

FAMILY VIOLENCE COORDINATING COUNCIL
April 29, 2009
ROOM 14, POTOMAC BUILDING
5:00 P.M.

MEETING MINUTES

Council in Attendance: Rona Harding, John Helldorfer, Laura Joyce, Kathy Lacer, Kathleen OBrien, Ella May Russell, Sue Sabo, Elizabeth Schaeffer, Christina Taylor, Craig Thomas, Mike Thompson and Heather Bauer for Sheriff Cameron.

Absent: Judge Karen Abrams, Tim Cameron, Lanny Lancaster, Nancy Lunginbill, Judge John Slade, James Tanavage, and Julie Yingling.

Guests: Laura Webb from Walden Sierra, Inc.

Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order by Kathleen OBrien at 5:02 p.m.

I. Approval of Minutes:

Sue Sabo requested Council approval of the March 25, 2009 meeting minutes. Elizabeth Schaeffer seconded the motion. Council voted and meeting minutes were duly approved.

II. Status Reports

Nothing reported.

III. Committee Updates:

Multi-disciplinary Review Team Committee

Laura Joyce distributed case statistics/information for the period of 7/1/08 to 3/31/09 to all team members. Laura asked team members to add any other items to the list of outcomes they felt would be beneficial. Laura stated that the multi-disciplinary review team would welcome a member of the State Police to attend the meetings.

Fatality Review Committee

Nothing reported.

IV. Pending Business:

Joint Training for FVCC Council Members and Court Commissioners

Kathleen OBrien would like to schedule training for both council members and court commissioners for Fall 2009.

Review of Documents to Determine Next Steps

a). Characteristics of an Effective Coordinated Community Response (CCR) community responses are shaped by factors unique to a community (population, size or area, available resources, etc.). Dozens of projects across the country have identified that effective community effort are identified by eight characteristics. Kathleen OBrien discussed these eight characteristics. Children remain an area of concern. Kathleen suggested putting a child advocate on the FVCC. Kathleen also suggested forming a work group which would focus on children.

V. New Business/Discussion:

a) Sheriffs Department Heather Bauer distributed a draft copy of the Office of the Sheriffs Domestic Violence policy for FVCC members for review and comment. The purpose of the policy is to establish a domestic violence protocol for the St. Marys County Sheriffs Office.

b) VARA Grant Application - Laura Webb from Walden Sierra distributed a draft summary of the VARA Project E.V.E.R. (Enhancing Victims Experiences in Recovery) to team members. The proposed project would fund a Client & Community Impact Specialist for 18 months and also fund the purchase of a Management Information System for the Impact Specialists use. The project will serve victims who contact Walden Sierra via walk in or call in to crisis counseling as well as individuals among traditionally underserved populations who statistically are at risk to having experienced domestic violence. Outcomes for the project include improved system of coordinating information and services among providers who serve victims and offer victim assistance. The projected cost of the project is \$75,000.

c). Formation of Shelter Sub-Committee

Kathleen OBrien would like to assess the current shelter situation to determine what we have and what is needed. Kathleen asked for volunteers to form the Sub-Committee. Kathleen will look for volunteers to serve on the committee.

Decker Press Release Kathleen distributed a press release regarding a domestic violence incident involving Daniel Decker. It was suggested that we do more to advertise how our agencies can provide assistance.

VI. Announcements

Domestic Violence Legislation HB 302/SB 268 passed House and Senate. Authorizes a judge entering a temporary protective order to order a respondent to surrender to law enforcement authorities any firearm in the persons possession.

Walden Sierra was selected to receive the 2009 Governors Victim Assistance Award

Lara Webb from Walden Sierra reported that a Take Back the Night event was held on Thursday, April 23, 2009 at St. Marys College. Several students shared how they have been touched by domestic violence or an assault.

VII. Next Meeting / Adjournment

Next Meeting:

The next FVCC meeting will be held on Wednesday, May 27, 2009 at 5:00 p.m. in Room 14 of the Potomac Building.

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 6:10 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted: Karen Gates, Recording Secretary