

**FAMILY VIOLENCE COORDINATING COUNCIL  
NOVEMBER 29, 2006  
ROOM 14, GOVERNMENTAL CENTER  
5:30 P.M.**

<b>MEETING MINUTES</b>
------------------------

Council in Attendance: Karen Abrams, Tim Cameron, Rona Harding, John Helldorfer, Laura Joyce, Lanny Lancaster, Kathleen O'Brien, Ella May Russell, Sue Sabo, Elizabeth Schaffer, John Slade, and James Tanavage.

Absent: Kathleen Lyon, Brian Cedar

Recorder: Kathy Arnold

Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order by Dr. Kathleen O'Brien at 5:33 p.m.

Introduction by Dr. Kathleen O'Brien:

- Introduction of council seats and other community members in attendance.
- A moment of recognition for the passing of Risë Carter. Rev. Rona Harding offered a short prayer.
- Brief explanation of the Domestic Violence Task Force that formed two years ago.
- Explanation of the recommendation and resolution of the Board of County Commissioners to pool local resources and form the Family Violence Coordinating Council, which was modeled after the State Council for Family Violence.
- Review of Core Seats on the council.

Review/Discussion:

- Council By-laws should be drafted and submitted to the Board of County Commissioners within 90 days of this meeting.
- By-law Committee includes; Sue Sabo, Kathy O'Brien, and Laura Joyce.
- Election of Chair – motion made by Rona Harding to nominate Dr. Kathleen O'Brien for Chair, Tim Cameron seconded the nomination. Members voted in favor, and Kathleen O'Brien accepted the nomination, temporarily, until the term of chairperson is decided upon by the By-laws Committee.
- Council meetings will be published via the PIO's office.
- Meetings to be held at 5:00 pm on the 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of each month, beginning January 24, 2007.
- Discussion on ways the council will tie lead agencies together. Leaders are needed to organize meetings of the lead agencies.

- Council will look into possibly developing a family violence case management information system for access by Law Enforcement, Courts, Health Department, Hospital, and State's Attorney.
- Lanny Lancaster will take the lead in forming the lead agency Multi-Disciplinary Group. Plans to hold 1-2 meetings of lead agencies prior to the January 2007 FVCC meeting.
- Jim Tanavage briefly explained the duties of the new positions at the State's Attorney's Office and introduced new employees, Julie Fouché, Assistant State's Attorney and Arnita Jones-Gerlitz, Domestic Violence Coordinator.
- State's Attorney's Office has a "No drop policy" and will pursue domestic violence cases to the fullest. Plans to add an investigator position for domestic violence cases.
- Council discussed bridging the gap with civil protective orders and prosecution.
- Council will explore possibly having a domestic violence informational video for viewing by council members and perhaps sharing the video with public schools, or other public agencies, and even public viewing on the local cable channel.

Plans/Next Meeting:

- Sue Sabo will arrange for an additional table to accommodate council members in the next meeting and reserve Room 14 for future meetings. She will provide all council members with other member contact information and will notify the PIO to publish notice of FVCC meetings.
- Draft of By-laws will be prepared for council review at January 2007 meeting.
- Multi-Disciplinary Group will meet on December 15, 2006 at 9:00 a.m. in the Leonardtown Walden Center. Group plans to meet 1-2 times before the next council meeting.
- Kathy O'Brien will arrange for a management information system demonstration at an upcoming council meeting, tentatively the February 2007 meeting.

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, January 24, 2007 at 5:00 p.m. in Room 14 at the Governmental Center.

Adjournment:

The meeting adjourned at 6:30 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

Kathy Arnold, Recording Secretary