

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE LEGAL NETWORK

Minutes

April 25, 2012

Present: Jan Biresch (Montgomery County Commission on Women and Families, Domestic Violence Literacy), Wallis Brooks (District Attorney's Office), Marcus Christmas (Laurel House), Linda Connell (The Open Line), Mark Flanders (Pottstown Police Department), Denise Flynn (Women's Center of Montgomery County), Chuck Gallun (Creative Health Services), Michael Kehs (Court Administration), Gary Kline (Domestic Relations), Carolyn Maaskant (Prothonotary Office), Susan Strong (Legal Aid), Stacy Sweinhart (Laurel House)

I. Welcome and Introductions

Michael has contacted most of the core entities to invite as members of DVLN. OCY, MDJ and Sheriff's Department will be joining us in September. Welcome to Gary Kline, Director of Montgomery County Domestic Relations.

II. Minutes

A correction was made to January 2012 minutes changing Beverly White to Beverly Jackson. Motion to approve, seconded and accepted.

III. Treasurer's Report

Accepted as presented.

IV. Old Business

Information Packets/Brochures

Jan reported the Commissioners are supporting the brochure project. There are 21 brochures to review. Their next meeting is in June. Gary will email information on his office to Jan.

Fatality Review Committee

Sue reported the committee has completed 1 case. Looking to review another over the summer. At some point the committee will be presenting a final report and recommendations to DVLN.

Website

Michael shared the progress being made on our website which is still in development. Pages will include emergency contact info, membership, meeting minutes/agendas, Fatality Review Committee,

publications and brochures and contact us. Additional suggestions included adding an escape button, calendar of events and culturally diverse picture.

Pottstown PD, MCCWF and The Open Line need to send website info to Michael.

Stalking

Walli states she offers training on stalking at the academy in the fall. Attendees include law enforcement, probation and victim service agencies.

Denise will follow up with Women Center court advocates to get update on concerns they had and report back to DVLN to see if further education/awareness is needed.

Training

Michael distributed the Montgomery County Policy on Domestic Violence in the Workplace. Members are encouraged to review and contact Michael with any updates. Recommendation will be made to Beverly Jackson that all Montgomery County employees receive training.

Park House offered DV training to their employees, facilitated by Laurel House. Well received.

V. New Business

The new date for the DVAM Ceremony is October 2, 2012. Theme idea for this year – Children as the Silent Victims. The committee members to include Michael, Marcus, Stacy, Denise and Carolyn. Identified possible honoree for ceremony.

Announcements:

Save the date October 25, 2012 for Commission on Women and Families event to be held at Whitmarsh Valley Country Club. More details to follow.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Connell

Secretary