

Domestic Violence Coordinating Council  
New Castle County Domestic Violence Prevention Forum Planning Committee Meeting  
Minutes from July 22, 2015

The New Castle County Domestic Violence Prevention Forum Planning Committee met on Wednesday, July 22, 2015 at 3:00 p.m. at the New Castle County Police Department - Public Safety Conference Room, 3601 N. DuPont Highway, New Castle.

Present: Janet Coston, Department of Public Health; Regina Johnson, Division of Prevention and Behavioral Health Services – DSCYF; Katrina Banks, Beautiful Gate Outreach Center; Gail Weinberg, Ombudsman; Nancy McGee, Sexual Assault Network of Delaware; Lanae Ampersand, Christiana Care School Based Health Centers; Matred M. Conaway, YWCA; G. Miriam Sigler, Christina School District/DPH/DOE; and Pat Kwetkauskie, Domestic Violence Coordinating Council.

New Business:

❖ History of the Domestic Violence Prevention Forums

- Pat Kwetkauskie provided a brief overview of previous Forums and explained that for the past 12 years Christiana Care Health System’s Community Center of Excellence in Women’s Health had organized and facilitated the planning of the Domestic Violence Prevention Forums throughout Wilmington. She noted that in January 2015, it was suggested that the Domestic Violence Coordinating Council (DVCC) assume leadership for the Forum. An initial organizational meeting was held in June 2015 and there was consensus to conduct Forums in all three counties. She noted the Domestic Violence Prevention Forum in Sussex County will be conducted in Spanish; the Forum in Kent County will focus on engaging young males; and the Forum in New Castle County will once again be offered to a local high school. Pat explained that this approach is similar to the successful Forums that were conducted in 2014 in Wilmington at Howard High School; at the Latin American Community Center; and at the Carvel Office Building in cooperation with the Delta Outreach and Education Center and included the Delta Gems.
- Pat and Matred Conaway, members of last year’s planning committee and panelists, explained the interactive nature of the Forums. In 2014, ARTFusion, a theatrical group, conducted two skits using scripts developed in collaboration with the Domestic Violence Prevention Forum Planning Committee. During each skit an actor said “freeze” and asked the audience what s/he should do. The audience then voted on one of three options offered by the actor. The performer continued the skit and acted out the option selected by the majority of the audience.

At the conclusion of each skit, the audience was encouraged to ask the panel questions. If there were no questions from the audience, the moderator asked questions of the panelists which typically lead to additional questions from the audience.

❖ Planning for the New Castle County Domestic Violence Prevention Forum

- **Location:** William Penn High School in New Castle expressed an interest in hosting the Forum. Lanae Ampersand explained she is the Senior School Based Health Center Program Manager for Christiana Care and is located in the William Penn High School Wellness Center and would help to coordinate Forum planning and related activities at the school.

There was consensus to conduct the 2015 New Castle County Domestic Violence Prevention Forum at William Penn High School.

- **Date:** Pat K. will ask ARTFusion to identify three dates in late October or early November when the actors could be available. Lanae will present these dates to Dr. Erskine, Principal of William Penn High School. Lanae also noted the Forum at William Penn High School should occur from 9:00 to 10:00 a.m. in order to ensure that students are dismissed in time for their lunch periods which begin at 10:30 a.m.
- **Format:** There was consensus to use the same format as the 2014 Forum held at Howard High School. This includes recruiting two student to serve on the panel. Pat will develop a brief description of the Forum for Lanae to present to Dr. Erskine. There was also discussion about who would attend the Forum – students enrolled in Health Education or other classes or students from a specific grade. Lanae noted the school’s administration would decide which students would attend the Forum.
- **Support Staff:** Nancy McGee indicated that personnel from Contact LifeLine could be available to provide support to students in need. Lanae indicated there are school-based therapeutic support staff that would be available to students during and immediately after the Forum and would maintain contact with students in the days following the Forum if needed.

There was discussion about involving other school staff. Lanae recommended the Athletic Director as moderator for the Forum. She also noted she would explore having the School Resource Officer involved.

- **Other:** The Committee discussed “giveaway” items. Items included water bottles, pens and/or pencils, digital screen wipes and holders, custom Post It notes, and key chains. Nancy will order *How Are You Coping?* cards.

Pat will research the cost of the giveaway items from the state’s vendor, Delaware Industries for the Blind. It was also suggested that each agency represented on the committee donate a supply of pens or pencils to give to students attending the Forum.

Committee members will also provide teen-related educational materials for resource tables that will be set up in conjunction with the Forum.

Next Meeting:

- ❖ The next meeting of the New Castle County Domestic Violence Prevention Forum Planning Committee will be held on Wednesday, August 26, 2015, beginning at 3:00 p.m. The location will be the Springer Building - Room 401, Department of Health and Social Services’ Herman Holloway Campus, 1901 N. DuPont Highway, New Castle.

Respectfully submitted,  
Pat Kwetkauskie  
July 24, 2015