

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE COORDINATING COUNCIL

ELDERLY and DOMESTIC VIOLENCE COMMITTEE MINUTES for August 9, 2018

The DVCC Elderly and Domestic Violence Committee met on August 9, 2018 at 3:30 p.m. in the House of Representatives Conference Room, Carvel State Office Building in Wilmington. Attending the meeting was: Edwin Hernandez-Vargas, Legislative Aide to Representative Stephanie P. Bolden; Gail Weinberg, Division of Public Health; Moe Monagle and Pat Kwetkauskie, DVCC staff. Participating by telephone were Sharon Merriman-Nai, Center for Drug and Health Studies (CDHS), University of Delaware and Cheri Will, Beebe Healthcare.

Introductions: Members introduced themselves. Edwin explained that Representative Stephanie P. Bolden, Chair of the Committee, would not be attending the meeting. Moe agreed to facilitate the meeting in her absence.

Approval of Minutes: There was no quorum. Consequently, minutes from the meeting held on April 16, 2018 will remain posted as draft and reviewed at the next meeting.

On-going Business:

- Outreach to Delaware Legislators
 - There was discussion about whom to contact and when to plan a brief presentation to the House of Representatives Health and Human Development Committee. Edwin will make some inquiries as to the how to pursue this.
 - *UPDATE:* Edwin spoke to Representative David Bentz, chair of the House Health and Human Development Committee. Representative Bentz indicated he is interested in hearing information from representatives from the DVCC Elderly and Domestic Violence Committee. There will be a delay in scheduling a presentation until after the election; subsequent Committee assignments are completed and the legislature is back in session in January.
- Initiatives – Outreach and Services to the Community
 - Adult Victim Services

Nikki Kress from the Delaware Center for Justice *Adult Victim Services (AVS)* program was not available to inform the Committee about the education, services and outreach available provided to older (50+) victims of crime including domestic violence in New Castle County. Pat will reach to Nikki and determine her availability for the next meeting.
 - Domestic Violence and Older Delawareans Infographic

Pat reported the Senior Protective Initiative of the Delaware Department of Justice has agreed to underwrite the cost of professionally reproducing the Infographic and Resource list for older victims of domestic violence. Pat noted the DVCC has begun to compile a listing of names and addresses for faith-based communities.

Once the list is completed the Committee will decide on the optimum time frame to distribute to the materials on a wide-scale basis. In the meantime, agencies and organizations can contact the DVCC office (302-255-0405) to request copies for distribution.

- Local television (WITN) and Wilmington Council

Edwin will obtain contact information in order for the Committee to plan a presentation to the Wilmington Health Planning Committee.

- Discussion – Data Collection on Substance misuse by older adults

There was discussion about the type of data collected concerning the use/misuse of drugs and alcohol by older adults in Delaware. There also appears to be a lack of information about how and if older adults are screened and/or assessed for lifetime poly-victimization. Research and data in this area could result in abating older adults' vulnerability as well as support the need for consistent, coordinated and comprehensive responses across the state.

- Discussion – Dementia and domestic violence

Cheri noted cases involving spouses with dementia who become violent toward their spouse (including serious injuries) seem to be occurring more frequently. For example: a couple in a long marriage and no history of domestic violence came to the system's attention when the husband beat his wife because he thought she was an intruder. Cheri agreed to collect information about these types of cases and identify what types of services were accesses for injured spouses/partners as well as what other services would have been helpful.

Lastly, Cheri indicated she is willing to provide basic information about domestic violence and the elderly to older Delawareans within her community. Pat will collaborate with Cheri to develop a basic outline and information about resources for Cheri and others to use.

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

Respectfully Submitted,

Pat Kwetkauskie, DVCC Staff
August 22, 2018