



MINUTES OF THE DVIS BOARD MEETING

February 24, 2026 @ 11:30 a.m.

Moran Family Counseling Center – 3124 E. Apache Street - Tulsa, Oklahoma

WELCOME & INTRODUCTIONS:

Barbara Knowlton, president of the DVIS board of directors, welcomed everyone to the board meeting. The agenda was posted on the front door 24 hours before the meeting. After determining that a quorum had been established, Barbara called the meeting to order at 11:33 a.m.

Board of Directors present include:

Barbara Abercrombie (2)	Chelsea Herring (0)	Josh Showman (1)
Belinda Butler (2)	Brittani Jones (2)	Jeff Snodgrass (1)
Michael Chromy (0)	Barbara Knowlton (0)	Cynthia Simmons Taylor (1)
Rosemary Harris (1)	Robert Ream (4)	Rhiannon Thoreson (3)
Don Henderson (1)	Dina Schultz (1)	Kimee Wind-Hummingbird (2)

DVIS board directors not present:

Heather Earhart (3)	Jeff Paden (1)
Quincy Jones (6)	Mike Thornberry (2)

No Emeritus Board members were present.

DVIS staff and Interns attending were:

Bayli Scruggs	Tracey Lyall	Cathy Wilkie
Amy Hossain	Rose Turner	Samantha Dunkin
Ashley Henson	Carey Wood	

MISSION MOMENT:

Ashley Henson, vice president of quality & systems improvement, gave a brief description of the Performance Quality Improvement Report she prepares quarterly for the agency, noting that it highlights service numbers, where performance is strong, and where there are gaps. Tracey emphasized that the report helps the organization with problem-solving and sustainability. This report was reviewed in depth during the last Program Committee meeting.

CONSENT AGENDA:

The following consent agenda items were distributed in advance of the meeting for consideration and possible approval:

- [Minutes](#) - December 2, 2025, Board Meeting
- [Minutes](#) - January 6, 2026, Special Board Meeting
- [Human Resources](#) - Inclement Weather Policy, Revised
- [Grants](#) - 2027 Tulsa Area United Way Grant Application

MOTION – Consent Agenda:

Barbara Abercrombie moved to approve the consent agenda items. Don Henderson seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

EXECUTIVE & GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE REPORT:

Barbara gave a brief update on the status of an ongoing legal claim against a DVIS vendor, noting that depositions should be scheduled within two months, and the case remains in the discovery phase.

Barbara announced the annual Tulsa Area United Way site visit has been scheduled for April 9. Rosemary Harris, vice president, has agreed to attend the tour as a DVIS board representative. Barbara emphasized that January was an exceptionally busy month for grants at DVIS, noting eight reports and/or applications were completed during that time.

Barbara explained that Quincy Jones, who resigned from the Board of Directors earlier this year, has requested reinstatement, and she announced that the executive committee has agreed to his request.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT:

Tracey Lyall referred to several foundation visits since the last meeting and announced a sizeable, unanticipated gift from an estate. She stated that the Ruth Nelson Family Foundation has a new director and that there are plans to meet with them in the future, as the foundation has always supported The Monarch Ball.

Tracey reported that April Wilkens now has out-of-state counsel from New York. Barbara Abercrombie, past president, referred to a recent New York Times article on the Oklahoma Survivor's Act, noting that it was well written. Tracey stated that other state Survivor's Justice Act cases continue to proceed, but no other survivors have been released. Margaret Black, vice president of clinical services, is once again set to serve as an expert witness in one of these upcoming cases. Tracey announced that the director of Oklahoma Appleseed, the organization representing many of these cases, stepped down from that position to run for Tulsa County District Attorney.

Tracey discussed the grant season, including applications and reporting that occur in January each year. This year, there were eight due by the end of that month. Cathy Wilkie, chief development officer, has now assumed responsibility for grant oversight. Tracey emphasized

that no grants from the Office on Violence Against Women (OVW) have been released for 2026. When inquiring about the OVW funds, she received a response from that agency stating that Abuse in Later Life awards have not been released, and they do not have an estimate of when they will be available. She noted that she has never received that type of response.

Tracey described a new version of the Lethality Assessment Protocol system being rolled out statewide for providers and law enforcement by the Oklahoma Attorney General's (OAG) office. The new version, along with the training, will hopefully increase the number of lethality calls that DVIS receives and prevent domestic violence homicides.

FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT:

Carey Wood, chief financial officer, reported that the finance committee conducted a detailed review of the proposed revised budget. She noted the primary sources of the increases in revenue and expenses during the first half of the fiscal year. She noted that some expense variances are included in capital expenditures; however, the overall proposed revised budget reflects an increased deficit. She emphasized that DVIS budgets conservatively and that she anticipates a budget improvement by the end of the year. After review, the finance committee recommended approval of the proposed revised budget for June 30, 2026.

MOTION – Proposed Revised Budget (June 30, 2026):

Jeff Snodgrass moved to approve the proposed budget revisions for June 30, 2026. Dina Schulz seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

Carey then briefly reviewed the January 31, 2026, financial statements, noting positive variances for the month and the year. The cash decreased during the period primarily due to three pay periods during the month. She noted that the January finances will be adjusted once the new budget is applied.

Michael Chromy, finance committee chair, advised the Board that the line of credit with the Bank of Oklahoma is due for renewal at the same interest rate. He stated that DVIS had not utilized the line of credit for six years, and the finance committee recommended renewing the line of credit and increasing the amount to \$500,00, the highest amount authorized without collateral.

MOTION –Bank of Oklahoma Line of Credit Renewal:

Robert Ream moved to increase the credit amount to \$500,000 and approve the Bank of Oklahoma Line of Credit Renewal. Rosemary Harris seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

Michael then advised that the finance committee had reviewed the details of the \$31,176.43 capital reserve fund request provided in the board packet. These are incidental items necessary for facility maintenance that were unanticipated and were not budgeted. The finance committee recommended approval of the distribution of \$31,176.43 from the capital reserve fund managed by Trust Company of Oklahoma.

MOTION –Capital Reserve Fund Request

Don Henderson moved to approve the request to use Capital Reserve Funds as listed in the document provided in the board packet. Belinda Butler seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

Mike presented information from investment firms that are being utilized and are now being considered to establish accounts for the recent influx of endowment gifts. A matrix of the firms and their comparable services and fees was included in the meeting packet shared with the Board. Mike noted the finance committee had reviewed the cash flow statements and discussed investment strategies. The committee will review options with investment firms in March to determine which is most appropriate.

PROGRAM COMMITTEE REPORT:

Rose Turner, chief administrative officer, described preparations for the OAG audit, which will include a site visit to recertify the Human Trafficking and Batterers' Intervention (BIP) programs, including the new BIP site at JusticeLink.

Rose referred to the annual Program Reports shared with the Board prior to the meeting and noted that they were submitted to the OAG on time, with no corrections requested. Rose also referred to the latest audit conducted by the Oklahoma Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services, noting that all information has been submitted in response to that request and that the DVIS is now awaiting final findings, if any.

--- Brittani Jones left at 12:20 p.m. ---

RISK MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE REPORT:

Barbara Knowlton, risk management committee chair, reviewed the 2025 Fourth Quarter Review of Critical Incidents, noting it had the highest percentage of occurrences in years. Of the many reports, several were from clients who had multiple incidents, such as seizures or severe chronic conditions.

HUMAN RESOURCES COMMITTEE REPORT:

Amy Hossain, chief human resources officer, briefly reviewed the report that was included in the meeting packet. She highlighted that the all-staff training schedule has been modified this year, in hopes of improving attendance. She reported that benefits for the new fiscal year will most likely include going to market for potential changes, although DVIS is still working to reduce reconciliation errors this year. She presented the HR committee with three policies for consideration. However, two of those policies (Parental/Caretaker Leave and Public Office Policy) remain under review.

DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE & COMMUNICATIONS REPORT:

Cathy Wilkie thanked the board for their support of Best of Brunch, which took place earlier in the month, noting that it was just short of its fundraising goal. She requested items for the upcoming Monarch Ball, scheduled for May 1, and emphasized that the planning subcommittees are meeting regularly to finalize plans, solicit donations, decorate, and secure entertainment.

Cathy reported that in 2025, 852 volunteers provided 5,618 hours of service to DVIS. This includes helping 65 families that received holiday gifts, as well as providing gifts for 60 adults and children in the DVIS shelter programs through the JOY Givers project.

Cathy announced plans and shared the new logo for "Fifty Years of Being Here," a year-long celebration of DVIS's Fiftieth Anniversary in 2026, that will culminate with a final celebration in December.

OTHER:

- Tracey announced that she is looking into the feasibility of initiating a Capital Campaign focused on establishing more housing opportunities for survivors in Tulsa. She referenced the agency's waiting list of over 100 for the current DVIS transitional housing program, and Tulsa Housing Solutions' coordinated entry system, which has over 1,000 on its waiting list, several with domestic violence as a cause for being without housing. She stated that an initial budget draft estimated \$22M would be needed to create a new 50-unit complex at an additional DVIS site still to be determined.
- Tracey reported that there is proposed legislation for funding Human Trafficking prevention and further criminalization of Human Trafficking, which will be considered in March at the state capital. Another bill proposes to allow post-mortem investigations when there is a suspicion that domestic violence had occurred or was the cause. The local lobbyist who represents the state's domestic violence organizations will compile a priority list of legislative measures to support, and Tracey will share it with the Board once it is established.

NEW BUSINESS:

There was no new business discussed.

ADJOURNMENT:

MOTION - Adjournment:

Barbara Abercrombie moved to adjourn the meeting. Mike Chromy seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

The board meeting was adjourned at approximately 12:31 p.m.

Minutes submitted by Samantha Dunkin, Executive Assistant.



Brittani Jones, Board Secretary