

**Domestic Violence Coordinating Council
Criminal Justice Committee
Meeting Minutes for September 29, 2015**

The DVCC Criminal Justice Committee met on September 29, 2015 at 1pm at the Middletown Police Department. Attending the meeting were Renee Buskirk (DOC), Linda Carmichael (Superior Court), Hon. Sheila Blakely (JP Court), Ann Altemus (Child Inc.), Melissa Kearney (Probation & Parole), Ashley Elia (P&P), Adrienne Owen (DSP), Matt Rubincam (OPD), Addie Asay (Family Court), Melanie Ewing-Lahutsky (Superior Court), Ellie Torres (DVCC), Christiana Baytop (P&P), Deiana Jason (Child Inc.), Marcey Rezac (Peoples Place), Joe Miller (WPD), and Natasha Smith (DVCC Staff).

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order.

Introductions: Introductions were made by all attendees.

Approve Minutes from March 31, 2015: Minutes were approved as written.

Old Business

Project Passport

Addie Asay (Family Court) gave an update that this topic is still under review with the Family Court Enhancement Project.

Law Enforcement Training

Adrienne Owen (DSP) stated that the Law Enforcement Training will take place on Monday, November 9th at Polytech High School. The morning sessions will have National Presenters (a SANE Nurse, Law Enforcement and a Prosecutor) on the topic of Strangulation. The afternoon sessions will consist of a Domestic Violence Panel and a Sexual Assault Panel. Registration will be sent out by email in the coming weeks.

English Only PFA Order Update

Over the past year, the Committee has discussed the possibility of adding language in Spanish to the exparte PFA Orders notifying Respondents translation is available. Recently, Family Court updated the PFA petition to include the language "For assistance in Spanish call (302)762-6110 (New Castle County) or (302)745-9874 (Kent and Sussex Counties) and all other languages please contact 211." Natasha Smith (DVCC) recently contacted 211 to inquire about services available; they were able to give the Latin America Community Center as a resource for those who spoke Spanish. For all other languages, 211 provided the referral of the American Association of University Women but their services are limited to one day per week. After discussing the issues, those present at the meeting agreed that removing the "for all other languages please call 211" should be removed from the PFA petition at this time. Natasha Smith (DVCC) will follow up with 211 and the American Association of University Women regarding what

translation services are available to those that speak languages other than Spanish. Another suggestion was made that we should inquire whether 211 has access to a language line or could get access through a state agency in order to help those that need translation services. Natasha Smith (DVCC) will also look into what other states have done when faced with similar language issues.

Unserviced PFAs – update on driver’s license information

Chief Horsman (Capitol Police) provided an email update that the Police Chiefs’ Council will be circulating a draft policy for law enforcement when a PFA order needs to be served during a motor vehicle traffic stop. Natasha Smith (DVCC) plans to attend the next Police Chiefs Council meeting on October 12th to answer any questions that may arise.

Visitation Exchange at Police Stations

This issue was asked to be put on the agenda by Diane Glenn (Dover PD VS). Diane stated that she noticed an increase in visitation exchanges that are occurring in police station parking lots. Those present at the meeting were asked that if they happen to see any Court Orders instructing people to complete visitation exchanges at Police Stations to forward them to Natasha Smith (DVCC).

Criminal Justice Committee Goals/Focus

In an effort to add the Committee’s focus to the DVCC website, those present at the meeting agreed to add a statement. The goal statement is:

The purpose of the Criminal Justice Committee is to continuously review the system responses to domestic violence and sexual assault. This committee works together to identify and implement improvements to the Criminal Justice system through policy development. This committee brings law enforcement, the courts, advocates and community partners together to resolve issues specific to the needs of those affected by domestic violence and sexual assault.

Natasha Smith (DVCC) also asked if anyone had any articles that would be relevant to the Criminal Justice Committee please forward them on and we can add them to the website.

New Business

Det. Joe Miller (WPD) and Deiana Jason (Child Inc.) gave a presentation on domestic violence high risk team efforts in Delaware. The two described their experience going to the Jeanne Geiger Crisis Center’s training in Boston over 2 years ago. They said that they have adopted some of the practices similar to those in Boston but are looking to develop a formal protocol for Delaware. Those who are interested in being a part of the development of a Delaware High Risk Team please let Natasha Smith (DVCC) know they are interested. The group agreed that having a subcommittee look into the development of a Domestic Violence High Risk team in Delaware would be appropriate. This subcommittee would provide updates to the DVCC Criminal Justice Committee and the DVCC Quarterly meeting in December 2015. Det. Joe Miller (WPD) and Deiana Jason (Child Inc.) agreed to co-chair this subcommittee staffed by Natasha Smith (DVCC).

Announcements

The Domestic Violence Awareness Month Proclamation Signing is scheduled to take place on Friday, October 2nd at the YWCA Home Life Management Center in Wilmington, DE. Also, there will be a Domestic Violence Prevention Forum at Georgetown Presbyterian on October 17th at 1pm in Georgetown, DE. This forum will be a Spanish Speaking event. Also, the Family Visitation Centers will be celebrating their 20 year anniversary this year and will be having 2 open house events. The Milford Visitation Center will have an open house on Friday, October 23rd from 9:30am to 11:30am and the Newark Visitation Center (Hudson Building) will have an open house on Monday, October 26th from 9:30am to 11:30am.