sara Barber) spoke about opening their first Basic VSP Force next week on Wednesday with registration. Tricia mentioned that they have several webinars scheduled to include a February 17th session on "Change" with Ben Motley as the presenter, March 17th will be a webinar with Kim Pepico as presenter to speak on financial constraints with victims and the month of May a webinar will be held to assist law enforcement with Mark Wynn as the presenter. Tricia also informed the Council that there are more webinars in the works.

Ms. Kassy Alia Ray mentioned that today they are launching a pilot program with mental health assistance consisting of social work interns to help law enforcement agencies as a focal point. Kassy also discussed a program they have called Grace Groceries. This is a program where they provide non-perishable items to police so when they come across someone in need, they will be able to assist them in this way as well. Kassy informed the Council that this same program is available to LEVAs.



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Executive Director Dean Kilpatrick discussed a bill that has been introduced to the General Assembly, H.3515, the “Entrepreneur Freedom Act”. This Bill is proposing for licensed professionals to get rid of the licensing laws for professionals such as hair braiders, embalmers, social worker, psychologists and mental health counselors just to name a few that would allow anyone to operate in a licensed position without a license. Dean just wanted to call attention to H.3515.

Ms. Sherry Rhodes shared that Karin Ho is presenting at the American Correctional Association in Florida next week, a workshop on Post-Conviction Victims’ Rights.

IV. VSCC 2023 Approved Meeting Dates/Times

The following 2023 meeting dates were discussed:

Thursday, April 27, 2023 / 10:00 am

Thursday, August 24, 2023 / 10:00 am

Thursday, November 16, 2023 / 10:00 am

V. Adjournment

An invitation to accept a motion to adjourn was offered by Director Nelson. A motion was made to adjourn; this motion was seconded and then approved by the Council.