

Minutes of the National Advisory Committee on Violence Against Women Spring Meeting

Date and Time

Thursday, April 24, 2003, 9:00am to 5:00pm

Friday, April 25, 2003, 9:00am to 3:00pm

Location

The Department of Health and Human Services

Hubert H. Humphrey Building

200 Independence Avenue, SW

Room 800

Washington, DC 20201

Meeting Participants (in attendance)

(1) Advisory Committee Members

Rhonda Arena

Michael Bedke

Hon. Barbara Black

Sheriff Michael Bouchard

Hon. Michael Brennan

Lydia Chassaniol

Hon. Sharon Cooper

Anne Crichton Crews

Barbara Dehl

Rosemary Elebash

Pamela Galbraith

Dr. Joxel Garcia

Peter Garza

Lt. Det. Margot Hill

Det. Gerald Lee Issacs

Mary Lauby

Dianna Lightfoot

Dr. Elizabeth McCord

Rev. Aldean Miles

Dr. Beverly Nuckols

Nancy Pfothenauer

Vernadette Ramirez Broyles

Delilah Rumburg

Greer Saunders

Sherolyn Smith-De Santis

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(II) Federal Employees

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

Dr. Cristina V. Beato
Frances Ashe-Goins
Dr. Wanda Jones
Josephine Robinson
Diedra Henry

U.S. Department of Justice

Diane M. Stuart
Catherine Pierce
Omar A. Vargas
Kristina Rose
Lauren Nassikas
Nadine Neufville
Andrew Schauder

(III) Members of the Public Who Presented Oral or Written Statements

Oral Statements

Carey Tradewell Monreal, Milwaukee Women's Center
Corey Jenson, Men's Health Network
Stanley Green, Stop Abuse for Everyone
David Burroughs, Forum for Equity and Fairness in Family Issues
Thomas Golden, Public Citizen

Written Statements

Karen Baker, National Sexual Violence Resource Center
David Burroughs, Forum for Equity and Fairness in Family Issues (statement included materials from various sources on domestic violence)
Corey Jenson, Men's Health Network

Other

There were approximately fifteen members of the general public in attendance.

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Matters Discussed

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1. Cristina V. Beato, M.D., Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary of Public Health, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, opened the meeting with welcoming remarks. Dr. Beato highlighted the Silent Witness Project, a public awareness initiative, which represents deaths due to domestic violence. Diane M. Stuart, Acting Director of the Office on Violence Against Women, U.S. Department of Justice, followed with additional welcoming remarks. Ms. Stuart asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the National Advisory Committee on Violence Against Women meeting from February 20th and 21st. The Committee voted to approve the minutes.

2. Rev. Dr. Anne Marie Hunter, Executive Director, Safe Havens Interfaith Partnership Against Domestic Violence in Boston, Massachusetts, described the organization's founding and approach to creating systemic change in how domestic violence is addressed by providing education, resources, advocacy, and technical support to improve access to services. Safe Havens works to promote responsible action, foster leadership, and generate public policy in order to encourage coherent community collaborations and responses to domestic violence. Rev. Cheryl Albert, Director of Programming, discussed Safe Havens' Family Violence Prevention Project, which provides training for clergy on addressing domestic violence as a spiritual leader and service provider. A short period of questions and answers followed.

3. Don McPherson, Executive Director, Sports Leadership Institute, Adelphi University, discussed his organization's work educating young men and male athletes about men's roles in preventing violence against women. Mr. McPherson discussed teaching young boys and men that violence against women is a men's issue. He spoke of how culture and society have affected male behavior and views of women and how this can be changed to create a different sense of what being a man or masculine means. A short period of questions and answers followed.

4. Public Comment Session

Carey Tradewell Monreal, President and CEO of the Milwaukee Women's Center spoke of the services provided by the Milwaukee Women's Center, the importance of including men in domestic violence prevention, and the need to provide services for male and older female survivors of domestic violence.

Corey Jenson, representing the Men's Health Network, spoke of the importance of VAWA funding for services for male victims of domestic violence. He also discussed the need to create programs that are specifically tailored to the needs of male victims.

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Stanley Green, representing Stop Abuse for Everyone, addressed the need to recognize that survivors of domestic violence include heterosexual men, as well as gay and lesbian individuals. Mr. Green then shared his story as a survivor of domestic violence and the hurdles he faced with advocacy organizations, police, the criminal justice system, and health care providers.

David Burroughs, Chair of the Forum for Equity and Fairness in Family Issues and a member of the Cecil County Family Violence Committee and the Delaware Domestic Violence Task Force, shared statistics on the numbers of male victims of domestic violence.

Thomas Golden, a psychotherapist in Montgomery County, Maryland addressed the lack of services for male victims of domestic violence in his community. He focused on the need to have shelters for male victims.

5. The Committee received reports from the subcommittees and working groups.

(A) The Working Group on Business discussed how to involve the business community more effectively in addressing domestic violence. The working group discussed their strategies for connecting with individual businesses and business associations to promote best practices among the business community on domestic violence in the workplace. Additionally, the group discussed the possibility of a fund raising event with the business community during Domestic Violence Awareness Month to support domestic violence shelters and rape crisis centers. The initiative is intended to encourage stronger participation and to highlight the positive steps that the business community is taking.

(B) The Education Working Group discussed elements of the charge. The Working Group focused on bringing local communities together to help educate children on the issue of domestic violence, the role that male educators and students can play in addressing domestic violence, and how the federal government can promote healthy relationships. The Working Group also discussed their interest in expanding “Students Against Violence” organizations on a national level.

(C) The Faith-Based Working Group discussed the development of a white paper for spiritual leaders that would include background information on domestic violence, the impact of violence on survivors, the criminal and civil justice ramifications, and the role that spiritual leaders could play in addressing domestic violence in their local communities.

(D) The Criminal Justice System Working Group discussed the creation of a white paper that would include information from prosecutors addressing the elements of evidence-based prosecution, an explanation of the role that judges may play in monitoring abusers and community oversight programs.

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(E) The State and Local Governments Working Group discussed the importance of addressing domestic violence with no additional funding from state and local governments. The working group spoke of using city councils to raise community awareness, requiring locally elected officials to receive domestic violence training, and the development of local comprehensive resource directories of domestic violence services. The working group also discussed the need for local law enforcement and criminal justice systems to enforce already existing domestic violence laws.

(F) The Media Working Group discussed the need for a presidential/first family message about family violence, screening correctional facility inmates to determine whether they are in abusive relationships, and combining recognized public health programming with domestic violence programming.

(G) The Mental and Physical Health Working Group discussed looking at violence using a medical model that also incorporated inter-generational violence. The Working Group shared the steps it has taken to formulate their white paper: collecting research on violence; discussing the importance of screening entire families and not only the identified patient; documenting effective programs; and training mental and physical health professionals.

(H) The Sports and Entertainment Working Group discussed the development of a white paper which would address the role of men in ending violence. The working group will look at existing campaigns in sports and entertainment to use as models when developing a campaign against family violence. The working group also focused on the importance of involving figures in sports and entertainment who have not been perpetrators. Members also discussed the need to address programming for children that sensationalizes violence.

The National Advisory Committee, as a whole, discussed collaboration with outside businesses and agencies.

6. During a working lunch there was a presentation by Dr. Wanda Jones, Office of Women's Health, Department of Health and Human Services. Dr. Jones introduced staff from the Department of Health and Human Services working in the field of domestic violence. Dr. Jones discussed violence against women as a health issue and the work of the Office of Women's Health in funding academic health centers, centers of excellence in women's health, and community health service organizations. Dr. Jones also discussed the Office's efforts to combat other types of disease that are prevalent among women. A short question and answer session followed.

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7. Secretary of Health and Human Services Tommy Thompson, Co-Chairman of the National Advisory Committee on Violence Against Women, addressed the Committee. Secretary Thompson discussed health care efforts in Afghanistan. He then related the work in Afghanistan to efforts in the United States to combat domestic violence. He highlighted different Health and Human Services programs that researched domestic violence and provided services to victims. Secretary Thompson discussed the National Violence Against Women Survey, the CDC's National Sexual Violence Resource Center, and other HHS Programs. A short question and answer session followed.

8. The Committee then convened as working groups to conduct working group business. After the conclusion of the working group meeting, the full Committee held a brief discussion commemorating Sexual Assault Awareness Month.

9. The Committee adjourned until 9:00am, April 25, 2003.

Friday, April 25, 2003

1. Dr. Beato opened the meeting and clarified earlier statistics presented by a public speaker regarding the number of male victims of domestic violence.

2. Dr. Rodney Hammond, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), then spoke about work being done by the CDC in the areas of monitoring and tracking domestic violence. These include the National Violence Against Women Survey and the National Electronic Surveillance Survey System, fostering community prevention efforts by providing funding through the Rape Prevention and Education Grant Program, and addressing the attitudes and norms that perpetuate violence through the development of a national campaign. A short question and answer session followed.

3. Jerry Silverman, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation at the Department of Health and Human Services spoke about the Greenbook Initiative. The Greenbook Initiative provides recommendations for child protective services, domestic violence agencies, and dependency courts on community collaboration in the fields of domestic violence and child maltreatment. Mr. Silverman addressed links between child abuse and domestic violence and current existing work and funding that brings the two communities together.

4. After a short break, the meeting resumed with a presentation by Gael Strack, Assistant City Attorney for the City of San Diego. Ms. Strack oversees the San Diego Family Justice Center which offers a victim-friendly, victim-centered response and community collaboration for victims of domestic violence. The Family Justice Center attributes its success to providing victims of domestic violence with a "one-stop shopping" approach to meeting their criminal

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justice, medical, community, and social service needs. A short question and answer session followed.

5. The Committee convened as working groups to continue working group business.
6. The Committee reconvened to receive reports from the working group meeting held earlier in the day.

(A) The Education Group is comprised of three working groups: sports and entertainment, media, and education for the present and perhaps permanently. The group shared four goals: to develop a media strategy; to develop a TV executive, celebrities, and film industry group; to form a sports figures and celebrities group; and to research and catalog already existing campaigns and public service announcements.

The full committee discussed the need for Working Group to meet before the next scheduled full committee meeting.

(B) The Faith-Based working Group of the Prevention Subcommittee presented on their responses to the charge. Their next step will be to compile a single report based on these responses.

7. Attorney General John Ashcroft addressed the Committee. Attorney General Ashcroft discussed the work of the Department of Justice and Department of Health and Human Services to combat domestic violence. He focused on the President's initiative "Advancing Justice Through DNA Technology", the need for coordinated community responses to domestic violence, and the over-arching goal of helping victims control their lives rather than be controlled by the abuse they experienced.

8. The Working Group continued giving reports.

(C) The Criminal Justice Working Group will develop five papers that focus on the role of courts and judges, prosecutors, police, reentry, and legislation. They are also finishing a white paper on recommended model policies and best practices.

9. The Committee adjourned at 3:00pm.

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Reports or Other Documents Received, Issued, or Approved by the Committee

1. Received and Considered:

- (A) U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Office on Women's Health, "One Department: Overview of Activities on Violence Against Women"
- (B) U.S. Department of Justice Bureau of Justice Statistics, "Intimate Partner Violence"
- (C) Milwaukee Women's Center, Program Materials
- (D) Milwaukee Women's Center Position Paper on Older Abused Women
- (E) Milwaukee Women's Center Position Paper on Men's Services
- (F) Safe Havens Interfaith Partnership Against Domestic Violence, Program Materials
- (G) Family Violence Prevention Fund's Brochure, "Coaching Boys Into Men"
- (H) National Women's Health Information Center, "A Lifetime of Good Health"
- (I) Good Housekeeping, "A Mother's Warning: 'The Guy Is Going to Kill My Daughter,'" April, 2003
- (J) The Albuquerque Journal, "Cause For Alarm," April, 2003
- (K) U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, "The President's Initiative and HHS"
- (L) U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, The Greenbook Initiative, Program Materials

2. Issued: None

3. Approved: None

I hereby certify that, to the best of my knowledge, the foregoing minutes are accurate and complete.

/s/ Diane M. Stuart
Diane M. Stuart
Director
Office on Violence Against Women

National Advisory Committee on Violence Against Women
Designated Federal Official