

DHS Domestic Violence Council

Meeting Minutes

March 15, 2005

Members Present: Carol Krager, Ruth Scofield, Jayne Downing, Jennifer Holland, Dave Flock, LeAnn Mederios, Kym Lamb, Lorena Navarez, Sarah McDowell, Rhonda Culley, Ardy Birkmeyer, Theresa Guerrero, Mary Oswald, Bonnie Braeutigam, Julie Davie, Susan Hughes

Update on Standards Progress

- T** Jennifer reported that at her local welfare supervisors meeting they took issue with only holding the abuser accountable and not the victim because they felt the victim should be accountable for the safety of her children. (Council recommended we leave “as is”—it is a training issue) The field is hoping we are moving towards a model where we are looking at the mother and the children as one unit.
- T** Bonnie reported that most CW groups were interested in how the standards would be implemented.
- T** Carol reported we got the most feedback from Chiquita Rollins, Family Violence Coordinating Council, and various individuals in Multnomah. Most feedback was positive and people wanted to know next steps. Staff wanted the standards to be integrated; not a stand alone. HR liked the standards as is. Chiquita wanted the standards to be more specific and to incorporate demonstration of certain objectives. Partner evaluation and partner feedback were some of the tools mentioned. When evaluating contracts, look at how proposals look at working with DV clients. Carol commented: It would be respectful to respond to some of the comments in a Q&A format. The policy subcommittee will take this on. Our advocates consider the practice the problem—not the policy. Encourage cross-training between advocates and agency policy and practice. Carol has noticed she is getting more new staff in her DV training. An intern working in Chiquita’s office is developing training materials for ‘DV advocates about child welfare and domestic violence. She is designing materials that will be available on the website. Carol and Jayne are meeting with Barry this week to share with him the preliminary results. By the end of April, we are hoping the standards will go back to cabinet.

Update Governor’s DV Council

The March meeting was cancelled. Carol distributed the minutes on the Gresham public hearing. April 1 is scheduled to be the strategic planning meeting. The Governor’s Council works parallel with the Alliance—shelved the Advocate Privilege Bill. The compromising issue was mandatory reporting. Should we look at this issue as a council? Do we need to do research in this area? The video and pamphlet are the consistent components in the state mandatory reporting training. Should we be developing “train the trainer” materials to assure more consistency? Does this include the elderly or disabled population? There is information about mandatory reporting on the web—it includes a matrix of various types of mandatory reporting.

Structure Committee Proposal

Kym distributed the final updated duties of the Council Chair, Co Chair, Facilitator, committee chairs and ex-officio members. Adopted by consensus.

Recruitment & Membership

Theresa - wants to stay
Jayne - wants to stay
Julia - ?
Carol - wants to stay
Ardie - wants to stay
Kym - willing
Jennifer - willing
Carri - will stay if people want her to
LeAnn - willing - may be leaving DHS
Dave - willing

The Council will send out recruitment letters in April for DHS recruitment to see if we can get some more diversity into the group. Carol and Jayne will talk to Barry about cabinet sending out something supporting staff taking on a council position. Current diversity of membership includes urban and rural representation, management/line staff representation, central office and field representation. The Council needs more gender, discipline and cultural diversity representation.

Catholic Charities - Immigration Services (Betsy Simpkins)

- T** Non-profit organization that provides state-wide services for immigration. They serve low income immigrants. Only do immigration law. They have two attorneys and two representatives. Currently they have 1500 open cases. DV services - 2.5 FTE. Toll Free number for immigrants statewide.
- T** Focus today is on immigration laws that impact immigrant DV victims. Betsy brought flyers. "Basic Immigration Rules", DV Self Screener for Immigrant, U-Visa, VAWA, Betsy reviewed the packet of materials with the group. VAWA - Violence Against Women Act (for men also). LPR - lawful permanent resident (someone who has a green card) USC - United States Citizen. Green card allows you to work and come to the US for a specific purpose. VISA - non immigrant status. Removal (deportation) U-Visa is for victims of crime.
- T** Family immigration is a two step process.
 - General Immigration**
 - Step One - I-130 - to establish relationship (petitioner owns)
 - Step Two - J485 (Green card)
 - VAWA**
 - Step One - I-360 (victim owns) (once approved—can get a work permit)
 - Step Two - J-485 (Green card)
- T** People can get deported for DV.. How do you prove good faith marriage: kids, joint checking account, letters from friends? VAWA applications are filed in Vermont.

- T** U-VISA (for people who are victims of crime who do not qualify for self petitioning)
- T** DHS staff can assist clients with this immigration process by helping them gather documents, encourage them to petition for VAWA

Communication Subcommittee

Discussed how to get information out statewide (new system where people can subscribe on-line) The subcommittee will check into this.

Council Enhancement Subcommittee

Will be working on recruitment issues.

Policy & Practices Subcommittee

This subcommittee will meet between now and April to incorporate the suggestions into the document.

Practice/Training/Workforce Development DV

- T** Next steps for training. Train the trainer for local DV partners. Talked about sending DV providers a survey regarding our intent to look at next steps for needed training. Ask if they would be interested—would they come. Would they train for free or would they charge. List standard contents for which items should be included in each of the trainings. Phone survey.
- T** We need to assess what impact our DV training is having—attitudes, changes in practices. Skill challenge for a netlink.
- T** Carol will be sending out a follow up survey for her trainings. Staff will receive an hour's training time for completing the follow up survey.

Next Meeting is scheduled for April 19, 2005, 4074 Winema Place, Salem, OR, SDA-3 Conf Rm

Agenda items

- T** Committee Reports
- T** Local Plans

Team Building: Jennifer

Snacks: Mary

Education/Training: Theresa will arrange for a presentation on sexual assault.

Discussion Items:

- T** How will we disseminate standards once they are approved? Next steps, implementation. Carol will ask Barry his ideas about implementation. Also, how does it fit into the eight management competencies.
- T** Design staff evaluations on their DV trainings—how does one change their heart? Attitudes? Check with health care field—they have sent out these kinds of evaluations. Self Assessment?