Downstate Domestic Violence Coordinating Council

June 3, 2016

Milford State Service Center: Annex Building

In attendance: Nina Brown (DSP), Adrienne Owen (DSP), Dawn Stevens (P&P) and Aimee Voshell String (DVCC).

1. The meeting was called to order and introductions were made.
2. Guest Speaker: Guest speaker Phyllis Chamberlain from Central Intake had to cancel at the last minute due to illness. We hope to have Ms. Chamberlain attend our next meeting.
3. Old Business
   1. Spanish PFAs
      1. The plan was to add a line to the bottom of PFA Orders which would be in Spanish directing individuals to a certain number if they are need of translation services. This is still in the works. We will keep this on the agenda for the time being so that we remember to get updates.
4. New Business
   1. Pending legislation
      1. HB 132 has been introduced and assigned to the House Judiciary Committee. The bill adds former parents whose rights have been terminated to the PFA statue to provide protections for children being harassed by former parents.
      2. SB 55 extends the number of days for an ex parte PFA order from 10 days to 15 days to allow additional time to resolve issues such as service of the petition. This bill has been assigned to the Senate Judiciary Committee
      3. SB 99 makes clear that it is a class A misdemeanor when a person, knowing the information reported is false or baseless, reports to a law-enforcement officer or agency that a Protection from Abuse Order has been violated. This bill has been assigned to the Senate Judiciary Committee.
         1. There were concerns expressed about how this would be used to intimidate victims.
         2. Aimee asked Adrienne if there was data suggesting that victims are falsely reporting. Adrienne said that while it does happen, her impression would be that it is not something that happens often. DELJIS could possibly pull that data.
         3. Members questioned the need for this piece of legislation when someone could already be charged with false reporting without it.
      4. Legislation regarding reporting of sexual assault on campuses.
         1. While no one present was in attendance at the last SAND meeting, there was a lengthy discussion about this piece of legislation at the meeting. The legislation has been tabled at this time.
   2. DV Forum
      1. There will be a planning meeting for the DV Forum on Monday, June 8th at 1:30 PM at the Middletown Police Department. The goal is put on a fall event. The idea of doing an event targeted at the Spanish speaking population has been brought up. All are welcome to attend the planning meeting. It was suggested that in order to get participation from Downstate people, it would be helpful if meetings were held downstate.
   3. Identify Goals and Purpose of Committee
      1. It was agreed by those in attendance that our first goal needs to be to increase membership. Nina Brown suggested that we try to hold our meetings earlier in the day as some may find it difficult to attend afternoon meetings.
5. System Issues and Coordination
   1. CJC Grant: Adrienne inquired about the status of the CJC grant for checking untested SANE kits. No one had any information but Aimee agreed to follow up with Moe
   2. Adrienne discussed the frustration of law enforcement with “no unlawful contact” PFA orders
6. Agency/Program Reports
   1. The DCADV will be holding a two day trauma conference at the Chase Center in Wilmington on July 27 and 28. The free conference will be Trauma focused and will take the place of the Advocates Retreat. Committee Members expressed how difficult it is to attend trainings in Wilmington.

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, September 2nd. Aimee will check into the possibility of moving the meeting to an earlier time.