

## DOMESTIC VIOLENCE COORDINATING COUNCIL

### ELDERLY and DOMESTIC VIOLENCE COMMITTEE MINUTES for November 30, 2017

The DVCC Elderly and Domestic Violence Committee met on November 30, 2017 at 9:00 a.m. in the House of Representatives Conference Room, Carvel State Office Building, Wilmington. Attending the meeting were: Representative Stephanie T. Bolden - Chair; Rae Moore, Legislative Aide to Representative Bolden; Michael Serfass and Denise Arreola-Dominguez, DHSS Adult Protective Services; Kim Buiano, Ingleside Senior Services; Sharon Merriman-Nai, Center for Drug and Health Studies (CDHS), University of Delaware; and Pat Kwetkauskie, DVCC staff. Cpl. Adrienne Owen, Delaware State Police participated by telephone.

Introductions: Committee members introduced themselves to Representative Bolden.

Approval of Minutes: The minutes from the meeting held on March 1, 2017 were approved by consensus.

#### **On-going Business:**

##### ➤ Overview of the DVCC Elderly and Domestic Violence Committee

Pat provided a brief overview of the Committee's goals, process, and activities since November 2014 when the Committee was reestablished by the DVCC Executive Committee. She explained that the Committee's most recent endeavor was the compilation and distribution of the report "The Elderly and Domestic Violence in Delaware". She noted the Recommendations from the Report were included on the Agenda.

##### ➤ Priorities and Suggestions for Implementing Recommendations

The Committee discussed the Recommendations from the report. It was noted that three of the recommendations are related to conducting outreach, promoting awareness as well as prevention education. There was consensus to focus on them initially. Several strategies were identified. These include:

- Create an "infographic" for distribution to the public, legislators and policy makers. The reverse side would list agencies/programs that focus on services to the elderly in Delaware.
  - There was a recommendation to use the theme "Abuse Hurts At Any Age" to promote a unified message across agencies and systems.
  - There was consensus to collaborate on the infographic and resource list via email.
  - The Committee agreed to review the Report and make recommendations concerning the information to include in the "infographic".
  - Recommendations should be emailed to Pat no later than January 3, 2018.
  - Pat and Sharon will develop a draft infographic and circulate to the Committee in early February.

- Generate interest about issues related to the elderly and domestic violence through outreach and education to state and local legislators;
  - Compile a communication packet to deliver to legislators' offices. Share "The Elderly and Domestic Violence in Delaware" report and infographic with state legislators.
  - Conduct informational tables in Legislative Hall during the next session. This would include two separate days, one for the Senate and one day for the House of Representatives. Pat will coordinate this with Representative Bolden's staff.
- Work with local media to inform citizens about the elderly and domestic violence with the goal of promoting awareness of the risks of harm and perpetrator tactics;
  - Local broadcast media such as Channel 28, Channel 22, and Comcast were suggested.
  - Create Public Service Announcement(s) scripts for radio stations
  - Pat will coordinate with Representative Bolden's staff to identify contacts within local media.

**New Business:**

There was discussion about recruiting additional representation from Sussex County. One suggestion was Kathy Keating Hudson, the Forensic Nurse Examiner Program Coordinator at Nanticoke Memorial Hospital. Pat will approach Kathy to determine her interest in joining the Committee.

**Next Meeting:** The next meeting of the DVCC Elderly and Domestic Violence Committee will be held in late February or early March, 2018.

Respectfully Submitted,

Pat Kwetkauskie, DVCC Staff  
December 6, 2017