

**FAMILY VIOLENCE COORDINATING COUNCIL**  
**April 23, 2008**  
**ROOM 14, GOVERNMENTAL CENTER**  
**5:00 P.M.**

<b>MEETING MINUTES</b>
------------------------

Council in Attendance: Rona Harding, John Helldorfer, Lanny Lancaster, Nancy Luginbill, Kathleen O'Brien, Sue Sabo, Julie White.

Absent: Judge Karen Abrams, Tim Cameron, Brian Cedar, Laura Joyce, Judge John Slade, James Tanavage, Kathleen Lyon, Kevin McDevitt, Elizabeth Schaeffer, Craig Thomas, Andree Wells,

Guests: Heather Bauer, Sheriff's Office; Marguerite Morris, Leah's House; F. Bailey.

Recorder: Karen Gates

Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order by Kathleen O'Brien at 5:14 p.m.

Review/Approval of Minutes:

Kathy O'Brien requested Council approval of the March 26, 2008 Meeting Minutes. Julie White requested that the minutes and fatality review notes be amended to reflect the correct spelling of Lt. Burris's last name. Request noted and meeting minutes duly approved.

Announcement by Kathy O'Brien

Kathy announced that the Lethality Assessment Program developed by the Maryland Network against Domestic Violence was selected as one of the Top 50 Programs to compete for a \$100,000 award in the Innovations in American Government Awards.

Review/Discussion:

Fatality Review Committee – The Team discussed its review of the M.M.W. case at the last meeting. The team identified the following areas of the review process which require further clarification:

Court Commissioners

Define what guidelines a court commissioner uses when determining whether the defendant should be released before trial or be required to post bail to secure their release. Lanny recommended that the team develop a list of questions for David Weissert, Coordinator of Commissioner Activities.

Work Release Program

Have a representative from the detention center give an overview of the work release program (how inmates are monitored, etc.)

Bond Setting Guidelines

Guidelines for setting bond amounts.

District Court vs. Circuit Court

Explanation of how these different court systems work.

State's Attorney's Office

Develop a set of guidelines to use in order to prosecute a case. What information is needed from us in order to do a better job to create a broader safety net?

Definition of Legal Terms; Outline of Court System

Create a glossary of legal terms; Fact Sheet for court system (who does what)

Plans/Next Meeting:

Confirm guests and speaker topics for next meeting.

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, May 28, 2008 at 5:00 p.m. in Room 14 at the Governmental Center.

Adjournment:

The meeting adjourned at 5:59 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

Karen Gates, Recording Secretary