

**FAMILY VIOLENCE COORDINATING COUNCIL**  
**July 25, 2007**  
**ROOM 14, GOVERNMENTAL CENTER**  
**5:00 P.M.**

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

Council in Attendance: Judge Karen Abrams, John Helldorfer, Laura Joyce, Kathleen O'Brien, Ella May Russell, Elizabeth Schaeffer, Jim Tanavage, Andree Wells, and Julie Yingling (On behalf of Sheriff Tim Cameron).

Absent: Tim Cameron, Brian Cedar, Rona Harding, Lanny Lancaster, Kathleen Lyon, Paula Robinson, Sue Sabo, and Judge John Slade.

Recorder: Kathy Arnold

Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order by Kathleen O'Brien at 5:04 p.m.

Review/Approval of Minutes:

Kathy O'Brien requested Council approval of the May 23, 2007 Meeting Minutes. Council voted and meeting minutes duly approved.

Review/Discussion:

- Tracking System - Mark Stancliff from the County's IT Department reviewed Council's previous recommendations and changes. Mark demonstrated the systems ability to search for victims or offenders, the various fields/options available, and the email alert notification. Council questioned the way access to the system can be changed or removed, who should have access to what, and how the entering/editing agency would be identified. Council requested the email alert notification be added as an option. Mark will provide training to tracking system users once Council determines the agencies and staff members for tracking system access.
- Fatality Review Committee – Ella May Russell discussed the need for a Protocol Group. Requested volunteers from the FVCC to serve along with a representative from the Health Department and a Chief Medical Examiner. Ella May suggested quarterly meetings of the Protocol Group in conjunction with the FVCC meetings. Ella May will send a follow up email to Council members requesting volunteers.
- Multi-Disciplinary Review Team – Laura Joyce reports the team met last week and continues to meet every 2-3 weeks to review cases and issues relating to the FVCC. Definite progress has been made with the people they are serving because of the increased communication among the agencies involved.
- Kathy O'Brien requested canceling the August FVCC meeting with the next meeting to be held on September 26, 2007. Council approved change.
- Tracking System – By the September meeting, Kathy hopes to have the tracking system guidelines established along with the agencies and staff information for who and what access to assign each.

- Kathy is still hopeful and continues to pursue the \$40,000 in funding requested of the BOCC.
- Kathy discussed the BOCC Human Service Plan – suggested a FVCC presentation.

Leah's House Presentation:

Kathy O'Brien introduced Rev. Marguerite Morris from Leah's House. Council introduced them selves to Rev. Morris. Rev. Morris presented the following information to the Council.

- Leah's House is a women and children's shelter founded in 2005
- Leah's House is a 501-3C Corporation.
- The first house opened in 2006 for clients. June 2007 marked the one year anniversary for Leah's House.
- Received 150-160 referrals.
- Forty (40) clients served.
- Maximum stay 18 – 24 months. After thirty (30) days enters Transitional Program.
- Currently have one Shelter/Office with eight (8) beds located in Great Mills.
- Has a satellite office in Leonardtown for intakes and donations.
- Leah's house can accept DV victims; however, they are not a "Safe House".
- Can provide off-site intakes and screenings.
- Two phase plan to purchase the Happy Land property.
  - Phase I: build a Family Services Center for women that will be a support center and offer job training. Goal is to have Phase I complete within 12-18 months.
  - Phase II: build a thirty (30) bed Women and Children's Shelter. Has bank financing approved, pending approval from Planning and Zoning.
- Has a volunteer grant writer, currently applying for nearly \$1M in grant funds.
- Each family is assigned a Case Manager to assist and follow up with the families needs.
- Has a large volunteer base. Volunteers are subject to a background check.
- Receives corporate and individual donations.
- Interested in a coordination of effort with the FVCC.

Rev. Morris requested the opportunity to end her discussion by asking a few questions of the Council. Rev. Morris was interested in the purpose of the Council, if Leah's House should have representation on the Council, and referrals to Leah's House from the agencies on the Council. Council members addressed Rev. Morris's questions. Open discussion between Rev. Morris and Council members continued, addressing the need to move past prior misunderstandings and establish a coordinated effort of services.

Plans/Next Meeting:

Finalize Tracking System, guidelines, and access assignment.

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, September 26, 2007 at 5:00 p.m. in Room 14 at the Governmental Center.

Adjournment:

The meeting adjourned at 6:46 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

Kathy Arnold, Recording Secretary