

ATTORNEY GENERAL
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

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JOHN M. FORMELLA
ATTORNEY GENERAL



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October 4, 2022

His Excellency Governor, Christopher T. Sununu
And the Honorable Council
State House
Concord, NH 03301

Your Excellency and Members of the Council:

REQUESTED ACTION

That approval be and hereby is given to the Attorney General to grant an annual salary increment to Amy Van Auken, Victim/Witness Specialist (Position #9U667, Appropriation #02-20-20-200510-2616-014-500134) from a salary level of \$69,238.00 (LG DD, Step 2) to a salary level of \$73,476.00 (LG DD, Step 3), effective **retroactive** to October 7, 2022, upon Governor and Executive Council approval.

EXPLANATION

This item is **retroactive** because the Victim/Witness Unit was involved with several victim matters delaying the personnel evaluation review process. In accordance with NH RSA 94:1-a, I(a), Amy Van Auken is eligible for a salary increment, subject to the approval of the Governor and Executive Council. Ms. Van Auken made significant contributions in serving the families of homicide victims. As such, she should be recognized with an increase to the next step of the salary schedule. Ms. Auken's salary will increase by \$4,238. A copy of her resume is attached.

I respectfully urge your favorable consideration of this request. Thank you.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "John M. Formella".

John M. Formella
Attorney General

Amy Van Auken

EDUCATION:

Master's Degree in Criminal Justice (September 2021-Current)

Concentration: Violence Prevention and Advocacy

Lasell University, Newton MA

Bachelor's Degree in Sociology (August 2011-May 2015)

Minors: Criminal Justice Studies and Substance Abuse & Addiction

Keene State College, Keene NH

RELATED EXPERIENCE:

Victim/Witness Specialist, New Hampshire Attorney General's Office, Concord NH (October 2021-Current)

- Provide assistance, support and advocacy to victim's families and witnesses to homicides throughout the state of New Hampshire.
- Assist families through the criminal justice system and explain each part of the case.
- Coordinate meetings with the families and the attorneys, investigators and other community service agencies.

Victim/Witness Advocate, Plaistow Police Department, Plaistow NH (January 2017-October 2021)

- Provide support and assistance to victims and witnesses throughout the criminal justice system to empower them to participate with prosecution for the communities of Plaistow, Atkinson, Danville, Kingston and Newton, NH.
- Coordinate meetings between law enforcement, prosecution, social services and victims or witnesses.
- Assist local law enforcement and prosecution with best practices and protocols when working with victims and witnesses of crime.
- Contact victims and witnesses with any case updates, hearing notices and/or case resolutions and to explain all court proceedings to them.
- Ensure that the victim's voices are heard, and that the New Hampshire Victim's Bill of Rights is upheld.
- Educate the local community and school district on violent crimes including dating violence, domestic violence, elder abuse, and stalking.

Interim Direct Service Coordinator, Sexual Harassment and Rape Prevention Program (SHARPP), University of New Hampshire, Durham NH (August 2016-January 2017)

- Provide direct service to survivors of domestic and sexual violence, and stalking. Direct services include legal, medical and University systems advocacy.
- Supervise all direct services and advocates, coordinate training events, recruit and facilitate the peer advocate class.
- Manage and staff the 24/7 advocacy support line and organize the calendar of the advocates.
- Input data and update client database for the New Hampshire Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence quarterly reports.
- Represent the SHARPP office at all direct service meetings on campus and for the state of New Hampshire, including the local Sexual Assault Response Team (SART).
- Created and maintained relationships with students, faculty, staff, and local law enforcement.

Transitional Housing Advocate, Alternative House, Lowell MA (August 2016-April 2017)

- Provide direct services to domestic violence survivors and their children including crisis intervention, safety planning, counseling, advocacy, parenting support, information and referrals.
- Help maintain a supportive living environment and encourage guest participation in shelter programming.

- Answer crisis calls and assist the advocates in the emergency shelter during times of crisis.

AmeriCorps Victim Advocate (AVAP), Sexual Harassment and Rape Prevention Program (SHARPP), University of New Hampshire, Durham NH (Full-service year completed, September 2015-August 2016)

- Provided support, accompaniment, and advocacy to meet the medical, legal, and emotional needs of survivors.
- Empowered survivors and helped them to gain power and control during a time of crisis.
- Assisted survivors through the criminal justice process, the Title IX process, and the process of getting an order of protection.
- Helped to provide awareness and prevention through educational programming and events on campus.
- Managed and volunteered on the 24/7 advocacy support line and updated the referral book for on-call advocates.

LEADERSHIP:

Shout Out Against Sexual Violence (August 2012-May 2015)

- Co-Chair: Organized and facilitated an event where survivors would share their experiences to bring awareness about sexual violence while letting survivors get a chance to find their voice.

Keene State College Sexual Assault and Violence Education (SAVE) (August 2012-May 2015)

- Committee Member: Brought awareness to the campus and raised money for the Monadnock Center for Violence Prevention. These events include Wear Purple for Domestic Violence, the Silent Witness Project, the Clothesline Project, Walk-A-Mile in Her Shoes, Take Back the Night and other events around sexual violence, domestic violence, and stalking awareness.

AWARDS:

Champion of Children 2021 from the Child Advocacy Center of Rockingham County for work regarding child abuse and neglect.

Plaistow Service Award from the Plaistow Police Department for work regarding human trafficking.