

FAMILY VIOLENCE COORDINATING COUNCIL
October 24 2012
Carter Building
5:00 P.M.

MEETING MINUTES

Council in Attendance: Kimberly Gregory, Buffy Giddens, Rona Harding, John Helldorfer, Vickie Huss, Laura Joyce, Kathy Lacer, Dr. Kathy O'Brien, Bob Rezza, Ella May Russell

Other attendees: Ashley Croyle

Absent: Judge Karen Abrams, Bella Wright, Libby Blair, Sheriff Tim Cameron, Judge Christy Chesser, Lanny Lancaster, Sue Sabo, Elizabeth Schaeffer, Heather Bauer, Sarah Ruest

Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order at 5:06 p.m. September 26, 2012 meeting minutes were approved.

Child Advocacy:

Ella May distributed the report which included a chart of sexual abuse by age for July, August, and September. It also included a chart on the number of CAC Cases and chart on the physical abuse by age.

Multidisciplinary Team:

MDT reviewed 9 new cases and 14 existing cases. The MDT is going to extend an invitation to the hospital to have a representative become a member of the Multidisciplinary Team.

New Business:

Fatality Review: it was discussed that instead of doing a fatality review this year since there hasn't been any fatalities or near fatalities, the Multidisciplinary Team will do a presentation. They will review trends, systems, processes, etc.

DV Film: still have a few more interviews to conduct before the final editing is completed.

Legislative Review: Dr. O'Brien is going to review the issue regarding victim notification when the alleged abuser is released from jail. She wants to make sure this gets submitted for legislative review on time. The FVCC will review the proposal in more depth at the November meeting. Buffy Giddens suggested that there needs to be a central database to track if a victim has invoked their marriage rights to testify the alleged abuser. Currently there is no way to see if a victim has already done so in another county.

DV Awareness Activities: Laura Joyce did a table at CSM for sexual and dating violence at their annual activity. Ashley Croyle suggested that a "Red Carpet Premier" party be held for the DV film to help raise awareness. Laura Joyce suggested creating a committee to educate on domestic violence within the community (ex. religious leaders). Vickie Huss suggested using social networking and online communication to educate and reach out to specific groups. The FVCC decided to organize a Domestic Violence Education Committee that will focus on community education on domestic violence. Rona Harding, Vickie Huss, Laura Joyce, Kathy Lacer and Dr. Kathy O'Brien are going to participate on the DV Education Committee.

The first meeting is set-up for Wednesday, November 14th at 3 pm. The meeting will be held at the Walden Sierra in California.

Dr. Kathy O'Brien informed the FVCC that there have been several changes at the state due to personnel changes. The state has recognized that domestic violence correlates with mental illness. She also informed the council that the efforts are being re-energized; PG County is starting a lethality assessment and a hospital domestic violence program is in the works for St. Mary's County as well. The commissioners presented a proclamation for Domestic Violence Awareness month as well.

Next Meeting / Adjournment

Next Meeting: Wednesday, November at 5:00 pm-Potomac Bldg, Room #14

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 5:52 p.m.

Submitted by: Kristan Thomas, Recording Secretary