



MISSISSIPPI STATE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

**The state Office Against Interpersonal Violence (OAIV) will have a Board appointment representing a licensed attorney becoming vacant as of July 1, 2017.**

*About the OAIV*

The Office Against Interpersonal Violence (OAIV) was established by the Mississippi Legislature in 2014 (HB 1030, 2014 Regular Session). The OAIV is housed at the Mississippi State Department of Health (MSDH) and is under the direct supervision of the State Health Officer. Mississippi Code Sections 93-21-119 through 93-21-123 govern the role and activities of the OAIV. The OAIV is charged with implementing strategies to:

- improve the capacity of victim service providers to meet the needs of their communities;
- develop minimum standards of practices for service providers funded through OAIV;
- increase the capacity of local organizations to provide trauma-informed, culturally competent services for victims and survivors of all forms of interpersonal violence;
- create mechanism that ensure all who work with victims receive proper training and are provided with the needed tools and resources to deliver trauma-informed culturally competent services;
- encourage and facilitate evidence-based or evidence-informed prevention strategies through uniform education and outreach activities;
- develop and implement a statewide strategic plan for Mississippi's response to interpersonal violence and victims of crime;
- partner with other state and local agencies;
- develop and recommend streamlined data collection mechanisms to better enable evaluation of funded activities;
- support existing programs and activities which facilitate access to services and prevention/outreach efforts by all Mississippians, regardless of disability, race, color, religion, age, marital status, national origin or ancestry, gender identity or sexual orientation;
- encourage and foster the establishment of new programs and activities which facilitate access to services and prevention/outreach efforts by all Mississippians, regardless of disability, race, color, religion, age, marital status, national origin or ancestry, gender identity or sexual orientation;
- support activities which improve and increase confidentiality and safety for victims and that staff and volunteers who work with these individuals received the support and training needed;

- encourage and support better data collection and reporting mechanisms for law enforcement, prosecution and courts to increase offender accountability;
- administer various funding streams made available to the state of Mississippi to forward these purposes, including, but not limited to the Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) Victim Assistance funds, the Violence Against Women Act funds, the Family Violence Prevention and Services Act funds, as well as the Rape Prevention and Education program funds; the funds administered by OAIIV are approximately \$40 million; and
- seek and apply for additional funding available to the State of Mississippi to further these strategies and activities.

### *About the OAIIV*

To assist the OAIIV in carrying out its responsibilities an advisory board was created by law to make recommendations, and review policies and practices implemented by OAIIV administrative staff. The term of an advisory board member is six (6) years. Advisory board members are appointed by the State Health Officer, Dr. Mary Currier, at the recommendation of the Director of OAIIV. State law provides for the membership of the advisory board as follows: one (1) licensed therapist or social worker; one (1) member of the faith community; one (1) licensed attorney; one (1) certified public accountant with experience in auditing; one (1) business professional; one (1) medical professional with forensic experience; and one (1) survivor of interpersonal violence. Each appointee to the Advisory Board shall receive training related to general issues of interpersonal violence, the programs administered by OAIIV and the role and function of the OAIIV and Advisory Board. This training will be conducted by OAIIV staff before the first meeting of the Advisory Board after the member's appointment. Meetings of the advisory board are held once per quarter, generally on the third Wednesday in January, April, July and October. Members of the advisory board are entitled to mileage reimbursement for travel expenses related to attending meetings and for a per diem of \$40 for any part of a day spent in carrying out duties related OAIIV.

### *Upcoming Vacancy*

The appointment representing the licensed attorney will become vacant as of July 1, 2017. Prior knowledge of matters involving interpersonal violence is preferred, but not required. No person who is affiliated as an employee, contractor, or as a parent, child or spouse of anyone similarly situated, with a program receiving funds administered by OAIIV may sit on the advisory board. Should you be interested in serving this important role in furthering the response of the State of Mississippi to victims of interpersonal violence should contact Christy Ainsworth, L.C.S.W., Director, Office Against Interpersonal Violence, at [Christy.ainsworth@msdh.ms.gov](mailto:Christy.ainsworth@msdh.ms.gov), or 601-206-1545 by June 10, 2017.