

MINUTES OF JANUARY 25, 2022
VIRTUAL DOMESTIC VIOLENCE TASK FORCE

The Domestic Violence Task Force met virtually on Tuesday, January 25, 2022, with the meeting called to order by Justice Hantz Marconi at 4:00 p.m.

The following members participated:

Justice Anna Barbara Hantz Marconi
Mary Barton
Merrill Beauchamp
Kathy Beebe
Kristyn Bernier
Hon. Susan Carbon
Pam Dodge
Steven Endres
Sarah Freeman
Dr. Scott Hampton
Chief David Hobbs
Marcia Hornick
Erin Jasina
Jean Kilham
Mary Krueger

Hon. Diane Nicolosi
Betsy Paine
Lynda Ruel
Amanda Grady Sexton
Jon Strasburger
David Vicinanza
Hon. John Yazinski
Anne Zinkin

Lisa Merrill, Recording Secretary

Justice Hantz Marconi called the meeting to order and welcomed members to the meeting of the Domestic Violence Task Force. She noted that the meeting is being recorded and the proceedings are being livestreamed. She outlined the focus of the meeting under Charge 5: Identify opportunities to provide domestic violence victims with increased access to legal assistance and victim advocates.

Justice Hantz Marconi asked members to think about the vast amount of information collected, the ideas and proposals shared to date, and recommendations the Task Force makes in its final report.

Justice Hantz Marconi opened conversation under charge 5 by asking what models are currently used. Members discussed the following topics:

- **Advocates**
 - Different models.
 - Some advocates are paid staff while others are volunteers.
 - HAVEN combines paid staff with volunteers servicing seven courts.
 - There are 12 crisis center and every program is different.
 - Struggling with turnover and burnout.
 - Volunteers provided 60,000 hours of direct service work in 2021.
 - Interesting to see a breakout of the hours.

- Volunteer advocates.
 - Require more training.
 - Unable to provide legal advice.
 - There has been a decline in AmeriCorps volunteers.
 - Structure component needed with volunteers staffing.
 - Expand pool of volunteers.
 - Outreach to the public and Bar.
 - Larger police departments may have a domestic violence advocate on staff. The challenge is that law enforcement are not covered under RSA 173-C confidentiality.
- The Access to Justice Commission is looking at how to manage volunteers.
 - Accessibility
 - Task assignment
- Funding is an issue.
- **Wish List**
 - An advocate in each courthouse.
- **Consolidate dockets by region.**
 - The impact on one family, one judge model in the family courts. The intersection between domestic violence and family matters.
- **Attorney advocates.**
 - Expand outreach to the Bar asking larger firms for assistance. Possibly include members of the Supreme Court in the outreach.
 - Use a model in which a client would have a 15-minute WebEx with a volunteer attorney.
 - Put D.V. cases on the docket early for attorneys.
 - Unbundled attorney services were provided in the past.
- **Propose two-step model.**
 - First step petition completion.
 - Second step legal advice at hearing.

Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Domestic Violence Task Force will occur on Thursday, January 27, 2022, at 4:00 p.m. via WebEx and will be live-streamed for the public.

With no further business to come before the Task Force, the meeting adjourned at 5:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa Merrill, Recording Secretary