

Barbara Jean (BJ) Nelson - Chair
SC Crime Victim Services
Division Office of the Attorney
General

Nettie Jacobs
SC Department of Probation,
Parole and Pardon Services

Lisa Catalanotto
SC Commission on
Prosecution Coordination

Karin Ho
SC Department of Corrections

Marcia Nobles
SC Department of Juvenile Justice

Veronica Swain Kunz
SC Department of Crime Victim
Ombudsman, Crime Victim
Services Division, Office of the
Attorney General

Salley Foster
SC Sheriffs' Association

Nataki Brown
SC Solicitors' Advocate Forum


Tressa Dixon
SC Law Enforcement
Victim Advocate

Sara Barber
SC Coalition Against Domestic
Violence and Sexual Assault

Trisha Allen
SC Attorney General's Office

Joe Corey, Deputy Director
SC Department of Crime Victim
Assistance Grants,

Thomas Knapp
SC Network of Children's
Advocacy Centers



Proposed Legislation: Dexter Boyd made reference to a proposed change of current “Proviso 59.15”, as of July 1 referred to as “Proviso 59.14”, State Victim Assistance Program (SVAP) program. He reminded the Council that this proviso was developed to keep towns and municipalities from hoarding victim assistance funds. He stated that they were having problems with a lot of agencies keeping the funds, not doing anything with them, if they did not have an advocate, they were not even donating to any of the nonprofit organizations. He further stated that the proviso was developed so that if they




IV. Council Member Updates

Debbie Curtis announced DCVC Regional Training will be on October 24, 2024 in Aiken at the Aiken County Government Center. The next Regional Training will be in February (venue is yet to be determined). She asked the Council for any suggestions on a venue to have that training. She mentioned concern over a decrease in claims received in DCVC and maybe there was something going on with crimes in the different counties that she didn't know about. She has visited Orangeburg, Charleston, Clemson for deeper understanding of why this may be occurring. Any suggestions from the Council are welcomed. She's wanting to get feedback from the advocates in these counties to see what can be done differently from DCVC. She mentioned that Orangeburg says that there has not been a decrease in crime, Charleston has more stabbings and shootings, just to name a couple of examples. She also mentioned that she learned that there was a gap in servicing the Native American communities in our state. Debbie said that she will be adding this in the conversations as she is communicating with other agencies.

Thomas Knapp shared they just completed their second Victim Services Provider training, and it went really well. At the last VSOC meeting he reported they received a foundation and endowment grant for improvement for Children's Advocacy Services across the state and they were going to implement some SC accreditation standards to enhance their national standards. They are working with the Children's Justice Act Task Force, forming an advisory committee, to get professionals that are involved in the child abuse response in SC to come in and provide input. Thomas will be sharing additional details with members via email. On their website there is a pamphlet that describes there will be fifteen different work groups that will meet virtually one to three times depending on the topic. He will send this information out to the Council in hopes that they share with others that may be involved with different victim advocates and other work groups of interests.

Dean Kilpatrick shared an update on their Mass Violence Summit held in Pittsburg in July. There were three parts to it. One was the first part which was a full two days; one was a virtual which was partly live and partly filmed and distributed on-line (which was one day); and the third part was a Partner Meeting within the Summit. The Mass Violence Center now has twenty national partners (he named a



Joe Corey announced the Public Safety Coordinating Council reviewed and approved 26.2 million. This is spread across 143 awards. 102 of those awards are former VOCA and SAVS projects. Out of those was a cumulative reduction of about 6 million dollars between 2024-2025. Cuts at the low end were about 14% and on the high-end cuts were about an average of 21% and that's the bad news. After attending a conference in New Orleans, he learned that there was one big deposit that was being hung up in litigation and he doesn't know how much of that would go into the crime victim funds for 2025. The proposed budget the president released would bring the cap back up to the 2023 levels. Joe did say that they will be asking for more state funding. BJ mentioned they may have to ask for 20 million. Joe added that grants are currently funding about 727 positions across the state, with 663 funded from VOCA/SAVS, and agencies are making their adjustments now based upon these cuts. We don't have a final number yet on funded personnel for 2024-25, but a good estimate would be to take the 663 staff funded through VOCA/SAVS and reduce it by the average cut of 21%. Ultimately though, the final number is contingent upon how the agencies choose to structure their budgets. Dean did mention one of the reasons why the claims may be low is because of a low number of advocates. Secondly, Dean discussed the need for the state to now set up to the plate.

Shannon Geary mentioned that their FNE Team has made their second law enforcement agency safe designation. She announced that VRW is scheduled for March 24, 2025. She mentioned that they will provide virtual training that week and in-person training the following week. They will be having their first committee meeting next week and they are also having a Crime Victim Focus Group for VRW that evening. This meeting will have about 20-25 of their survivors to attend to gather and share information with them. They are involved in Orangeburg Basic Core in December. She asked the Council if they know of anyone that is interested in participating, they may sign up using Shannon as a contact via email. She also mentioned that Nicole is spending a lot of money in the emergency fund, because of the increase of costs with what they need.

Trisha Allen announced that their VAWA program has the silent witness on October 1st at 10:00am on the back side of the State House, as always. She invited everyone to attend or even volunteer if you desire. She said that you may find all of the information concerning this event on the website. She announced her office was approved by a prosecution unit to assist Solicitor Offices with case backlogs.

Kassy Alia Ray announced they are offering free online language courses for up to ten first responders in Richland and Lexington Counties and that will include Victim Advocates. She mentioned that they are working with Richland County Sheriff's Department, they already have a 24/7 phone line where victims that need assistance that don't speak English. Richland County wanted to transfer it to a zoom account, so they are measuring what type of calls are coming in and understanding more of the process that's



Arizona. Eron has a long-