

**MICHIGAN DOMESTIC AND SEXUAL VIOLENCE
PREVENTION AND TREATMENT BOARD
MEETING MINUTES
June 14, 2024**

***** Approved *****

Members Present:

Dr. NiCole Buchanan - conference line (AG Opinion No. 7318). Will be counted as quorum.
Hon. Elizabeth Pollard Hines - Chairperson
Hon. Melissa Pope - conference line (AG Opinion No. 7318). Will be counted as quorum.
Rebecca Shiemke
Megan Widman
Dr. Kyla Williams

Members Absent with Notice:

Hon. Matt Wiese

Staff Present:

Jess Averill
Michael Bobbitt, Board Secretary
Gail Krieger
Lynelle Morgan
Beth Nagel
Angela Povilaitis
Stacey Verala

Guests:

Stephanie Beyersdorf - State Court Administrator Office
Stacey Ettawageshik - Uniting Three Fires Against Violence
Brendan Forward
Sheryl Forward
Tina Lightfoot - Michigan Department of Health and Human Services
Heath Lowry - Michigan Coalition to End Domestic and Sexual Violence
Megan Reynolds - Michigan Poverty Law Program
Brenne Wade - Mi IAFN Forensic RN

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

E. Hines convened the June 14, 2024, Michigan Domestic and Sexual Violence Prevention and Treatment Board meeting at the Grand Tower Building, Dempsey Room in Lansing, Michigan at 1:00p.m.

BOARD CONSENT

Review of June 14, 2024, agenda and approval of April 12, 2024, meeting minutes.

MOTION: Moved by R. Shiemke to approve the June 14, 2024, agenda. Motion seconded by K. Williams. Motion carried.

MOTION: Moved by K. Williams to approve the April 12, 2024, meeting minutes as amended. Motion seconded by M. Widman. Motion carried.

CHAIR REPORT

E. Hines introduced new Board member M. Widman and said she was grateful to Governor Whitmer for appointing her to the Board. M. Widman has a wealth of knowledge and expertise in victim service work as a trained social worker and academic instructor and researcher. Currently, she is a Professor and Director of the Bachelor of Social Work Program at Oakland University.

E. Hines said the last Board meeting at Avalon Healing Center was very welcoming and inspiring. She said it was a great experience for the Board to be hosted by Avalon and to honor Kim Hurst and Kalimah Johnson as the 2024 Debi Cain Champion of Justice Award recipients. The Board was thankful to the team at Avalon to providing their beautiful space to host a public meeting.

The PPO subcommittee has completed a draft of the Board's Priority for no-cost PPO service by law enforcement for victims. Board staff have requested feedback from partners and stakeholders and are currently working through that process before presenting a draft to a potential bill sponsor.

The medical mandated reporter subcommittee met with a healthcare provider who was enthusiastic about this issue. The subcommittee is developing next steps.

Board members reviewed proposed 2025 Board meeting dates. There were several conflicts and staff will present alternative dates at the next Board meeting.

L. Rogers could not attend the June Board meeting, but the Board hopes she will enjoy her well-deserved retirement at the end of June. She was truly dedicated to the Board and survivors and will be missed professionally and personally. A. Povilaitis read a prepared statement that encompassed the breadth of Lore's career.

Throughout her over four-decade long career, Attorney Lore Rogers has worked tirelessly to advocate on behalf of survivors of domestic and sexual violence, improve systems' response to the needs of survivors, and train and educate decision-makers, including judges, on the dynamics of domestic and sexual violence. She has done this work behind the scenes, always humble and committed to working collaboratively, centering the voices of victims, making space for and lifting up the voices of unseen and unheard survivors, and shepherding and advancing many of the most important victim-centered statewide responses and efforts. Her work has directly impacted an immeasurable number of survivors in Michigan and around the country.

Lore's time as a staff attorney with the State of Michigan Domestic Violence Prevention and Treatment Board, was greatly influenced by her wide and diverse range of professional experience, including as the Interim Co-Director of the Sexual Assault Prevention and Awareness Center at the University of Michigan, as the Director of Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Services Program at the YWCA of Greater Flint, as the Legal Advocacy Director at Domestic Violence Project, Inc./SAFE House in Washtenaw County, and for the Washtenaw County Trial Courts, where she worked as a domestic violence grant coordinator and pretrial probation compliance officer.

The breadth and reach of Lore's work has impacted not only countless domestic violence and sexual assault survivors through her direct services and advocacy work, but also has helped improve justice system responses through her extensive curriculum development and training efforts for police, prosecutors, advocates, and judges on issues of intimate partner and sexual violence. Lore is simply one of the best trainers on these issues in the state of Michigan. And her work is not limited to Michigan-Lore has

served as faculty at state and national conferences on domestic violence in Illinois, South Dakota, Maine, Mississippi, Wyoming, and Washington, D.C.

Of important note is the unwavering and relentless role she played in the response to the unsubmitted, untested sexual assault evidence collection kits in Michigan. Not only was Lore an instrumental member of the multi-disciplinary teams and research projects convened following the discovery of thousands of SAEKs, but helped lead efforts to make sure this never happened again: through staffing the statewide commission developed in response, working to advance legislative and policy efforts, and leading the efforts to create and implement a statewide SAEK tracking system, one of the first of it's kind in the nation.

Lore also has the unique privilege of being both a Michigan State University and University of Michigan Law School graduate (Go Green AND Go Blue).

Lore has prioritized mentoring colleagues, advocates, attorneys and others working in this field and her legacy will continue through the work done by so many who have been lucky enough to receive her attention and mentorship. She is beloved, a gifted communicator and facilitator and brilliant editor. She also has a wicked sense of humor, a sense of great loyalty and fidelity to her friends and colleagues, who know she will always be their biggest cheerleader and have their back.

Lore is a tireless, dedicated, and fierce advocate working to ensure survivor safety, autonomy, dignity and justice. For all of these reasons, she will be greatly missed as a fixture of the Board.”

E. Hines spoke about her good fortune of knowing L. Rogers for over 30years. She said she was honored to be her colleague and friend. L. Rogers is smart, hardworking, respectful, diplomatic, thoughtful, kind and devoted her entire life to helping survivors and improving systems for their benefit. M. Widman thanked L. Rogers for her years of service and said that her impact will be felt by many in the future who never knew her name. K. Williams said she is proud their paths crossed in doing this work. M. Pope said she was thankful to L. Rogers for helping her gather information and evidence on many occasions during the pandemic when she struggled to protect victims, survivors, witnesses and children in live streamed proceedings.

STAFF REPORT

G. Krieger said several staff and Board members participated in the Missing and Murdered Indigenous Persons (MMIP) March in Grand Rapids, Michigan. M. Pope said she was excited that Governor Whitmer attended because it helps to bring attention to the issue. She was grateful to all the speakers and mentioned that it really mattered that Board and staff members showed up and participated to bring these issues to light.

G. Krieger talked about a series of listening sessions being held throughout the state this summer to look at domestic violence funding and hopefully create a five-year plan. She discussed a framing paper that lays out the domestic violence funding the Board administers and how it is used within the state. After the listening sessions are completed, she plans to have a written product to share with the Board. She also plans to launch a working group to investigate changes that need to be made to the formula and some long-term goals beyond 5 years. Listening Sessions were conducted last week in Essexville and Detroit. General listening sessions will be held in the future at Holland, Marquette, and Gaylord. Specific listening

sessions will be held in Marquette for tribal victim service providers and in Detroit for culturally specific and underserved programs. A virtual listening session will also be held in July.

The three main goals of the listening sessions are laid out in a framing paper. The first goal is to review the formula/structure used to distribute Michigan Domestic and Sexual Violence Prevention and Treatment Board administered funds, which account for about 16% of total funding to support domestic violence services. The larger context of domestic violence funding within Michigan will be reviewed to identify gaps in services, emerging issues, and unmet needs. Also, there will be a review of the strategies to support culturally specific and underserved providers, tribes, demonstration projects, and specialized projects to identify gaps.

G. Krieger asked if staff should continue the current practice of monitoring and responding to emails sent to the Board mailbox or whether the Board would like the Board Chair to review them. The Board agreed to continue the current practice.

An update was provided on the Standing Together Against Trafficking (STAT) Conference by G. Krieger. A registration link will soon be available. The conference will be held on Tuesday, September 17, at the Kensington Hotel in Ann Arbor, Michigan. T. Martinez, J. Kennedy, and E. Moon Carter planned the conference with the support of the Human Trafficking Health Advisory Board. There is a fee for the conference and limited seating is available. The registration link will be live soon.

LEGISLATIVE REVIEW

A. Povilaitis discussed HB 5569-5570. HB 5569 (H-2) would create the Protection from Intimate Deep Fakes Act to establish criminal and civil liability for the nonconsensual creation or dissemination of deep fake sexual images of an identifiable individual. HB 5570 would amend the Code of Criminal Procedure to add the crime of dissemination of intimate deep fakes with aggravating factors to the sentencing guidelines. Deep Fake technology threatens survivors of domestic and sexual violence and stalking. Images can be created quickly, easily and cheaply with the help of artificial intelligence and could be posted online forever. Deep fake sexual imagery can be used to control, manipulate, and shame a victim and can cause a lot of physical, mental and emotional harm to survivors.

MOTION: Moved by R. Shiemke to support HB 5569-5570. Motion seconded by K. Williams. Motion carried.

L. Morgan discussed Draft 4 02655'23 and Draft 1 02656'23 which are tie barred bills. Draft 4 02655'23 would amend the Revised Judicature Act, specifically some sections regarding the family division of circuit court, to create a dedicated family court bench. Draft 1 02656'23 would amend the Michigan Election Law to require judicial candidates for family division seats be listed separately on the primary ballot and the general election ballot.

Many family law practitioners have seen a need for a more dedicated family court bench. This bill would make the family court bench non-rotating and require training especially in domestic violence. The bill would create permanent family judgeships in each circuit. Once a circuit court judgeship is designated as a family division judgeship it would be permanent.

The Board chose not to weigh in on the specific merits of this proposed plan to create a dedicated family court bench. The Board appreciates Rep. Hope for understanding and acknowledging the high prevalence

of victims and survivors of domestic, sexual, and intimate partner violence moving through the family court system and the impact these bills could have on them.

The Board would like to express that it is extremely supportive of mandatory domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking, anti-trafficking, and family law training for all judges and referees, especially those who serve in the family court division, as this would be highly beneficial to survivors.

In addition, the Board believes having all judicial circuits create updated family court plans with approval, oversight, and enforcement requirements, could provide greater accountability and be beneficial to victims and survivors.

The Board would also like to provide the following recommendation to the reviewed drafts:

- Require family court referees, in addition to judges, to have at least 16 hours of domestic violence training prior to handling any family court case.
- Require the state review board to include domestic violence expertise representation from the Board, and/or the MI Coalition to End Domestic and Sexual Violence and Uniting Three Fires Against Violence. As there will be dedicated domestic violence training requirements under this bill, it would be prudent to have someone with this expertise assisting with matters of the state review board's purview.
- Require local advisory committees to include a local attorney who specializes in family law cases involving domestic violence (these will most likely be legal aid attorneys). This addition could offer a more well-balanced team.

These positions will be relayed to bill sponsors.

MOTION: Moved by M. Pope to take no position on Draft 4 02655'23 and Draft 1 02656'23 and relay concerns to the bill sponsors. Motion seconded by K. Williams. Motion carried.

A. Povilaitis reported Melody's law passed the legislature recently. This bill was named after Melody Roher who was murdered specifically for the purpose of necrophilia. This set of bills would criminalize necrophilia in Michigan, add it to the sex offender registry and provide for consecutive sentencing. E. Hines and A. Povilaitis testified in the House and Senate. Melody Roher's husband, Rick Roher, has been a strong advocate of this legislation and has worked with staff on these bills. He was present in the committees and both chambers when the votes were submitted. This bill will now go to the Governor's office for signing.

J. Averill said HB 5788 was recently introduced regarding anti-SLAPP (Strategic Law Against Public Participation) legislation was in committee last week. The Board has a general principle that applies to the bill. The general principle supports policies that protect survivors of domestic violence from harassment and intimidation by means of civil suits brought against them based on their communication with employees and governmental agencies regarding domestic and sexual violence or their participation in criminal prosecution in domestic and sexual violence crimes. If it comes into committee a card of support on the Board's behalf can be submitted.

MOTION: Moved by R. Shiemke that Board members acknowledged they had an opportunity to review the House and Senate bills of interest to the Board's constituency that had been introduced since the previous Board meeting. Motion seconded by K. Williams. Motion carried.

BOARD ANNOUNCEMENTS

No board comments.

PUBLIC COMMENT

S. Forward is a victim/survivor who met E. Hines at a round table in Washtenaw County a couple months ago. She wants to reinforce the need for education and training on domestic violence for judicial staff. She said the Judiciary and Friend of the Court should be protecting victims of domestic violence. Board staff will follow up with S. Forward to get more specific information from her.

S. Ettawageshik, the new Executive Director at Uniting Three Fires Against Violence (UTFAV) which is currently a team of four people. They are currently hiring for a Community Outreach Specialist. She said S. Pilgrim Lewis went to Washington D.C. to attend a Global Exchange People's Movement for Peace and Justice meeting where she talked about how firearms impact indigenous communities. S. Pilgrim Lewis was also invited to be on the panel for the National VOCA conference. In May she attended the US National Plan to End Gender-Based Violence in Washington D.C. and was one of two tribal representatives along with the Minnesota Indian Women's Sexual Assault Coalition.

S. Ettawageshik said she appreciates the Board participation in Missing and Murdered Indigenous Person's March in Grand Rapids. UTFAV had a dialogue with MiVAN and is working to have a cultural video module available for training on the website. She mentioned that the tribal leadership summit is coming up on October 15th and 16th in Mount Pleasant and thanked M. Pope for being an advocate.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Moved by R. Shiemke to adjourn the meeting. Motion seconded by M. Widman. Motion carried. The meeting ended at 3:01 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by
Michael Bobbitt
Board Secretary