

FAMILY VIOLENCE COORDINATING COUNCIL
July 28, 2010
ROOM 14, POTOMAC BUILDING
5:00 P.M.

MEETING MINUTES

Council in Attendance: Judge Karen Abrams, Krisanne Bentley, Sheriff Tim Cameron, Kimberly Gregory, John Heldorfer, Laura Joyce, Lanny Lancaster, Dr. Kathy O'Brien, Bob Rezza, Sue Sabo, Elizabeth Schaeffer, Christina Taylor, Judge Greg Wells

Other members: Sarah Russell (SO,) Heather Bauer (Walden Sierra,) Sarah Gray (SAO)

Absent: Kathy Lacer, Nancy Luginbill, Ella May Russell,

Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order by Kathy O'Brien at 5:10 p.m.

I. Approval of Minutes:

Judge Abrams requested the Council approve the minutes from May 26, 2010. John Heldorfer seconded the motion. Council voted and the meeting minutes were approved.

Welcome: Krisanne Bentley, Commission on Women, and Judge Greg Wells, District Court, were welcomed as newly appointed members to the Council.

II. Status Reports:

Shelter Report: Will be ready for the September meeting and will be reported by Lanny Lancaster from Three Oaks Center.

SART: In-service meeting was postponed. Working with Heather Bauer at Walden Sierra on an advocacy program. Will be discussing in the future how to implement a SART Team in St. Mary's County.

Child Advocacy: Kathy O'Brien discussed child advocacy issues in the County and that statistics surrounding these issues are on the rise.

III. Committee Updates:

Multi-disciplinary Review Team Committee

Laura Joyce provided an update. They have held 3 meetings since the last FVCC meeting. The team reviewed 16 cases in April, 15 in May, 16 in June and 5 at the last July meeting. Many members of the case review team also attended the recent Lethality Assessment Program (LAP) training. Laura reported that there has been a good mix of representation at the case review meetings to include Family Advocacy, Sheriff's Office, State's Attorney's Office, and Walden Sierra. There is usually an average of 3 agencies involved in each meeting.

Heather Bauer from Walden Sierra also reported that they have seen 77 new cases in the last quarter, they normally average around 50-60, so those numbers have also increased. Of those new cases, 49 came in for counseling, 29 for anger management

Shelter Sub-Committee

Lanny Lancaster indicated the Shelter Report would be available for discussion in September.

Fatality Review Committee

Ella May Russell was absent, so no report was provided from the Fatality Review Committee.

Other Business:

Kathy O'Brien reported that she had been appointed to the Maryland State Board of Victims Services. She provided a handout that provided an overview of the Board. At the last meeting, one item of discussion was the MD Criminal Injuries Compensation Board fund and the process for using this fund to help domestic violence victims. It's a long process and doesn't really help victims with immediate needs. The Council discussed other options to provide immediate financial help for domestic violence victims to include applying for foundation dollars.

Sheriff Cameron discussed the idea of "co-locating" domestic violence professionals that would help put focus on the immediate needs of these individuals.

Judge Abrams shared a 2004 memo from Judge Bell providing direction that mediation not be used as an alternative dispute resolution option in domestic violence cases.

V. Next Meeting / Adjournment

There will be no meeting in August 2010.

Next Meeting:

The next meeting will be Wednesday, September 22, 2010 in Room 14 of the Potomac Building. Domestic Violence training will be a part of the September meeting. The Council will also discuss agenda items and objectives for the next year. The meeting is expected to last a little longer than normal, probably until 6:30 pm.

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 6:20 p.m.

Submitted by: Sue Sabo, Recording Secretary