

FAMILY VIOLENCE COORDINATING COUNCIL
October 22, 2008
ROOM 14, GOVERNMENTAL CENTER
5:00 P.M.

M E E T I N G M I N U T E S

Council in Attendance: Judge Karen Abrams, Tim Cameron, Rona Harding, John Helldorfer, Laura Joyce, Lanny Lancaster, Kathleen Lyon, Kathleen O'Brien, Sue Sabo, Elizabeth Schaeffer, Christina Taylor, Craig Thomas, Mike Thompson, Andree Wells, and Julie Yingling.

Absent: Nancy Lunginbill, Judge John Slade, Ella May Russell, and James Tanavage.

Guests: Heather Bauer, Sheriff's Office, Marguerite Morris, Leah's House. Detective Risoto from the Maryland State Police.

Recorder: Karen Gates

Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order by Kathleen O'Brien at 5:03 p.m.

I. Approval of Minutes:

Sue Sabo requested Council approval of the August 27, 2008 Meeting Minutes. Elizabeth Schaeffer seconded the motion. Council voted and meeting minutes were duly approved.

II. Status Reports/Announcements:

Kathleen O'Brien stated that Senator Barbara A. Mikulski announced that the Maryland Network Against Domestic Violence (MNADV) has been awarded a grant to take its model program, the Domestic Violence Lethality Assessment Program (LAP), nationwide.

Marguerite Morris announced that Leah's House has moved into its new location on Happyland Road in Valley Lee, MD.

III. Committee Updates

Fatality Review Committee

Kathleen stated that she would like to convene again in January 2009 to review a few serious domestic violence cases. This subject will be discussed at the next meeting.

Sheriff Cameron attended the National Law Enforcement Leadership Institute on Violence Against Women in Atlanta, Georgia this month. The IACP National Leadership Institute on Violence Against Women is an opportunity for law enforcement officers from across the country to explore innovative approaches for investigating crimes of violence against women, specifically domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking, and human trafficking. Sheriff Cameron was able to network with colleagues to share challenges and explore solutions.

Sheriff Cameron would like to develop a policy which would outline the practices and standards to prevent and address domestic violence. He will create a policy and prepare packages for each member to review at the next meeting. He would also like to survey victims about our services.

Sheriff Cameron distributed the 3rd Quarter 2008 Lethality Assessment report to FVCC members.

Multi-Disciplinary Case Review Team

Laura Joyce stated that the Review Team met in September and will continue to meet on the first Tuesday of each month. She noted that the first Tuesday in November is Election Day. Laura will follow up with all members to set an alternate date for the November meeting.

IV. New Business/Discussion

Election of new chairperson/vice-chair – Kathleen O'Brien agreed to chair the FVCC meetings for one more year.

New/Replacement Council Members – Kathleen asked team members whether or not there were any vacancies available for new members. It was suggested that a survivor of domestic violence could be asked to serve as a member.

Shelter Committee – Kathleen O'Brien stated that the Shelter Committee met last week. Members present were Kathleen O'Brien, Ella May Russell, Lanny Lancaster, Marguerite Morris, Julie Van Orden, and Jeanne Schmitt (DSS). The Committee discussed the use of *ServicePoint*, a web-based application that it enables organizations to assess, refer and track clients, coordinate care, plan and manage programs, gather statistics and share data with others in real-time. Currently Leah's House and Walden Sierra do not have access to this data. Lanny stated that Three Oaks Center is using the system as well as several other counties. He stated that some agencies in other states such as Louisiana, Wisconsin, Minnesota, and New Jersey are also using the system. In order to access the system, each user must have a license. Licenses are \$250 for each user. Julie Yingling stated that she would like the Sheriff's Office to have access to the system. Kathleen stated the Shelter Committee will hold a follow up meeting on Tuesday, October 28, 2008 and will discuss how to best utilize the system.

Questions for Court Commissioners - Laura Joyce distributed the list of questions the team developed at the last meeting. It was agreed that the team would review the Commissioner Manual to eliminate the questions that can be answered. The remaining questions will be submitted in writing to David Weissert, Coordinator of Commissioner Activities.

Sue Sabo will email all team members the link to the Commissioner Manual. The team will review the Manual at the next meeting to eliminate any of our questions that can be answered.

V. Adjournment / Next Meeting

Next Meeting:

There will be no meeting on Wednesday, November 26, 2008 or Wednesday, December 24, 2008. The next meeting will be held on **Wednesday, December 3, 2008** at 5:00 p.m. in the **Commissioners new meeting room in the Chesapeake Building** located at 41770 Baldrige Street (next to the Governmental Center Building).

The January 2009 meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, January 28, 2009.

Adjournment:

The meeting adjourned at 5:50 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

Karen Gates, Recording Secretary

