

Domestic Violence Legal Network

Minutes

January 25, 2012

Present: Jan Biresch (Commission on Women and Families), Marcus Christmas (Laurel House), Linda Connell (The Open Line), Chief Mark Flanders (Pottstown Police Department), Denise Flynn (Women's Center of Montgomery County), Chuck Gallun (Creative Health Services), Cheryl Jones (Women's Center of Montgomery County), Michael Kehs (Court Administration), Carolyn Maaskant (Prothonotary's Office), Bill Maruszczak (Magisterial District Judges), Alissa McBride (Family Services), Shane Reardon (Adult Probation), Stephanie Smith (Victim Services Center), Susan Strong (Legal Aid), Stacy Sweinhart (Laurel House), Shoshana Wortman (Victim Services Center)

I. Welcome

Carolyn Maaskant will be representing the Prothonotary's Office. Good bye to Shoshawna who is leaving her job at Victim Services Center.

II. Minutes

Motion to approve minutes of November 16, 2011 made by Jan. Second by Susan. Approved by all.

III. Treasurer's Report

December 2011 report distributed. 2012 membership dues invoices distributed.

IV. Old Business

Information Packets/Brochures – Jan is waiting for MC Commission on Women and Families to approve brochures. Jan suggested getting the PFA brochure available through PCADV. She will forward this to Michael.

Fatality Review Committee – Susan reported the case being reviewed has no criminal charges. The Upper Gwynedd Police Department will be invited to the review meeting as this fatality occurred in their jurisdiction. There has not been a response to Michael's letter to the Coroner's Office asking for participation on the committee. Michael will send a follow up letter to the coroner and Vicki Firth.

DVLN Website – Maureen Bradley is our contact. Michael is optimistic the website will be up and running before April, with the brochures included on the site. Jan is continuing to help with this.

Stalking – Further discussion was had concerning the issue of stalking. Since stalking language has been added to the PFA this could be an area for further training across the legal systems. Michael will follow up with Walli concerning the training she offers. Jan will forward to Michael the stalking brochure. Michael will send out an FYI to all judges that January is Stalking Awareness Month.

Training – A Training Committee has been formed to move this project forward. Chuck, Jan and Denise have volunteered to be on the committee. Michael will connect with Beverly White to determine where she is with the county training schedule. It was suggested that if any members are offering training to bring that information to the membership. Michael can also add the information to a training calendar on the website. Shane suggested adding DV training to the county mandatory training list so it is less conspicuous if someone wants to attend.

V. New Business

Invitation to Membership – Michael will be sending out a formal invitation to join DVLN to core members who are identified in our bylaws.

2012 Calendar of Events – We will be meeting quarterly through 2012. Scheduled meetings are Jan. 25, April 25, Sept. 19 and Dec. 5. The DVAM Ceremony is scheduled for October 18.

VI. Additional Items

Chuck shared information about webinars offered by the Battered Women's Justice Project. He recommends one he attended recently "The Praxis Safety and Accountability Audit". He will forward the website to DVLN secretary for distribution to membership.

Marcus shared an upcoming Laurel House symposium March 16 at Bryn Mawr College. Featured speaker is Lundy Bancroft. Marcus will forward flyer to DVLN secretary for distribution to membership.

Carolyn stated Mark Levy (Prothonotary) is looking into the possibility of a Willow Grove Annex for the office. This may open up a satellite office to be able to do PFA's. The question of using video conferencing was asked. Women's Center is ready to help at annex.