

FAMILY VIOLENCE COORDINATING COUNCIL
May 25, 2011
Room 14, Potomac Building
5:00 P.M.

MEETING MINUTES

Council in Attendance: Krisanne Bentley, Laura Joyce, Dr. Kathy O'Brien, Bob Rezza, Ella May Russell, Judge Karen Abrams, John Helldorfer, Sue Sabo, Lanny Lancaster, Bella Wright

Other attendees: Heather Bauer (Walden Sierra), Sarah Russell, Sarah Gray, Kristan Thomas

Absent: Sheriff Cameron, Kimberly Gregory, Rona Harding, Kathy Lacer, Judge Greg Wells, Nancy Luginbill, Elizabeth Schaeffer

Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order by Dr. Kathy O'Brien at 5:08 p.m.

I. Approval of Minutes:

Dr. Kathy O'Brien requested Council approval of the April 27, 2011 Meeting Minutes. The motion was seconded. Council voted and meeting minutes were duly approved.

II. Status Reports:

SART report: Heather Bauer reported that Dawn Webber, nurse coordinator, is present on the committee. The nurse from Calvert County will come to the meeting and trying to get the Charles County nurse to come as well.

Child Advocacy: Ella Mae Russell reported that the number of cases for physical abuse is 12 and for sexual abuse it is 8 cases from May 1st –May 31st.

Committee Updates:

Fatality Review Committee:

Sarah Russell provided the amended annual report for review before it goes to MD network. Next review needs to be scheduled and suggested it to be done in September.

Case Review Team (CRT)

Laura Joyce reported that there have been 16 cases total since the last meeting. There were 5 new cases and the remainder is continuing cases. Laura Joyce, Dena, and Sarah will participate in drafting criteria regarding high priority cases that should be reviewed before 2 weeks. They will set up policies and procedures on handling these high priority cases. Once complete, will have the FVCC review. The drafted letter will be sent to the council.

Other Business:

Krisanne Bentley reported that on May 23rd a copy of the CSM play was ordered. The Board of Education now has the book "Don't You Luv Me" and is in review for mandatory reading for the 9th and 10th graders. The play will also be conducted for the 9th and 10th graders. On June 6th a meeting will be held to determine the final plans. The Commission for Women will use the excess funds to purchase the books for the children. She suggested that a copy of the play be obtained for the FVCC and will check on getting a copy in the mean time.

Dr. Kathy O'Brien began the discussion of The Mediation Center coming to present to the council. The purpose of the presentation was discussed with the council. Heather Bauer elaborated as to how The Mediation Center is involved in cases in Calvert County and Charles County. Sue Sabo read the email sent by the representative from The Mediation Center.

Judge Abrams brought the concern up again regarding visiting judges sending domestic violence parties to mediation. The issue is being worked on to find the balance between the people who shouldn't be in mediation and those who should.

A copy of the response to the email from The Mediation Center will be sent to council when the draft of the letter is sent.

Sue Sabo informed the council that Judge Christy Chesser will take Judge Wells place on the council in September.

It was discussed that the next Fatality Review will be conducted in October.

Sue Sabo and Dr. Kathy O'Brien had a meeting with Laura Webb and Amy Carter regarding the informational videos to be aired on TV as well as in doctor's office lobbies along with other medical facilities. They want to work on it over the summer and would like the council to provide ideas. They are looking at doing 30-60 second bits. It was discussed that abuse of the elderly needs more attention and should be included.

Dr. Kathy O'Brien had a meeting with the governor who is now overseeing domestic violence, homicide, stalking, and grants. They asked a series of questions in which Dr. O'Brien shared with the council in order to get feedback. The problems/questions were as follows: violation of Protective Orders-enforcement, domestic abusers granted bail then attack the victim again, domestic abusers continue to abuse while on house arrest/gps tracking, cyber stalking recommendations, child visitation centers (which St. Mary's County has and Anne Arundel has the Harmony House). Judge Abrams explained how the Center for Children works for visitations as well as the option to designate a family member to supervise visitation. Although, the cost/fee of center is a hardship on families and getting appointments is also an issue. Judge Abrams and Ella Mae Russell feel that the system and resources do not meet the demand. Ella Mae will send FVCC information on the Harmony House. Dr. Kathy O'Brien requested feedback from the council to provide to the state FVC to assist in determining the standards.

Sarah Russell informed the council that Ashley Croyle will be taking her palce and will be at the Tuesday case review meeting.

It was discussed that a FVCC meeting will be held on June 22nd and there will be no meeting in July and August. The meetings will resume in September.

It was determined that The Mediation Center will present to the council in September.

Sue Sabo will contact the State's Attorney's Office to find out who will be taking Christina Taylor's place on the council.

V. Next Meeting / Adjournment

Next Meeting: Wednesday, June 22, 2011 at 5:00 pm-Potomac Bldg, Room #14

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 6:00p.m.

Submitted by: Kristan Thomas, Recording Secretary