



## SOUTH CAROLINA

# Victim Services Coordinating Council

### Meeting Minutes

Thursday, April 27, 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'

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Barbara Jean (BJ) Nelson, Debbie Curtis, Karin Ho, Nettie Jacobs, Angela B. Kelly, Dean Kilpatrick, Thomas Knapp, Veronica Swain-Kunz, Tricia Phaub (representing Sara Barber), Laura Hudson, Lisa Catalanotto, Ashley Thomas, Jada Charley, Patrick Cable (representing Ginger Dukes), Steve Yarborough (representing Joe Corey)

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Sara Barber, Nataki Brown, Jarrod Bruder, Tressa Dixon, Ginger Dukes, Kassy Alia Ray, Mark Fallaw, Trisha Allen, Joe Corey

**SPECIAL GUESTS:** Kellie Rabenhorst (NCJA); Janelle Melohn (NCJA)

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Cyril Belton - VSCC Admin., Bonnie Brooks – CVS, Sheila Hoffman - CVS

#### I. Call to Order

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

#### II. Approval of Minutes

Director Nelson asked members for any discussion of the Minutes from the January 19, 2023, meeting. No changes were recommended, and the minutes were accepted as prepared and approved by members of the Council.

#### III. Business

*OVC Function and Goals:* Steve Yarborough introduced two representatives of the National Criminal Justice Association (NCJA) to the Council, Ms. Kellie Ravenhorst and Ms. Janelle Melohn who joined the meeting via Zoom. Both representatives stated they wanted to introduce themselves and meet the Council members face to face as we move forward with these strategic planning efforts. Ms. Ravenhorst gave an update on VOCA funding matters. She also gave a quick review of the funding history. Ms. Melohn discussed strategic planning attributes and highlighted other states to observe that are like South Carolina in which we could study. In fact, Tennessee representatives have offered to make themselves available to assist us in person should we wish to make contact. She reiterated to members that she and Ms. Ravenhorst hope to be helpful to us with laying the groundwork for our strategic planning efforts.

*Report of the Restitution Task Force Confidentiality Address Program Legislative Update:* Deputy Director Veronica Swain Kunz expressed the findings have been very interesting. She gave an update on the final report with ten recommendations. She stated she will be sending out a copy of the final version to the members. Veronica spoke about the surveys in the report specifically about what courts and how collection of restitution occurs in lower courts. She also stated there are a few counties having their offenders give their victims restitution. Veronica informed the members that the Task Force recently had a meeting with Senator Greg Hembree about the confidentiality address program. In addition, she said that the initiative was offered up by Senator Katrina Shealy and was passed by the Senate and is no being reintroduced into the House. Katrina Shealy and was passed by the Senate and is no being reintroduced into the House. Director Nelson added that this program is currently designated to go under

Department of Crime Victim Compensation (DCVC)

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the A.G.'s Office, Human Trafficking Unit managed by Kathryn Moorehead. Director Nelson also shared that she, Kathryn, Veronica, and Judge Jeff Young attended a recent meeting, and all agreed that this would be the best fit for the program. Director Nelson thanked Veronica for her efforts and hard work on this project.

#### IV. Council Member Updates:

**Nettie Jacobs: No updates to share currently.**

**Lisa Catalanotto: No updates to share currently.**

Patrick Cable (representing Deputy Director Ginger Dukes) stated CVST received a total of 307 VSP applications (57 in January; 64 in February; 116 in March; and 70 in April). They are trying to get notifiers trained for two hours every other year. Patrick shared that 27 were invited in January with 13 completed; 89 were invited in February with 43 completed; 95 were invited in March with 51 completed; and 92 were invited in April with 43 completed. CVST helped Veronica gather data for the Restitution Report, and currently they are working on a Policy and Procedure Manual for the CVST Department.

Steve Yarborough (representing Deputy Director Joe Corey) gave an update on the final DCVAG Grants Application process. By the application deadline, DCVAG had received 173 applications for funding. Due to reductions in federal funding levels for the coming grant cycle DCVAG had asked governmental agencies (Cities, Counties and Solicitor offices) to apply for a new stream of funding known as SAVS (Supplemental Allocation Victims Services). SAVS was implemented from a one-time legislative allocation that was made available to DCVAG to help offset funding cuts that have occurred over the past several years. The SAVS grant program mirrors the same criteria for qualification as VOCA. The final application breakdown is as follows: 173 total applications received; 72 VOCA applications; 52 SAVS applications; 32 VAWA applications; and 17 applications were received for SVAP funding. Staff are currently reviewing these applications for award consideration that will be made in September for the fiscal year beginning in October.

Deputy Director Debbie Curtis announced there is a regional training coming up on June 22, 2023, in Greenville at the Greenville City Police Department and anybody who wants to learn about DCVC can come. She mentioned that staff from each department will be there to discuss the process. She also mentioned that another training is scheduled for Charleston at the end of the year. Debbie also encouraged the Council to fill out the DCVC survey that was sent out right before Victims' Rights Week. She stated she plans to do a deep dive "peel back the onion layers" of each section in DCVC. Her review will incorporate the survey results, in particular the comment section, of the surveys from the Council members.

Executive Director Thomas Knapp shared that the Charleston CAC Chapter is collaborating with the NC Chapter to hold a Carolina' Symposium on Child Abuse in Myrtle Beach on April 30-May 2, 2024, at the Myrtle Beach Convention Center.

Dr. Dean Kilpatrick announced the National Crime Victims Research and Treatment Center is now five and a half years into the National Mass Violence Victimization Resource Center. OVC had decided to approve/accept their application again. During the five and a half years that they have had that center they have built it into something that has a great deal of value and is nationally relevant. He shared that if you were to do a search using the Google engine



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under the term “Mass Violence” their center comes up in the top three most relevant searches.

Deputy Director Veronica Swain Kunz reminded the Council of the Victims Matter Rally to be held on May 9, 2023 on the State House grounds from 9:30am-10:00am giving them the opportunity to meet their Legislator.

Ms. Laura Hudson updated the members on how she and Veronica spent the day prior at the Supreme Court listening to the challenges on the early release of Mr. Price, which was overturned. She stated that the most gratifying aspect she came away with was the constant mention of “violating of crime victims”. She stated that it was a great accomplishment with the acknowledgement of Crime Victims’ Rights. Laura stated that SCVAN conducted another successful VRW. Director Nelson shared appreciation and thanks for all that Laura and SCVAN do, in addition to her hard work and efforts working with the legislature.

Ms. Karin Ho shared her appreciation and gave kudos to SCVAN. She stated that the National Institute for Corrections has expressed interested in a couple of their projects which encouraged them to create a National Training Academy for those of us that do victim driven work. The first training is going to be in Colorado, as a test pilot run, in mid-July. This training will target training for facilitators. She indicated their next Post Critical Incident Seminar is being facilitated with two states, Missouri, and South Carolina. These events are for officers that have been traumatized and impacted in so many ways. Being able to support to them is critical. Karin also announced that their Domestic Violence Doctoring Program that started last summer is still vibrant and running. Participants will graduate this summer. She stated that they started their female program this past March at Lee Correctional with the hopes of it continuing to grow. Director Nelson thanked Karin for all she does.

Ms. Angela Kelly shared DJJ is in the beginning stages of adopting the same program (Critical Incident Stress Management (CISM)) that Karin spoke referenced. She shared there are Juvenile Justice System changes with case managers. They are working on new policies and procedures. Angela expressed her appreciation and thanks to Laura for everything she does and that she had an incredible experience with VRW this year. Director Nelson thanked Angela for all she does.

Ms. Tricia Phaub (representing Sara Barber) mentioned that they have several trainings scheduled as follows; May 5, 2023 is an all-day conference titled Sexual Citizens, which is the title of a book. The two speakers for this conference are the authors of this book. This training is for the college campuses across the state with an expected 150 attendees. Another training is May 12, 2023, with Nicole Matthews presenting Missing Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls and she will also be speaking with Native American individuals about the same issue using spiritual practices. On May 19, 2023, Mark Wynn will be speaking with law enforcement investigators to help them with communication with victim advocacy, 170 attendees expected. She stated that there are more trainings listed on the website should the members be interested. Director Nelson shared thanks to SCADDVASA for all they offer and do.

Ms. Ashley Thomas shared she just returned from travels to Africa. She gave a brief update of her experience of touring the continent of Africa with having an opportunity to discuss and understand the landscape of abuse and violence there and how they are approaching it. She shared the Annual SC Survivor Summit was held two weeks ago at Camp Cole as a



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two-day retreat with 22 participants. Ashley announced that last year they received funding from Sisters of Charity to do a qualitative and quantitative research project with the first phase completed. She stated that she is willing to share this report with the Council members. Ashley extended an invitation to those that would like to visit their facility and take a tour of the office space and meet the team of The Hive. She also mentioned that next Friday on May 5, 2023, The Hive has established a formal partnership with Nelson Mullins to provide pro bono legal aid to survivors and that will be available in all their offices. She also stated that SC Legal will join them in this partnership. Karen suggested that Ashley consider doing a workshop next year at VRW about her experiences. Director Nelson thanked Ashley and asked if she could share all of the links she discussed.

**V. Future Meeting Dates:** Director Nelson advised Council members that we may have to adjust the next meeting date due to a scheduling conflict. She asked members if they felt meeting four (4) times a year is too little or too much? Dr. Kilpatrick stated it depends on what the Strategic Plan looks like so he recommended leaving the scheduling of meetings alone for now, but can adjust, if necessary, in the future. Council members Karin Ho and Tom Knapp agreed.

**VI. Next Meeting Date(s)**

Thursday, August 24, 2023 / 10:00 a.m.

Thursday, November 16, 2023 / 10:00 a.m.

**VII. Adjournment**