

June 25,
2009

**KENT COUNTY
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE COMMUNITY COORDINATED RESPONSE TEAM (DV CCRT)
MEETING MINUTES**

Present: Ashley Nickels, Shandra Steininger, Susan Miller, Jill Harkema, Amy Piddington, Ashley Ruth, Irene Roberts, Eileen McKeever, Al Heystek and Leslie Curry

Updates/Announcements:

- a) Eileen (YWCA) - Candlelight Vigil to kick off DV Awareness Month, October 1 at 5:30 at YWCA. Questions: contact Eileen
- b) Amy (Kent County Health Department/SAPAT/Project Respect)-The 2010 Rape Prevention Education grant was funded! \$600 of that funding has been designated to joint CCRT/SAPAT Brown Bag Lunch Series! Thanks Amy!

Amy will provide an overview of SAPAT and some general updates at the July CCRT meeting.
- c) Jill (Safe Haven) - New shelter is open for full capacity with full staffing! If you have extra Healing Paths please send them back to Safe Haven as they are very low and the demand is steady.
- d) Saint Mary's Hospital screens every patient for DV upon arrival and high-risk patients automatically receive an MSW referral. They have expanded this project by now providing DV education to all ER staff, displaying DV resources in bathrooms, waiting rooms and nursing stations, and creating a pocket safety planning card for nursing staff to give out. These practices are being shared with the Southwest Center and Pine Rest Campus. (Update provided by Luran Stuiwe-Bittinger)

Healing Path Subcommittee:

- a) Spanish HP: Kylene is working with Deisy to update
 - a. Printing more Healing Paths
 - 500 HPs left at Safe Haven
 - YWCA- 100, may have more as 1000 were recently given to Tom. Eileen will check.

Financial Report:

Kyle is reviewing a questionable monthly charge. There are some funds partially set aside to print Healing Paths. A decision will need to be made regarding printing English and Spanish HP's (i.e. quantity).

Website Updates:

- a) Website is very outdated and in need of a makeover. It is being requested that everyone review the current website () and provide suggested changes/updates, data, handouts, media briefs, etc at the next CCRT meeting. This can also be emailed to Shandra (ssteininger@drcwm.org).

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- b) Recommendations: Website could include/highlight relationship with SAPAT. Could describe how people get to the point of being a predator/perpetrator. Have additional tabs for “hot topic” issues. Be cautious of terminology used on website. Upload meeting agendas, minutes and Brown Bag Lunch Series (BBL) Invitations. Eventually record BBL
- c) Shandra will follow up with Cavan Berry and Jody for website maintenance information (i.e. log in and password). Leslie volunteered Jason Obrien, an attorney at Legal Aid, to implement any updates the group decides on.

Brownbag Lunch Series:

- a) May- review, Family Court Panel
 - Went well, enjoyed format (panelists gave background and perspective, Q&A), written questions.
 - Areas for further action for DVCCRT
- b) Al (Men’s Resource Center) brought up challenges with terminology: how helpful is it to label people? Can we keep men accountable without using these terms such as batterer etc? Target the behaviors rather than the person. Shaming labels can get in the way of treatment. (i.e Murderer, Rapist). It is learned behavior that needs to be unlearned- different from a personality trait. Continue this discussion.
- c) Kent County Cooperative Parenting Pilot Program-goal is to see if replacing some terms (i.e. plaintiff/defendant, child support, custody) with less loaded/more positive words (parenting time, financial responsibility, mother/father will lead to better buy-in and therefore less frequent re-involvement with the court.

Dates/Topics for the Brown Bag Lunch Series:

- a) August 2009- “Options for Undocumented Victims of Domestic Violence” Liz Balck, Regional Attorney, Justice For Our Neighbors West Michigan/United Methodist Committee on Relief will be presenting.
- b) November/December 2009- proposed training on “sexting”, cyber harassment and stalking. Amy provided update on the new iPhone and how technology may be normalizing/supporting stalking behaviors. Herb Tanner proposed as brown bag speaker although many have seen him. Eileen and Susan suggested Jerry McCarthy, Kentwood PD who presented at another training. Shandra suggested Sgt. Josh Later, MSP who presented at the Michigan Victim Assistance Academy. Extremely knowledgeable on these topics and a dynamic speaker. Amy, Shandra and Rosalynn were “nominated” to plan and coordinate this BBL. Suggested either Dec 3 or 10- based on presenters’ availability.

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c) Planning, for future: A small subcommittee was formed to meet on August 27th at 11:30 determine BBL topics for upcoming year. Please come if you have any ideas!

- February 2010
- May 2010
- August 2010
- November 2010

Proposed topics reviewed at May meeting:

- Child/parent violence- especially in homes where DV exists. How is DHS training their staff to handle kids who grow up to perpetrate on parents?
- Medical issues- Metro Hospital looking to take a fresh look at DV screening tools in hospitals. Hospital staff not handling DV injuries appropriately. Linda (Nurse Examiner Program) good presenter for SA, victim support, language of consent. Nursing CE credits would increase attendance in medical sector.
- Workplace violence/sexual harassment; how to create an agency policy.
- Mental Health Issues: CMH contracts are ending through Catholic Charities, which reduces therapy provisions to many agencies. Access to MH services is challenging enough let alone coupled with victimization. FOC workers are mandated to complete 3200 in DV family situations.
- PPO Issues
- Language/Terminology: i.e. language of consent, terms we use in the professional world as opposed to the general public. i.e. term "batterer" implies physical abuse and can leave out the spectrum of violence. Presenters?- Amy will recommend someone. Could this discussion be more appropriate for a future CCRT meeting rather than a BBL?

Other Current Issues or Concerns regarding DV:

a) Response to DV Cases – how should CCRT respond?

- CCRT drafted and signed a letter that was sent to all City and County Commissioners addressing our community's commitment to ending violence against women and describing how they can be involved.

b) Court Watch

c) DV Death Review Team

d) DV Court – new court administrator has tried to get this started but cannot get a judge on board.

Amy updated on Prisoner Rape Evaluation – Kent County has a high percentage- will be required to produce a corrective plan or jeopardize some federal funding.

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Next Meeting – July 23rd, 2009 at Noon at the Courthouse

5th Floor Conference Room

Action Requested	Proposed Timeline
Provide an up-to date count of English and Spanish Healing Paths your agency has. Return any extra or unneeded copies of the Healing Path to Safe Haven.	Before or at the July CCRT meeting
Review DVCCRT website and provide suggested changes/updates, data, handouts, media briefs, etc.	End of July
Brown Bag Lunch Series Planning meeting. Come if you are interested in helping plan!	August 27 th @ 11:30, Kent County Court House, 5 th floor