

Domestic Violence Coordinating Council
Quarterly Meeting Minutes
March 13, 2017

Call to Order: Brendan O’Neill, on behalf of Dana Harrington Conner, called the DVCC Quarterly meeting to order at 1:09 p.m. DVCC welcomed new Council members Dr. Julie Silverstein, representing Delaware Medical Association, and Secretary Josette Manning, DSCYF.

Introductions: In attendance were the following DVCC members: Chief Judge Michael Newell, (Family Court), Representative Deborah Hudson, Representative Stephanie Bolden, Attorney General Matthew Denn (DOJ), Chief Defender Brendan O’Neill (ODS), Cpl/3 Adrienne Owen (DSP), Dr. Julie Silverstein (Christiana Hospital), Judge Jan Jurden (Superior Court), Commissioner Perry Phelps (DOC), Secretary Josette Manning (DSCYF), Commissioner Gretchin Gilchrest, Laura Graham, Esq. (CLASI), Judge Carl Danberg (CCP), Also in attendance were Mariann Kenville-Moore (DCADV), Terica Jones (CJC), Alexa Rothenberger (University of Delaware), Liam Black (University of Delaware), Ariana Langford (Victims Voices Heard), Ellie Torres (Family Court), Jeff Desaulniers (Capital Police), Nancy McGee (SAND), Leanne Murray (University of Delaware), Marina Scallse (University of Delaware), Peggy Bell (DELJIS), Shamla McLaurin (Catholic Charities), Claire DeMatteis (FCEP), and DVCC Staff: Maureen Monagle, Natasha Smith, Aimee String, and Pat Kwetkauskie.

Minutes: A motion to approve the December 14, 2016 minutes was made, seconded and the minutes were approved.

Vote of Chair, Vice Chair & At-Large Members: The statute requires that the Council elect biennially, at the first meeting of the calendar year in odd-numbered years, Chair and Vice Chair to serve a 2-year term. A motion to approve Chief Judge Michael Newell as Chair and Dana Harrington Conner as Vice Chair was made, seconded and the vote was approved.

Additionally, the statute requires that the Council elect at the first meeting of each calendar year at-large members. The at-large members continuing for another year are Judge Vincent Poppiti, Diane Glenn, Dana Harrington Conner and Laura Graham. A motion to approve two new at-large members Jennifer Naccarelli and Ariana Langford was made, seconded and the vote was approved.

Safety Audit: The final stage of a “Safety Audit” Project occurred in March. The Center for Court Innovation conducted five (5) focus groups: Victim Services; Judges; Court Personnel; Prosecution and Public Defenders; and Law Enforcement. Draft report is expected by the end of May 2017.

Family Court Enhancement Project: Chief Judge Newell (Family Court) gave an update on the FCEP project. Work of the Committees over the last 2 ½ years has generated sixty one (61) recommendations. Four main areas internally will be addressed: Enhanced self-help centers, PFA schedules, pilot PFA custody and training. The FCEP’s Collaborative Group met on

February 24, 2017 to discuss implementation of recommendations. Claire DeMatteis is the new FCEP Project Coordinator.

Maureen Monagle (DVCC) stated that the DVCC will take the training lead for the FCEP. A motion was made to create a new Training Committee, seconded and approved to develop a new DVCC Committee dedicated to multi-discipline trainings. A 2-day training by Emerge through OVW funded TA Project called Recognizing Responsibility and Risk of Abusers in Court was discussed.

DVCC Committee Updates:

Criminal Justice: Brendan O'Neill (ODS) reiterated that the Criminal Justice Committee is working on developing a Domestic Violence High Risk Team in Delaware. An ad hoc advisory committee was unanimously voted to create guidelines and policies (including confidentiality and information sharing) for a Domestic Violence High Risk Team.

A brief overview of the Delaware Police Chiefs Body Worn Camera Evidence policy occurred. Mariann Kenville-Moore (DCADV) discussed a few victim centered concerns that were not addressed in the body worn camera evidence policy. Some of those concerns include the development of guidelines around the use of body worn cameras during the administration of the lethality assessment, storage of videos, confidentiality associated with the videos in order to avoid public exposure. Mariann plans to share her concerns at an upcoming Delaware Police Chiefs Council meeting. The DVCC supports Mariann discussing the concerns for victim safety and confidentiality as it relates to body worn cameras at an upcoming Delaware Police Chiefs Council meeting.

Children & Domestic Violence: Secretary Manning (DSCYF) gave a brief update regarding David Mandel's Safe and Together Model evaluation. Secretary Manning also discussed the FCEP recommendation to review the Separating and Divorcing Parent Education Program Curriculum. The examination of the program hopes to minimize any barriers that may exist in the program's current state as well as improve participation and create greater accessibility to the program.

Immigration: Laura Graham gave a brief update on the current level of fear amongst the immigrant population due to the current political climate. Immigrants are afraid to utilize the court system and/or get police involved because they are hearing about cases in other states where individuals go into courts to file for a PFA and then ICE is waiting outside for them to arrest them and begin deportation proceedings. This has not happened in Delaware. Legal Aid and the Immigration Committee are planning community outreaches in an effort to share information as well as combat myths.

Treatment: Aimee String (DVCC) updated the Council on the Evaluation of Certified Treatment providers. Based on preliminary data, the more Batterers' Intervention classes individuals attend, the less likely they are to re-offend. The cost of these programs is on a sliding scale.

Fatal Incident Review Team Report

Natasha Smith (DVCC) informed the Council that the 2017 Fatal Incident Review Team Report is being drafted. Once the report is completed it will be forwarded to the Fatal Incident Review Team and the Council before being posted to the DVCC website.

Announcements: None.

Public Comment:

- Mariann Kenville-Moore, Delaware Coalition Against Domestic Violence, the Legislative Committee will reconvene. Reviewing Criminal code.
- Structure of DVCC Committee membership. Maureen Monagle and Chief Judge Newell working on establishing membership.
- Discussion of public comment on Committee agendas

Next Meeting Date: Monday, May 8 @ 1:00 p.m., Buena Vista – Buck Library

The meeting adjourned at 1:49 p.m.