

FAMILY VIOLENCE COORDINATING COUNCIL
October 24, 2007
ROOM 14, GOVERNMENTAL CENTER
5:00 P.M.

MEETING MINUTES

Council in Attendance: Judge Karen Abrams, Rona Harding, John Helldorfer, Laura Joyce, Kathleen O'Brien, Ella May Russell, Sue Sabo, Paula Robinson, Lanny Lancaster, Kevin McDevitt.

Absent: Tim Cameron, Brian Cedar, Elizabeth Schaffer, Kathleen Lyon, Judge John Slade, James Tanavage, Andree Wells.

Recorder: Kathy Arnold

Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order by Kathleen O'Brien at 5:01 p.m.

Review/Approval of Minutes:

Kathy O'Brien requested Council approval of the September 26, 2007 Meeting Minutes. Council voted and meeting minutes duly approved.

Review/Discussion:

- Tracking System – Kathy O'Brien reported that one meeting has been held to discuss confidentiality and access to the Tracking System. However at this time, finalizing the Tracking System access will be on hold pending the Attorney General's determination and information on protocol is established by the National Network on Domestic Violence. Final determination may take approximately ninety days.
- Additional Seats - Sue Sabo prepared the Resolution to add two additional core seats to the council; one from the Health Department and one from Parole and Probation. Sue has tentatively scheduled November 13, 2007 to request approval from the BOCC. If approved, the two additional core seats should be filled by December-January timeframe. Sue will also amend the Bylaws to reflect the changes in the Resolution.
- Lethality Assessment – Lethality Assessment Training with Dave Sergeant was held earlier this week with Law Enforcement Officers at the Sheriff's Office. Several members of Walden's Staff also attended. Protocol for Lethality Assessments will be developed.
- Multi-Disciplinary Review Team – The team has not held a meeting this month because there have been no new cases for review. Kevin McDevitt reports approximately 100 new DV cases entering the State's Attorney's office in the last few months. John Helldorfer reports 3 DV cases on average are presented to Court Commissioner's at each shift. Council discussed the number of new cases entering the Court and State's Attorney Office versus entering services.
- Laura Joyce reminded and encouraged all FVCC members to bring cases to the Multi-Disciplinary Review Team and that it is not limited to just the team members. Laura will

- expand her email notification of meetings to all FVCC members as a reminder to bring cases to the team for discussion.
- Kathy O'Brien reported that #15 DV clients received services at Walden on National Domestic Violence Count Day.
 - Fatality Review Team - Ella May Russell prepared and distributed Domestic Violence Fatality Review Team binders to council members. Ella May briefly reviewed the binder contents and requested all council members read and sign the "Letter of Agreement" and the "Confidentiality" form. Ella May suggested holding a mock DV Fatality Review at either the January or February 2008 meeting and would like to ask Dave Sergeant to attend and assist. Ella May also recommended council consider attending a DV Fatality Review in Baltimore County. Baltimore County has a very advanced Fatality Review program and has invited St. Mary's County to attend one of their reviews.
 - Sue Sabo announced the BOCC approval of December 24 and December 31, 2007 as holidays for County employees.
 - Letter/s of Support - Laura Joyce suggested council consider removing from the agenda, requests for approval of Letter/s of Support from service providers receiving grants. Council discussed how this would affect requests from service providers that are not part of the FVCC. Council will establish a protocol prior to removing it from the review and agenda process. Then Council will consider posting the protocol along with directions to apply for a letter of support on the County's Website under the FVCC link for all service providers to access.

Plans/Next Meeting:

There will be no FVCC meeting in December.

Mock DV Fatality Review is tentatively planned for the January or February 2008 FVCC meeting.

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, November 28, 2007 at 5:00 p.m. in Room 14 at the Governmental Center.

Adjournment:

The meeting adjourned at 5:44 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

Kathy Arnold, Recording Secretary