

**FAMILY VIOLENCE COORDINATING COUNCIL**  
**May 27, 2009**  
**ROOM 14, POTOMAC BUILDING**  
**5:00 P.M.**

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

**Council in Attendance:** Judge Karen Abrams, Rona Harding, John Helldorfer, Laura Joyce, Kathy Lacer, Lanny Lancaster, Kathleen OBrien, Ella May Russell, Sue Sabo, Elizabeth Schaeffer, Christina Taylor, Craig Thomas, and Julie Yingling.

**Absent:** Tim Cameron, Nancy Lunginbill, Judge John Slade, James Tanavage, and Mike Thompson.

**Guests:** Heather Bauer, Sheriffs Office; Marguerite Morris, Leahs House

**Call to Order:**

The meeting was called to order by Kathleen OBrien at 5:02 p.m.

**I. Approval of Minutes:**

Kathleen OBrien requested Council approval of the March 25, 2009 meeting minutes. John Helderfer seconded the motion. Council voted and meeting minutes were duly approved.

**II. Status Reports**

Nothing reported.

**III. Committee Updates:**

Multi-disciplinary Review Team Committee

Heather Bauer reported on how helpful the Team meetings have been in alerting service agencies to persons in need of services who otherwise would not have been identified.

Facility Review Committee

Nothing reported.

**IV. Pending Business:**

Joint Training for FVCC Council Members and Court Commissioners

It was reported that some council member agencies would be providing training to the Court Commissioners in the fall.

**V. New Business/Discussion:**

a) Sheriffs Department Office of the Sheriffs Domestic Violence Policy will be revisited at the next meeting.

Protocols for rape/crisis Kathleen OBrien would like to review all protocols in place to establish if there are any gaps in the system. Areas of review would include, training of advocates, what systems are in place, determining needs, what services are available to the victim, more education in emergency rooms.

There has been some concern about the best use of available services in certain cases. Kathleen would like Julie Yingling, Elizabeth Schaeffer, and Heather Bauer to research statistics/practices and present to FVCC council members at next meeting.

Heather Bauer commented that St. Marys County does not currently have a Sexual Assault Response Team (SART) in place. A SART provides directions for individuals who provide services to victims of sexual assault. The SART ensures the quality and integrity of the fact-finding process used in all cases of sexual assault.

c). Formation of Shelter Sub-Committee

Lanny Lancaster, Heather Bauer, Rona Harding, and Marguerite Morris from Leahs house volunteered to serve on the Shelter Sub-Committee. Ells May Russell will ask someone from DSS to volunteer. Kathleen would like to inventory the numbers; research what happened to the women and children that the shelters have served.

**VI. Announcements**

Karen Abrams mentioned that she attending Comedy for a Cause to benefit The Southern Maryland Center for Family Advocacy on Wednesday, May 13, 2009. Karen stated the show was very entertaining and that there should be assistance provided by all of us to increase attendance when the show is scheduled again next year.

Sue Sabo mentioned that the St. Marys County Government Department of Human Resources hosted its annual Employee Wellness Day on Thursday, April 30, 2009. Cathy C. Beck from The Fleet & Family Support Center, Marlene Deal from Walden Sierra, and Heather Bauer from the Sheriffs Office participated in the event this year. Sue commented that their presence was well received by St. Marys County employees.

**VII. Next Meeting / Adjournment**

Next Meeting:

The next FVCC meeting will be held on Wednesday, June 24, 2009 at 5:00 p.m. in Room 14 of the Potomac Building.

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 6:15 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted: Karen Gates, Recording Secretary