

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE COORDINATING COUNCIL

ELDERLY and DOMESTIC VIOLENCE COMMITTEE MINUTES for March 1, 2017

The DVCC Elderly and Domestic Violence Committee met on March 1, 2017 at 3:00 p.m. in the Department of Justice, Carvel State Office Building, Wilmington. Attending the meeting were: Deputy Attorney General Renee Hrivnak, Department of Justice; Sharon Merriman-Nai, Center for Drug and Health Studies (CDHS), University of Delaware; Denise Arreola-Dominguez, DHSS Adult Protective Services and Maureen Monagle and Pat Kwetkauskie, DVCC staff.

Introduction: Renee Hrivnak introduced herself.

Approval of Minutes: The minutes from the meeting held on December 15, 2016 will be approved at the next meeting.

On-going Business:

- Compile a Report on the Elderly and Domestic Violence

Pat explained that during the September meeting, the Committee had agreed to compile a report on the Elderly and Domestic Violence in Delaware. She noted the information and presentation which Sharon Merriman-Nai provided to the Committee and during the DVCC's Quarterly meeting in September could serve as a "road map" for the report. The Committee discussed the following:

Intended Audience

The report could be written for State and Local Legislators and Policy Makers; Regulators; Law Enforcement including the Department of Justice; Service Providers, and the Public.

Purpose of the Report

The purpose would be to provide information and education on domestic violence and the elderly and to recommend policy and responses designed to improve the immediate safety and longer term well-being of elderly victims of domestic violence.

Topics/Content to Include

Topics for the Report would include: definition of domestic violence and the elderly, the prevalence of elderly domestic violence both nationally and among Delaware's population age 62 and older; vulnerabilities and risk factors for elderly victims; types of crimes; dynamics between elderly victims and those who harm them; unique needs of elderly who are victims; and best practices and recommendations for responses to elderly victims of domestic violence.

Cindy suggested the National Center on Elder Abuse as a resource for national data on domestic violence-related elder abuse. Pat and Kelly discussed Sharon Merriman-Nai's request for clarification on the meanings of some of the categories in the DELJIS Report provided to the Committee. Pat, Kelly and Sharon will discuss this after the holidays and prior to the next meeting. Also, Pat will contact Cpl. Adrienne Owen about the status of the crime mapping conducted by the Delaware State Police.

Cindy noted that information about case outcomes derived from the new APS data collection system won't be available for more than a year. She also reported that Pam Williams has left APS and is now the Director of Constituent Relations for DHSS. Michael Serfass is the new Director of APS.

- Education on *Crime, Abuse and Neglect among Older Delawareans* to Delaware's Legislators

Pat reported she had approached Senator Patricia Blevins, Chair of the Domestic Violence Coordinating Council, about the process to follow in order to schedule an educational activity for members of the Delaware legislature. Pat noted that as a result of the election, the Committee will need to identify an alternate legislator to advance this initiative.

Next Meeting: The next meeting of the DVCC Elderly and Domestic Violence Committee will be held in February 2017.

Respectfully Submitted,

Pat Kwetkauskie, DVCC Staff
December 20, 2016