

Idaho Council on Domestic Violence and Victim Assistance
July 21, 2022 Minutes
700 W Jefferson Street Boise, ID 83702
Senate Hearing Room WW17
9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Members: Jodi Nafzger, Wes Somerton, Rachel Kaschmitter, Alan Boehme, Clint Lemieux, Laura Diaz, Jessica Uhrig (via Zoom)

ICDVVA Employees: Heather Cunningham, Amy Duque, Dana Wiemiller, Kristina Larkin, Jessica Marshall

Attorney General's Office: Karen Sheehan (Via Zoom)

Chair Nafzger called the meeting to order at 9:18 AM.

1. Action Item: Minutes from April 29, 2022 Meeting

Review and approval or revision of April 29, 2022 Meeting Minutes: DAG Sheehan suggested minor revisions to the section about Elmore County. Councilmember Somerton supported these changes. Chair Nafzger moved to accept the minutes with the proposed edits; Councilmember Lemieux seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

2. Action Item: Minutes from June 1, 2022 Meeting

Review and approval or revision of June 1, 2022 Meeting Minutes: Councilmember Somerton moved to accept the minutes; Councilmember Boehme seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

3. Action Item: Minutes from June 27, 2022 Meeting

Review and approval or revision of June 27, 2022 Meeting Minutes: DAG Sheehan suggested minor revisions. Councilmember Somerton moved to accept the minutes with the proposed changes; Councilmember Lemieux seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

4. Action Item: Reconsideration Request for Elmore County

Director Cunningham shared information about meeting with the Elmore County DVC Board, accompanied by DAG Sheehan and Grants Supervisor Wiemiller. Director Cunningham made clear to the board that they must make changes in order to continue receiving ICDVVA funds, and that revisiting the investigation would not be productive. ECDVC must move forward with solutions that address ICDVVA concerns – reset the culture to be trauma informed, address power dynamic, and rectify any financial irregularities. The revised plan received from Elmore addresses the points discussed during the meeting, but it doesn't include all details due to short time frame. ICDVVA staff will need to continue working closely with Elmore, which may result in capacity challenges, but the staff recommendation is for continued funding for Elmore.

A discussion followed, with the following input:

- Chair Nafzger wanted to be sure there was not anything else in the ECDVC revised plan that raised concerns with ICDVVA staff. Director Cunningham emphasized that a second investigation would not be productive, for Council staff or for EDVC staff.
- Councilmember Boehme expressed concerns about investing more time and resources on the program if they do not adequately address the issues raised by ICDVVA. He does not support completely cutting off funding, and suggested that a Council member could participate in communications with the ECDVC board if helpful.
- Councilmember Somerton suggested including a probationary period to give ICDVVA time to evaluate their performance. He also questioned how to measure progress in culture change, as this can be hard to quantify.
- Councilmember Somerton expressed concern about the Interim ED's husband serving as board treasurer.
- Councilmember Somerton is concerned that the letter and plan may say the right things to preserve funding, but that is not a guarantee that the recommendations are taken seriously and will be addressed by the program.
- Chair Nafzger moved to reinstate funding through 9/30/22 with monitoring and oversight by ICDVVA staff. Councilmember Uhrig seconded. Votes: 5 yes, 2 no. Motion passed.

5. Action Item: FY23 Grant Awards

Director Cunningham explained how the award recommendations were developed, including application scoring, allocations by region, funding-specific criteria, and amounts requested/justifications according to need. A spreadsheet with recommendations was reviewed with the Council, and funding was allocated in proportion to the region(s) served by the program as designated on their application rather than taking all funding from the regional allocation where the program is based. This year, requests were generally in-line with available funding because programs worked hard to reduce their requests; drastic cuts were not necessary this year as they were last year when programs were asking for far more than available funding. Research Analyst Marshall assured the Council that staff had significant discussion on specific line item requests to ensure that recommendations were fair and equitable across the state.

Regional Summary:

Region 1 – requests were in-line with available funding for the region.

Region 2 – requests were in-line with available funding for the region.

Region 3 – requests were in-line with available funding for the region. Some items were not funded due to an inadequate required Covid tie for FVPSA funding streams.

Region 4 – requests were in-line with available funding for the region

Region 5 – Discussed one program that is struggling - recommendation adjusts funds to bring down indirects and put more funding into their direct services. This program will need significant mentoring/assistance during ED transition.

Region 6 – requests were in-line with available funding for the region. Some references to collaboration issues among a couple of agencies.

Region 7 – requests were in-line with available funding for the region. Collaboration issues in this region may require some additional terms in subaward agreements. Some long-funded agencies are still requesting the majority of funding from ICDVVA – haven't diversified their funding sources, but need to.

Statewide – A couple programs requested too much Admin funding, so cuts were made to their requests. Covid tie not adequate in some cases, and one request was reduced due to a poor application.

A few programs chose not to submit FY23 applications – 7th CASA, U of I Legal Clinic, and WICAP – all had received only small amounts of funding.

Chair Nafzger moved to approve the staff's FY23 funding recommendations. Councilmember Somerton seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

6. FY23 Scoring & Application Discussion

Director Cunningham provided a brief recap on funding sources, how the funding allocation process works, and our scoring process. Research Analyst Marshall provided an overview of common scoring errors and shared scoring issues to evaluate and address for the next application cycle. She also asked for feedback from Council members:

Councilmember Lemieux said it was his first time scoring, but thought it was convenient/easy.

Councilmember Boehme called it a huge improvement from prior years: more streamlined, easier.

Councilmember Uhrig thought that Jotform & Sharepoint made it easy.

Councilmember Diaz said it was her first time, and initially she felt lost. She was not sure what to look for in very broad narratives.

Councilmember Kaschmitter felt it was easier this year than last, but still struggled with underserved scoring (definition is very broad and almost everyone could be included in underserved). Research Analyst Marshall explained VOCA requirements and that states

define underserved. Chair Nafzger gave almost everyone points for underserved, and expressed concern that we may be creating scoring errors because it's not clear.

Chair Nafzger questioned why Council members have to score yes/no questions.

Councilmember Lemieux asked why page with victims served & number of staff wasn't scored. Research Analyst Marshall replied that she was concerned about how that was scored last year and thought there wasn't a fair/equitable way to score that. Director Cunningham said we still included the question so we would have job #s/data that could be helpful when sharing information with the Legislature.

Councilmember Somerton thought the Strategic Plan questions were difficult to review/score.

Grants Supervisor Wiemiller identified that agencies had difficulty with the succession planning question. Most answers were not succession plans – they were hiring plans.

Research Analyst Marshall mentioned potential changes for FY24 scoring, including meeting as a group on those assigned to particular application, to reach consensus on one score rather than having an average among all scores. This would address any discrepancies in scoring. Councilmembers Lemieux, Kaschmitter, and Somerton supported this idea.

The Council agreed that for next year's scoring, the four scorers for each region will meet and review discrepancies among scores prior to the funding recommendations being developed.

7. OIP Committee Appointment

Councilmember Somerton shared information on two applications received for an open committee seat. One applicant is ineligible since the agency he works for has applied to be an OIP provider. The second applicant, Ursula Warden, is currently a DV Evaluator which is an important and excellent perspective to have on the committee.

Chair Nafzger moved to approve Ursula Warden as an OIP Committee Member. Councilmember Lemieux seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

8. SA Funds & Collaboration

Director Cunningham provided an update on ICDVVA's collaboration with ISP on the FVSPA Sexual Assault supplementary funding. All Cortexflo machines have been purchased. 4-hour Neurobiology of Trauma trainings are currently underway at regional roundtables. Feedback has been excellent so far.

9. 2023 Legislative Proposals

Director Cunningham provided an overview of proposed legislation for the 2023 session (currently working on securing a legislative sponsor for these bills), including:

- Removing statute language that requires victim reimbursement for services. Need to remove – not allowed under federal funding programs.
- Change to statute to allow standing subcommittee for OIP and provide an honorarium for committee members.
- Include rulemaking authority to allow establishing OIP minimum standards
- Change statute to change funding distribution from proportion of marriage licenses to demand/need. Provided overview of rulemaking process on this effort.

Councilmember Somerton moved to move forward with four bills and the Admin Rules rewrite of IDAPA 16.05.04. Councilmember Lemieux seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

10. Board Presentations

Director Cunningham is meeting with all program boards to share information about ICDVVA, funding declines, how/when to contact ICDVVA on any potential issues, information on available state funding for victim services & research on how/if other states fund victim services. The goal is to prepare boards for the upcoming funding decline and help them plan ahead.

11. VOCA & OFCO Monitoring Update

VOCA program monitoring of ICDVVA came back with no findings, which is excellent evidence that all the changes made to address audit findings and to monitor programs have been successful in ensuring compliance with VOCA grant requirements. Still waiting for DHW to resolve findings from the related financial monitoring done by the OFCO.

12. Conference

Grants Supervisor Wiemiller shared information and stats on the 2022 conference. Council discussed how we manage conference going forward – virtual next year. Potential partnership for next live conference, or we hire staff/temp for 6-month conference work. Director Cunningham indicated that the Council staff lacks the capacity to host the conference, which is a significant drain on capacity, and this is a concern we must explore ways to address since we cannot add staff.

13. Reimbursement Timing

Research Analyst Marshall shared information on reimbursement submission timing. 80% of programs are now submitting within 30 days. Some programs have consistently struggled to meet the 30-day deadline. It is critical to get compliance on 30-day deadline in order to meet DHW & federal reporting requirements. Timing of how quickly ICDVVA processes reimbursements has improved significantly since FY21; in FY21 there was an average of 30 days from reimbursement submission to payment and in FY21 this was reduced to 18 days. Similarly, in FY21 on average it took 20 days after reimbursement submission for a Grant Manager to review the submission, and this was reduced to 10 days in FY22. Additional staff and rebalancing of regions between grant managers have contributed to the improvement.

14. Financial Update

Grants Supervisor Wiemiller presented a financial report. Subaward expenses processed through June 10 were at 82.5%. Remaining funds will be carried over through September 30, 2022 when the FY22 subawards expire. Staff will be closely monitoring expenditures and coordinating with programs to ensure all funds are fully expended and no federal funds are reverted.

15. Monitoring

Grants Supervisor Wiemiller presented a monitoring report. All 2021 monitoring reports have been sent to programs. Close-out letters still pending for some agencies monitored in 2021. Twenty-four programs are included on the monitoring list for 2022. As of this meeting, four had been conducted and another 15 scheduled. Five more agencies will be monitored in during the fall with dates still pending.

Adjourned at 3:00 PM.