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STATE OF OKLAHOMA

**DISTRICT ATTORNEYS COUNCIL**

421 NW 13<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite 290 • Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73103

EXECUTIVE 405-264-5000	FINANCE 405-264-5004	GRANTS 405-264-5008	VICTIMS 405-264-5006	IT 405-264-5002	TRAINING 405-264-5000	UVED 405-264-5010
FAX 405-264-5099	405-264-5099	405-264-5099	405-264-5097	405-264-5099	405-264-5099	405-264-5099

**MINUTES**

Violence Against Women Act Grant Board  
November 12, 2020, 10:00 a.m.

District Attorneys Council, Federal Grants Division  
421 N.W. 13<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite 125, Oklahoma City, OK 73103

Video Conference via GoToMeeting

*Please join the meeting from your computer, tablet or smartphone:*

<https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/213845389>

United States (Toll Free): 1 (877-309-2073); Access Code: 213-845-389

One-touch: tel: +18773092079

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Trent Baggett, Melissa Blanton, Don Hyde, Raven Word, Brian Hermanson

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Scott Hawkins and Candida Manion

**STAFF:** Stephanie Lowery, Laura Russell and Amanda Blasko

**1. Call to Order – Trent Baggett**

The meeting was called to order at 10:08 a.m.

**2. Roll Call – Trent Baggett**

A roll call determined a quorum was present.

**3. Open Meeting Compliance – Stephanie Lowery**

It was noted the agenda of the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) Grant Board was properly posted on November 5, 2020. The Office of the Secretary of State was notified.

**4. Introductions—Trent Baggett**

Amanda Blasko, the new Grants Program Assistant for the District Attorneys Council, was introduced.

**5. Discussion and Possible Action VAWA Implementation Plan 2021-2025 – Laura Russell**

Laura Russell stated that she sent the board the revised survey with all recommended changes from the August meeting. The board assented to the survey revisions. The survey questions will be inputted into Survey Monkey and sent out to agencies and police departments in approximately a week. Once DAC receives the responses back, data will be compiled.

Laura announced that listening meetings will be scheduled for December. At the next board meeting, she will have reports on the meetings.

Information from the last implementation planning meeting was circulated to the board. OVW requires VAWA funds to be allocated into specific categories. Victims Services programs comprise 30% of VAWA funds (10% of which must be awarded to community based culturally specific victims services programs). Law enforcement receives 25% of funds, and prosecution is awarded 25%. The courts are awarded 5% of funds, and 15% are for discretionary projects. Stephanie mentioned that the Administrative Office of the Courts does not accept federal funds, and in the past, OVW has allowed the board to count the percentage awarded to the courts toward discretionary projects instead, making the total for discretionary projects 20%.

Board members were invited to suggest discretionary projects. These projects are usually statewide projects and have ranged from judicial training to projects that fund probation officers. If court applications are received, the original 5% could be used for this purpose.

The deaf and hard of hearing community was suggested as an underserved population that might be explored for discretionary funds. In addition, translation and interpretation services were proposed as an avenue for discretionary funds. Funding for translation/interpretation services would assist court certified interpreters available at the state level who would help with legal aid and be versed in legal terms pertaining to domestic violence and other violent acts perpetrated against women.

Under OVW guidelines, culturally specific agencies refer to agencies whose mission, board, staff, and clientele are composed of that particular culturally specific population.

Discussion was held on requirements for OAG certification for DV/SA programs in the state. For programs without shelters and very specific roles such as translation and interpretation, OAG certification may not be necessary to receive VAWA funding.

Laura indicated that she will send the board the goals and objectives section of the Implementation Plan for the board's review at the next meeting. Stephanie and Laura will discuss with OVW to determine how to best utilize the court's percentage of VAWA funds, or whether to move this percentage toward discretionary funds.

- 6. Discussion and Possible Action on Approval of the August 13, 2020 Meeting Minutes – Trent Baggett**  
The board minutes from the August 13, 2020 meeting were presented for review and approval. After review, a motion was led by Don Hyde while a second was presented by Brian Hermanson to approve the minutes. Motion passed.
- 7. Discussion and Possible Action on Potential Items for Future Board Meetings – Trent Baggett**  
None
- 8. Announcements—Trent Baggett**  
None
- 9. New Business – Trent Baggett**  
None
- 10. Adjournment – Trent Baggett**  
Don Hyde led a motion to adjourn while the second was led by Melissa Blanton. Motion passed.