South Carolina
Domestic Violence Task Force

PROPOSED RECOMMENDATIONS

Phase II: Identifying problems and proposing solutions to address the culture of domestic violence in South Carolina

August 31, 2015

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Task Force Overview

South Carolina is ranked second highest in the nation for the rate of women murdered by men, having previously ranked in the top ten for the past twelve years.

On January 29, 2015, Governor Nikki R. Haley issued Executive Order 2015-04, establishing the Domestic Violence Task Force of South Carolina to study and make recommendations to improve areas affecting domestic violence, including social, economic, and geographic issues as well as professional standards and best practices within government and non-government organizations.

The Task Force is chaired by Governor Haley and is composed of representatives from more than 65 government and non-government entities at the state and local levels. Members of the Task Force are divided into four subgroups to study and make recommendations:

(1) The Criminal Justice Division, chaired by Director Bryan Stirling, Department of Corrections;

(2) The Victim and Offender Services Division, chaired by Katie Morgan, Department of Social Services;

(3) The Community Awareness, Education, and Outreach Division, chaired by Director Richele Taylor, Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation;

(4) The Government Resources Working Group, chaired by Director Veronica Kunz, Crime Victims' Ombudsman.

The Task Force is conducting its work in four phases:

Phase I: Surveying and collecting data and information from counties and regions of the state;

Phase II: Identifying specific problems and creating proposed solutions;

Phase III: Implementing or beginning to implement, where possible, approved proposals; and

Phase IV: Assessing short- and long-term goals for combatting and preventing domestic violence.

All reports from the Task Force are public and made available online at www.governor.sc.gov.

Phase II Overview

Objectives:

During Phase II, Task Force members were charged as follows:

1. Identify specific, local, regional or state problems;
2. Propose specific, realistic, workable solutions;
3. Identify the lead entities responsible for implementing the solutions;
4. Provide a projected timeline for implementation;
5. Estimate additional costs, if any.

Meetings:

During Phase II, Task Force subgroups held 35 meetings, totaling more than 65.5 hours of meeting time:

- 20.5 hours – Criminal Justice Division;
- 16 hours – Services Division;
- 11.25 hours – Community Division;
- 17.75+ hours – Government Resources Working Group.

Membership:

During Phase II, at least 135 individuals participated with some members participating in multiple groups:

- 74 members, Criminal Justice Division;
- 30 members, Victim & Offender Services Division;
- 42 members, Community Awareness, Education, and Outreach Division;
- 16 members, Government Resources Working Group.

During Phase II, at least 66 agencies, organizations, or other entities participated, which has grown from the approximate 40 member entities initially:

1. Governor's Office
2. Supreme Court of South Carolina
3. Circuit Court of South Carolina
4. Family Court of South Carolina
5. SC Judicial Department, Court Administration
6. SC Attorney General's Office
7. SC Department of Education
8. SC Department of Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse Services (DAODAS)
9. SC Department of Corrections
10. SC Department of Employment and Workforce (DEW)
11. SC Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ)
12. SC Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation (LLR)
13. SC Department of Probation, Parole and Pardon Services (PPP)
14. SC Department of Public Safety (DPS)
15. SC Department of Social Services (DSS)
16. SC Law Enforcement Division (SLED)

17. SC Department of Health and Environmental Control (DHEC)
18. SC Revenue and Fiscal Affairs Office (RFA)
19. SC Department of Mental Health (DMH)
20. SC Criminal Justice Academy
21. SC Crime Victims' Ombudsman
22. SC State Office of Victim Assistance
23. SC Board of Cosmetology
24. SC Board of Medical Examiners
25. SC Board of Nursing
26. SC Commission on Higher Education (CHE)
27. SC Commission on Prosecution Coordination
28. SC Coalition against Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault (SCCADVASA)
29. SC Crime Victims Council
30. SC Medical Association
31. SC Crime Victims Network
32. SC Law Enforcement Victim Advocate Association
33. SC Network of Children's Advocacy Centers
34. SC State Housing Finance and Development Authority
35. SC Victim Services Coordinating Council
36. SC Association of Counties
37. SC Hospital Association
38. SC Sheriff's Association
39. Medical University of South Carolina (MUSC)
40. University of South Carolina (USC)
41. Columbia College Police Department
42. 3rd Circuit Solicitor's Office
43. 12th Circuit Solicitor's Office
44. 13th Circuit Solicitor's Office
45. 14th Circuit Solicitor's Office
46. Berkeley County Sheriff's Office
47. Florence County Sheriff's Office
48. Lexington County Sheriff's Office
49. Lexington County Magistrate's Office
50. Lexington Community Mental Health Center
51. Richland County Council
52. City of North Myrtle Beach Mayor's Office
53. Town of Duncan Police Department
54. CASA/Family Systems, Orangeburg
55. Compass of Carolina, Greenville
56. Domestic Abuse Center, Cayce
57. Fort Jackson Army Community Service
58. Pee Dee Coalition, Hartsville
59. Real MAD, Charleston
60. Riverland Hills Baptist Church, Irmo
61. Safe Harbor, Greenville
62. Sistercare, Cayce
63. Tabernacle of Meetings, Surfside Beach
64. Three Trees Center for Change, Rock Hill
65. United Way Association of SC
66. Zonta Club, Columbia
67. Members of the Public and Survivors of Domestic Violence

Overview of Proposed Recommendations:

During Phase I, the Task Force surveyed and collected data and information to see what was known and unknown about domestic violence. The findings led Task Force members directly to specific problems, not otherwise known or thought to be at issue. Not only did the Task Force identify issues about domestic violence but also issues about information tracking and data collection in general. The State must know the breadth and scope of domestic violence accurately in order to address the problem comprehensively.

During the course of Phase II, Task Force members focused on problems and solutions that addressed the culture of domestic statewide, including training, education, uniformity, efficiency, standardization, gaps, holes, missing links, coordination, connectivity, and outreach. Taken altogether, the recommended changes would make the system more victim-friendly and make services more victim-centered. It was important to Task Force members that victims feel supported by the system, rather than re-victimized by it.

The Task Force made 19 recommendations for state level actions and 10 recommendations for local level actions for the implementation of best practices, professional standards, and model policies. In areas where further study and development were needed, the Task Force made 21 recommendations for its members to continue working during Phase III.

I. **State Actions** – 19 Recommendations for the Governor's Office; Attorney General's Office; Department of Education; Department of Social Services; Court Administration; Department of Administration; Commission on Prosecution Coordination; Department of Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse Services; South Carolina Law Enforcement Division; Department of Public Safety; Criminal Justice Academy; Department of Labor, Licensing, and Regulation; Board of Medical Examiners; Board of Nursing; Board of Cosmetology; Board of Examiners for Licensure of Professional Counselors, Marriage and Family Therapists and Pyscho-Educational Specialists; Board of Dentistry; Board of Occupational Therapy; Board of Pharmacy; Board of Physical Therapy; Social Work Examiners; Commission on Higher Education; and others.

II. **Local Actions** – 10 Recommendations for local law enforcement agencies; South Carolina Police Chiefs Association; South Carolina Sheriff's Association; local 911 dispatchers; South Carolina Municipal Association; South Carolina Association of Counties; and others.

III. **Task Force Actions** – 21 Recommendations for Task Force Leadership; Criminal Justice Division; Services Division; Community Division; and Government Resources Working Group.

The goal for each recommendation is to begin implementation in Phase III or by the end of 2015 in order to start seeing real results within a year, either by the end of 2016 or the end of Fiscal Year 2016-2017. To ensure that actions are taken and recommendations are adopted, accountability and enforcement measures must be key components of the Task Force's work moving forward.

I. **State Actions:** Recommended Best Practices, Professional Standards, and Model Policies

Recommendation 1

Task Force Leadership

Problem: In order for there to be effective statewide movement against domestic violence, any change and all change must begin at the local level. Most of the best practices recommended by the Task Force must be adopted by the local level or by an independent state entity, which is why building a grassroots-style support system is so critical. Because so much change must occur locally, neither the State nor the Task Force is empowered to simply mandate change. If there is no way to hold local officials or independent boards accountable, then there is no way to achieve meaningful reform.

Solution: The Task Force recommends that the Governor develop and lead a statewide accountability movement using her influence and public pressure to ensure that local or independent entities – whether local law enforcement agencies, judges or prosecutors, counties or municipalities, professional boards, school districts, or others – adopt and implement Task Force recommendations. The Governor's Office should develop or designate accountability or enforcement measures for each recommendation (e.g. pledge, resolution, commitment letter, or other written or public documentation) so that citizens can be confident that meaningful results have occurred.

Accountability: Governor's Office

Timeline: End of Phase III

Cost: Budget Neutral

Recommendation 2

Task Force Leadership

Problem: Although the Task Force has helped to effect change and create coordination at the state level, the same team-oriented process needs to be replicated at a local level in order to get results. Many of the Task Force's recommendations cannot be mandated upon local agencies but must be independently adopted at the local level. Outreach to local law enforcement, prosecutors, judges, victims' advocates, and others is key to obtaining cultural, grassroots-level changes.

Solution: The Task Force recommends that the Governor and Task Force should host a statewide action summit on domestic violence for local stakeholders. The summit would provide a forum for local leaders to learn best practices of cultural changes and for the Task Force to pitch its recommendations to local agencies. The Governor's Office should set a date and work with Task Force leadership on developing an agenda, selecting a site, and inviting guests.

Accountability: Governor's Office

Timeline: Late Spring 2016

Cost: To be determined

Recommendation 3

Community Division

Problem: In South Carolina, most state agencies' policies do not address treatment of employees involved in acts of domestic violence that affect the workplace, including reporting of temporary restraining orders in place or violence at work. Anecdotally, it is recognized that victims can remain especially vulnerable to their batterers at work – even though victims may move to a shelter or obtain a restraining order, they usually keep their jobs and therefore remain vulnerable to, from, and while at work when their location and movements are known by the batterer.

Solution: The Task Force recommends that it coordinate with the Department of Administration Office of Human Resources to draft a "State Model Domestic Violence Policy" for approval by the Governor. To develop a model policy, the Task Force should utilize participating subject matter experts and existing resources, such as other states' and national organizations' model policies – See policies by Delaware, Florida, New York, Maryland, and Utah; See also www.employersagainstdomesticviolence.org. Victims' advocates should be consulted to ensure proper reporting policies for victims and offenders. See also Recommendation #47 for private sector HR policies.

Accountability: Task Force; DOA; Governor's Office

Timeline: 2015-2016

Cost: Budget Neutral

Recommendation 4

Services and Community Divisions

Problem: From the Phase I Survey, approximately half of victim services providers did not have or did know if they had a policy on domestic violence (48%), and the other half that did have a domestic policy indicated that the policy was not developed with consultation or assistance from state or national experts (44%). When state agencies come into contact with victims in their daily work, most state agency employees are not trained on the warning signs of domestic violence and do not know the right questions to ask or the appropriate response to give. In addition, most offenders are not offered assistance until they appear in court on charges of domestic violence. Information and resources should be offered to offenders when they self-identify or when a risk assessment indicates abusive behavior exists.

Solution: The Task Force recommends that state agencies providing direct client services – such as DSS, DAODAS, DJJ, DEW, DHEC, DMH, DDSN, and Vocational

Rehabilitation among others – should develop domestic violence informed services for both potential victims and potential offenders, including the following:

(1) Agencies should develop written policies and procedures that are client-centered and trauma-informed;
(2) Agencies should provide annual domestic violence training for all employees providing client services; and
(3) Agencies should develop screening tools for domestic violence.

These policies, trainings, and screening tools should be developed in collaboration with a nationally recognized domestic violence expert or organization.

Accountability: Task Force; Governor's Office

Timeline: 2015-2016

Cost: Minimal or Budget Neutral

Recommendation 5

Criminal Justice Division

Problem: Forms for victims are not uniform throughout the state, including Victim Notification and Victim Information forms, making it more difficult for victims to understand and participate in the prosecution of their case.

Solution: The Task Force recommends that all victim notification and information forms should be universal and should be used by all agencies statewide. Standard, predictable notification procedures will help increase victim participation. Court Administration should collaborate with law enforcement agencies and victims' advocates to create a uniform, functional form and will mandate its use by all agencies.

Accountability: Task Force, Criminal Justice Division

Timeline: 2015-2016

Cost: Budget Neutral

Recommendation 6

Criminal Justice and Services Divisions

Problem: In Family Court, a petition for an Order of Protection (OP) is oftentimes difficult for some victims to complete to the required legal standards.

Solution: The Task Force recommends that technical additional assistance should be provided to victims during the OP process, from filing to disposition. Automated forms using an interactive program can help victims more easily, accurately, and effectively complete the required forms. The forms should be linked to other state services websites as a public tool for victims who are looking for recourses. Lead agencies to develop and implement the automated forms include: Court

Administration, Legal Services, Office of Victim Services Education and Certification (OVSEC), and the SC Bar.

Accountability: Task Force, Criminal Justice Division

Timeline: FY1617

Cost: To be determined

Recommendation 7

Services Division

Problem: South Carolina's current set of state standards for shelter services and emergency housing used by DSS to assess whether domestic violence organizations receive federal funding are outdated – See *Service and Administrative Standards for Domestic Violence Agencies* (2009). These standards were designed to reflect what a holistic, ideal program would be able to offer and to reflect the requirements of federal funding programs. These standards are used to assess the services offered by the 13 domestic violence organizations receiving federal funding through DSS.

Solution: The Task Force recommends that DSS should review and update the *Service and Administrative Standards for Domestic Violence Agencies* (2009) to reflect current best practices and federal funding requirements and also to develop a self-assessment tool for domestic violence organizations to assist in monitoring and encourage program development. Staff from DSS should work in conjunction with staff from SCCADVASA, the DPS VAWA and VOCA programs, and the DHEC Sexual Violence Services/Women's Health Program to complete a draft to disseminate among other stakeholders for input.

Accountability: DSS; SCCADVASA

Timeline: 2015-2016

Cost: Budget Neutral

Recommendation 8

Criminal Justice Division

Problem: More than 62% of responding law enforcement agencies to the Phase I Survey reported that their officers prosecute the lowest level domestic violence cases in Summary Court (Magistrate and Municipal Court). South Carolina is only one of three states (New Hampshire and Virginia) that allow officers to prosecute cases greater than traffic offenses, including domestic violence, against seasoned defense attorneys. Preparing for cases and prosecuting crimes takes law enforcement officers away from their intended mission.

Solution: The Task Force recommends that South Carolina should eliminate the practice of allowing law enforcement officers to prosecute domestic violence cases in municipal court and Magistrates Court. The Governor's Office should work with state agencies to develop options towards this goal.

Accountability: Task Force; Governor's Office

Timeline: End of Phase III

Cost: Additional prosecutors would be needed due to the shift in resources, but recall that with the 2015 Domestic Violence Reform Law in effect, many of the lower level domestic violence cases may be eliminated.

Recommendation 9

Criminal Justice Division

Problem: South Carolina is the 6th most violent state in the country, and roughly half of our state's violent crimes are domestic violence related. Therefore, the Task Force acknowledges that prosecuting violent crime is also prosecuting domestic violence crime. Currently, there are 305 prosecutors handling 114,442 new cases each year. Not only is the burden great on individual prosecutors but also on the court system in general. Dockets are full and wait times are high – it takes an average of 423 days to get a case from arrest to disposition in General Sessions Court, and consequently, victims are far less likely to cooperate.

Solution: The Task Force recommends that there is a need for additional prosecutors. There are many related factors to consider, such as whether law enforcement officers will be prohibited from trying municipal court cases and whether the 2015 Domestic Violence Reform Law will eliminate many of the lower level domestic violence cases. The Governor's Office should work with the Commission on Prosecution Coordination and other partners to develop a plan that provides additional resources in conjunction with accountability measures (i.e. docket management).

Accountability: Governor's Office, Commission on Prosecution Coordination

Timeline: FY1617

Cost: To be determined

Recommendation 10

Community Division

Problem: Gaps in communication, referral mechanisms, and treatment services have been identified between the drug and alcohol community and domestic abuse community and have been identified by both DAODAS and SCCADVASA. Oftentimes, both victims and abusers can have drug or alcohol issues. Further, it is believed from Phase I data collection that the number of domestic violence incidents involving drug or alcohol abuse is significantly under- or misreported (19.9% of incident reports for domestic violence indicate that alcohol and/or drugs were involved).

Solution: The Task Force recommends that DAODAS and SCCADVASA should work together to form partnerships between their stakeholders. DAODAS should explore the expansion of its existing trauma-informed care efforts to include trainings specific to domestic violence. Cross-trainings between systems should be developed to aid in filling the gaps between communication and referral. Internally, DAODAS should look to expand services in its system to aid communities where SCCADVASA is currently not providing services.

Accountability: DAODAS

Timeline: Ongoing

Cost: None identified at this time

Recommendation 11

Criminal Justice Division

Problem: The two statewide incident report databases at SLED need to be linked: SCIBRS, which houses categories and codes of crimes off of incident reports, and SCHIEx, which houses identifying and narrative information from incident reports. If SCIBRS and SCHIEx are linked, then offenders could be tracked throughout the system to easily determine how many incidents of domestic violence have occurred and if the level of violence has escalated over time.

Solution: The Task Force recommends that SLED should explore the possibility of building a bridge to link the two databases with its vendors.

Accountability: SLED

Timeline: FY1617

Cost: To be determined

Recommendation 12

Criminal Justice Division

Problem: Currently, SLED's incident report database for tracking identifying information, SCIBRS, contains fields with options for identifying the type of relationship between the victim and offender. However, SCIBRS does not offer relationship options that include the statutory types of domestic violence relationships, which means that data cannot be captured based on the law.

Solution: The Task Force recommends that SLED should consider adding the following relationship fields to SCIBRS:

(1) Victim and Offender have a child in common;
(2) Victim and Offender are currently cohabitating; and
(3) Victim and Offender formerly or had previously cohabitated.

Accountability: SLED

Timeline: FY1617

Cost: To be determined

Recommendation 13

Criminal Justice Division

Problem: There is a significant variety but unknown number of software programs used by local law enforcement agencies for their Local Incident-Based Reporting Systems (LIBRS) to make reports to SCIBRS at SLED, which means it is impossible to track domestic violence uniformly amongst jurisdictions across the state. Collectively, separate software systems and support services are extremely costly to acquire and maintain. Additionally, for SLED or federal agencies to mandate changes or efficiencies in reporting, it can be burdensome and costly for individual local agencies to obtain the needed changes from their vendors.

Solution: The Task Force recommends that SLED should research options to consider the possibility of moving all law enforcement agencies in the state to the same software program for one management information system. While this recommendation speaks to long-term goal, SLED should begin by taking this first step to secure additional information. See also Recommendation 12 to add data fields as a short-term solution to the larger software problem.

Accountability: SLED; Governor's Office

Timeline: FY1617 for first step

Cost: To be determined

Recommendation 14

Community Division

Problem: Members of professional occupations need proper training on identifying and assisting suspected domestic violence victims and alleged batterers encountered in their profession. In the Phase I Survey, almost 30% of professional members indicated that they had received some sort of domestic violence training, but in contrast, 66% reported that they had "encountered someone believed to be a victim of domestic violence" in their job. It appears that many professionals are potentially encountering victims who would benefit from appropriate outreach, while few are trained on how to handle a domestic violence situation. As many professions require continuing education classes, domestic violence training can be offered as a way to fulfill requisite hours in a manner that will likely benefit domestic violence victims.

Solution: The Task Force recommends that the Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation (LLR) will work with the professional occupational licensing (POL) boards to incorporate domestic violence training for professions and occupations. LLR has identified the most critical POL boards in which to start education on assisting suspected victims of domestic violence:

(1) Board of Medical Examiners;
(2) Board of Nursing;
(3) Board of Cosmetology;

(4) Board of Examiners for Licensure of Professional Counselors, Marriage and Family Therapists and Psycho-Educational Specialists;
(5) Board of Dentistry;
(6) Board of Occupational Therapy;
(7) Board of Pharmacy;
(8) Board of Physical Therapy; and
(9) Social Work Examiners.

After implementing training for these initial boards, LLR may work with additional boards. It should be noted that the referenced boards have voiced support for training on domestic violence to educate licensees and will determine how best to offer the training for its members. LLR will assist by providing example training materials or will cover the costs for in-house training.

*Accountability Measure for LLR and various Professional Boards: Determined in Phase III

Timeline: Goal to be adopted by end of 2016 to account for board meeting dates and licensee renewal cycles

Cost: Budget Neutral

Recommendation 15

Community Division

Problem: When a South Carolina citizen suspects domestic violence, they cannot easily access a directory or brochure that provides information on steps to take or information to pass on to the suspected victim. While some organizations have handouts, these materials are not easy to find and download. Further, they are specific to that organization and not representative of a larger geographic area. Screening, by itself, cannot benefit individuals without referrals to services and treatment.

Solution: The Task Force recommends that LLR work with SCCADVASA to create a resource directory for citizens and professionals that will list all existing, available county services for victims and batterers. In addition, this resource should also include a step-by-step guide for how citizens and professionals can offer advice and referrals. LLR will make this resource directory available online for citizens to download and use free of charge. Further, LLR will also work on getting resources listed on "211" with United Way's assistance – Note that United Way maintains South Carolina's 2-1-1 database that includes many service providers, a natural fit for inclusion of this information.

Accountability: LLR

Timeline: End of 2015

Cost: Budget Neutral

Recommendation 16

Community Division

Problem: In the Phase I Survey, 208 reporting schools indicated that they provide teachers with professional development training on domestic violence, which is promising but not enough to spur cultural change statewide. Teachers should have quality training on domestic violence related issues for both themselves and their students.

Solution: The Task Force recommends that the Department of Education develop a teacher recertification program about domestic violence and encourages school districts to adopt the training for their teachers. Again, while the Task Force does not support mandating training down upon teachers or districts based on budgetary or other programmatic reasons, the Task Force does hope that districts will be more likely to include the training if a program has been developed by the Department for their use at no cost.

*Accountability Measure for Department of Education and/or individual School Districts: Determined in Phase III

Timeline: 2016

Cost: To be determined

Recommendation 17

Community Division

Problem: In the Phase I Survey, 302 reporting schools indicated that they provide education on domestic violence for students. With the 2015 Domestic Violence Reform Act in effect, all public K-12 schools will not have to implement domestic violence education in their health instruction for grades 6^{th}-8^{th}. The Task Force supports these efforts to educate all students on domestic violence, dating violence, healthy relationships, and other related issues. Education for young people is important to help end the cycle of violence and prevent abuse and deaths among teens.

Solution: The Task Force recommends that the Department of Education develop models for domestic violence curriculum as options for school districts to choose. Recognizing that school districts have different budgetary restraints, the Task Force does not advise that one type of curriculum be mandated. However, the Task Force does support the Department developing resources to make it easier for school districts to obtain quality curriculum.

In addition, while the new law mandates domestic violence education for Grades 6^{th}-8^{th}, the Task Force should still consider whether younger students, as early as 4K, should receive education on health relationships as well.

Note: Due to an earlier request stemming from Task Force discussion, Superintendent Spearman has already agreed to take up domestic violence with her Student Advisory Council, created in March 2015, to better ensure student interest and engagement on any curricula that is developed.

*Accountability Measure for Department of Education: Determined in Phase III

Timeline: 2016

Cost: To be determined

Recommendation 18

Community Division

Problem: By July 1, 2015, the federal Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) Amendments to the Clery Act require that higher learning institutions implement policies and programs regarding dating violence, domestic violence, sexual assault, and stalking, including primary prevention and awareness programs for incoming students. The Phase I Survey found that while the majority of South Carolina institutions of higher education have implemented the required policies and programs in time (43 of 46 responding out of 53 total), the training, sophistication, and type of training vary widely. For South Carolina to be as proactive as possible in awareness and prevention, there should be no gaps in training amongst higher ed institutions.

Solution: The Task Force recommends that there be some level of uniformity and consistency in the way VAWA programming is messaged across higher ed campuses. Task Force discussion has already spurred the creation of a Statewide College Consortium to address issues surrounding dating and domestic violence. The Consortium will provide information to colleges on how best to provide training and implement VAWA requirements. Lead agencies include: SCCADVASA, CHE, and others in the Consortium.

*Accountability Measure for Consortium and/or Higher Ed Institutions: Determined in Phase III

Timeline: 2016

Cost: Budget Neutral

Recommendation 19

Criminal Justice Division

Problem: The 2015 Domestic Violence Reform Act created a statewide Domestic Violence Advisory Committee with members from across state and local governments for the purpose of advising the Governor and General Assembly on statutory, policy, and practice changes to prevent domestic violence. Notably, the Advisory Committee is given confidentiality protections, allowing it to function as the State Fatality Review Team – a review process of domestic violence homicides for the purpose of identifying roadblocks, gaps, loopholes, or other weaknesses in the system that might prevent a similar death from occurring. Before the new law was passed, South Carolina was one of 9 states that did not have a formal fatality review process, and the Task Force is very supportive of these efforts.

However, according to advice from national experts, the Task Force understands that a critical component is missing from the Fatality Review process: local, county fatality review teams. The new law affords confidentiality protections to the statewide team but not correlating local teams. Confidentiality is critical to protect victims' privacy, to not cast blame on any one person or entity, and to allow for open dialogue and meaningful problem-solving – the hallmarks of any fatality review process.

Solution: The Task Force recommends working with legislators to determine how local, county fatality review teams can be afforded the same protections as the State's fatality review team, the Domestic Violence Advisory Committee.

Accountability: Task Force Leadership

Timeline: Prior to 2016 Legislative Session

Cost: None expected

II. **Local Actions:** Recommended Best Practices, Professional Standards, and Model Policies

Recommendation 20

Criminal Justice Division

Problem: More than 17% of the law enforcement agencies that responded to the Phase I Survey indicated that they are not required to file an official incident report regardless of arrest or non-arrest for domestic violence. If incidents of domestic violence are not being reported and documented, then victims are disadvantaged. It is important for SLED's databases, both SCIBRS and SCHIEx, to have record of every incident report so that offenders and incidents of violence can be tracked. Currently, SLED Regulation 73-30 requires that all copies of incident and booking reports be forwarded to SLED in a timely manner. However, the regulation does not require that incident reports be written, so there is a gap – unknown how large – of incidents that are never documented or reported.

Solution: The Task Force recommends that a best practice for law enforcement agencies to adopt a policy whereby officers are required to file official incident reports on every case of alleged or substantiated domestic violence. Lead Agencies will reach out to local law enforcement agencies to make this request: SC Police Chiefs Association, SC Sheriff's Association, CJA, DPS, and SLED.

*Accountability Measure for Local Law Enforcement: Determined in Phase III

Timeline: 2016

Cost: Budget Neutral

Recommendation 21

Criminal Justice Division

Problem: In response to the Phase I Survey, only 56% of responding law enforcement agencies indicated that they require their officers to document if children or vulnerable adults reside at the location of domestic violence incidents. Similarly, over 50% of agencies do not conduct interviews with children at the incident scene. If at-risk household members are not being documented or questioned, then they would be less likely to receive services and would be unknown to prosecutors as potential witnesses.

Solution: The Task Force recommends that a best practice for law enforcement officers to require officers to document and report the presence of children and vulnerable adults residing at locations of domestic violence incidents and to require that those children or other at-risk household members be interviewed. Lead Agencies will reach out to local law enforcement agencies to make this request: SC Police Chiefs Association, SC Sheriff's Association, CJA, DPS, and SLED.

*Accountability Measure for Local Law Enforcement: Determined in Phase III

Timeline: 2016

Cost: Budget Neutral

Recommendation 22

Criminal Justice Division

Problem: During the Phase I Survey, prosecutors identified the photographs as the 2nd biggest factor that could make a domestic violence case stronger. In 40% of the responding prosecutors' cases, no pictures of the victim were taken; in 65% of the cases, no pictures of the defendant were taken; and in 59% of the cases, no pictures of the scene were taken. Law enforcement officers are not consistently capturing photographic evidence, which can be crucial for the prosecution.

Solution: The Task Force recommends that a best practice for law enforcement officers is to document domestic violence cases by taking pictures of the victim, the defendant, and the crime scene. Initial photographs are just as important as subsequent photographs that may capture bruising and other latent injuries.

*Accountability Measure for Local Law Enforcement: Determined in Phase III

Timeline: 2016

Cost: Expected to be minimal but would be dependent upon law enforcement resources.

Recommendation 23

Criminal Justice Division

Problem: Historically, law enforcement officers have not been trained to screen for control tactics or coded language, which are nonverbal communications often used by abusers towards victims in front of law enforcement without officers' knowledge. These subtle signs are meant to incite fear in the victim, allowing the abuser to maintain control over a victim even in front of law enforcement. For cultural change to occur, domestic violence must be viewed as more than a single event – it must be viewed within a historical context. A perceived threat of violence can be just as powerful as an overt act of violence.

Solution: The Task Force recommends that all law enforcement officers adopt a best practice whereby they screen for control tactics and coded language, not just for physical evidence that physical violence has occurred. Best practices for law enforcement should include (1) Separating the victim and offender out of sight from one another so that no nonverbal communication can take place; and (2) Asking a small set of standardized questions to screen for control tactics, which may include but not limited to the following:

- Have you ever tried to leave, and if so what happened when you tried?
- What, if anything, has ever been used to threaten or harm you? Weapons or other household items?
- Have you ever been strangled or tried to be strangled? If so, how?
- Have drugs and/or alcohol every lead to violence in your relationship?

See also Recommendation #32 to create a tool kit of protocols and checklists.

*Accountability Measure for Local Law Enforcement: Determined in Phase III

Timeline: 2016

Cost: Budget Neutral

Recommendation 24

Criminal Justice Division

Problem: Roughly 46% of the law enforcement agencies that responded to the Phase I Survey reported that they have policies permitting domestic violence victims to submit a statement indicating they do not want the case prosecuted, which has the potential to create additional problems for victims and other vulnerable household members. Oftentimes, these "drop forms" become weapons used by offenders for manipulation and control and, anecdotally, have been used by courts to clear dockets. Either these "drop forms" exist as standalone documents or as questions incorporated on other forms.

Note – Sometimes prosecutors can use "drop forms" as tools to help victims' safety by allowing victims to "prove" to offenders that they are not pursuing prosecution, which reinforces the role of prosecutors apart from crime victims.

Solution: The Task Force recommends that a best practice for local agencies is to rescind policies allowing domestic violence victims to sign drop forms or check drop form questions. The CJA and Attorney General's Office propose to make clear the intent of discretionary arrest aspect of the 2015 Domestic Violence Reform Law is not to suppress the proper investigation and enforcement of the law. Lead Agencies will reach out to local law enforcement agencies to make this request: SC Police Chiefs Association, SC Sheriff's Association, CJA, DPS, and SLED.

*Accountability Measure for Local Law Enforcement: Determined in Phase III

Timeline: 2016

Cost: Budget Neutral

Recommendation 25

Criminal Justice Division

Problem: Less than 30% of the responding law enforcement agencies to the Phase I Survey reported that they notified law enforcement victims' advocates of all domestic violence calls. Similarly, less than 11% of agencies required victim victims' advocates to respond to all domestic violence calls. If victims are not receiving timely assistance, then they and other household members are more vulnerable for future harm.

Solution: The Task Force recommends that a best practice for law enforcement victims' advocates is to be notified as soon as possible of all domestic violence related calls being investigated by law enforcement agencies. Lead Agencies will reach

out to local law enforcement agencies to make this request: SC Police Chiefs Association, SC Sheriff's Association, CJA, DPS, and SLED. See also Recommendation #44 for a comprehensive advocacy study.

*Accountability Measure for Local Law Enforcement: Determined in Phase III

Timeline: 2016

Cost: Budget Neutral

Recommendation 26

Criminal Justice Division

Problem: More than 94% of 911 Call Centers do not automatically provide prosecutors with copies of 911 audio recordings for domestic violence calls. Moreover, only 56% of responding 911 Call Centers to the Phase I Survey indicated they stored 911 audio records for one year with less than 24% storing the audio records for three months or less. The 911 recordings provide valuable evidence for domestic violence prosecutions, especially if a victim is deceased or unwilling to testify. However, prosecutors indicated in the Phase I Survey that 911 recordings could not be obtained in more than 50% of their cases.

Solution: The Task Force recommends that a best practice for 911 Call Centers is to consistently provide prosecutors with copies of recordings or, at least, store audio records of domestic violence calls for at least one year from the date of the incident to allow prosecutors or law enforcement officers enough time to request the recordings. Lead Agencies will reach out to local 911 Call Centers: APCO, SC Municipal Association, SC Association of Counties, SC Police Chiefs Association, SC Sheriff's Association, SC Commission on Prosecution Coordination, CJA, DPS, and SLED. See also Recommendation #38 regarding training for 911 dispatchers.

*Accountability Measure for Municipal or County 911 Dispatchers: Determined in Phase III

Timeline: 2016

Cost: Expected to be nominal but would be dependent upon data storage capabilities.

Recommendation 27

Criminal Justice Division

Problem: Approximately 23% of the law enforcement agencies that responded to the Phase I Survey reported that they do not have a policy requiring supervisory review of domestic violence incidents to ensure proper reporting and documentation.

Solution: The Task Force recommends that a best practice for law enforcement agencies is to develop a policy and implement a process requiring mandatory supervisory review of all domestic violence incidents to ensure that all elements of law are

present and whether control tactics used by the perpetrator were properly documented. Lead Agencies will reach out to local law enforcement agencies to make this request: SC Police Chiefs Association, SC Sheriff's Association, CJA, DPS, and SLED.

*Accountability Measure for Local Law Enforcement: Determined in Phase III

Timeline: 2016

Cost: Budget Neutral

Recommendation 28

Criminal Justice Division

Problem: Although there is some domestic violence training for law enforcement and prosecutors separately, there is no training coordinated among all criminal justice partners at a jurisdictional level.

Solution: The Task Force recommends that training for all criminal justice partners should be done locally, regionally, and at the statewide level. Training should use a team approach comprised of representatives from the Solicitors' Offices, Attorney General's Office, CJA, and law enforcement agencies. The SC Commission on Prosecution Coordination should facilitate the coordination of training amongst the Solicitor-led Community Coordinating Councils along with the Attorney General's Office, CJA, and state law enforcement agencies.

*Accountability Measure: Determined in Phase III

Timeline: End of 2016

Cost: Nominal

Recommendation 29

Criminal Justice Division

Problem: While more than 99% of law enforcement agencies that responded to the Phase I Survey reported they utilized the CJA's annual domestic violence update training, less than 38% of those agencies indicated they conduct local, in-house training, which means they are missing the opportunity to coordinate with the local community and address local issues. Moreover, of the almost 75% of the agencies that collect and retain data on domestic violence, only 40% of those actually analyze the data to develop improved enforcement and response strategies.

Solution: The Task Force recommends that all local law enforcement agencies should conduct annual in-house domestic violence training based on the jurisdiction's specific data to focus on their unique problems and issues. The training should be coordinated with community stakeholders to build relationships, improve processes, and focus on best practices. Lead Agencies will reach out to local law enforcement agencies: SC Police Chiefs Association, SC Sheriff's Association, CJA, DPS, and SLED.

*Accountability Measure for Local Law Enforcement: Determined in Phase III

Timeline: 2016

Cost: Budget Neutral

III. **Task Force Actions:** Recommendations for further Study and Development of State or Local Actions

Recommendation 30

Community and Services Divisions

Problem: South Carolina has no widespread Public Service Announcement (PSA) campaigns against domestic violence. With regard to two specific populations, the Task Force acknowledges that the lack of awareness and knowledge is particularly noticeable:

(1) Friends, Family, or Co-Workers of Victims or Offenders, so they know how to approach, show support, or react to their loved ones; and
(2) Males, in general, so men are engaged in ending domestic violence or stopping a cycle of violence.

Targeting these two audiences will help shore up a support system around a victim/offender and help engage men in the conversation against ending violence towards women. However, any PSA campaign about domestic violence of any type would be beneficial, raising much needed public awareness and generating much needed discussion.

Solution: The Task Force recommends that it should pull together members from all divisions to coordinate a statewide PSA slogan and campaign, either using an existing national campaign or creating a South Carolina specific campaign. This group should identify potential private funding sources, production teams, marketing tools, and themes, scripts, or slogans for radio, billboard, website, or other forms of outreach.

Accountability: Task Force Leadership

Timeline: 2016

Cost: To be determined

Recommendation 31

Community Division

Problem: The Task Force realized that information about events, walks, campaigns, and getting involved with domestic violence efforts is not always well-circulated to the public. For volunteers, there is no website or place to go for information about events or other efforts in neighboring areas. For individual friends or family members, there is no website or place to go for information on how to help a loved one who is a victim or batterer. For batterers, especially, there is no website or place to go to get information on how to self-help or obtain services. The lack of centralization or any unified front for community information makes combatting domestic violence statewide hard to do.

Solution: The Task Force recommends further study regarding ways to create a type of one-stop shop for domestic violence information, which could be done in tandem

with the creation of a statewide PSA campaign. Non-profits, advocacy groups, and other organizations with shared interests should be connected in order to provide support to one another and to the public at large so that citizens know where to go to get more information. Potential options include using the Solicitor-led Community Coordinating Councils established in the 2015 Domestic Violence Reform law, an existing state agency, or a statewide consortium to examine possible methods of unified outreach, including websites, social media, or other media platforms.

Accountability: Task Force, Community Division

Timeline: 2016

Cost: To be determined

Recommendation 32

Criminal Justice Division

Problem: Only about 50% of the responding law enforcement agencies to the Phase I Survey indicated they used specific protocol checklists when responding to domestic violence calls. Specifically, almost 85% of those agencies reported they do not use screening tools to document acts of strangulation, which relates to a higher level of lethality and which often has latent physical symptoms. Additionally, more than 46% of those agencies do not require officers to complete a lethality assessment to identify potential dangers to victims and officers. Beyond victim protection, law enforcement officers also provide the basis for evidence collection. Prosecutors rated the evidentiary strength of their cases during the Phase I Survey and reported that 35% were weak, 39% were fair, 22% were strong, and only 3% were very strong. Not having checklists for victim safety and evidence collection leads to a variety of problems.

Almost 30% of the law enforcement agencies that responded to the Phase I Survey reported that they have no policies in place specifically addressing domestic violence incident response.

Solution: The Task Force recommends that a Domestic Violence Response Tool Kit be created and a statewide model policy be developed. The tool kit should be made available to law enforcement agencies statewide. Utilizing checklists will ensure greater consistency of investigations and great protection for victims. The model policy should be vetted by law enforcement, victim's advocates, and other stakeholders. Examples of model policies include those proposed by the International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP) and the SC Police Accreditation Coalition (SCPAC). The Task Force will continue to meet to develop a Tool Kit and will incorporate training on the utilization of the Tool Kit in the CJA's annual Domestic Violence Recertification Training Video, to which more than 99% of law enforcement agencies currently ascribe, and in the Solicitor's Community Coordinating Councils training.

Accountability: Task Force, Law Enforcement Group

Timeline: 2016

Cost: None expected

Recommendation 33

Services Division

Problem: Although there are approximately 40 domestic violence intervention programs providing services to offenders in South Carolina, there are several counties in which there are no available programs. Solicitors and the Attorney General's Office will now be approving these programs and need to know where there are gaps in services for both male and female offenders. Offenders need access to approved localized programs, and courts and community referral sources need to be informed as to which programs are approved and where such programs are located.

Solution: The Task Force recommends further cataloguing of batterers' intervention programs. The exact counties not currently served with at least one male and one female offender program need to be identified, and that information needs to be shared with Solicitors (Community Coordinating Councils) and the Attorney General's Office. The Domestic Abuse Center staff will contact all known intervention programs currently serving domestic violence offenders and determine which counties have no functioning intervention groups.

Accountability: Task Force, Services Division

Timeline: End of Phase III

Cost: Budget Neutral

Recommendation 34

Criminal Justice and Services Divisions

Problem: Currently, there are no standards for intervention or batterers' treatment programs for offenders. However, under the 2015 Domestic Violence Reform Act, Domestic Violence Intervention Programs must now be approved by Solicitors and the Attorney General's Office. Both entities must now determine how to conduct approvals and then monitor for compliance with any prescribed set of standards.

Solution: The Task Force recommends that set of best practices be developed to help Solicitors approve batterers' treatment programs to include a set of prescribed standards and generally accepted practice-based methods and curricula that demonstrate effectiveness through routine analysis of completion rates, recidivism, and procedural integrity. Guidance should include:

- Program duration and accepted modalities;
- Staff qualifications and training;
- Program focus and processes, including required topics, curricula and methods;
- Program policies and procedures;
- Victim safety and notification requirements;
- Reporting Requirements;

- Analysis of Program effectiveness;
- Collaboration with community partners, including domestic violence organizations, alcohol and other drug abuse organizations, behavioral health organizations, DSS, and the criminal justice system at large.

Lead agencies include: Solicitors, Attorney General's Office, and Commission on Prosecution Coordination, SCCADVASA, Domestic Violence organizations, AOD, Behavioral Health, and DSS.

Accountability: Task Force, Services Division and Prosecutors Group

Timeline: End of Phase III

Cost: Budget Neutral

Recommendation 35

Services Division

Problem: The Phase I survey reported that South Carolina has 18 shelter locations serving all 46 counties, with some counties having multiple shelter locations and some counties not having any. Although 2,729 adults and children were provided shelter by the 13 federally funded domestic violence organizations, 440 adults and children were denied shelter due to a lack of space – See DSS Domestic Violence Program Annual State Report FY1314.

There is a clear lack of both emergency sheltering and transitional housing options available in South Carolina. It is imperative that victims be afforded safe housing options during times when they are most vulnerable and in need. In addition, it is imperative to account for common barriers to sheltering/housing that currently exist by either removing barriers or adding resources, including such issues as transportation to and from shelters and whether men or teenage boys are permitted access. The Task Force respects that different shelters set their own eligibility requirements, but those gaps need to be accounted for on a local and regional basis in order to best help victims.

Solution: The Task Force recommends that it provide information to the Solicitor-led Community Coordinating Councils regarding the data collected during Phase I, including an inventory of emergency shelters and identified gaps. The Task Force should continue to be a support to the Community Coordinating Councils as a resource and help facilitate local communities in their development of additional emergency housing options best suited for urban or rural need. Ideas could include hotel vouchers, church parish sheltering, or other creative options. Lead entities include: DSS, DHEC, SC Housing Authority, SCCADVASA, United Way, and HUD.

Accountability: Task Force, Services Division

Timeline: 2016

Cost: Budget Neutral

Recommendation 36

Criminal Justice Division

Problem: Jurisdictions in South Carolina prosecute domestic violence cases in a variety of ways but without identified best practices. Some prosecutions are in Magistrates Court, some in a centralized domestic violence court, others in General Sessions Court, and still others have a hybrid system. There is concern that sentencing and accountability of defendants is inconsistent.

Solution: The Task Force recommends further study operating models to identify specific approaches and best practices on how to prosecute and adjudicate domestic violence cases. The Task Force will study the practices and results of four identified jurisdictions with innovative models: Lexington, Sumter, Greenville, and the 14th Circuit. Lead agencies include: SC Judicial Department, SC Commission on Prosecution Coordination, Attorney General's Office, and SCCADVASA.

Accountability: Task Force, Prosecutors Group

Timeline: 2016

Cost: Budget Neutral

Recommendation 37

Criminal Justice Division

Problem: Prosecutors responding to the Phase I Survey identified victim cooperation as the biggest factor that could have made a domestic violence case stronger. For cases ending in convictions, 61% of victims participated at the beginning and 53% continued to participate until the end. On the other hand, of the cases that were dismissed or received not guilty verdicts, only 32% of victims participated at the beginning and only 9% by the end. No doubt there is a correlation between victim cooperation and successful prosecutions.

Solution: The Task Force recommends further study of specific approaches and best practices on how to prosecute domestic violence cases in a way that encourages victim participation from arrest to disposition. The Task Force should study the practices and results of four identified jurisdictions with innovative models: Lexington, Sumter, Greenville, and the 14th Circuit. Lead agencies include: Commission on Prosecution Coordination, Attorney General's Office, and SCCADVASA.

Accountability: Task Force, Prosecutors Group

Timeline: 2016

Cost: Budget Neutral

Recommendation 38

Criminal Justice Division

Problem: Only 17% of the law enforcement agencies that responded to the Phase I Survey reported that their 911 dispatchers were included in their domestic violence training. Similarly low, only 30% of the 911 Call Centers that responded to the Phase I Survey indicated that their dispatchers receive annual training, and only 53% of 911 Call Centers use standardized questions for domestic violence calls. Agencies are underutilizing the certification training for 911 dispatchers offered by the CJA, which, when coupled with the lack of required training, means that there is no standard or uniformity in how victims are treated when calling for help. Dispatchers are the victim's first line of defense and need more training.

Solution: The Task Force recommends that it should further explore how to bring training and uniformity to 911 dispatchers. Due to the financial constraints of many municipalities and counties to have dispatchers attend training at the CJA (cost: $700/person for two weeks), the Task Force should explore online, mobile, video or other creative training options to deploy offsite.

Accountability: Task Force, Criminal Justice Division

Timeline: End of Phase III

Cost: Budget Neutral

Recommendation 39

Criminal Justice Division

Problem: There is currently no single manual or best practices guide for South Carolina judges to use when handling domestic violence cases. Ensuring uniformity of best practices across the judicial system will help victims and court efficiency in the treatment of these cases.

Solution: The Task Force recommends further study as to how develop domestic violence best practices for all courts, including Family Court. Other states, such as North Carolina, have developed detailed best practices regarding offender accountability, victim safety, and court efficiency including security, scheduling, and overall processes.

Accountability: Task Force, Courts Group

Timeline: End of Phase III

Cost: Budget Neutral

Recommendation 40

Criminal Justice Division

Problem: Of the many partners in the criminal justice system, there is one identified missing link – animal control. Oftentimes, domestic violence offenders are also abusive towards their pets or other animals, or in other cases, offenders can use

victims' pets as leverage for manipulation and control. If trained to look for red flags, animal control personnel could identify warning signs to law enforcemtn. Animal control personnel are hired by municipalities and some are trained as Class III Officers by the CJA, but their level of domestic training is either unknown or nonexistent.

Solution: The Task Force recommends further study how animal control personnel can be brought into the domestic violence arena. The Criminal Justice Division will continue to meet to develop recommendations for animal control relating to domestic violence.

Accountability: Task Force, Criminal Justice Division

Timeline: End of Phase III

Cost: Budget Neutral

Recommendation 41

Government Resources Working Group

Problem: Act 141 funds are the fines, fees, forfeitures, and other funds obtained from criminal convictions and directed to counties and municipalities for victims' services, including within law enforcement, solicitors' offices, detention centers, and courts. However, it is extremely challenging to determine the amount of total funding any one local entity receives, spends, or carries forward. Current law requires that counties and municipalities include a supplemental schedule showing the amount of victim services funds collected and how they were expended as part of their annual financial audit – See Sections 14-1-206(E), 207(E), and 208(E). However, a Phase I study indicated that five counties and 112 municipalities did not submit a schedule to the Treasurer's Office. While SOVA is authorized to conduct audits of victims' services funds, counties and municipalities are not required to submit schedules to SOVA. In 2007, the Legislative Audit Council recommended that a standardized format for supplemental schedules be developed, but that has not been done. The lack of uniformity in supplemental schedules required to be submitted by counties and municipalities make it impossible to ascertain with certainty how funds are being spent.

Solution: The Task Force recommends that it coordinate with stakeholders to develop a standardized form for Act 141 funds and a manner for consistent, uniform reporting and auditing. Lead agencies include: SOVA, CVO, Court Administration, Treasurer's Office, Association of Counties, and Municipal Association among others. It is important for funding to always be tied to accountability.

Accountability: Task Force, Resources Group

Timeline: FY1617

Cost: Budget Neutral

Recommendation 42

Government Resources Working Group

Problem: In South Carolina, there are multiple funding streams for victims' services that are housed at multiple state agencies interfacing with victims, making it difficult to direct federal, state, and other funds towards a concerted effort against domestic violence. Given that the 2014 Restructuring Act requires that two victims' services agencies (CVO and SOVA) be moved with reports due in January 2016, it is timely to analyze whether administrative alignment or consolidation of victims' services agencies/divisions and their funding streams is feasible and/or desirable by state/local government services providers as well as by independent/nonprofit stakeholders. A longstanding Legislative Audit Council Report from 2007 also found, "There is no central agency responsible for the provision of victim services in South Carolina," describing them as "inherently fragmented" contributing to "unequal delivery of services and duplication of services".

Solution: The Task Force recommends that it continue to meet with and bring in all local, state, government, and nonprofit entities to develop consensus of what – if any – restructuring would look like. The Task Force recognizes that more than just domestic violence related issues would be affected and therefore also recommends expanding the stakeholder group to all victim related efforts, which is the only way to gain recommendations for meaningful, long-term reform.

Accountability: Task Force, Resources Working Group

Timeline: 2016

Cost: Budget Neutral

Recommendation 43

Services Division

Problem: Services to victims and offenders are provided at the local level through a complex mix of state, local, and non-profit (secular and non-secular) organizations. The key to providing good services to victims and offenders of domestic violence is the coordination of these services. There are currently no community wide efforts within South Carolina whose efforts have been followed and documented to provide blueprints for other communities wishing to work cohesively and effectively towards ending domestic violence through a community task force.

Solution: The Task Force recommends using York County as a pilot for developing a blueprint regarding how local coordination should operate, including checklists, participants, goals and agendas, and community marketing efforts. York County has agreed to be a pilot community and, since July 2015, has been undergoing the process of developing a community wide effort to integrate all agencies and individuals impacted by domestic violence. The county has set up a community wide task force to review current practices and will then implement promising or evidence-based practices in the following areas:

- Public knowledge regarding domestic violence;

- Multi-Agency staffing of domestic violence issues;
- Prosecution of offenders;
- Investigation of domestic violence offenses;
- Probation and parole supervision of domestic violence offenders;
- Offender treatment;
- Engaging men initiatives;
- School and university dating violence prevention programs;
- Community awareness through trainings;
- Victim services and emergency housing;
- DSS case management of domestic violence events.

The county's efforts will provide the Task Force with the opportunity to measure what works and what does not when developing a community wide effort to end domestic violence.

Accountability: Task Force, Services Division

Timeline: Ongoing monitoring through 2016; Update of progress to be provided at end of Phase III

Cost: Budget Neutral

Recommendation 44

Criminal Justice and Services Divisions

Problem: A victim encounters multiple advocates throughout the duration of a criminal proceeding and can encounter multiple advocates when seeking community based services as well. Notwithstanding the many types of advocates that exist, it is universally recognized that there is a shortage of victims' advocates in South Carolina and that there is an immediate need for bolstering their resources. With so many different types of victims' advocates, there is no single solution to this problem.

For example, more than 20% of responding law enforcement agencies to the Phase I Survey reported that they do not have full-time law enforcement victims' advocates, hampering their ability to require the advocates to be on-call during weekends. As another example, with regard to the existing DSS Domestic Liaison Project, advocates are only part-time and have to cover large service areas, preventing timely delivery of services. And as a final example, it was found that there is some merit in exploring a pilot program regarding whether a single advocate should follow a victim throughout the process, helping the victim navigate either legal or community services.

Solution: The Task Force recommends further study of the number of victims' advocates, their caseloads from jurisdiction to jurisdiction, and types of advocacy in general. With more focused information, the Task Force could better make recommendations on how to support and strengthen victims' advocates. The Task Force should bring together members from all divisions to determine how best resources can be distributed to victims' advocates and under what model of advocacy.

Accountability: Task Force, Criminal Justice and Services Divisions

Timeline: 2016

Cost: Budget Neutral

Recommendation 45

Services Division

Problem: It has been well-established by this Task Force that there are not enough shelters or safe housing options in South Carolina. To help increase shelter capacity, faith-based and nonprofit communities could benefit from helpful guidelines, resources, or other tools regarding how to open and operate emergency or transitional housing spaces. In addition, current shelter operators could also benefit from self-evaluation based on a set of best practices to help increase their shelter capacity and/or the quality of services offered.

Solution: The Task Force recommends further study of best practices or helpful guidelines for current or future shelter operators to use in order to make it easier for the nonprofit to increase shelter capacity and improve the quality of services offered. These best practices could be the same or similar to the standards adopted by DSS and recommended for updating.

Accountability: Task Force, Services Division

Timeline: End of Phase III

Cost: Budget Neutral

Recommendation 46

Services Division

Problem: Many victim and offender services organizations rely on government and nongovernment grants to operate. Many organizations are small and do not have personnel experienced in writing grants, putting them at a disadvantage compared with larger organizations with more robust infrastructure.

Solution: The Task Force recommends further study regarding how best to develop training or guidelines for grant writing to help nonprofit entities.

Accountability: Task Force, Services Division

Timeline: 2016

Cost: None expected

Recommendation 47

Community Division

Problem: It is unknown whether corporations and businesses in South Carolina have human resources policies that address domestic violence. However, according

to the U.S. Bureau of Labor and Statistics, more than 70% of workplaces in the United States do not have a formal program or policy that addresses violence in the workplace. As state earlier: Anecdotally, it is recognized that victims can remain especially vulnerable to their batterers at work – even though victims may move to a shelter or obtain a restraining order, they usually keep their jobs and therefore remain vulnerable to, from, and while at work when their location and movements are known by the batterer.

Solution: The Task Force recommends that it search and compile relevant model policies on domestic violence to share with the South Carolina Chamber of Commerce and the State Chapter of the Society for Human Resource Management (SHRM). The "State Model Domestic Violence Policy" developed by DOA can also be made available free of cost and modified for use by the private sector.

Accountability: Task Force, Community Division

Timeline: End of Phase III

Cost: Budget Neutral

Recommendation 48

Community Division

Problem: The statutory definition of domestic violence leaves out certain relationships that are oftentimes subject to violence, including those who are not married, do not cohabitate, or do not have a child together. Dating violence is especially common with younger populations who, without intervention, may perpetuate the cycle of violence into future generations. Although it is widely recognized that "dating" is hard to define within terms of the law, the Task Force should still study "dating violence" as part of addressing cultural violence in South Carolina.

Solution: The Task Force recommends that it should compile a list of enacted laws in other states regarding dating violence and any accompanying data showing positive or negative outcomes. The review of dating violence laws could be a helpful tool in determining whether South Carolina should pursue legislation or another route, such as greater education and public awareness in our secondary schools and colleges.

Accountability: Task Force, Community Division

Timeline: End of Phase III

Cost: Budget Neutral

Recommendation 49

Criminal Justice and Services Divisions

Problem: Victims who appear in Family Court without legal representation may feel intimidated. At Order of Protection (OP) hearings, victims often lack the legal knowledge to properly present their case. Additionally, during Phase I public hearings, the Services Division received voluminous feedback regarding the

difficulty of navigating the legal process, including OPs, custody issues, safe visitation requirements, and testifying in general.

Solution: The Task Force recommends that it should further study on how to make the Order of Protection process and subsequent enforcement of OPs more victim-friendly. One idea includes the Hope Card from Montana, which is a card for the victim (petitioners) to carry identifying the offender (respondent) so that it is easier for law enforcement to know if an OP has been ordered. Another idea includes a program for attorneys or qualified law students to serve pro bono during OP hearings in order to represent victims (petitioners). Tele-services should also be studied.

Accountability: Task Force, Criminal Justice Division

Timeline: End of 2015

Cost: None expected

Recommendation 50

Criminal Justice Division

Problem: Currently, there is no way to determine how extensive domestic violence is in South Carolina. Due to a myriad of reporting and tracking concerns at the local and state level, the Task Force recognizes that domestic violence may be significantly underreported. Understanding that the data collected in Phase I is problematic, South Carolina could benefit from public health surveys that identify the disparities between what the data is reporting and what the public is experiencing. In addition, a public health survey could help lay the groundwork for developing evidenced-based interventions.

Solution: The Task Force recommends further exploring a partnership between the State and the University of South Carolina to conduct an in-depth victimization survey. Lead agencies include: DHEC and DOA.

Accountability: Task Force, Data Group

Timeline: FY1617

Cost: To be determined

###

List of Members

A special thanks to the Leadership, Members, Participants, and other Stakeholders who contributed during Phase II:

The Criminal Justice Division, Courts and Victim Services Working Group:

1. The Honorable Gary Reinhart (chair), Magistrate for Lexington County
2. Sara Barber (co-chair), Executive Director, South Carolina Coalition Against Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault
3. Chief Justice Jean Toal, Supreme Court of South Carolina
4. The Honorable Kristi Harrington, Circuit Court
5. The Honorable Angela Taylor, Family Court
6. Ginny Barr, Division Director, Division of Young Offender Parole and Reentry Services, South Carolina Department of Corrections
7. Charles Bradberry, Director of Research & Statistics, South Carolina Department of Corrections
8. Taineshia Brooks, Administrative Coordinator, Department of Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse Services
9. Felicia Dauway, Victim Services Manager & Statewide Arbitration Coordinator, South Carolina Department of Juvenile Justice
10. Rosalyn Frierson, Director, South Carolina Court Administration
11. Megan Gresham, Assistant Attorney General, South Carolina Attorney General's Office
12. Deb Haney, Director of Community Advocacy, Sistercare
13. Captain Willie Hickman, Berkley County Sheriff's Office
14. Nicole Howland, Prosecutor, Lexington County Sheriff's Department
15. Laura Hudson, Executive Director, South Carolina Crime Victims' Council
16. Tonnya Kohn, Staff Attorney, South Carolina Court Administration
17. Bridget Musteata, Law Enforcement Victim Advocate, Duncan Police Department
18. Stephanie Nye, Legal Counsel to Chief Justice Toal, Supreme Court of South Carolina
19. Michelle Singleton, Law Enforcement Victim Advocate, Lexington County Sheriff's Department
20. Jackie Swindler, Law Enforcement Liaison, South Carolina Department of Social Services
21. Dan Walker, Research & Statistical Analyst, Department of Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse Services
22. Heather Weiss, Assistant Attorney General, South Carolina Attorney General's Office
23. Carlie Woods, Assistant Court Administrator, Lexington County Magistrate
24. Catherine Wyse, Solicitor, Twelfth Circuit
25. Bryan Stirling, Director, South Carolina Department of Corrections
26. Stephanie Givens, Deputy Director for Communications, South Carolina Department of Corrections

The Criminal Justice Division, Prosecutors Working Group:

1. Duffie Stone (chair), Solicitor, Fourteenth Circuit
2. David Ross, Executive Director, SCCPC
3. Margaret Held, Assistant Solicitor, Third Circuit
4. William Timmons, Assistant Solicitor, Thirteenth Circuit
5. Catherine Wyse, Assistant Solicitor, Twelfth Circuit
6. Heather Weiss, Assistant Attorney General, South Carolina Attorney General's Office

7. Charles Bradberry, Director of Research and Statistics, South Carolina Department of Corrections
8. Sara Barber, Executive Director, South Carolina Coalition Against Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault

The Criminal Justice Division, Law Enforcement Working Group:

1. Leroy Smith (co-chair), Director, South Carolina Department of Public Safety
2. Brian Bennett (co-chair), South Carolina Criminal Justice Academy
3. Dr. Ed Harmon, South Carolina Department of Public Safety
4. Paul Grant, State Law Enforcement Division
5. Sheriff Kenney Boone, Florence County
6. Chief Terrence Green, Lexington Police Department
7. Chief C.E. Long, Duncan Police Department
8. Commissioner Rod Rutledge, South Carolina Department of Mental Health
9. Bridget Musteata, South Carolina Law Enforcement Victim Advocate Association
10. Laura Hudson, Executive Director, South Carolina Crime Victims' Council
11. Felicia Dauway, South Carolina Department of Juvenile Justice
12. Charles Bradberry, Director of Research & Statistics, South Carolina Department of Corrections
13. Jarrod Bruder , South Carolina Sheriffs' Association
14. Elizabeth Gray, Domestic Violence Survivor
15. Lt. Kathleen Streett, Florence County Sheriff's Office

The Criminal Justice Division, Data Collection and Analysis Working Group:

1. Charles Bradberry, Director of Research & Statistics, South Carolina Department of Corrections
2. Keisha Adams, South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control
3. Tia Anderson, Professor, University of South Carolina
4. Ginny Barr, Division Director, South Carolina Department of Corrections
5. Sarah Crawford, Research Analyst, Revenue and Fiscal Affairs
6. Mark Crenshaw, Senior Applications Manager, Judicial Department, Division of Court Administration
7. Dana DeHart, Assistant Dean for Research, College of Social Work, University of South Carolina
8. Michael George, State Alcohol Enforcement Team Liaison, Department of Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse Services
9. Stephanie Givens, Public Information Director, South Carolina Department of Corrections
10. Owens Goff, Program Manager, Department of Health and Environmental Control
11. Laura Hudson, Executive Director, South Carolina Crime Victims' Council
12. Kenneth L. Long, Jr., Statistician III, Office of Highway Safety and Justice Programs, Department of Public Safety
13. Dan Walker, Director of Research, Department of Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse Services
14. Christi Metcalfe, Professor, University of South Carolina
15. Robert Brame, Professor, University of South Carolina
16. Patsy Myers, Department of Health and Environmental Control
17. Alex Perez-Caballero, SCIBRS Program Coordinator, State Law Enforcement Division
18. Amelia Shiver, Department of Health and Environmental Control

19. Marchar Stagg, Senior Research and Evaluation Analyst, Department of Probation, Parole, and Pardon Services
20. Dana Wilkes, Special Agent Assigned to the South Carolina Incident-Based Reporting System State Law Enforcement Division
21. Craig Wheatley, Director of Research and Statistics, Department of Juvenile Justice
22. Al Stuckey, State Law Enforcement Division
23. Holly Groover, Director, Statistical Analysis Center, Department of Public Safety
24. Rob McManus, Retired Former Director, Statistical Analysis Center, Department of Public Safety

<u>The Victim and Offender Services Division, Domestic Violence Intervention Programs Working Group:</u>

1. Sara Barber, Executive Director, South Carolina Coalition Against Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault
2. Debra Curtis, South Carolina Department of Probation, Parole and Pardon Services
3. Frank Loadholt, CASA Family Systems
4. Frankie Long, Department of Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse Services
5. Benjamin Motley, Director, Three Trees Center for Change
6. Louann Sandel, Domestic Abuse Center
7. Neil Sondov, Compass

<u>The Victim and Offender Services Division, Local Coordination Demonstration Working Group:</u>

1. Benjamin Motley, Director, Three Trees Center For Change
2. Katie Morgan, Director, Child Support Services Division, South Carolina Department of Social Services

<u>The Victim and Offender Services Division, Services Beyond Learning Working Group:</u>

1. Casie Culver, Program Assistant for External Affairs, Department of Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse Services
2. Dr. Alicia Benedetto, Director of Assessment & Resource Center, South Carolina Department of Mental Health
3. Kimberly Feeney, Family Violence Prevention & Services Grant Administrator/Domestic Violence Shelter Coordinator, South Carolina Department of Social Services
4. Benjamin Motley, Director, Three Trees Center for Change
5. Elizabeth Gray, Domestic Violence Survivor

<u>The Victim and Offender Services Division, Shelter and Emergency Housing Standards Working Group:</u>

1. Sara Barber, Executive Director, South Carolina Coalition Against Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault
2. Rebecca Williams-Agee, Associate Director, South Carolina Coalition Against Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault
3. Jane Key, Sexual Violence Services/Women's Health Program Coordinator, South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control
4. Casie Culver, Program Assistant for External Affairs, Department of Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse Services

5. Kimberly Feeney, Family Violence Prevention & Services Grant Administrator/Domestic Violence Shelter Coordinator, South Carolina Department of Social Services

The Victim and Offender Services Division, Transitional Housing Working Group:

1. Marchar Stagg, Senior Research & Evaluation Analyst, South Carolina Department of Probation, Parole and Pardon Services
2. Saskia Santos, Research & Evaluation Analyst, South Carolina Department of Probation, Parole and Pardon Services
3. Rebecca Williams-Agee, Associate Director, South Carolina Coalition Against Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault
4. Carl Bowen, Director, Rental Assistance & Compliance Division, South Carolina State Housing Finance and Development Authority
5. Kaitlin Blanco-Silva, Project Manager, Department of Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse Services

The Victim and Offender Services Division, Victim Navigator Services Working Group:

1. Debora Curtis, Director of Victim Services, South Carolina Department of Probation, Parole and Pardon Services
2. Stephen Yarborough, Director of Family Connections and Support, Child Support Services, South Carolina Department of Social Services
3. Kathryn Kendrick, Connections NCP Program, Child Support Services, South Carolina Department of Social Services
4. Teesha Trapp, Program Coordinator, South Carolina Department of Employment and Workforce
5. Katie Morgan, Director, Child Support Services, South Carolina Department of Social Services

The Community Awareness, Education, and Outreach Division:

1. Bev Baliko, Board of Nursing Designee
2. Judy Barnes, Area 2 Director, Zonta Club
3. Dr. Connie Best, Professor, Medical University of South Carolina, Commission on Higher Education Designee
4. Kaitlyn Blanco-Silva, Project Manager, Office of Director, Department of Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse Services
5. Amanda Callahan, Prevention Coordinator & Oconee REP Educator
6. Kelley E. Callahan, Vice President & Chief Operating Officer, United Way Association of South Carolina
7. Dr. Ed Carney, Pastor, Riverland Hills Baptist Church
8. Julie Cole, Screening, Brief Intervention and Referral to Treatment/Birth Outcomes Initiative Project Coordinator, Department of Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse Services
9. Aveene Coleman, South Carolina Department of Education
10. Chief Howard Cook, Chief of Police of Columbia College, Commission on Higher Education Designee
11. Dr. Julia Dempsey, Professor, Georgia Southern University, School of Nursing
12. Julie-Ann Dixon, Richland County Council, South Carolina Association of Counties Designee
13. Jessica Freed, South Carolina Crime Victim Assistance Network
14. Dr. Steve Gardner, Designee, Board of Medical Examiners

15. Shannon Geary, Interim Chief Executive Officer, South Carolina Victim Assistance Network
16. Rozalynn Goodwin, Hospital Association Designee
17. Elizabeth Gray, Domestic Violence Survivor
18. Dr. Gariane Gunter, Psychiatrist, Lexington Community Mental Health Center, South Carolina Department of Mental Health Designee
19. Marilyn Hatley, Mayor, North Myrtle Beach
20. Alex Imgrund, Advice Attorney to Professional Boards, South Carolina Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation
21. Carol Johnson, Chief Executive Officer/President, Savannah River Nuclear Solutions
22. Daniel Krawchuck, Pastor, Tabernacle of Meetings
23. John Magill, Director, South Carolina Department of Mental Health
24. Laverne Martin, Military/Fort Jackson, Army Community Service, Family Advocacy Program Victim Advocate
25. Dr. Shelley McGeorge, South Carolina Department of Education
26. Sam McNutt, Designee, Board of Nursing
27. Dr. Sabrina B. Moore, Director, Office of Student Intervention Services, South Carolina Department of Education
28. Dr. Meera Narasimhan, Associate Provost Health Sciences, University of South Carolina & Professor and Chair, Department of Neuropsychiatry and Behavioral Science, University of South Carolina School of Medicine
29. Harry Prim, Management/Prevention Consultant, Department of Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse Service
30. Christan Rainey, Executive Director of Real MAD, Family Member of Victims
31. Tricia Ravenhorst, South Carolina Victim Assistance Network
32. Alice Renfrow, Designee, Board of Nursing
33. Josh Rhodes, South Carolina Association of Counties
34. Dr. Dan Saad, Designee, Board of Medical Examiners
35. Shenita Shiver, Military/Fort Jackson, Army Community Service, Family Advocacy Program Victim Advocate
36. Dylan Sitterle, Statistics and Policy, South Carolina Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation
37. Superintendent Molly Spearman, State Superintendent of Education
38. Richele Taylor, Director, South Carolina Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation
39. Melanie Thompson, Board of Cosmetology Designee
40. Rebecca Williams-Agee, Associate Director, South Carolina Coalition Against Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault
41. Dr. Karen Woodfaulk, Director of Student Services, Commission on Higher Education

<u>The Government Resources Working Group:</u>

1. Veronica Swain Kunz, Director, Crime Victims' Ombudsman
2. Laura Hudson, Executive Director, South Carolina Crime Victims' Council
3. Barbara Jean Nelson, Manager, Victims of Crime Programs, Office of Highway Safety and Justice Programs, South Carolina Department of Public Safety
4. Kimberly Feeney, Family Violence Prevention & Services Grant Administrator/Domestic Violence Shelter Coordinator, South Carolina Department of Social Services
5. Larry Barker, Director, State Office of Victim Assistance
6. Ethel Ford, Deputy Director, Community Victim Services, State Office of Victim Assistance
7. Tara Butler, Administrative Assistant, State Office of Victim Assistance
8. Victim Services Coordinating Council

9. Nancy Barton, Executive Director, Sistercare
10. Ellen Hamilton, Executive Director, Pee Dee Coalition
11. Kimberly Hamm, Executive Director, South Carolina Network of Children's Advocacy Centers
12. Participating members of South Carolina Coalition Against Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Member Agencies
13. Participating members of the South Carolina Department of Public Safety Grantees

Members of the General Assembly:

1. Chairman Larry Martin, Senate
2. Senator Paul Thurmond, Senate
3. Speaker Pro Tempore Tommy Pope, House of Representatives
4. Representative Shannon Erickson, House of Representatives

###