

FAMILY VIOLENCE COORDINATING COUNCIL
July 9, 2008
ROOM 14, GOVERNMENTAL CENTER
5:00 P.M.

MEETING MINUTES

Council in Attendance: Judge Karen Abrams, Tim Cameron, Rona Harding, John Helldorfer, Lanny Lancaster, Kathleen Lyon, Kathleen O'Brien, Ella May Russell, Sue Sabo, Craig Thomas, Andree Wells, Julie White, Julie Yingling, Lt. Mike Thompson.

Absent: Laura Joyce, Nancy Lungenbill, Elizabeth Schaeffer, Judge John Slade, and James Tanavage,

Guests: Heather Bauer, Sheriff's Office; Christina Taylor.

Recorder: Karen Gates

Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order by Kathleen O'Brien at 5:06 p.m.

Review/Approval of Minutes:

Kathy O'Brien requested Council approval of the April 23, 2008 Meeting Minutes. Sue Sabo seconded the motion. Council voted and meeting minutes were duly approved.

Review/Discussion:

Fatality Review Committee – Kathleen O'Brien stated that the April 23, 2008 meeting seemed to focus on the many questions and concerns the team had with how our own systems worked. Some of these questions and concerns discussed were:

District Court vs. Circuit Court

Julie White explained the difference between District Court vs. Circuit Court and the legal process for a person who is arrested. After an arrest, the person is taken before a District Court commissioner who determines if probable cause exists to charge the offender. The commissioner ensures that the offender understands the charges against him/her and the possible penalties, advises him/her of their right to an attorney, advises him/her of his/her responsibilities in obtaining an attorney, decides whether the offender should be detained or released pending trial, and determines whether bail should be set. The District Court hears most cases involving traffic and boating violations, misdemeanors, certain felonies, domestic violence and peace order petitions, small claims and other civil cases involving limited dollar amounts. Cases are argued before a judge only. The Circuit Court generally hears more serious felony crimes, juvenile and other family law cases such as divorce, custody, and child support issues. Circuit court also hears domestic violence cases. Cases may involve juries or sometime are heard by a judge only.

Julie White introduced Christina Taylor. Christina will be the new Domestic Violence Prosecutor beginning August 4, 2008.

Work Release Program

Sheriff Cameron gave a brief overview on how the work release program works. Sheriff Cameron stated that a work release program allows an inmate to leave confinement to work outside and return to the detention center after his/her work shift. Another option of correctional work is a work incentive program in which the inmate is picked up by the

employer and is supervised at all times. The detention center also uses GPS units to monitor the whereabouts of an inmate while on work release; however there are very few GPS units available.

Court Commissioners

The team wanted to know what guidelines were used by a Court Commissioner when determining whether the offender 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.

Plans/Next Meeting:

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, August 27, 2008 at 5:00 p.m. in Room 14 at the Governmental Center.

Adjournment:

The meeting adjourned at 6:14 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

Karen Gates, Recording Secretary