

**Domestic Violence Coordinating Council  
Quarterly Meeting Minutes  
September 11, 2017**

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**Call to Order:** The Chair, Chief Judge Michael Newell called the DVCC Quarterly meeting to order at 1:10 p.m.

**Introductions:** In attendance were the following DVCC members: Chief Judge Michael Newell, (Chair, Family Court), Representative Deborah Hudson (General Assembly), President Judge Jan Jurden (Superior Court), Attorney General Matthew Denn (DOJ), Chief Defender Brendan O'Neill (ODS), Secretary Robert Coupe (DSHS), Commissioner Perry Phelps (DOC), Secretary Josette Manning (DSCYF), Diane Glenn (Dover PD-VS), Laura Graham, Esq. (CLASI), Ariana Langford (Victim Voices Heard), Jennifer Naccarelli (University of DE), Cpl./3 Adrienne Owen (DSP).

Also in attendance were Ellie Torres (Family Court), Scott McLaren (CJC), Claire DeMatteis (FCEP-Family Court), Judge Jennifer Ranji (Family Court), Blanche Creech (Peoples' Place II), Nancy McGee (SAND), Tim Brandau (CHILD, Inc.), Deianna Tyree (CHILD, Inc.), Melissa Kearney (DOC), Jeff Hill (Capitol Police), Tim Collins (Public).

DVCC Staff: Maureen Monagle, Karen Ewing, Natasha Smith, Aimee String, and Pat Kwetkauskie.

**Minutes:** A motion to approve the May 8, 2017 minutes was made, seconded and the minutes were approved.

**DVCC Outstanding Community Service Award Nominations:** Council received two nominees for this award. Maureen Monagle (DVCC) will send the nominees bios and an anonymous vote will occur via email. Votes from the Council are due by September 19, 2017. The presentation of the award will occur at the DVAM proclamation signing October 4, 2017.

**VAWA Implementation Committee Information:** Scott McLaren (CJC) updated the Council on STOP Formula grant and DV Fund grant programs. In late September two competitive solicitations will be announced one for direct services from the DV fund and the second to address sexual assault. A competitive solicitation will be released in mid-October to provide direct services that focus on domestic violence, dating violence and sexual assault or stalking. In addition, the Committee is considering requesting the DVCC to perform a needs assessment with underserved communities. Interest has been expressed by both the Lenape and Nanticoke tribes.

**Presentation – Evaluation of the Batterers' Intervention Program (BIP) of the Delaware Domestic Violence Coordinating Council (DVCC):** Aimee String gave a brief history of Delaware's BIP programs before sharing the results of the evaluation. Through a grant Barbara Goldberg and Associates (BGA) in collaboration with Dr. Eric Mankowski evaluated three of Delaware's Treatment Providers. One hundred and thirty (130) judges and commissioners were contacted to give their feedback on the existing programs. Pre-evaluations expressed limited confidence in the programs ability to affect behavioral change in batterers. The evaluation identified that Delaware has 8 key accomplishments; however, there were 8 key challenges for the BIP programs.

1. Communication between judicial system, DVCC and providers

2. Little effectiveness of BIP evidence
3. Participants financial commitment
4. Need for specialized programs
5. Concerns with sentencing laws
6. Low numbers of PFA referrals
7. Sufficient financial resources to sustain and adequately staff the programs.

The Treatment Committee will review the recommendations provided for each challenge and identify which will be able to be implemented. In addition, the Committee will be modifying the standards.

**Family Court Enhancement Project:** Claire DeMatteis indicated that Phase I – Training with mediators was successful and Phase II of the training will continue with the Delaware Law School in September 2017.

Judge Ranji (Family Court) reminded the Council that the Court is working on implementing 10 recommendations from the 60+ outlined through the FCEP process.

PFA day reform continues with all litigants receiving PFA instruction simultaneously. Judge Ostroski (former Family Court Commissioner) will be active as one of the judicial officers providing litigants with information at the start of the PFA process. This will add consistency to the day for litigants. In addition, beginning in October 2017, New Castle County will have two PFA days. Commissioners will begin to add PFA explanations to assist with custody cases. Explanations will include PFA outcomes: dismissal, consent, failure to appear and any clarification such as victim did not carry burden. All PFA cases will have immediate assignment to a Commissioner for ownership purposes. After a PFA, 30-45 days prior to custody case a Judge will have a pre-trial conference to review safety issues and to keep all parties on track.

The Courts are exploring an Expeditor option similar to Cook County in early December. An Expeditor would provide relief to the PFA calendar by discussing custody with PFA parties.

**Fatal Incident Review Team (FIRT) Update:** Natasha Smith (DVCC) informed the Council that 130 reviewed FIRT cases have been input into the FIRT database by Matthew Rosen, CJC intern. This database will allow us to run specific reports in the future. Database is close to completion.

**FY2017 Annual Report:** A motion to approve the FY2017 Annual Report was made, seconded and the Report was approved.

### **DVCC Committee Updates:**

**Children & DV:** Secretary Manning informed the Council that a grant was awarded to implement the Safe & Together Model – DV Liaison. In addition, the Committee is evaluating the parenting classes associated with the FCEP recommendation. Questions surrounding the parenting classes: Is the program effective and online barriers.

**Criminal Justice:** Brendan O’Neill (ODS) let the Council know the DV High Risk Ad Hoc Advisory Board is still in its infancy stage. He mentioned that the Committee will be discussing who handles domestic violence incidents with sentencing orders: Police or Probation & Parole.

**Treatment:** Committee will begin to incorporate the recommendations from the Evaluation report.

Immigration: The Committee will be meeting September 12<sup>th</sup> to discuss and strategize outreach within the Latin community.

Training Committee: Ellie reminded the Council that a statewide domestic violence training with Dave Adams from EMERGE will occur on September 20, 2017 for Court personnel and September 21, 2017 for stakeholders. Both dates are filled but people can be added to a waitlist.

Public Awareness: The Committee is expanding the Healthy Relationship Poster Contest to include ages 13-18 within the Boys & Girls Clubs of Delaware. The contest has three sponsors: The Beau Biden Foundation, Christiana Care Health System and the Psi Iota Chapter of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc., in affiliation with the H.O.P.E. Foundation. Each sponsor will be contributing an electronic device to the three overall winners. A grand prize winner will be awarded in November and that poster will be distributed to Middle and High Schools during February.

Elderly & DV: Representative Stephanie Bolden is the new Chair of the Committee. No meeting date has been determined.

Legislative Committee: Representative Deborah Hudson this Committee will be meeting on demand and that a spreadsheet with DVCC position on legislation will be created and placed on the DVCC website in the future.

### **Executive Director' Report and Announcements:**

- Domestic Violence Awareness Month Proclamation Signing will be October 4, 2017 at 11:00 a.m. Governor's Wilmington Office.
- This year marks the 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Domestic Violence Awareness Month (DVAM).
- The DVAM National Week of Action will be October 15<sup>th</sup>-21<sup>st</sup>. The DVCC has made arrangements with OMB to have the entrance lights in the Carvel State Building shine purple during this week. Staff will be working with other agencies or organizations to have other buildings illuminated in purple.
- Emerge Conference September 20 & 21<sup>st</sup> is full but people can be waitlisted.
- Law Enforcement Conference will be held on November 10, 2017 at PolyTech Adult Learning Center
- An all-day Strategic Planning Day will be November 14<sup>th</sup> at the Blue Ball Barn with the Center for Court Innovation facilitating. The morning will involve key stakeholders; individual invitations will be sent with the details. The afternoon will be for Council members to identify goals for the next 3-4 years. Lunch will be provided.

**Public Comment:** None.

**Next Meeting Date: Monday, December 11 @ 1:00 p.m., Buena Vista – Buck Library**

The meeting adjourned at 2:18 p.m.