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**ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON THE RIGHTS OF
SURVIVORS OF SEXUAL ASSAULT**

MINUTES

October 4, 2021 at 3:30 p.m.

Location: Those present attended virtually at: <https://call.lifesizecloud.com/4658445>

Members present:

Attorney General Aaron Ford, Chairman
NDOC Dep. Director Brian Williams, proxy for Director Daniels
Margaret Campe
Serena Evans
Kim Murga
Kim Otero
Danielle Staple
Debbi Robison
Tracy Trenoweth

Others present:

Nicole Reilly
Jessica Adair

Counsel present: Rosalie Bordelove

1. **Call to Order and Roll Call.** Chairman Ford called the meeting to order at 3:30 p.m. and roll call determined there was a quorum present.
2. **Public Comment.** There was no public comment.
3. **Election of the Advisory Committee Chairperson.** Chairman Ford initiated discussion and invited nominations for the next chairperson from those present. Debbi Robison moved to elect Attorney General Ford as chairperson and Serena Evans seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

4. **Approval of minutes of August 28, 2020 meeting.**

Serena Evans moved to approve the 8/28/20 minutes and Kim Murga seconded the motion. Minutes approved with no changes.

5. **Presentation on impact of AB176 funds from grant recipient Nevada Coalition to End Domestic and Sexual Violence.**

Serena Evans presented an overview of the benefits of AB176 funding the Coalition received. The funding allowed the Coalition to conduct a four-week comprehensive online training that resulted in 14 fully trained sexual assault survivor advocates. Attendees were from Nevada Outreach/Pahrump, which serves Nye County; Domestic Violence Intervention/Fallon; Churchill and Lyon Counties; Domestic Violence Intervention/Lovelock—Pershing Co.; Consolidated Agencies for Human Services/Hawthorne—Mineral Co.; Committee Against Domestic Violence (Harbor House)/Elko—Elko, Eureka and White Pine Cos. In addition to the training series, the Coalition was able to continue technical assistance outreach to those who participated. Additional funding from another grant allowed the Coalition to create an online platform with an online certificate program,

Jessica Adair thanked Debi Tanaka and Nicole Reilly for their work with the grant application process and their efforts to quickly re-direct and help grantees achieve the goal of getting people trained via a virtual platform. In addition to creating the platform and getting people trained, the Coalition also produced equipment for those who would otherwise have been unable to participate and provided funds for travel and fees to attend other groups' trainings.

Adair inquired if there will be follow up to see if the advocates are able to put their training into practice and to demonstrate how the dollars spent translates into people being served. Evans reported the Coalition has quarterly reports reflecting program members' numbers of how many survivors they have served throughout the year.

AG Ford recognized Jessica Adair for her efforts to make all this happen during the pandemic as well.

6. **Presentation on impact of AB176 funds from grant recipient Rape Crisis Center.**

Danielle Staple reported an opportunity resulting from the change in the marriage license funding structure. Since there are now people who are trained in the rural areas, hopefully there will now be sexual assault specific funding available throughout the state in addition to what is already provided to Clark County. Staple reached out to Division of Child and Family Services to ask if that increase in revenue would be available for support and technical assistance to newly-funded organizations. Staple thanked AG Ford and his team for efforts to keep the original grant awards going after they were cut due to pandemic financial issues.

Staple noted that Rape Crisis Center's name has been changed to Signs of HOPE—Healing Option Prevention Education. Staple explained the many different crisis response and support services provided by Signs of HOPE advocates and the challenges presented by pandemic restrictions, transportation issues, victims' proximity to their abusers in smaller communities,

lack of volunteer staff, lack of training and education, etc. Some of the agency's successes include getting training curriculum accredited by the National Advocate Credentialing Program, and the addition of a rural component to all advocate trainings. Funding is used to explore and expand resources in rural counties, providing volunteer advocates full access to the resource database. Relationships with Nye and Lincoln Counties has been strengthened, with more outreach and programming offered to those communities.

7. Discussion re possible topics for future meetings.

- a. Jessica Adair suggested inviting a presentation by Nevada Department of Corrections (NDOC) regarding how the Sexual Assault Survivors Bill of Rights works with the Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA) and of advocates who work with incarcerated survivors. Deputy Williams will reach out to Deborah Striplin, PREA Coordinator for NDOC, and victims advocate Jennifer Rey to make a presentation at the next meeting.

Nicole Reilly, Domestic Violence Ombudsman, would like to learn more about what exit services are provided for victims of sexual assault and what services available for them when they exit the prison system. Staple explained that her agency worked quite a bit with people in detention to help them work through various aspects of their trauma after sexual assault to better position them when they are exiting. Due to some roadblocks, including pandemic issues, those programs need to be recertified and activated by a program sponsor within the facilities.

Staple will reach out to Florence McClure Women's Correctional Center's Associate Warden Gabriela Najera and get some information about programs there.

- b. Chairman Ford expressed interest and a request for help in bringing in some legislators to a meeting to share with them some of the committee's ideas and see what NDOC can add to the discussion and determine what this committee can get behind and submit from victims' perspective to the legislature.
- c. Chairman Ford suggested adding Division of Child and Family Services (DCFS) to the agenda to discuss the new marriage license funding and DCFS's interpretation of that law. Staple agreed and noted that it would be beneficial to some members of the committee to be made part of the evaluation process of funding applications and to be aware of possible conflict of interest issues.
- d. Staple suggested doing a statewide canvass of law enforcement to determine the number of sexual assault cases recorded versus number of actual prosecutions. That information could lead to the identification of needed specific training or funding to send law enforcement to already existing training. Try to look at it from the statewide scope and along with the advocates, get as many law enforcement officers and prosecutors trained as possible. Staple expressed an interest in having DCFS offer committee input as well.
- e. Adair mentioned that some committee members have expressed interest in learning how the State plans to acquire future Sexual Assault Kit Initiative (SAKI) funding to

move forward now that most of the backlogged SAKI kits have been tested. This issue might fit the discussion of survivors having a right to an advocate when interacting with law enforcement and/or prosecutors and having the data to determine the specific number of advocates needed.

- f. Chairman Ford suggested that the committee invite the current president of the Prosecutors Association to come in to present and answer meaningful questions the committee would provide in advance. Reilly added the committee might try to get the director of the Sheriffs and Chiefs Association to come in and report what's going on statewide as well as the president of the District Attorneys Association to expedite the process.
- g. Staple suggested a public information campaign targeted to decrease victim blaming and reduce stigma by educating potential jury pools to evaluate cases by looking at possibly flawed victims with better understanding and to evaluate cases with a true understanding of what consent and coercion look like.
- h. Serena Evans suggested focusing on access to SANE exams—look at telehealth options and incentives to recruit and train SANE nurses to better reach our rural communities.

Reilly volunteered to send an email out to the committee members to get questions to review at the next meeting.

8. **Public Comment.** There was no public comment.

9. **Adjournment.**

Murga put forth a motion to adjourn which was seconded by Evans. Motion passed and meeting adjourned at 4:30 p.m.

Minutes prepared by V. Beavers
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