



Governor's Commission on Domestic Violence, Sexual Assault and Stalking

Governor's Commission on Domestic Violence, Sexual Assault and Stalking Meeting Minutes **November 17, 2022**

Present: Mary Krueger, Angelika Wilkerson, Alyssa Kuehne, Jean Killham, Commissioner Robert Quinn, Rep. Jodi Nelson, Chief Janet Bouchard, Lyn Schollett, Danielle Snook, Scott Hampton, Andrea Bonito, Senator Sharon Carson

Welcome and Introductions

October draft minutes will be approved in January meeting

Updates from Chair

The next Commission meeting (January) and all subsequent meetings will be at the New Hampshire Supreme Court

Chief David Hobbs is retiring and thus stepping down from the Commission. He will contact the Governor's office who can determine another appointment.

Legislative Subcommittee Discussion

So far the Subcommittee has the following make up: NHLA, Jean Killham, NHCADSV, Danielle Snook, Senator Carson. Should law enforcement be represented? (Yes).

Confirm Committee Charge: 1) Develop a statement of the role of the committee; 2) Develop a recommendation regarding whether the commission will take a position on bills; 3) Review and inform the commission about key DV/SA bills in the 2023 session, but not propose any new bills; 4) In the summer & fall 2023, review the current domestic violence and sexual assault statutes for possible changes; 5) and if determined to be within the scope of the role of the commission, make recommendations for possible bills to amend NH's domestic violence and sexual assault laws.

Steering Committee Update

The Committee met last week and went through the Supreme Court Task Force recommendations to determine what this group might want to take on. The Committee is still reviewing these.

The Steering Committee shared a draft chart of task force recommendations identified as hybrid or external (as identified by the court) The Committee is working on a way to share the document & track changes.

-Sen. Carson: She suggested having a discussion about the legal definition of intimate partner violence as the Judicial Branch taskforce identified the definition of domestic violence as something to review. The Legislative subcommittee could make recommendations as part of its review of the current laws.

The Steering Committee also discussed the Center for Court Innovation involvement and once we identify priorities/tasks for the Commission, we can involve them for technical assistance. We are looking ahead at timing and committing to something sooner than later. Late spring? We will reach out and see what their availability is.

-Chief Bouchard: Asked if we have looked at the LAP (lethality assessment protocol) screen recently?

-Danielle Snook: She says we need to look at risk assessment tools to determine what tool we should be using (in New Hampshire) or there are any updates needed.

The current LAP is scientifically based through Johns Hopkins' research. It educates survivors and provides for a warm hand-off to crisis centers when someone is screened in.

-Commissioner Quinn: He says he can put a presentation together on J ONE if it's helpful for January or February.

Court update on Task Force Recommendations (Jean)

-The Court is in the early stages of planning a training for all judges re: strangulation. They will record it and having it available on the internal training system.

-The Court is looking into how to publicize resources available on judicial branch website. They are considering a poster for court houses and other public places. These could include QR codes to link to information.

-They are developing training materials for crisis center advocates about filing DV/Stalking petitions via email (training by mid-December). This will also be available on the website.

- They established a working group re: recommendation 2.1 to streamline criminal and civil DV cases involving the same parties.

-They have posted videos regarding the petition filing process which are now displayed more prominently on the judicial branch website. They are open to any feedback about the accessibility of the website.

-The Court noted some recent issues that have popped-up: in the last month there was a police department that notified a defendant of a temporary protective order over the phone. This is problematic for multiple reasons. This appears to be a training issue. The County Attorney will educate that police department as to the proper procedure.

Discussion: This information prompted a discussion about police training. Police receive 8 hours of domestic violence training at the police academy. After that, officer training is done by the individual police departments. There are AG/State law enforcement protocols for police to follow. Maybe there is room for a module for a refresher. Maybe someone from the chief's association can talk about what they do to ensure consistency across the state. We ought to consider whether this issue (of service) or others that arise need to be addressed statewide, broad based or addressed case by case. This

Commission could benefit from education around relinquishment of firearms and could possibly establish a subcommittee on this (firearms). It is important to include county attorneys in the conversation. There is variation between counties on how cases are prosecuted (who handles them). Local prosecutors need to also be brought into the loop.

Updates from the group

-Danielle Snook – They are working on next statewide conference. They encourage suggestions from this group on speakers and topics.

-Lyn Schollett – There were 4 amicus briefs filed in New Hampshire Supreme Court regarding an online stalking case, including the Coalition. Their Law day was a success. The Coalition is fully staffed for the first time in years.

-Commissioner Quinn – He may start to bring in staff to these meetings occasionally, for valuable the info. They are in the process of updating NIBR, making it more robust. They are working on making training consistent.

-Jodi Nelson – She was re-elected as a State Representative. She hopes to be on the children & family law committee again. She shared that the Littleton, Derry & Portsmouth public libraries now offer west-law access, Derry was just added. Thank you to all whom made that possible. It will be a valuable resource to our community. She is curious whether pilot or other locations are possible.

-Janet Bouchard – Her department is seeing an increase in DV incidents, unfortunately typical for this time of year. Officers are often the first contact with victims. They hired a prosecution assistant who is also victim advocate. They need to support officers who witness difficult situations.

-Sen. Sharon Carson – The Senate is getting organized. Effect of DV on children is something that might be worth looking at - how do we address it, get them help? They too are victims.

-Mary mentioned a recent NH Bar News article about Supervised Visitation Center gap. There is potential for programs like “parenting after violence”.

-Angelika Wilkerson – 603 Legal Aid is seeing an uptick in cases. The DOVE attorney training was a success (training volunteers to take DV/Stalking civil cases). They are working on finding additional pro-bono volunteers. Shaheen & Gordon committed to 20 cases a year (not just DV).

-Alyssa Kuehne -She is catching up after her absence.

-Mary Krueger – NHLA is part of the new paraprofessional pilot in Berlin, Franklin and Manchester Circuit Courts. Paraprofessionals can handle housing and DV cases for people at or under 300% Federal Poverty Level, starting this January. Rule 35 was just adopted by the New Hampshire Supreme Court to allow for this. The DV clinic at Manchester circuit court is so far successful providing legal help for plaintiffs for final DV order hearings.

Meeting Adjourned

Submitted, Jodi Nelson, Secretary

Reviewed and edited by Mary Krueger, Chair

