

**MICHIGAN DOMESTIC AND SEXUAL VIOLENCE
PREVENTION AND TREATMENT BOARD
MEETING MINUTES
November 3, 2023**

***** Approved *****

Members Present:

Dr. NiCole Buchanan - conference line (per AG Opinion No. 7318. Will be counted toward quorum)
Hon. Melissa Lopez Pope - conference line (per AG Opinion No. 7318. Will be counted toward quorum)
Hon. Elizabeth Pollard Hines - Chairperson
Rebecca Shiemke
Matt Wiese

Members Absent with Notice:

Kristen Howard
Kyla Williams

Staff Present:

Jess Averill
Michael Bobbitt, Board Secretary
Twanisha Glass
Jordan Kennedy
Gail Krieger
Tiffany Martinez
Beth Nagel
Angela Povilaitis

Guests:

Stephanie Beyersdorf - State Court Administrator Office
Rachel Carr Shunk - Uniting Three Fires Against Violence
Sarah McNally - Michigan State University, student
Anna Nichols – Michigan Advance, reporter
Benne Wade - Forensic Nurse

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

E. Hines convened the November 3, 2023, Michigan Domestic and Sexual Violence Prevention and Treatment Board meeting at the Grand Tower Building, Dempsey Room in Lansing, Michigan at 1:04 p.m.

BOARD CONSENT

Review of November 3, 2023, agenda and approval of October 6, 2023, meeting minutes.

MOTION: Moved by R. Shiemke to approve the November 3, 2023, agenda. Motion seconded by M. Wiese. Motion carried.

MOTION: Moved by M. Wiese to approve the October 6, 2023, meeting minutes as amended. Motion seconded by R. Shiemke. Motion carried.

CHAIR REPORT

E. Hines congratulated Board member M. Wiese on being appointed as a Circuit Court Judge in Marquette County by Governor Whitmer.

The Board addressed the procedure for public comment. The following statement was proposed to be adopted as the Board's procedure for public comment and attached as an addendum to the Board Governance Model:

"We invite members of the public to speak during public comment time on the agenda. Please state your name although it is not required, and limit comments to five minutes or less. A speaker may cede their remaining time to another speaker. The Board will listen during this time. If you have questions for the Board, the Board or staff will follow up with you after the meeting and/or address the issue at a future meeting."

MOTION: Moved by R. Shiemke to adopt the Board procedure for public comment and attach it as an addendum to the Board Governance Model. Motion seconded by M. Wiese. Motion carried.

Karen Hall, Program Coordinator for the Address Confidentiality Program with the Attorney General's office provided an update on the Address Confidentiality Program.

The Board discussed possible adoption of a Board Resolution to support November 20th as a Transgender Day of Remembrance to raise awareness of the extreme violence that often includes sexual violence inflicted upon Transgender, Gender Non-Conforming, and Two Spirit Individuals.

The proposed Resolution:

**MICHIGAN DOMESTIC AND SEXUAL VIOLENCE
PREVENTION AND TREATMENT BOARD**

**RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF
NOVEMBER 20TH AS THE TRANSGENDER DAY OF REMEMBRANCE**

The Michigan Domestic and Sexual Violence Prevention and Treatment Board is honored to join in recognizing November 20th as the Transgender Day of Remembrance to raise awareness of the extreme violence that often includes sexual violence inflicted upon Transgender, Gender Non-Conforming, and Two Spirit Individuals, and to recognize and pay tribute to the lives and legacies of murdered Transgender, Gender Non-Conforming, and Two Spirit Individuals, and all those who mourn the tragic loss of life, by issuing the following Resolution in Support of the Transgender Day of Remembrance:

WHEREAS, President Joe Biden was the first United States President to honor this annual day of remembrance when he issued his "Statement by President Joe Biden on Transgender Day of Remembrance" on November 20, 2021;

WHEREAS, on November 20, 2022, Governor Gretchen Whitmer issued her Proclamation recognizing November 20, 2022, as the Transgender Day of Remembrance in Michigan

WHEREAS, the Michigan Domestic and Sexual Violence Prevention and Treatment Board (the Board) is an independent, legislatively created, seven-member Governor appointed Board housed in the Division of Victim Services of the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services whose duties include providing policy recommendations on the issues of domestic violence and sexual assault;

WHEREAS, countless under-reported, under-investigated, and unsolved cases of murders continue to increase throughout the United States with insufficient funding dedicated to resolving the systemic failures surrounding the disproportionate violence against Transgender, Gender Non-Conforming, and Two Spirit Individuals;

WHEREAS, the Transgender Day of Remembrance was organized by Transgender Activist Gwendolyn Ann Smith in 1999 following the 1998 murder of Rita Hester, a 34-year-old African American Transgender Woman who was stabbed to death in her home with the media coverage misgendering and demeaning Ms. Hester based on the language in the police report;

WHEREAS, the Transgender Day of Remembrance is now an international event held on November 20th of every year;

WHEREAS, the adoption of state and local policies and laws that seek to deny the basic human rights of Transgender, Gender Non-Conforming, and Two Spirit Individuals, to eliminate gender affirming rights that prohibit discrimination based on gender and gender identify, gender affirming medical care, and gender affirming culturally honoring care, have put the safety of Transgender, Gender Non-Conforming, and Two Spirit Individuals at risk for discrimination and violence;

WHEREAS, the murder of Transgender, Gender Non-Conforming, and Two Spirit Individuals is often documented and reported in a derogatory manner about the victim;

WHEREAS, murders of Transgender, Gender Non-Conforming, and Two Spirit Individuals frequently involve extreme acts of violence and include sexual violence;

WHEREAS, the Board remembers Transgender, Gender Non-Conforming, and Two Spirit Individuals whose homicides, sexual assaults and other crimes against them remain unsolved or inequitably handled, and seeks to elevate their voices, and promote tolerance and acceptance to eliminate transphobic and discriminatory treatment against Transgender, Gender Non-Conforming, and Two Spirit Individuals;

WHEREAS, the Board remembers and honors Transgender, Gender Non-Conforming, and Two Spirit Activists and Victim Advocates who work tirelessly to achieve justice, offer culturally honoring healing to Victims and Survivors, and advocate for equality going forward to prevent further violence;

WHEREAS, the Board desires to raise awareness of the disproportionate rates of violence, including sexual violence, perpetrated against Transgender, Gender Non-Conforming, and Two Spirit Individuals, advocate for governments to implement policies and laws that promote tolerance and acceptance, and commit the resources and training necessary to investigate, report on, and prosecute crimes against Transgender, Gender Non-Conforming, and Two Spirit Individuals in a respectful manner;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT PROCLAIMED THAT the Michigan Domestic and Sexual Violence Prevention and Treatment Board supports November 20th as the Transgender Day of Remembrance.

MOTION: Moved by M. Pope to adopt a resolution to support November 20th as a Transgender Day of Remembrance. Motion seconded by N. Buchanan. Motion carried.

STAFF REPORT

G. Krieger said a memo on mandated medical reporting is on hold until the February Board meeting so that Board member K. Howard can attend.

T. Avery reported on an updated version of the Domestic and Sexual Violence Prevention and Treatment Board Quality Assurance Standards. Board members were asked to vote on whether to adopt the proposed standards that will be in place for the next five years. It was suggested to amend the inclusive identification language of the updated standards to read as follows:

“The organization works to positively impact institutional policies, practices, and procedures that affect domestic/intimate partner and/or sexual violence survivors and their children, including the intersections of racially, ethnically, culturally diverse, LGBTQIA2S+, gender, immigrants, those with disabilities, those with mental health conditions, substance use, and historically/emerging unserved/underserved populations.”

This amended language was used in sections C3, SANE 2, CTSH1, CTSH8, E6, E7, E9, E11, E12 and E13.

MOTION: Moved by M. Pope to adopt the updated version of the Domestic and Sexual Violence Prevention and Treatment Board Quality Assurance Standards as amended for the five-year standard cycle from October 2024 through September 2029. Motion seconded by R. Shiemke. Motion carried.

T. Avery provided the Board with an update on standards reviews have been completed and the number of reviews remaining.

G. Krieger said Uniting Three Fires Against Violence hosted a Tribal Leadership Summit in October and invited the Division of Victim Services (DVS) to attend and have a talking circle. Ten Tribes attended which allowed for feedback on how the Division can assist programs and how programs are meeting the needs of survivors and their communities. The last talking circle was held in February of 2022 and since then J. Giddings and N. Williams have been the designated DVS staff working with the tribes. Over the past year and a half, DVS has had in-person meetings with nine Tribes and participated in Tribal Advocacy Coordination meetings. After listening to the various Tribes, general fund dollars were used to ensure food flexibility and PPO flexibility.

T. Glass provided an overview on the work the grants and contracting team does.

G. Krieger is going to work on creating a framing paper to describe how DV funding works. When completed it will be shared with the Board. The goal is to assist with understanding the DV formula and how it works with other DV funding. Board members will be invited to participate in the listening sessions.

A. Povilaitis said the Batters Intervention Services Coalition of Michigan (BISCOMI) has an annual meeting

next week. E. Hines and former Executive Director D. Cain will receive a BISCMI Champion Award.

LEGISLATIVE REVIEW

A. Povilaitis provided an update on the PPO subcommittee. Board members E. Hines, M. Pope, and R. Shiemke met to discuss service of personal protection orders and how to support more victims. A tentative meeting is scheduled for next week with the Michigan Sherriff's Association and the Michigan Chiefs of Police to determine law enforcement concerns surrounding no-cost service of PPOs for petitioners.

A meeting was held regarding relinquishment of firearms which intersects with PPOs, felony and misdemeanor convictions, bond orders and other types of court orders restricting access. Staff worked together with allies and partners on creative ideas that were brought to the attention of M. Wiese, E. Hines, and K. Williams. Conversations on this topic will continue.

The domestic violence firearm prohibition bills passed both chambers and are on their way to Governor Whitmer's desk to be signed into law. Senator Stephanie Chang has been an ally and a leader on this issue.

HB 4482-4487 is a statute of limitation and governmental immunity package of bills that would reform civil statute of limitations, criminal statute of limitations and governmental immunity. A committee hearing was held in the House and card of support on behalf of the Board was submitted.

The Boards position was submitted on HB 4420-4423 regarding blurring of images in remote proceedings, providing remote impact statements, sharing victim information with local service providers, and serious misdemeanors. The bills are currently awaiting signature by the Governor.

HB 4516, wherein the Board enabling legislation is amended to codify the existing practice with tribal partners, is now also awaiting signature by Governor Whitmer.

J. Averill said the House and Senate bill logs have been updated from the October 6th Board meeting and asked Board members if they would like to request analysis of any bills.

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. Motion seconded by M. Wiese. Motion carried.

BOARD ANNOUNCEMENTS

R. Shiemke said she noticed the Supreme Court passed a rule on judicial continuing education and wanted to know if staff have any involvement.

M. Pope is currently on the Michigan Judicial Council which works on strategic planning within the judicial branch. She is on the racial and social equity work group and was able to incorporate the recognition of judges being referred to in determining the safety of victims and how it relates to virtual proceedings. She opposes the live streaming of matters involving domestic violence, human trafficking, sexual assault, and stalking. Their racial and social equity work group report included a recommendation for all judges to undergo training in these areas since their expertise is being relied upon. She was disappointed that a poll did not push for further trauma informed training within the court system, and she will continue to advocate for trauma informed courts and judicial systems.

PUBLIC COMMENT

S. Beyersdorf from the State Court Administrator Office said webinars are offered occasionally to judges for trainings. She spoke about two proposed court rule changes. There is an administrative hearing coming up on November 15th and extreme risk protection orders is on the agenda. The comment period runs through December 1st so there is still time to comment on those rules. Also at that public hearing, the change in publication for name change cases will be heard. The comment period for this court rule change ended on September 1st.

R. Carr-Shunk from Uniting Three Fires Against Violence thanked the Division of Victim Services for attending the Tribal Leadership Summit and participating in the Talking Circle. It was appreciated by all the participants. She also asked about the opportunity to participate in Board meetings remotely as a member of the public.

B. Wade, a forensic nurse, said she appreciates the work the Board does.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Moved by R. Shiemke to adjourn the meeting. Motion seconded by M. Wiese. Motion carried. The meeting ended at 3:33 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by
Michael Bobbitt
Board Secretary