

MICHIGAN DOMESTIC VIOLENCE PREVENTION AND TREATMENT BOARD

MEETING MINUTES October 21, 2011

*** Approved ***

Members Present:

Jeffrie Cape
James A. Fink
Kathryn A. Hoover
Honorable Amy Ronayne Krause
Honorable Edward Sosnick
Cris Sullivan, Chair

Staff Present:

Debi Cain, Executive Director
Celestine Colton
Debbie Felder-Smith
Julie Giddings
Sarah Heuser

Michael Bobbitt, Board Secretary
Gail Krieger
Mary Lovik
Lore Rogers

Guests:

Rebecca Campbell - Professor, Michigan State University
Kathy Hagenian - Michigan Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence
Julie Hagstrom - Michigan State University/SARA Project
Mary Keefe - MCADSV
Tom Knapp - Michigan Chapter National Children's Alliance
John Lazet - Office of the Attorney General
Shannon Nobles - Michigan Resource Center on Domestic & Sexual Violence
Leslie O'Reily - Crime Victim Services Commission

Welcome and Introductions

Chair C. Sullivan convened the October 21, 2011 Michigan Domestic Violence Prevention and Treatment Board (MDVPTB) meeting at DHS, Grand Tower Building in Lansing, MI, at 1:10 p.m. Introductions were made and a welcome extended to guests and to Board members.

BOARD CONSENT

Review of agenda; approval of September 30, 2011 meeting minutes with a correction. Judge Krause would like the September Board meeting minutes corrected regarding the discussion of People v Ring. During the September meeting the Board voted to approve sending a letter to David Morse, the Livingston County Prosecutor, urging his office to seek publication of an unpublished MI Court of Appeals Decision, People v Ring. The Board agreed in September that it was not a conflict of interest for Judge Krause to vote on the motion because she was not a member of the panel who decided People v Ring at the Court of Appeals.

MOTION: Moved by A. Krause to approve the October 21, 2011 agenda and to approve the

September 30, 2011 meeting minutes with correction. Seconded by J. Fink. Motion carried.

CHAIR'S REPORT

C. Sullivan extended a welcome to new Board member Kathryn Hoover and reported on a brief Board orientation with Kathryn. C. Sullivan indicated she is working with Debi Cain on an agenda for the Board retreat in December.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT – GENERAL OVERVIEW OF WORK TO DATE

D. Cain said she is excited for the opportunity to work with Kathryn Hoover.

Staff member G. Krieger discussed revamping of the SAFE kits. G. Krieger said the revamping of the SAFE kits was funded by the MDVPTB. G. Krieger acknowledged the helpful collaboration in this project with the Michigan State Police forensic science division, with VOCA and with the SARA project at Michigan State University. The project sought to ensure high quality evidence collection and promote patient centered care for the victim. An emphasis was placed on making exams more comfortable and empowering for victims of sexual assault. Victims are able to receive the exam at no cost, and with no requirement to speak with law enforcement about the assault.

G. Krieger said the process of updating the SAFE kit involved adding “widgets” such as bar codes, drying boxes, and new swabs used to collect evidence outside of body cavities. Instructions were re-written with victim friendly language and a strangulation assessment and updated diagrams were also added.

Guest presenter Dr.R. Campbell from M.S.U. said that five communities participated in pilot testing the SAFE kits. It was agreed that the kits are a great prototype, but the pilot site did provide some useful suggested improvements. R. Campbell said that in updating the SAFE kits the focus was on their use for post pubescent children and adults.

Legislative Review

M. Lovik reported on SB 694 [expands the court's jurisdiction in child protection cases to situations where the unfitness of a home is anticipated.]

MOTION: Moved by J. Fink to oppose the bill and authorize staff to provide technical assistance if needed to minimize negative unintended consequences to survivors. Motion seconded by E. Sosnick. Motion carried.

M. Lovik reported on SB 743 [adopt the Uniform Child Abduction Prevention Act]

MOTION: Moved by E. Sosnick to oppose SB 743 as written. Motion seconded by J. Cape. Motion carried.

M. Lovik provided an update for the “off-ramp” project to improve outcomes for survivors and children

involving domestic violence. Project priorities will be training for all professionals involved in these cases, protocol/best practices development, and improving responses to domestic violence in PPO cases where child custody is at issue.

D. Cain said she returned from a Department of Justice summit on the use of cutting edge forensics in homicide and sexual assault cases. MDVPTB's newly awarded GTEA will set up a cold case sexual assault unit within the Michigan Attorney General's office.

G. Krieger is looking at developing a standardized form for police departments to use in sexual assault cases. She is also working with PAAM to form a model policy bank for law enforcement agencies to use when dealing with sexual assault.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

M. Keef recently visited the White House in Washington D.C. and said there is currently a lot of national level activity concerning sexual assault prevention.

T. Knapp said Michigan has been chosen as one of 19 states to participate in a national campaign to create an outcomes and measurements system for children's advocacy centers. The National Children's Alliance is working with the Department of Justice to develop research centered focus outcomes to help gauge the effectiveness of programs at child advocacy centers.

PROCESS EVALUATION: No comments.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting ended at 3:15 p.m.

MOTION: Moved by C. Sullivan to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by J. Cape. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,
Michael Bobbitt