

VICTIM ADVOCACY AND SERVICES UNIT ADVISORY COUNCIL

Regular Meeting Minutes

1:30 P.M. TUESDAY, AUGUST 5, 2025

Office of the Chief Medical Examiner

921 NE 23rd St

Oklahoma City, OK 73105

To the extent not otherwise provided below, the Council may, at its discretion, discuss or change the sequence of any agenda item. Possible action includes, but is not limited to, approval, authorization, adoption, rejection, denial, amendment, taking no action, or tabling the item for disposition at a later date or time.

1. CALL TO ORDER

a. ROLL CALL AND ESTABLISHMENT OF QUORUM

- i. The meeting was called to order by Whitney Anderson, in accordance with the Open Meetings Act at 1:38 P.M. Members present also included Matt Levey, Lauren Garder, Whitney Anderson, Kelsey Samuels, Rose Turner, Meagan McCurley. Absent: Jayra Camarena, Judge Leah Edwards, Shelley Miller, Ann Lowrance, and Kristie Chandler. Quorum met.

b. ASSURANCE OF COMPLIANCE WITH OPEN MEETING ACT

- i. Miguel Mojica announced that the meeting was in compliance with the Open Meetings Act. An agenda was posted at the principal office of the Oklahoma Attorney General's Office on August 1, 2025 at 4:24 P.M. and on the Oklahoma Attorney General's Office website on August 1, 2025 at 2:34 P.M.

2. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ON APPROVAL OF REGULAR MEETING MINUTES FROM JUNE 17, 2025 & July 15, 2025

- a. Lauren Garder motioned to table agenda item due to not enough members from the June or July meetings being present at this meeting to approve previous meetings' minutes. Levey seconded motion. Motion passes by unanimous roll call vote.

3. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ON CREATION OF CONFLICT-OF-INTEREST POLICY FOR VASU ADVISORY COUNCIL MEMBERS

- a. Matt motioned table agenda item for 18 months and come back to review a one-page agreement form for members and participants to sign, addressing such issues as understanding that all serve at the pleasure of the AG, members cannot speak for the Council without OAG authorization, etc. Rose Turner seconded the motion. Roll call vote taken, and motion passed unanimously.

4. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ON CREATION OF VASU ADVISORY COUNCIL SUNRISE STATUTE

- a. Discussion on whether we want the recommended language to mirror DVFRB statute language for Council's judge position to permit a designee.

- b. Anderson notes that there is a lot of DVSA representation in the statute (between tribal, urban, rural, expert, etc.) and very little for HT/BIPs. Council members discuss expanding expert position language to include its potential representation for DVSA *or* trafficking. Additionally, the Council survivor position can include the option of being a trafficking survivor. The culturally-specific appointment can be broadened to DVSA *or* HT program. There is some discussion on whether the Council is limited to sex trafficking or can include labor trafficking issues.
- c. Council discusses limiting the proposed statute to 13 total appointed Council positions. This could include adding one more BIP (distinguish urban vs. rural) and an additional HT program (stand-alone vs. multi-certified).
- d. Council discusses determining statutory scope of authority to include human trafficking (sex and labor trafficking) purview. Review of 75 O.S. sections 18p-5, 18p-1, and 18p-6 to check for coherence internal consistency regarding DVSA, Stalking, HT purview.
- e. Council discusses changing sunrise statute draft, Subsection D to “human trafficking,” expanding from sex trafficking.
- f. No votes or action taken on this item.

5. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ON TITLE 75 ATTORNEY GENERAL CHAPTER 30: STANDARDS AND CRITERIA FOR ADULT VICTIMS OF HUMAN SEX TRAFFICKING PROGRAMS

- a. Whitney Anderson provided an update. She notes that Jared Mason from the OAG Human Trafficking Response Unit (“HTRU”) attended the Ch. 30 subcommittee meeting. Discussed what will be used in the HTRU database and certified program data-collection. It would be beneficial for HTRU to present to the Council, as there is a lot of cross over, overlap, and gray area between rules and purposes.
- b. Anderson notes that HT is a type of crime that has been recognized much later than the crimes of domestic violence or other sexual violence. Challenges to collaborating with law enforcement. One program told the certified program staff role was to “get the victim to cooperate” with law enforcement investigation. A lot of pressure for victim cooperation and develop victim-witnesses for the criminal justice system. Perhaps there could be more development the philosophy in Chapter 30, tying victim services to certification and disallowing coercion or manipulation. Lauren Garder notes that risk is not static, and many understand that dynamic in DV but not in HT.
- c. Statutory but coincides with standards about what point DHS is notified in other chapters and is outlined in DVSA Chapter; however, such guidance is not included in Ch. 30. Limited understanding of HT for minors and with partner agencies. Situations are happening and no one is sure how to navigate it, and Ch. 30 is ambiguous on these points.

d. Whitney's goal is to present proposed changes by next meeting (September) based on top priorities.

e. No votes or action taken on this item.

**6. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ON TITLE 75 ATTORNEY GENERAL
CHAPTER 15: STANDARDS AND CRITERIA FOR DOMESTIC VIOLENCE
AND SEXUAL ASSAULT PROGRAMS**

a. Ch. 15 Subcommittee Chair, Kristie Chandler, absent but sent an update. Chandler invited Palomar Family Justice Center to offer input to the DVSA standards and criteria regarding transportation and the definition of emergency transportation. She has not received input yet but will work with subcommittee to develop a chapter recommendation draft to present to the Council at large.

b. No votes or action taken on this item.

**7. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ON TITLE 75 ATTORNEY GENERAL
CHAPTER 25: STANDARDS AND CRITERIA FOR BATTERERS
INTERVENTION PROGRAMS**

a. Garder provided Ch. 25 Subcommittee update. She reviewed what it might look like to incorporate parts of the Colorado Model into the OAC pilot program and adapt to Oklahoma, including the differentiated model, privacy, etc. Reviewed standards for intakes, assessments, resources, and an Intervention Coordination Team ("ICT"). ICT may consist of voting members, such as a BIP provider, advocate, etc. and non-voting members to provide information, such as probation officer, DHS staff, etc. The ICT will make determinations whether or not clients stay in.

b. Garder provided overview of what subcommittee and consultants will work on in the upcoming seven-hour session dedicated to working out additional aspects of proposed BIP pilot program rules and standards.

c. Miguel reviewed responses to the VASU BIP Pilot Program survey to gather information and perspectives from all currently-certified BIPs in Oklahoma willing to share. Miguel will provide an anonymized excel sheet to Council of all respondents' comments for consideration in the development of pilot program rules.

d. No votes or action taken at this time.

**8. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ON TITLE 75 ATTORNEY GENERAL
CHAPTER 1: STANDARDS AND CRITERIA FOR ADMINISTRATIVE
STANDARDS**

a. Ann Lowrance is not present. Lowrance has previously invited members to let her know if there are any questions or concerns with Chapter 1 language.

- b.** No votes or action taken on this item.

9. NEW BUSINESS

- a.** None at this time.

10. ANNOUNCEMENTS

- a.** Miguel Mojica made two announcements. First announcement is regarding the Partners for Change Conference registration dates, and the second announcement was FVPSA applications available on August 11th and due September 12th.
- b.** Kelsey Samuels provided an update on the expansion of her program to service sex trafficking victims, stating that the response has been tremendous. Nine survivors served in the month.

11. ADJOURNMENT

- a.** Lauren motioned to adjourn. Whitney Anderson adjourned the meeting at 3:15 p.m.