



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA
GOVERNOR TERRY MCAULIFFE'S TASK FORCE ON
COMBATING CAMPUS SEXUAL VIOLENCE
CHAIR ATTORNEY GENERAL MARK HERRING

LAW ENFORCEMENT SUBCOMMITTEE

Summary of Work to Date and Future Areas of Focus

The **Governor's Task Force on Combating Sexual Violence** held its first meeting October 9, 2014, under the chairmanship of Attorney General Mark Herring. Since that meeting, each of three subcommittees (Prevention, Response, and Law Enforcement) has met monthly to advance the work of the Task Force.

The **Law Enforcement subcommittee** of this Task Force has been directed to consider:

- Communication and relationship-building between local law enforcement, prosecutors, campus police, administration and students;
- Best practices for survivor-centered response throughout both university and criminal investigations, and the intersection/overlap of these investigations; and
- Officer and responder training around the issue of sexual assault.

Subcommittee meetings were held on October 22nd, December 10, and January 7th, prior to the next full Task Force meeting scheduled on January 8, 2015. Additionally, Subcommittee Chair John Venuti spoke individually with each task force member by phone after the first subcommittee meeting and compiled a list of ideas and suggestions that included each committee member's feedback for potential areas of focus for the subcommittee's work. This list was shared at the December 10th meeting for review by all subcommittee members. Based on this list and discussion at the first two meetings, a work plan was developed and presented by Abby Raphael at the January 7th meeting and tasks were divided among committee members.

Work to Date:

The three meetings of the subcommittee yielded much healthy discussion and idea exchange. Speakers at the October 22nd meeting included Reuban Rodriquez, Dean of Student

Affairs and Deputy Title IX Coordinator at VCU, who provided a Title IX overview and spoke about how Title IX issues are handled at VCU; Chelsea Godfrey, a sexual assault survivor who was raped in her first month on campus at Ferrum College who recounted her experiences, including the obstacles she encountered in her attempts to get assistance on-campus and within the community; and Chief Venuti, who discussed Clery Act requirements for timely warnings and shared the template he uses to both alert and educate the VCU campus community about sexual assault issues. This meeting also included robust discussion of trauma-informed response on all levels, including interviewing.

Speakers at the December 10th meeting included Kristina Vadas, Sexual Assault Program Coordinator at DCJS, who provided information about Sexual Assault Response Teams, including current statutory requirements, typical team composition, and campus-specific SARTs and Chiefs Anthony Wilson (Blacksburg PD) and Kevin Foust (Virginia Tech PD) who discussed relationship-building between campus and municipal law enforcement agencies and opportunities for collaboration between these two entities. Public comment was also considered at this meeting from Chief David McCoy (University of Richmond PD), who pointed out the benefits to the increased reporting that Title IX and the Clery Act have encouraged and also urged the codification of campus SARTs, potentially adding it to threat assessment language already in code, and from Kristine Hall (Public Policy Director, Virginia Sexual and Domestic Violence Action Alliance), who applauded the comprehensive and multidisciplinary lens the subcommittee, and task force in its entirety, is taking with regard to this complex issue and discussed the continuum of disclosure, the need for supportive systems, and baseline data to consider not only reporting but also case outcomes/dispositions.

Speakers at the January 7th meeting included Chiefs Michael Gibson (UVA PD), Tim Longo (Charlottesville PD), Robert Beach (Longwood PD), and Doug Mooney (Farmville PD), who provided information about how these particular municipal and campus law enforcement agencies collaborate and maximize resources and participated in discussion about SARTs, accreditation, and Title IX/criminal investigation intersection. Jane Chambers, Director of the Commonwealth's Attorneys' Services Council, also shared information about current training opportunities available for prosecutors to enhance successful prosecution while being mindful of trauma-informed response.

As the committee looks forward towards recommendations for the June 2015 report, the following topics are under current consideration by the group:

- Coordination of criminal and Title IX investigations - consideration of potential parallel investigations
- Campus/municipal law enforcement relationships – best practices for coordination and information-sharing / MOUs addressing sexual assault
- Campus Sexual Assault Response Teams
- Ongoing opportunity for trauma-informed sexual assault training
- Training for municipal law enforcement / prosecutors on Title IX/federal law

- Certification process and training for Title IX investigators, including a potential cadre of Title IX investigators for the state
- Reporting options – including technology options available for reporting
- Minimizing victim reluctance to report – including amnesty options when the victim has engaged in unlawful conduct

Summary:

The Law Enforcement subcommittee will continue formulating and fine-tuning recommendations around the major themes of training, legislation, and technical assistance, with upcoming subcommittee meetings scheduled for February 4th and March 10th. At the January 7th meeting the subcommittee divided tasks in accordance with a drafted workplan based on previously identified themes / areas of focus, with each committee member tasked with assignments to complete between now and the February subcommittee meeting.