

COLORADO DOMESTIC VIOLENCE OFFENDER MANAGEMENT BOARD

MEETING MINUTES

March 13, 2020

Attendance:

Domestic Violence Board Members:

Bradley Burback, Brandy Walega, Erin Gazelka, Jackie List, Jeanette Barich, Jenifer Morgen, Karen Morgenthaler, Kristiana Huitrón, Michelle Hunter, Nancy Olson, Nicole Collins, Raechel Alderete, Sandra Campanella, Stephanie Fritts, Tally Zuckerman

Domestic Violence Board Members Absent:

Jenna Willis, Jennifer Parker, Laura Bravo

Staff Present:

Adrienne Corday, Carolina Thomasson, Chris Lobanov-Rostovsky, Elliot Moen, Jesse Hansen, Marina Borysov

Guests:

Amanda Albo, Ami McCarthy, Alana Rumley, Ellen Wallace, Kerry Clayton, Phillippe Marquis, Sasha Cafaro, Loretta Frawley

Introductions

The meeting convened at 9:40am. Nancy Olson (Chair) called the meeting to order. The Domestic Violence Offender Management Board (DVOMB) members, staff, and guests gave introductions.

Jesse Hansen requested (3) three modifications to the agenda:

- Table the Strategic Planning item to the April Board meeting.
- Add one voting item, which will occur during announcements regarding Section 9.0.
- Modify the communication study results as Patricia Billinger, the Colorado Department of Public Safety (CDPS), Public Information Officer (PIO) will not be available to present today.

There was consensus to approve the March agenda.

The Board reviewed the February minutes.

Brandy Walega moved to accept the February minutes. Erin Gazelka, seconded the motion.

Discussion:

A Board member requested that the Treatment Victim Advocates (TVA) information be listed in the Standard Operating Procedure (SOP).

There was consensus by the Board to add to add the TVA's information the SOP.

Brandy Walega moved to accept the February minutes with minor edits. Jeanette Barich, seconded the motion.

Announcements:

- Staff Announcements:
 - Jesse Hansen announced:
 - The Board continues to wait for the Colorado Department of Human Services (CDHS) appointment;
 - The Application Review Committee (ARC) made updates to the DVOMB Administrative Policies;
 - The Office of Information Technology (OIT) put a delay on the Domestic Violence Provider Management System;
 - A future agenda item regarding the determination of a factual basis for domestic violence by jury.
 - COVID-19 Guidance for Treatment Providers: The ARC recommended a 30-day discretionary period advising that Approved Treatment Providers may adjust their services, utilizing Tele-therapy or E-Therapy if it is believed that the in-person requirement will put clients and staff at considerable risk. Approved Providers utilizing Teletherapy or E-Therapy shall utilize a HIPAA compliant platform and shall ensure that they have the appropriate disclosure form addressing electronic therapy signed by the client Health Insurance Portability Accountability Act (HIPAA) compliant platform and appropriate disclosure forms.

DVOMB Consensus

- Marina Borysov announced the following updates regarding training events:
 - The call for papers for the Annual Domestic Violence & Sex Offender Management Board (DVSOMB) Conference is closed and 47 proposals were received.
 - Nomination will be announced for three (3) award nominations to be recognized at the DVSOMB Conference.
 - Upcoming Training Events:
 - Lunch and Learn - April 6th – Online
 - Advance Series Training on Case Conceptualization, Treatment Planning and ARC – May 18th, Location TBD
 - DVI01 DVRNA Training, June 12, 2020, Colorado Springs/Pueblo
 - DV200 Community Roundtable Discussion, June 29, 2020, Colorado Springs/Pueblo
 - Another training, not sponsored by the DVOMB, is the Sexual Harms Beyond Violence and Abuse – June 5th.
- Carolina Thomasson announced:
 - The ARC made modifications to Section 9.0 of *the Standards* to remove the 2-year limit on the Entry level and Provisional level approvals.

Erin Gazelka moved to remove the 2-year limit on the Entry and Provisional limit, Karen Morgenthaler second the motion.

- The ARC made modifications to Section 9.0 of *the Standards* to require the Entry level and Provisional level applicants to complete all (4) four core trainings.



- Adrienne Corday announced that the CDPS has implemented changes to expense reports that now require all expense reports for Board members be turned in within 60 days.

Board Announcements

Brandy Walega announced:

- Violence Free Colorado and Colorado Coalition Against Sexual Assault (CCASA) is having a preconference: Language Accessibility Lab- June 9th.
- Violence Free Colorado and Colorado Coalition Against Sexual Assault (CCASA) main conference- June 10th – 12th.

Future Agenda Items

Erin Gazelka:

- Standards Revisions Committee is working on Section 5, and would like guidance from the DVOMB on structural changes to *the Standards* in Section 5.

Jeanette Barich:

- Would like to discuss how changes of *the Standards* are communicated and implemented.

Victim Advocacy Committee: Treatment Victim Advocate Purview Issue: (Handout)

At the February Board meeting, Brandy Walega presented on behalf of the Victim Advocacy Committee (VAC) and sought guidance from the Board regarding the status of TVAs, and how to support TVAs, as well as what the role of the Victim Advocacy Committee would be with these issues. Brandy provided an overview and timeline of events involving Treatment Victim Advocates. Brandy updated the Board on the Strategic Action Plan for the Victim Advocate Committee and why issue was being brought before the Board.

Brandy Walega and Ami McCarthy conducted an over view of the presentation last month and asked the Board to have a discussion regarding these issues:

- What does the Board want to do about the status of TVAs?
- How does the Board want to delineate and support the TVA position that was created by *the Standards*?
 - TVAs do not have statute-supported confidentiality & do not fall under the privilege statute.
- The TVA Committee is in need of direction and specifically how to delineate and support the TVA position created by the Standards?
 - There was a comment about increasing the capacity for training and technical assistance for TVAs.
 - Jesse provide context for what has been done in previous years for securing funding and decision items submitted for the purpose of more staff support for TVAs. Those efforts have fallen short due to the issue that TVAs are not defined in statute. Jesse indicated that DCJ could not act as a regulatory body or certify TVAs without a change in statute. Moreover, a training and technical assistance position would need more FTE to support that function to TVAs.
 - Chris acknowledged the issues and proposed that the Board consider looking at the short-term goals and giving the VAC time to discern the long-term goals involving any statutory changes. Then those long-term goals could be brought back before the Board for review and further direction.
- It was noted that TVAs are listed on treatment provider renewal forms and verification of a TVA's hours or certification occurred in 2017. However, the ARC does not currently monitor the TVA's certification status as to whether it is still valid or has expired.

Discussion:

- One Board member commented that it is an issue that there was a position created in *the Standards* and not supported by statute. The lack of support and resources raises concerns about the sustainability of TVAs as a profession.
- There were several comments that suggested a statutory change would need to happen.
- Staff indicated that safeguards have been put in place to protect the identity and contact information of TVA's. There was a suggestion that having an online forum for TVAs would give TVAs a place to consult and support one another. Jesse noted that this was done in the past. He noted his concern would be that an online forum would still be subject to open records requests and that might jeopardize the TVA's identity and victim confidentiality.
- Jesse added that currently, the only way the DVOMB can have purview of the TVA, is through Approved Treatment Provider applications, renewals, and when TVAs update their information.
- It was suggested that the partnership with COVA and the DVOMB in support of the TVAs needs to be formalized through a Memorandum of Understanding to outline expectations for sharing information.
- Brandy thanked the Board for their time and consideration. The VAC will bring forward a recommended charter at the April meeting for review.

Lunch: Committee Reports:

- Executive Committee - Nancy Olson
 - The focus of this committee is operational and provides oversight of the work of the Board. This committee reviews and approves the monthly Board agenda. During its meeting, the committee debriefs the prior Board meeting, reviews future agenda items, and oversees the committee structure and delegated work.
- Application Review Committee - Karen Morgenthaler
 - The Application Review Committee (ARC) reviews all applications for placement on the Approved Provider List. Additionally, the ARC provides feedback to applicants and conducts Standards Compliance Reviews on Approved Providers at random or for-cause. Recently, the ARC has processed approximately 30 Intent to Apply Applications, one new Full-Operating Level (FOL) application, and has been exploring the use of E-Therapy with domestic violence offender treatment.
- Victim Advocacy Committee – Separate Agenda Item
- Standards Revision Committee – Erin Gazelka
 - This committee has combined with the Domestic Violence Treatment Provider committee. This committee is currently working on Section 5.0 of *the Standards* and is seeking input from the Board.
 - Discussion
 - The term “Offender” is used throughout *the Standards*. The Committee is recommending that this term be replaced with client since this section is specific to the Approved Provider.
 - There was support for this direction and a suggestion to add some clarification into Section 1.0 describing why different sections of the *Standards* use the term “client” and not “offender”.
- Training Committee – Marina Borysov
 - This committee made up of stakeholders from both the DVOMB and the Sex Offender Management Board (SOMB). One of its primary duties is to plan the annual conference. Additionally, this committee provides input into the Core trainings offered by the DVOMB & SOMB.
 - This committee also assists with the planning of the Advance Series Trainings that are offered about two to three times a year.

- The committee has also put forward a new way for scheduling specialized training. This involves allowing for individuals to register and then the training can be scheduled once the class is full.
- Juvenile Best Practices Work Group – Separate Agenda Item
- Civil Case Work Group – Jesse Hansen
 - This work group was created for the purpose of developing some best practice guidelines for Approved Providers working with civil cases involving domestic violence. Civil cases are different from criminal cases in many different ways and Approved Providers have been cautious about accepting civil cases for a lack of support and direction. The goal of this work group is to creating a collaborative network and document best practices that can then be shared as guidelines for Approved Providers.

Guiding Principles – Juveniles who Commit Relationship Abuse: (Handout)

Ellen Stein Wallace and Jesse Hansen requested feedback on the work of the Juveniles Best Practices Workgroup.

The purpose of this workgroup is to help fill the gap in services for youth who engage in violent or abusive behaviors in their romantic relationships. This workgroup will create guidelines on how this the juvenile population should be served and to promote early intervention with youth engaging in abusive behaviors. Ellen noted that several sources were used in designing the Guiding Principles, which were presented to the Board. These sources included mainly:

- The DVOMB Adult *Standards* and Appendix K.
- Youth SOMB *Standards*.
- Guidelines for young adult offenders.
- ATSA adolescents practice guidelines.
- Colorado’s Reference guide for school personnel concerning juveniles who have committed sexual abusive and offending behavior.

Reviewed the Guiding Principles: (Handout)

- Guiding Principle 1:
 - Clarification on who needs to report to law enforcement.
- Guiding Principle 4: Encouragement of family counseling (Parking lot)

There was a question if there would need to be family therapy? And if so, could it be done in a safe environment? Members from the workgroup responded by acknowledging that it seemed family therapy could be a treatment recommendation and something the group would be exploring in the treatment section of the Guidelines. Staff indicated that the this might present challenges if the youth are behaving in ways that mimic parental roles within their family. That would support the need for a higher level intervention with the family, but would probably be resisted by parents who are not supportive of treatment, but engage in power and control tactics with their intimate partner.

Brandy encouraged the workgroup to be aware and cognizant of the parent and if there are any offending behaviors. Family therapy, while beneficial to the youth, may have unintended consequences for other victims in the household whom participate in family therapy.

 - When you treat kids, you do have to incorporate their families.
- Guiding Principle 6:
 - It was suggested to mention age appropriate assessments.
- Guiding Principle 8:
 - There was a question if this guiding principle should mention of “healthy relationships”?
 - Relationship violence is the term that was agreed upon by the group. Ellen indicated that they would take that point back to the full group to consider adding.
- Guiding Principle 9:

- There was a suggestion to give some examples in Section b.
- There was a suggestion to change or remove the word “warm”. Jesse noted that and would take that back to the full group for consideration.
- Guiding Principle 11:
 - There was a suggestion to add “gang” involvement as a part of exposure to trauma and violence.
- Guiding Principle 13: What is the description of “caregiver disruption”? What does “caregiver disruption” mean? Ellen and Jesse indicated that term was ambiguous, but was intended to refer to the parent who was the primary care-giver. It was noted that this would go back to the full group for consideration.

Results from the DVOMB Communications Study: (Handout)

While Patricia Billinger (CDPS, PIO) was unable to attend the meeting, she informed Jesse that the feedback from the Communications Study were favorable, and positive. The area to improve the most would be to update the DVOMB Website, which will be happening soon.

Jesse also presented and requested feedback on the proposed branding logos for the DVOMB and SOMB.

Adjourn at 1:45 PM

Respectfully submitted by,

Adrienne Corday

APPROVED

