

Domestic Violence Coordinating Council

Treatment Committee Minutes

September 9, 2015, 10:00 AM

Middletown Police Department

- I. Introductions were made. In attendance at the meeting were: Brendon O'Neill (PDO), Melissa Kearney (P&P), Rob Coupe (DOC), Ellie Torres (DVCC), Kim Williams (CHILD Inc.) , Dan Armstrong (CHILD Inc.), Blanch Creech (Turning Point) via teleconference and Aimee Voshell String (DVCC).
- II. Minutes from the 6/10/15 Treatment Meeting were reviewed and approved.
- III. Old Business
 - a. Update on Training for the Courts on DV Treatment Programs
 - i. This project is still in the works. Money has been set aside for the training. The plan is for the courts to cancel calendars to allow for attendance of judicial staff from Court of Common Pleas, JP Court, Chancery Court, Family Court and Superior Court. This project is being handled by Amy Quinlan
 - b. Batterer's Intervention Certification Standards
 - i. Ellie has made a mark-up of changes. Ellie's changes will be circulated to the group for comment. In Ellie's document, everyone will be able to see what changes she has made and is suggesting. Ellie mentioned that changes have been made to the document at different times so in this revision we need to be aware of making everything consistent.
 - ii. Dan Armstrong suggested that we may need to schedule a small group meeting to discuss this after there has been some e-mail discussion.
 - c. DVCC Sponsored Education Credits for Treatment Providers
 - i. Aimee spoke to both Lisa Larence and Susan Miller about their availability to be trainers. Both presenters said that March 1st or 2nd would be a good date for them. We are currently penciled in on their calendars. Both speakers understand that funding is still an issue that we need to resolve prior to confirming.
 - ii. The committee looked at the estimated costs of providing the training. We would need to charge approximately \$240 per person in order to cover the costs of the speakers, travel, the Buena Vista conference center and lunch. The committee was very concerned that this would not be feasible for the Treatment Programs. Ellie agreed to make contact about possible funding from the VASE Project. We discussed obtaining training credits for attorneys and social workers. Ellie agreed to look in CLEs and Blanche agreed to look into Social Work Credits. The committee brainstormed ways to reduce the costs of the training including using a different location and inviting agencies from surrounding states
 - d. Research on Effectiveness of Treatment Programs in Delaware

- i. We are in the process of applying for a grant to allow us to evaluate the effectiveness of our existing treatment programs. Susan Miller of the University of Delaware has provided input on the process.

IV. New Business

- A. Anger Management Standards: This item was added to the agenda as a result of a thought mentioned by Dan Armstrong at our June meeting suggesting that perhaps the committee should consider creating Anger Management standards. The committee agreed that this topic needed more discussion and was added to the September agenda.
 - a. Shamlam mentioned that in her experience most individuals are not ordered to anger management as a result of DV related incidents. They are being referred for things like road rage, fighting at sports events, etc. Both Melissa and Blanche mentioned that they are still seeing DV offenders being referred to anger management classes. This is of particular concern because there are no standards for anger management which means people can go on-line and take any course and it is allowable. An anger management program can be a one-day or even one hour program.
 - b. Brendan suggested that perhaps this isn't an issue of needing to create anger management standards and we could instead focus on educating the judiciary as to the proper protocol (ie: refer to domestic violence treatment instead of anger management). The committee was in agreement that it would be helpful if all "family related" violence cases were referred to DVCC Certified Programs for evaluation and referrals and discussed the possibility of adding that language to sentencing orders.
 - c. Ellie suggested that perhaps, we could add this to the next DVCC Quarterly Meeting for further discussion. The committee agreed that this would be helpful.

V. Public Comment

- a. None

VI. Next Meeting Dates: All meetings are held at 10:00 AM at the Middletown Police Department.

- a. Wednesday, December 9th