



CVSSD Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

Oregon Department of Justice - CVSSD
Remote meeting
October 15, 2020 - 9:00am-11:00 am

Committee Members Present: Steve Bellshaw, Amy Benedum, Allison Cleveland, Debra Dority, Sybil Hebb, Kimberly Lane, Barb Palicki, Michele Roland-Schwartz, Tawna Sanchez, Vanessa Timmons, Merle Weiner

CVSSD DOJ Staff Present: Ben Bradshaw, Alisha Goodwin, Mackenzie Gray, Christine Heyen, Terri Johnson, Kim Larson, Mike Maryanov, Sherree Rodriguez, Shannon Sivell, Amanda VanTil

Committee Members Absent: Chanpone Sinlapasai, Lauri Stewart, Justin Nelson, Desiree Coyote

Welcome/Minutes Approval

Kim welcomed everyone and conducted introductions of the members. The November 2019 meeting minutes were approved without edits.

Advisory Committee updates from around the state

Michele Roland-Schwartz of the Attorney General's Sexual Assault Task Force (SATF) updated the group about the monthly statewide calls which have focused on services around COVID and the recent fires. She expressed appreciation to Victim Rights Law Center and Oregon Law Center for their recent webinars, resources and tools for the state partners. The newest executive order on gender and race and what can/cannot be discussed is the most recent concern for service providers. SATF is also doing monthly webinars with Sarah Sabri the Domestic Violence Resource Prosecutor of the Department of Justice.

Debra Dority of Oregon Law Center (OLC) updated the group on their work of distributing information on landlord/tenant issues, identification replacement, public benefits, food replacements, insurance, and voting following the forest fires. All information is available in English and Spanish on the current website at <https://oregonlawhelp.org/>. OLC is creating another website for mass disaster relief that will include disaster preparedness as well as training pro-bono attorneys on Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) appeals. It is found at <https://oregondisasterlegalservices.org>.

Amy Benedum of Oregon Judicial Department updated the group on the changes in the courts in response to COVID-19. The Chief Justice has required that every court accept e-filed restraining



orders This increases access for survivors and relieves the burden of appearing in court multiple times.

Vanessa Timmons of Oregon Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence (OCADSV) updated the group about the weekly calls with members. Service providers are feeling fatigued with the new methods of providing services remotely due to COVID-19. They are now moving to a member's check-in; 35-50 people each week. OCADSV has received a new grant to support victims from the fires and another addressing the intersection of mental health, domestic violence and sexual assault.

Merle Weiner of University of Oregon reminded the group of housing assistance funds due to COVID-19 must be spent by year end. Rent assistance can also take care of back rent owed. Local assistance can be found at community action agencies or through #211 assistance online.

Update on COVID-related funding to programs

Kim explained that in February 2020 Crime Victim and Survivor Services Division (CVSSD) repurposed portions of VOCA funds in order to offset expenses due to COVID. In March 2020 the Oregon eBoard granted \$2M to nonprofits for emergency housing due to COVID. This came out of Oregon's general fund. This has now been moved to Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act funding; requirements now including spending out by December 30, 2020 and new reporting requirements. \$4M was allocated in April 2020 by eBoard for mental health, flexible funding, and housing. Programs applied as they felt they could use it. Most recently (September) \$1M was allocated to Child Advocacy Centers for COVID related expenses. CVSSD has been as flexible as possible in assisting grantees to determine appropriate uses and spend out these funds.

Community Conversations: Ben Bradshaw

Statewide community conversations began in 2019 with culturally specific populations. These small group conversations moved from in person to virtual in March due to COVID. The virtual conversations expanded participation across the state. CVSSD partnered with Johanna Costa from the Bias Crimes program of the Oregon Department of Justice Civil Rights Division. The information we were gathering dovetailed with her work in bias crimes, and facilitated bridge building and community mending. The report on these conversations will be released with action items, steps, and tools for best serving these populations.

VOCA Competitive Culturally Specific and Culturally Responsive Program Grant: Ben Bradshaw

Becky Jones and Susana Escobedo joined the group as participants in the application review process. Ben reviewed the requirements of the application for the group. CVSSD is encouraged by the applications received as they represent the opportunity for increased access to services for communities impacted by inequity. Of the 15 applications, the reviewers are recommending funding for 12 of these applications. Ben presented each recommended application in order of ranking for consideration by the group.



Debra Dority and Sybil Heb declared a conflict of interest regarding the Disability Rights Oregon's application.

After review and discussion, the Committee unanimously approved following recommendations of the review committee and forwarding the recommendations to the Attorney General for approval.

VOCA-FI Continuation Grants Update: Marjorie Doran

This grant was originally introduced as a two year award cycle beginning in 2018 with focus on campus outreach, Court-Appointed Special Advocates (CASA), community-based advocacy and health care partnerships, and human trafficking. The new award for 2020-2022 continued funding 8 campus projects, 6 health care projects, 10 trafficking projects and added two more trafficking awards. The CASA awards will now fund each of the 21 CASAs rather than utilizing the 'hub system' of funding through subcontracts. Awards total just over \$9M which is consistent with the 2018 awards.

SASP Competitive Preview for November AC meeting: Alisha Goodwin

Alisha updated the group on the SASP competitive application which will begin the review process on November 5. All applications have met the minimum qualifications and are eligible to be reviewed and scored.

Meeting adjourned at 10:53AM

Next meeting: remote meeting November 12, 2020; 9:00 am – 12:30 pm