

VICTIM ADVOCACY AND SERVICES UNIT ADVISORY COUNCIL

Special Meeting Minutes

1:30 P.M. TUESDAY, MAY 6, 2025

Office of the Chief Medical Examiner

921 NE 23rd St.

Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 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 Ann Lowrance, in accordance with the Open Meetings Act at 1:43 P.M. Members present included Ann Lowrance, Meagan McCurley, Kristie Chandler, Kelsey Samuels, Whitney Anderson, Rose Turner, Matthew Levey, Judge Leah Edwards, and Lauren Garder. Absent members included Shelley Miller and Jayra Camarena. Non-members present included Miguel Mojica, Sara Wray, and Myel Solorzano Sutton.

b. ASSURANCE OF COMPLIANCE WITH OPEN MEETING ACT

- i. Sara Wray 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 May 2, 2025 at 8:45 A.M. and on the Oklahoma Attorney General's Office website on May 2, 2025 at 12:08 P.M.

2. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ON APPROVAL OF REGULAR MEETING MINUTES FROM APRIL 15, 2025

- a. Whitney Anderson motioned to approve minutes. Rose Turner seconded. By roll call, minutes approved by those present except Judge Edwards abstained.

3. UPDATE REGARDING VASU ADVISORY COUNCIL'S APRIL 2025 CHAPTER 25 SUBCOMMITTEE QUESTIONS AND CONCERNS RAISED TO OAG LEADERSHIP

- a. Myel Solorzano Sutton provided an update that there has not been a response from leadership communicated to VASU staff. Ann Lowrance noted that she is willing to visit with leadership or refer to anyone on the Council, if leadership prefers.

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

- a. Council members request a conflict-of-interest policy and clarity on expectations for members regarding what can and cannot be mentioned about their Council membership status, particularly when engaged in discussions regarding

DVSA/HT/BIP-related legislation. Ann Lowrance notes that it is standard to have such policies for members. Members want to leave the door open for advocating in their capacity as members, as Ann Lowrance notes that, historically, AGs have requested the Advisory Council assist in advocating on certain matters. Members acknowledge that they cannot speak on behalf of the Council without explicit authorization by OAG. For reference, Ann Lowrance and Rose Turner agree to share policies from Boards they have shared on. VASU staff will draft language for internal approval at the OAG and then, if approved, to the Council.

5. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ON CREATION OF POLICIES FOR NON-VASU ADVISORY COUNCIL MEMBERS PARTICIPATING IN SUBCOMMITTEES

- a. Myel Solorzano Sutton presented overview revisiting whether Advisory Council wants to change from giving subcommittee chairs full authority on accepting non-members into subcommittees. Advisory Council previously voted to let subcommittee chair unilaterally determine non-member participation. Myel inquires if the Council wishes to re-vote. Rose Turner indicated that she thinks it is important that more than the subcommittee chair make that determination. Rose had several individuals approach her about joining a subcommittee, and she is interested in seeing a more democratic process in making non-member participation determinations. Additionally, Rose wants to ensure adequate representation and notes that perhaps smaller agencies would like to submit an application for consideration. Ann Lowrance states that subcommittees should remain small enough that the subcommittees can be productive. Whitney Anderson states that she is having difficulty establishing meetings and, while representation is important, she also seeks to be able to move forward. Regarding representation on BIP matters, Matthew Levey states that VASU hosts monthly meetings with BIPs, and Matthew is working towards developing a statewide BIP Coalition.
- b. Council continued to discuss the matter, but no vote was called. Members indicated that, alternatively, members can be suggested on a consultation-basis for expertise. It was also noted that volunteer consultants can also be included on the Council-wide meeting agenda if it is regarding anything the Council wants to hear as a whole. No one objected when Ann asked if Council will continue with subcommittees as-is for now.

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

- a. No update. Ann Lowrance requests that if anyone knows of legislation that may affect the rules, please let her know.

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

- a. Kristie Chandler gave an update on Ch. 15 Subcommittee. She set up a meeting, but no one attended. Kristie will send an email out about a potential Monday meeting.
- b. Kristie Chandler raises point that a lot of documentation is gathered by DVSA agency on victims that is never used by the victim. Kristie informally polled YWCA OKC staff about how many victims requesting records and that victims rarely made such requests. Kristie state that it is more important to build relationships and rapport with survivors than spending so much time asking a lot of questions and writing them down. Kristie let the Council know that she will keep this point in mind as she reviews Ch. 15 standards & criteria.
- c. Whitney Anderson states that she thinks it is the same with human trafficking victims, and this point may apply to Tit. 75, Ch. 30, as well.

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

- a. Lauren Garder provides update and states that the Ch. 25 Subcommittee met. Subcommittee identified there will be a lot of work for the subcommittee and Council if H.B. 1273 passes. Important deadline on Thursday regarding what the bill language will require. Subcommittee identified a robust group to participate and believes that subcommittee makeup will stay fluid. Subcommittee plans to set a meeting every other week.

9. 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 on Ch. 30 Subcommittee. First subcommittee meeting is scheduled for May 15th from 11 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. Whitney will reach out to OCAT and track legislation that would impact Tit. 75, Ch. 30 standards and criteria.

10. ANNOUNCEMENTS

- a. Miguel Mojica announced that the Partners for Change Conference registration is officially open.
- b. Whitney Anderson announced that she was told that human trafficking program funding likely will not be included in OAG budget this year. Whitney seeks community support for funding advocacy.

11. ADJOURNMENT

- a. Judge Edwards motioned to adjourn. Ann Lowrance adjourned the meeting at 2:43 p.m.