

DHS Domestic Violence Council
September 20, 2005
Facilitator: Sarah McDowell

Members Present: Carol Krager; Dave Flock; Rhonda Cully; Jayne Downing; Kym Lamb; LeAnn Mederios; Susan Hughes; Julia Olsen; Mary Oschwald; Carri Ramsey; Stephanie Merhib; Carolyn Palacios (for Ruth Scofield); Sarah McDowell; Lorena Navarez; Kate Blackman; Allison Wilson; and Judy Wahl-Talley.

Members Absent: Jennifer Holland; Ardy Birkmeyer; Theresa Guerrero; Bonnie Braeutigam; Julie Davie; Ruth Scofield; and Naomi Steenson.

Assignments:

- Sarah will contact Noelia to see if she can make a presentation at a future meeting
- Carol will respond to Patricia Feeny on “Quality Assurance” vs other measurements
- Susan will write up draft procedures for responding to “when we hear negative things about DHS”
- Carol will invite Sybil to do a legislative report out at the next meeting
- Carol will ask Naomi to present on the GAO
- Carol will contact Jerry Burns about Allison attending SDA 2 meeting
- We will celebrate Ruth at our next meeting. Wear Red, her favorite color!
- Carol will resend info on “regional briefing” – send her info on what is happening across DHS related to DV.

Team building Activity:

Sharing:

- Chair shared requests/info from Directors office:
 - A group wants 90 minute interviews with DV survivors for a study. DHS may be making survivors aware of the interviews and the opportunity to participate. Sarah shared this may be a study on victims in the workplace.
 - Possibly have their grant manager (Noelia Hernandez-Valdovinos; 888-560-6877; 503-317-4575) come speak at council meeting.
 - Are quality standards congruent with DHS DV Standards?
 - Response to letter: there are a variety of measurements. DV Standards are one of many tools and options. We did not consider other measurement tools.

- Carri: is on call with Red Cross to go help with Katrina.
- SDA 2 committee work: Carol distributed handout on the activities of this group and asked that committee members bring in information on similar happenings around the state. Jayne and Carol are attending these meetings.
- Bonnie did not get the grant to continue to have advocates in rural programs.
- Carol brought copies of the GAO study that showed that Health and Human Services (HHS) should provide better guidance on screening for DV in TANF programs. Contact Carol if you want the link. Only 5 other states have anything like TADVS – Alabama, Arizona, Iowa, Florida & Utah.

Discussion:

What do we do when we hear things about DHS?

- Local management team would hear first, then if problem wasn't resolved, they would go farther. Does the council have a responsibility to say things when the group hears things? (i.e. should the council correct misperceptions, etc...maybe people don't realize there is a formal complaint procedure within DHS). This should be handled on a case by case basis.
1. **Make certain someone calls to follow up and verify that someone tells the person the complaint process.**
 2. **The council will draft a list of contacts and numbers for general complaints.**
 3. **Susan Hughes will draft a position paper on what the council will do in these circumstances by October's meeting. Jayne & Carol will present to Barry.**
 4. **Maybe a presentation on GAO and what they do? Their internal processes.**

Trauma Council report-out:

LeAnn left them a card and asked them to call her if they had questions: Carol distributed the draft policy. One of their partners may be interested in being a part of the council. Send comments to Carol if you see something that doesn't fit within our standards.

Update on Governor's DV Council:

- Carol handed out the public hearing testimony from July. Carol will be going to a forum in the Umatilla tribe on the reservation (they have really good training on history of tribes in Oregon).

- The public testimony is of a victim who said she came to OR from ID because of the child support laws (specifically good cause) in Oregon being friendlier to DV survivors.

Updates on standards of training:

- SDA 2 is designing their own training, and Carol made certain they knew about the DV Standards and Kim gave them the Standards.
- Child welfare does not currently have point persons. SDA 2 is rethinking how point people might be used in CW
- They are designing their own flier and complaint process.
- The director's office might be able to encourage local offices to look to the standards.
- CW moral gets low because they have the perception that so many of their cases nexus in DV and they feel like the script is exactly the same.
- There is an 80% no show percentage for SDA CW point persons at quarterly partnership meetings. SDA managers had requested point people from CW and SS attend the meetings. Carol will follow-up with SDA managers. SPD decided not to appoint point persons. They have APS workers.
- **Email Jerry about Allison going to SDA 2 meetings. Next meeting on 10/28/05, 9 am to 11 am at the Ladd street.**
- **One page DV Standards brief**

Hardy Myers: Batterer Intervention Standards:

Purpose: to help insure the safety of women & children. To help insure the batterer intervention component will have as high a standard as we can achieve of impacting the behavior of batterers.

DV has such lethal potential; the stakes involved are great.

These standards will be administrative rules: thus they will be law. They haven't come up with a mandate for compliance. Judges choices of programs will be shaped by whether or not programs are complying with standards.

Key controversial issues:

1. Gender specificity—rules are specifically for male batterers. Decision generated a lot of controversy.

2. Length of programs
3. Grandfathering current instructors
4. Polygraphs
5. Separate alcohol/drug standards
6. Couples counseling: standards prohibit offering as batterer intervention
7. Prohibition of batterers becoming counselors in BIP's.
8. Definition of victim: was challenged by various responders b/c it is a woman. Batterer cannot be considered a victim.

Goal: Release Batterer Intervention standards in October and formalize before the end of the year, making this valid at the beginning of the year.

Currently there are Batterer intervention recommendations. Some counties have standards but nothing state wide.

If we want the committee members, we can send him a card & address.

He is open to questions or comments, etc...

There is no current enforcement mechanism. Enforcement will come primarily via judges. It appears that there is a heightened interest in DV& sexual assault.

He distributed draft standards and invited comments: ok to respond directly to him.

BIPs are independent and independently funded.

Report Outs:

Standards committee:

(Kate-chair)

- The draft of the self-assessment is complete. Dave will ask Jerry Burns to do the pilot tomorrow.
- Julia will draft letter to SDA 2, thanking them for working on DV training curriculum.

Training committee:

- First pilot of train the trainer session completed on time: "working with victims". Seven people came and it seemed very positive.
- Today the committee completed evaluation questions for people who attended training.

Conference Committee

- They cannot go forward until they speak to the coalition to find out if they can be a part of someone else's conference. They are trying to give information on why we would be a good conference partner. They will be meeting with the coalition group to find out if we can work with them. They will report back what they find out at meeting with coalition.

There is a need for a membership committee: volunteers— Rhonda & Allison

Judy volunteered to do snacks next time.

Team building volunteer (Carolyn Palacios): Call Judy & regarding snacks—cake.

Agenda items:

- Batterers intervention speaker (LeAnn potential recidivism speaker—Don Chapin?); Umatilla tribe person; Support enforcement division;
- DV Awareness month activities.
- Jayne will facilitate a take care of yourself night/movie night/etc... Carol has offered to let a few people stay at her place if they don't get per diem.
- Legislative bill update? Carol will ask Sybil Hebb.
- DV awareness month update.
- Carol will report on her clerical reception training.
- Jayne's experience with survivors calling who are affiliated with DHS: they told her they didn't want anyone to know because they were embarrassed.

Next meeting:

October 18, 2005 - 9:00AM to 4:00PM
4074 Winema Place - Building 53
Upstairs SDA 3 Conference Room
Salem, OR