

DV CCRT - Domestic Violence Community Coordinated Response Team
January 25, 2007
Meeting Minutes

Updates/Announcements

- a. The **4th Annual Women's Breakfast** – hosted by Safe Haven Ministries. **Saturday, February 3rd from 9 AM – 12 PM** at the Celebration Cinema's Wave Room, 2121 Celebration Drive (Knapp & East Beltline NE). Cost \$25/ticket. Breakfast, Tropical Vacation Raffle & Silent Auction. Raffle tickets are 1 for \$10.00 or 3 for \$25.00. Contact Safe Haven Ministries for additional information at 452-6664.
- b. GVSU Women's Center – **Indulge in a Cause – Thursday, February 8, 2007 5-7:30 PM**, Bldg E, Exhibition Hall, Richard Devos Center, Pew Campus. Tickets \$30. 4th Annual event to benefit the Women's Center programs & services. It will feature the area's best chocolate desserts & silent auction. Also GVSU sponsors **VDAY, Until the Violence Stops**, with funding from The Nokomis Foundation, **Vagina Monologues – February 14 @ 7:30 PM** – GVSU Louis Armstrong Theatre, **Feb 16 @ 7:30 PM** – Wealthy Street Theatre, **Feb 18 @ 2 PM** – Wealthy Street Theatre. Cost: Non-students \$20, Students \$10. Contact Ashley Nickels at the Women's Center for more information 616-331-2748.
- c. Thursday, January 25, 2007 **RAVE** (Resources Against Violent Encounters) Fun-draiser at Max & Erma's, Grandville. Annie Funke passed around flyers/tickets for community members to use so that 20% of sales at the restaurant would benefit the Child & Family Resource Council.
- d. **Legal Aid of West Michigan** – Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) submitted a grant request for a two year program that will collaborate with domestic violence service provider agencies. The grant would assist in legal services for domestic violence victims (counseling, safe planning, advocacy, etc). This would allow Legal Aid to hire a new attorney to directly assist with domestic cases. Cavan Berry indicated that they will know in August 2007 if they are approved for the grant.
- e. **Safe Connections** (New Name) – **YWCA Supervised Visitation/safe exchange Program**. Program Manager is Sharon Haner, Monitor – Mary Zylstra. There are two full time, and one part time monitors. Sharon Haner and Tom Cottrell are in the process of drafting policies & procedures handbook for parents & children. This will take time. Start date of the program is February or March. They are located on the second floor of the YWCA. The room is set up and ready - feel free to stop by for a tour. They are working closely with local Judges, FOC & DHS personnel. Domestic violence, child abuse or sexual assault must be a component for Judges to refer to this program. *Additional services offered:* *Custodial parent will have assessments. *Counseling services will be offered. *FOC has grant funding to help with some counseling expenses. *Advisory Committee – formalities still being worked on. *Sharon Haner will be conducting assessments. *Safety is top priority! *Can not provide counseling, yet will be a referral source. Other Counties that are involved with similar programs: Muskegon, Pontiac, Jackson & Traverse City.
- f. **Saturday, April 14, 2007 - Dave Pelzer** to speak at Fountain Street Church. Wrote book A Child Called It. Cost: \$15 students, \$25 General public. Sponsored by Child & Family Resource Council.

Financial Report

- a. Report was submitted to Nokomis Foundation on January 2, 2007.
- b. Balance on 12/31/06 - \$5,301.94.

- c. Two invoices still need to be paid.
- d. How do we want to allocate the remainder of money? The focus in the grant this year is on education in the schools. Use the money for the October 2007 event!
- e. Check for 2007 grant money will be issued soon. Thank you to the Nokomis Foundation!

Sub-committee Reports

- a. **Media sub-committee** – this group will set a date to meet soon. Make sure the media packets are up to date and include positive articles. Contact Jeff Smith (formerly of the Community Media Center) – does he still oversee GRID? Is he willing to continue helping us?
- b. **Public Awareness Campaign** – Johnny Ads will continue for another six months (thru June 2007) 400 signs a month! Feedback has been very positive! Bus Ads – next time advertise on the back of the bus versus the side. How will we determine our effectiveness?
- c. **DV Awareness Month**
 - Ideas and thoughts for October 2007 – Plan a large community event! Tie this in with our education focus for the year.
 - Subcommittee sign up sheet was passed around. Many members are interested in participating with planning this event! This may be combined with the education subcommittee to plan training/workshop for teachers. See below.
 - Discussion around sponsoring annual event by CCRT.
 - Utilize movie theatres in the area. Target particular films that educate public on issues of domestic violence & sexual assault.
 - How can we respond to negative local radio talk show hosts such as the Huge Radio Show?
 - Get involved with events such as the B93 Roofsit for child abuse.
- d. **Plans for 2007**
 - Review projects outlined in grant – **Education** is the focus this year. Rosalynn suggested contracting with Lori Vanharmelen (currently works part-time for the Children’s Assessment Center & trains on body safety program with RAVE). We would ask her to conduct research, organize trainings/workshops for teachers, and provide teacher packets. Target teacher in-service trainings with the start of the new school year. Plan training & tie in with October CCRT community event. Establish subcommittee to assist with this project. **New subcommittee!** Try to secure a sponsor. Some ideas: Bring in liaison for elementary & middle schools as the dynamics are different, see if there are students interested in domestic violence and train them to help promote education & prevention in local schools and colleges (dating violence, sexual assault, etc.). Lori may be able to assist with this as well. Rosalynn will contact Lori and invite her to our February meeting to help us brainstorm. We need to get started on this right away.
 - Update the **Healing Path**. Add information specific to the ADT Program, Safe Connection Program, and any new programs in Kent County that assist domestic & sexual assault victims. There is a good supply of The Healing Path (English version) at Safe Haven Ministries. The Spanish version is kept at the YWCA. How many do we have, do we need to order more? Could we please have a

member of the YWCA bring additional copies of the Spanish version to distribute to agencies in need at the February meeting? This would be greatly appreciated.

Discussion time for DV concerns/cases

- CCRT Members suggested a survey/questionnaire to distribute to domestic violence survivors that would determine the effectiveness of the Healing Path and local service agencies. We could place the survey directly on our website. Typically there is a very low rate of return (less than 15%), yet it still help us determine areas of need and also effectiveness.

**Next Meeting – February 22, 2007 - noon at the Kent County Courthouse
5th Floor Conference Room**