



## Court Process Workgroup: Victim Access Subgroup

Tuesday, May 17, 2022

8:00 AM- 9:00 AM

Zoom

Members Present: Hon. Susan Stoney, GDC, Chair, Nora Mahoney, LSNV, Co-Chair, Stephanie Romonchuk, VSD, Pam Sejas, JDRDC, Mabel Prine, JCADA, Tina Spurlock, JDRDC – DR Intake, Fazia Deen, Dar al-Hijrah, Kacey Kirkland, VSD, Ayaan Ali, DSVS-DVAC, Bolivia Bustamente, TWC, Brittany Vera, DSVS Angela Yeboah, DSVS-DVAC, Susan Madsen, GDC clerk

Guests present, including Technical Assistance providers: David Steib, Ayuda, Cannon Han, APIGBV, John Crownover, DSVS,

### I. Welcome and Electronic Script

Judge Stoney read the electronic script and the appropriate motions were made and approved.

### II. Report out from Focus Groups and next steps

Brittany debriefed the group on the focus groups. There were only three participants who showed up, so the focus groups turned into interviews. The plan is for the team to interview other participants who did not show up but were willing to be interviewed. There is the hope that the group will still be able to find GDC participants.

Two participants had overall positive interactions with the staff and agencies involved in the process. The steps were clear and they felt positive about the interpretation. The third participant had a more negative experience with the system. Her protective order was not granted and she had some reactions towards the judge hearing her case.

One of the team members is going to be coding the data and identifying themes. Other people can be interviewed by zoom or by phone. If the team can find other people who are working in GDC, the team will conduct interviews with them, too. The team will be reaching out to providers to get more information from them.

The group asked about areas that could be improved, but no data or themes were available yet about those issues. The group also asked about the recruitment process. Targeted emails were sent to victim service providers around the county, but there were almost no referrals received in that manner. DVAC advocates had to contact previous clients and ask if they would be willing to participate.

Stephanie wondered about an alternative of phone interview. She had clients who might be willing to do that by phone but hesitant to come in person.

Brittany shared that the Arabic speaking focus groups will be the next focus.

### III. Finish discussion about materials about protective orders

Brittany recapped the materials discussed in the previous meeting between Victim Services Division (VSD), Domestic Violence Action Center (DVAC), and Domestic and Sexual Violence Services (DSVS).

Tina clarified that the purple sheet that she helped developed had gone to the magistrates. Magistrates didn't understand that the sheet was supposed to go to the police. DR has been seeing fewer people coming in on the third day of the EPO, so the sheet seems to be working.

Nora remembered that she had created a checklist for pro-bono attorneys that could be helpful for pro-se litigants.

There has been a lot of progress made on streamlining the paperwork. Nora Mahoney shared the draft packet and walked the group through it. The group have an almost-final draft that includes an explanation of the process, what is needed to get a protective order.

Nora shared the PPO packet with the updated information, which includes an explanation of the process, the code for family abuse, what to include in your petition, what a protective order can do, and a notification to petitioner regarding firearms. There are also sections that explain what happens after the PPO is filed and the *ex parte* hearing, an explanation of optional services, and forms. The Sheriff's office worked with the group to ensure the information requested was most helpful to them in serving the respondent.

Judge Stoney noted that it would be helpful to have something similar for GDC. Angela agreed and noted that the advocate who is working with GDC could share that information with clients. Judge Stoney noted that it would be especially helpful for clients to know what to expect in court and the coherent story they have to tell. It will also help people's nerves and level of anxiety.

### IV. Breaking down the Protective Order Walkthrough Maps

Brittany walked through the parts of the protective order process and the need to break down the map down into categories and steps.

Brittany will send the document out for people to start to fill in their ideas for content to include.

1. What is a PO
2. How to extend a PO
3. Break down the steps of a PPO
4. Dealing with minors / next-friend cases
5. Adult protected family/household members who don't want to be included; including children on a PO
6. What a PO can do for you
7. It needs to be crystal clear in the final order what needs to happen with the children → e.g. how the children are going to be exchanged etc.
8. What happens when Respondent gets out of jail – getting people served makes a big difference

Judge Stoney explained the idea of putting information on a website for the Council on the County website.

Susan Madsen expressed concern about whether this group might be moving in different direction from the Supreme Court (SC) with more information than what the SC shares on their website.

Judge Stoney noted that she shared the info from the GDC and state SC website. Judge Stoney shared there is nothing to prevent a locality from explaining more information about the processes unique to the locality, but the information shared should generally mesh with the SC information.

The meeting was adjourned due to time. The next meeting will be June 21, 2022 by Zoom.