
Governor Terry McAuliffe's Task Force on Combating Campus Sexual Violence
Chair Attorney General Mark Herring

Response Subcommittee

Submitted by: Peter Blake

Recommendation Summary: *Explain the legal, program and/or policy change(s) proposed.*

The State Council of Higher Education for Virginia (SCHEV), in cooperation with the Office of the Attorney General, will convene a group of professionals from Virginia's colleges and universities who will be available for technical assistance and training on responding to reports of sexual assault on campus. These individuals will focus on areas where Virginia-specific assistance is not readily available, with a particular focus on boards of visitors, student affairs offices, and other parts of an institution that may not have the resources embedded within the institution to have a comprehensive response to sexual assault.

SCHEV also will convene an advisory group comprised of institutional representatives from all segments of the university and college community, and state agencies such as the Department of Criminal Justice Services, to provide advice and guidance on technical assistance and consultative services.

Need: *Explain the problem or issue addressed by this recommendation, providing background information as necessary. Describe the anticipated results / objectives that this recommendation aims to accomplish.*

Not all colleges and universities have ready access to experts with Virginia-specific knowledge to help with these issues. Establishing a network of experts within Virginia who would make themselves available to other institutions will improve the response services that all institutions provide.

Also, the advisory committee will provide a venue for identification and resolution of issues as they evolve and arise.

Anticipated Challenges to Implementation of Recommendation: *Explain counter-arguments to the recommendation. What are some of the obstacles in implementing the recommendation?*

The largest obstacle is time and effort. Success of the initiative will depend on SCHEV, the Office of the Attorney General, other state agencies including the Department of Criminal Justice Services, and the institutions to be open with their time and expertise.

Implementation: *Includes legislative needs, program ideas or needs, strategies, etc. What groups are likely to support this recommendation and why?*

The recommendation requires no legislative action, although a legislative endorsement would give it greater support at the institutional level. Smaller institutions that do not have the depth of expertise that larger institutions have should be especially supportive of this recommendation.

Fiscal Impact: *Does this proposal require financial or personnel resources? Will it generate revenue? Will a Budget Amendment be necessary?*

The proposal will require financial and personnel resources, and it will not generate revenue. It should not require a budget amendment, although it would have greater legitimacy and authority to lead should there be a budget amendment for SCHEV to support this function.