# DHS Domestic Violence Council Meeting Minutes

**January 25, 2005** 

**Members Present:** Carol Krager, Ruth Scofield, Jayne Downing, Carrie Ramsey, Jennifer Holland, Dave Flock, LeAnn Mederios, Kym Lamb, Susan Hughes, Jennifer Holland, Lorena Navarez, Sarah McDowell, Rhonda Culley, Naomi Steenson, Ardy Birkmeyer, Julie Davie, Theresa Guerrero, Julia Olsen,

Assignments: (1) The goal is to get on these various group agendas by the end of February to present draft Quality Assurance Standards (QAS). (2) Submit questions regarding QAS to the Policy Committee. (3) Ruth was asked to e-mail diversity standards to the council members. (4) Committee chairs-goal planning charts—Assignment: Ruth will send electronically to committee chairs; (5) Members decision to leave or stay—by March 2005 meeting; (6) Jayne will arrange presentation by Sable House.

## **Update on Standards**

- Carolyn brought hard copies of the Quality Assurance Standards and distributed them to Council members. Barry & Gary approved release of the draft standards, Gary signed the cover letter and it has been sent out to DHS staff. Carol read several comments that have been sent in—one on senior abuse and another on sexual assault—how are we addressing these?
- Carol suggested that DV Council members be willing to present the standards at groups that request this or for groups that we would like to present it to. Carol asked members to develop talking points. **Suggestions:** Presentations on comments/implementation? (1 hour net-link for implementation)
- (Dr. Mason/Exec Committee/LeAnn); (local DV bodies/All); (Diversity Council/Ruth); (DV partners/Theresa); (Adult Protective Services/abuse group/Carol); (AAA/SPD managers/Naomi); (Coalition board mtg/Theresa); (Gov Council–LeAnn/Julia); (CW Managers/Bonnie); (SDA Managers/SS Program Managers/Dave/Jayne); (Exec team for each cluster/Barry?); (VR/ Carol); (Co Health Dept/Shawn Clark (Carol will contact)); (Field Policy Committee/Carol/Sue Ford); (OMAP-Carol/Roger); (Contracts/Carol); (Union Stewards/Jennifer); (Tri-County Area/Exec Directors/Sarah/Kym); (Coordinating Council/Kym/Julie/Sarah); (Line Managers–Rhonda). Assignment: The goal is to get on these various group agendas by the end of February.
- What are members to present to the above groups? (1) Current statistical information (Carol's stats) and the (2) Overview plus objectives. (Dave will combine this into 1 or 2 pages and send to Ruth by the end of the week.
- (1) Members asked the overview/objectives be posted on web with full document/Carol)
  (2) summaries could be distributed locally; (3) DHS managers to use as a tool to discuss with staff
- **T** Carol distributed Annual Performance Report for 2003/2004.
- **T** Next Meeting—review who all the DV Standards were presented to. Should we develop

a Q&A? How will this document be used? **Assignment:** Submit the questions to the Policy Committee. Assurance Standards are different than policies. It takes time to raise to that level. We work toward the standards. We will ask Barry/Gary about how they see the implementation throughout DHS. **Assignment:** Ruth was asked to e-mail diversity standards to the council members.

**Working with DV Survivors with Disabilities - Anne Arthur** (Regional Research Institute, PSU)

- **T** Psychiatric disabilities: these people are often targeted for abuse
- Thinking about disabilities/stereotypes. The group brainstormed the following list: weak, slow, low intelligence, dependent, lonely, unable to work, want sympathy, need someone to advocate for them—don't know what they need, parentalism, passive, lack credibility----all negative. People are sometimes more disabled by our reaction than by their own disability.
- **Stats**: 83% of disabled women have been abused (half have been assaulted more than 10 times); 1 out of 3 disabled men have been abused; 62% women with disabilities will experience abuse in their lifetime and 65% men with disabilities will experience abuse in their lifetime.
- Reasons people with disabilities don't report: (1) Dependent on the abuser for care or financially; (2) Care givers need their job—don't want to rat on other staff; (3) Institutions don't want it reported—want to show low abuse rates for their institutions; and (4) Not many presentations or advocacy going on for people in institutions or disabled.
- **T Perpetrators** many times are family members, health care providers, care givers (more people are intimately involved in your life when you are disabled)
- **Types of abuse**: (1) physical; (2) sexual; (3) disability-related--medicine manipulation, under medicating, humiliating, stealing medication, psychiatric abuse, destroying or withholding assistance devices and isolating.
- **Other kinds of abuse**: (1) Threatening to have a person institutionalized; (2) verbal abuse—no one else will take care of you or want you; (3) Threaten to have children removed; (4) neglect; (5) financial abuse; (6) sexual abuse; (7) extreme control and isolation; (8) murder/suicide; (9) live with it all your life—grown old with it)
- **Barriers**: People who are disabled are/have: (1) Isolated; (2) marginalized; (3) ignored; (4) have care givers who are essential to their care; (5) Added embarrassment and shame; (6) lack of credibility; (7) History of psychiatric disorders—they are not believed or deemed to be reliable; (8) Vicious cycle; (9) Lack of accessibility to community resources; (10) Lack of transportation options; (11) Fear of being institutionalized; (12) Fear of losing children; (13) Mandatory reporting;
- What gives us Hope: (1) Each of us can make a difference; (2) There is more help now; (3) More awareness now; (4) Posters/bookmarks; (5) disability hotline; (6) National program for nurses to work with people with disabilities.
- Anne and the staff in her office are happy to come to groups and meetings to conduct this training.
- All Anne's handouts can be downloaded and local information added. Anne will e-mail all handouts electronically to everyone who signed up on her sheet.

(Committee chairs-goal planning **charts–Assignment**: Ruth will send electronically to committee chairs)

## **Council Enhancement SubCommittee (Kym)**

- Handouts--Mentorship Program for new members/Duties for Members/Rotation of Membership. Please get comments back to Kym by the 10<sup>th</sup>.
- **T** Jennifer will connect with Carol a week before the next meeting.
- Begin personal outreach for new members. Members term ending in June: Theresa, Jane, Mary, Julia, Carol, Ardy, Kym, Dave, Jennifer, Carri, LeAnn. **Assignment:** Members decision to leave or stay-by **March 2005 meeting**.

#### Practice/Training/Workforce Development Subcommittee (Ardy)

**T** Reviewed training survey. Discussing next steps: How and what to deliver in training.

#### Policy & Practice Subcommittee - Julia

**T** Review Current DHS policies and compare with Quality Assurance Standards

#### **Communication Subcommittee - Dave**

- **T** Migrate current DHS website to DAS website.
- **T** Newsletter–questionable Maybe do hot topics page on web site instead once a quarter.

**Meeting Facilitator for Next Six Months:** LeAnn

**Snacks:** Susan **Ice Breaker**: Ardy

**Local Provider:** Sable House (1:15 - 1:45)

**Report back on QAS presentations** 

**Update:** Union Shelter Executive Director resigned. Opening. (LaGrande)

#### **Next Meeting:**

Feb. 15, 2005 9:00-4:00 SDA 3 Conference Room - Upstairs 4074 Winema Place Salem, OR