

FAMILY VIOLENCE COORDINATING COUNCIL
May 23, 2007
ROOM 14, GOVERNMENTAL CENTER
5:00 P.M.

MEETING MINUTES

Council in Attendance: Judge Karen Abrams, Tim Cameron, Rona Harding, John Helldorfer, Lanny Lancaster, Laura Joyce, Kathleen O'Brien, Paula Robinson, Ella May Russell, Sue Sabo, Elizabeth Schaeffer, Andree Wells, Julie Fouché (on behalf of Jim Tanavage), and Steven Koch (on behalf of Brian Cedar)

Absent: Brian Cedar, Jim Tanavage.

Recorder: Kathy Arnold

Prior to call to order Judge Abrams introduced Linda Grove, Family Services Coordinator, to explain the upcoming Judicial Information System Workshop on June 7, 2007, for District and Circuit Courts. The Judiciary plans to develop a statewide data base and is depending on focus groups to provide input for the data base. Linda plans to attend the workshop and invited Council Member participation.

Linda distributed information on Project Passport - recognition and enforcement of Protective Orders, for Council Members to review.

Call to Order:

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

Kathy introduced Rev. Paula Robinson. Rev. Robinson will be joining as a Council Member (application pending). Rev. Robinson is an Episcopal Priest and has been a resident of St. Mary's County for the past seven years.

Review/Approval of Minutes:

Kathy O'Brien requested Council approval of the April 25, 2007 Meeting Minutes. Council voted and meeting minutes duly approved.

Review/Discussion:

- Tracking System – Sue Sabo introduced Mark Stancliff from the County's IT Department. Sue reviewed Council's previous recommendations and changes to the tracking system. Mark addressed system questions, additional needs for the tracking system, and built in report capabilities. Mark discussed the security concerns explaining that the system offers an encrypted site with an internal server, not a public server. Access to what and who will need to be determined. Mark will make the requested changes and present the revised Tracking System at the next Council meeting.
- Kathy O'Brien distributed the May 9, 2007 Coordinated Community Response Committee meeting minutes for Council review. Also distributed was the May 8, 2007 letter from Kathy, on behalf of the FVCC, to the BOCC requesting consideration to fund the three initiatives as prioritized by the Council. Kathy reminded council members that the BOCC will vote on the final budget this Tuesday, May 29, 2007.

- Sheriff Tim Cameron reported on his meeting with Mr. David Sergeant from the Maryland Network Against Domestic Violence to review the Lethality Assessment process. Mr. Sergeant will provide the Sheriff's Office with policies and forms from other agencies using Lethality Assessment. Mr. Sergeant will conduct Train-the-trainer sessions with the Sheriff's Office and local Maryland State Police. A trial period will be established to work any problems out.
- Laura Joyce reported on the Multi-disciplinary Team Review meeting held early today's date. The team formally reviewed two cases and discussed updates on four cases. Progress has been made and services are being affectively coordinated.
- Lanny Lancaster announced the twenty (20) bed Women and Children's Shelter will open on June 1, 2007. Four connected town homes have been upgraded, painted, and refurbished. Currently two families are in need of shelter and hopes are to move them into one home ASAP.
- Data collection – Kathy discussed the human services plan being developed and the need for collective data collection. The new tracking system may be a source for the data needed. Kathy suggested forming a sub-committee. Andree Wells volunteered to serve on the sub-committee. Kathy and Laura will each dedicate a staff person and possibly Laura Grove from the Court Division. Sue Sabo suggested the FVCC consider preparing an annual report to the BOCC and present the data or stats collected in this report. Sue has attended the BOCC's budget work sessions and the commissioner's are concerned with funding outside agencies that may be duplicating services.
- The BOCC questioned if Leah's House has been invited to a FVCC meeting. Kathy requested Council input and it was decided to invite Leah's House to the next meeting.

Plans/Next Meeting:

- Tracking System presentation, Mark Stancliff, IT Department

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, June 27, 2007 at 5:00 p.m. in Room 14 at the Governmental Center.

Adjournment:

The meeting adjourned at 6:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

Kathy Arnold, Recording Secretary