

**MICHIGAN DOMESTIC AND SEXUAL VIOLENCE
PREVENTION AND TREATMENT BOARD
MEETING MINUTES
November 18, 2022**

***** Approved *****

Members Present:

Hon. Elizabeth Pollard Hines
Kristen Howard
Hon. Melissa Lopez Pope
Hon. Amy Ronayne Krause, Chair
Rebecca Shiemke
Matt Wiese

Members Absent with Notice:

Dr. NiCole Buchanan

Staff Present:

Jess Averill
Tonya Avery
Michael Bobbitt, Board Secretary
Cathy Brown
Maggie Devlin
Dede Ford
Kathy Hagenian
Gail Krieger
Elizabeth Nagel
Karen Porter
Angela Povilaitis
Lore Rogers
Nora Williams

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

A. Krause convened the November 18, 2022, meeting of the Michigan Domestic and Sexual Violence Prevention and Treatment Board at the FireKeepers Hotel and Casino in Battle Creek, Michigan at 1:42 p.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES AND AGENDA

Review of November 18, 2022, agenda and approval of September 9, 2022, meeting minutes.

MOTION: Moved by M. Wiese to approve the November 18, 2022, agenda. Motion seconded by E.

Hines. Motion carried.

MOTION: Moved by Hines to approve the September 9, 2022, meeting minutes. Motion seconded by M. Wiese. Motion carried.

CHAIR'S REPORT

A. Krause thanked the Nottawaseppi Huron Band of the Potawatomi Tribe and Judge Melissa Pope for hosting the November MDSVPT Board meeting. She said she took a tour of the tribal reservation with Matt Wiese, and it was a wonderful experience. Tribal members thanked the Board for doing the important work of protecting victims of domestic and sexual violence. A traditional tobacco offering, prayer and native song were provided to Board members.

A. Krause thanked J. Stuck for making the Board members feel welcome. J. Stuck is the Chairperson of the Nottawaseppi Huron Band of the Potawatomi Tribe and the President of the United Tribes of Michigan. He spoke about the challenging issues of domestic and sexual violence on tribal lands. He said he appreciates the ongoing government-to-government interdepartmental relationship and the work that is being done for tribal communities in Michigan.

New Board members Kristen Howard and Rebecca Shiemke were introduced by A. Krause. Kristen serves as Senior Director of Health, Equity and Inclusion at Michigan Medicine, University of Michigan Medical School. Rebecca is a recently retired attorney from the Michigan Advocacy Program/Michigan Poverty Law Program in Washtenaw County.

A. Krause informed the Board about an email sent by E. Hines and signed by herself and M. Wiese to Paula Kaiser Van Dam regarding the elimination of Debi Cain's position at the Division of Victim Services. In follow up to that email, A. Krause, M. Wiese and E. Hines met with MDHHS Administration, David Knezek, Lew Roubal, Paula Kaiser Van Dam and Beth Nagel to discuss the decision. Beth Nagel, Senior Director for Policy, Planning and Operational Support at MDHHS introduced herself to the Board and explained that she is now overseeing the Division of Victim Services. She said she is aware of concerns regarding gaps in services that might arise with the elimination of Debi Cain's position, she had reviewed a two-page document listing the powers and duties in the enabling legislation of the Board and department staffing and activities related to those duties. Beth informed the Board that Gail Krieger would be the Board Liaison. Beth said she is grateful to have the opportunity to work with the Board.

M. Pope spoke about the historical trauma of tribes and tribal members have experienced, especially the trauma resulting from the forced boarding school system. The Native American Religious Freedom Act and the Indian Child Welfare Act were not adopted until 1978. There was a lot of testimony during the passage of the Indian Child Welfare Act of children being taken from their parents and adopted into white homes. She said this was an attempt to break the connection between children and their families, homes, and tribal culture. Now there is increasing concern that the Supreme Court may overturn the Indian Child Welfare Act.

M. Pope said more than 4 in 5 American Indian and Alaskan native women said they have experienced some form of violence in their lifetime. Native survivors carry a likelihood that their perpetrators will not be prosecuted and need services that speak to their historical trauma. Thanks to a grant that Uniting Three Fires Against Violence received with the assistance of Debi Cain, videos were produced to help non-native communities understand traditionally culturally honoring practices and why they are important. One of

these videos was shown to Board members and attendees as part of M. Popes's presentation.

M. Pope noted that the issue of tribal jurisdiction is currently being discussed in the news because a non-native perpetrator recently committed homicide on native land against native victims in Mt Pleasant. She hopes that jurisdiction will be fully restored on native land. At M. Pope's request, the Board and members of the public participated in a moment of silence in honor the homicide victims.

STAFF REPORT

JoAnne Cook presented via Zoom on the Statewide Victim Services Liaison Project, which seeks to identify and recommend solutions to gaps in civil legal services for rural and tribal survivors of domestic and sexual violence. The Division was awarded a competitive VOCA grant in the fall of 2020 to conduct this project, and Ms. Cook began working as the Statewide Victim Services Liaison in January of 2021.

Preliminary findings found the top three areas of need for civil legal representation are in the areas of divorce, child custody and personal protection orders. Some recommendations made by both rural communities and tribal nations include:

- Having access to an attorney who is available to assist survivors in each regional office at least one day a week.
- Creating a program to assist attorneys by underwriting the cost of representing victims and survivors and working with law schools to create a rural clinic.

LEGISLATIVE REVIEW

G. Krieger discussed HB 6464 which would amend the Michigan Domestic and Sexual Violence Prevention and Treatment Board's enabling legislation. That legislation defines Prime Sponsor as "a county, city, village, or township of this state, or a combination thereof, or a private, nonprofit association or organization." HB 6464 would amend this section of the legislation to add "federally recognized Indian tribe that has trust land located within this state" to the definition of Prime Sponsor. The bill codifies existing Board practices and recognizes that Tribes are a critical source of services for domestic violence and sexual assault victims. HB 6464 will also provide a measure of assurance for tribes that future boards or administrations will not use the absence of tribes from the list of prime sponsors as a reason to exclude tribes from grant funding.

MOTION: Moved by M. Pope to support HB 6464 as written. Motion seconded by R. Shiemke. Motion carried.

A. Povilaitis commented about how devastating it is to lose Debi Cain as the Executive Director and to see her position be eliminated. She said Debi has been a longtime friend and mentor and provided countless hours of counsel for many of the cases she prosecuted at the Attorney General's office. She will always remember Debi's unwavering commitment to survivors and victims and her tireless work to improve systems and outcomes for all victims.

A. Povilaitis said it is currently lame duck which is the time between the election and the start of a new term. According to sources and the media it may be a quiet lame duck period. The Board is looking forward to the

next term. The Governor's staff and office have the Board's priorities, and Board staff will work to accomplish those priorities when the next term starts in January.

Board members reviewed the proposed 2023 Board Meeting schedule.

MOTION: Moved by K. Howard to adopt the amended 2023 Michigan Domestic and Sexual Violence Prevention and Treatment Board meeting dates. Motion seconded by M. Pope. Motion carried.

Board members reviewed House and Senate bills of interest to the Board's constituency that had been introduced since the September 9th, 2022 meeting.

MOTION: Moved M. Pope 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 September 9th, 2022 meeting. Motion seconded by M. Wiese. Motion carried.

Board Announcements

A. Krause read a draft Board resolution honoring Debi Cain for the work she has done to promote safety and justice for survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault.

Board Resolution Recognizing Debi Cain

Whereas, Debra (Debi) Cain has worked tirelessly for over 45 years to promote safety and justice for survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault and was integral to founding two organizations that support survivors, HAVEN in Oakland County, Michigan, and the Michigan Coalition to End Domestic and Sexual Violence;

Whereas, Ms. Cain's experience prior to coming to work as Executive Director for the Michigan Domestic and Sexual Violence Prevention and Treatment Board (the Board) included serving as an exemplary Executive Director at two cutting edge victim services organizations, HAVEN in Oakland County and the University of Michigan Sexual Assault Prevention and Awareness Center, as well as working as a member or chair-person of numerous local, state, and national advisory boards, task forces, and commissions to develop best practices and policies that continue to guide this work today;

Whereas, Ms. Cain also served as an esteemed member of this Board before working as its Executive Director;

Whereas, Ms. Cain served as Executive Director of this Board under four different governors, both Republican and Democrat;

Whereas, Ms. Cain faithfully and diligently carried out the vision and policy of the Board in her 22 years as Executive Director, by -- among many other things too numerous to recite -- building a cohesive staff of professionals with multiple areas of expertise recognized across the state and across the nation, building a comprehensive quality assurance and monitoring program to support funded programs in providing services effectively and in a victim-centered and empowering manner for survivors, and expanding funding to culturally specific, underserved, and tribal service providers;

Whereas, Ms. Cain consistently and carefully built strong and lasting relationships of trust and respect with state and national stakeholders whose partnerships were critical to improving systems' response to

domestic violence and sexual assault, including (1) funding comprehensive statewide training programs for prosecutors and for law enforcement through, respectively, the Prosecuting Attorneys Association of Michigan and the Michigan Commission on Law Enforcement Standards, (2) securing funding to establish and continue the first Cold/Complex Case Sexual Assault team with the Department of the Michigan Attorney General, which, among other cases, successfully prosecuted Larry Nassar and secured justice for hundreds of victims;

Whereas, Ms. Cain clearly saw the connection between domestic violence and child abuse and continually sought to work in partnership with Child Protective Services and child welfare staff, by, among other efforts, dedicating staff and funding to training child welfare worker and to integrating the Safe & Together Model approach into child welfare policy and practice;

Whereas, Ms. Cain consistently acted expertly and with creativity to emergent needs in Michigan, one of the most visible being the Board's partnership with and financial support of the Michigan State Police Forensic Sciences Division and the Wayne County Prosecutor's office to address the discovery in late 2009 of 11,000 unsubmitted sexual assault evidence kits at a Detroit Police Department Crime Lab warehouse;

Whereas, Ms. Cain has been a consultant, author, and/or contributing editor for numerous articles, manuals, curriculums, and other publications related to intimate partner violence and sexual assault;

Whereas, Ms. Cain is respected in Michigan and nationally for her innovation, expertise, and leadership, and has received numerous awards and honors reflecting that respect;

IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED that the Michigan Domestic and Sexual Violence Prevention and Treatment Board formally recognizes and extends its profound appreciation to Debra Cain for her excellent work, years of service and sacrifice, and unrelenting dedication to the cause of providing safety, autonomy and justice for survivors and their children in Michigan, and across the country.

MOTION: Moved by E. Hines to adopt draft board resolution recognizing Debi Cain for her work at the Michigan Domestic and Sexual Violence Prevention and Treatment Board. Motion seconded by R. Shiemke. Motion carried.

Board members spoke about their appreciation for Debi Cain's excellent work, years of service, sacrifice, and unrelenting dedication to the cause of providing safety, autonomy and justice for survivors and their children in Michigan, and across the country. Gifts were presented to Debi from the Board and the Nottawaseppi Huron Band of the Potawatomi tribe for her work in helping so many victims. Debi thanked everyone and said it has been a gift and a privilege to work in the field over the past forty years, meeting so many wonderful people and aiding survivors.

MOTION: Moved by E. Hines to rename the Champion of Justice award to the Debi Cain Champion of Justice Award. Motion seconded by M. Pope. Motion carried.

E. Hines said this is the last board meeting for Board Chair Amy Ronayne Krause. She expressed gratitude for A. Krause's support and exceptional leadership acting as Board Chair. A. Krause dedicated her career to protecting survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault. She was also a tireless and enthusiastic advocate for the Board's mission. Her efforts were critical in seeing the Safe Response Act legislation pass into law ensuring that sexual assault victims would not be charged for their medical forensic exams. A. Krause was presented with parting gifts.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Cris Sullivan said she was Chair of the Michigan Domestic and Sexual Violence Prevention and Treatment Board for about 10 years when Debi's position as Executive Director was created at the Division of Victim Services. She said it was Debi's passion, creativity, strength, and intellect that brought Michigan where it is today in helping survivors. Eliminating Debi's position kicked the legs out from underneath her amazing staff and domestic and sexual violence victims in Michigan are directly hurt by this action.

Dr. LaDonna Combs from Sisters Against Abuse Society said Detroit and Wayne County loves Debi Cain her for the work she did.

David Garvin said Debi Cain is the brain, heart, and essential nervous system of survivor services in the state of Michigan. Nothing would be happening today for survivors without Debi. He is grateful for her mentorship, leadership, and friendship and for everything she has done for people in the state of Michigan.

Cherise Mitchell from YWCA West Central Michigan said her staff will be submitting letters because it is probably a better forum. She said to keep the movement going and honor work that has been done.

Cathy Brown said Debi always cared about everyone and she thanked Debi for everything she has done.

Rachel Carr Shunk from Uniting Threes Fires Against Violence welcomed new board members and said she looks forward to working with them in any future endeavors. Uniting Threes Fires Against Violence developed a strong relationship with MDSVPTB in working to make sure that native survivors have access to the same resources and support that all survivors in the state of Michigan have. Debi has been instrumental in hosting talking circles and was a true partner in working with indigenous communities. UTFAV wants to continue to work together with MDSVPTB.

Sandra Pilgrim Lewis from Uniting Threes Fires Against Violence said Debi gave her a place and space for a voice when she worked for the Division of Victim Services. She thanked Debi for giving her the opportunity to be the voice of oppressed people which has impacted native people in many powerful ways.

Cheree Thomas from the Michigan Coalition to End Domestic and Sexual Violence said everyone is going to miss Debi. She said Debi helped found the Coalition, and the Coalition intends to continue working collaboratively to help survivors.

Merkeb Yohannes from the Michigan Coalition to End Domestic and Sexual Violence said she is honored to acknowledge the importance of HB 6464 and the movement toward equity for all survivors in the state of Michigan.

Gail Kloss from the Women's Resource Center of Northern Michigan thanked Debi for being an advocate who came up with innovative ways of funding. She wants to challenge the Board to determine ways to continue funding for survivors. She said women will die if essential services are not supported at a high standard which are nonjudgmental, survivor centered and respects everyone.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Moved by M. Wiese to adjourn the meeting. Motion seconded by E. Hines. Motion carried. The meeting ended at 4:44 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by
Michael Bobbitt
Board Secretary