

MICHIGAN DOMESTIC AND SEXUAL VIOLENCE PREVENTION AND TREATMENT BOARD

MEETING MINUTES September 21, 2012

*** Approved ***

Members Present:

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

Staff Present:

Patsy Baker
Michael Bobbitt, Board Secretary
Michelle Bynum
Debi Cain, Executive Director
Celestine Colton
Donna Cornwell
Julie Giddings
Sarah Heuser
Gail Krieger
Mary Lovik
Tiffany Martinez
Joyce Wright

Guests:

Rhoda Hacker - Safe Center
Kathy Hagenian - Michigan Coalition to End Domestic and Sexual Violence
Melissa Horste – Office of Carl Levin
Mary Keefe - Michigan Coalition to End Domestic and Sexual Violence
John Lazet - Attorney General's Office
Barbara Mills – Former staff to MDVSPTB
Shannon Nobles – Michigan Resource Center on Domestic and Sexual Violence
Angelita Velasco Gunn - Michigan Coalition to End Domestic and Sexual Violence
Stacey Westra – State Court Administrative Office, Trial Court Services
Amanda Bright McClanahan – Budget Division, Department of Human Services

Welcome and Introductions

Chair C. Sullivan convened the September 21, 2012 Michigan Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Prevention and Treatment Board meeting at DHS, Grand Tower Building in Lansing, Michigan at 1:05 p.m. Introductions were made and a welcome extended to guests.

BOARD CONSENT

Review of agenda; approval of July 20, 2012 meeting minutes.

MOTION: Moved by A. Ronayne Krause to approve the September 21, 2012 agenda and to approve the July 20, 2012 meeting minutes. Seconded by Candace Cowling. Motion carried.

CHAIR'S REPORT

C. Sullivan acknowledged this as the last meeting of three of our Board members and praised E. Sosnick, A. Ronayne Krause and C. Cowling for their service as Board members over the past six years. C. Sullivan said that it is not yet known who will replace them. C. Sullivan congratulated E. Sosnick for receiving the Governor Romney Community Service Award, an award based on our nomination of E. Sosnick for his lifetime of stellar service.

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

D. Cain said A. Ronayne Krause did a spectacular job speaking to the Wayne County Family Violence Council at their annual meeting. D. Cain mentioned that the budget process for fiscal year 2013 will be changed and asked A. Bright McClanahan to provide further explanation. P. Baker gave a presentation detailing how the appropriation changes for fiscal year 2013 will directly affect the Board.

MOTION: Moved by E. Sosnick to support the recommendation to carry on with the continuation budget request until October 26, 2012 when a more detailed budget will be provided by D. Cain and P. Baker. Motion seconded by A. Ronayne Krause. Motion carried.

D. Cain said that for the first time the Board was unfortunately declined for two discretionary grants that had been written on behalf of grantee programs. The Safe Havens grant and the Rural grant were the two grants that were declined. D. Cain said the Board can reapply for these grants again if grantee programs ask us to do so.

D. Cain mentioned that the travel audit and the Safe Havens grant audits were successful. D. Cain said the auditors had no findings or recommendations. D. Cain discussed a newspaper article from this week regarding issues at one of the shelters that is funded by the Board.

D. Cain said a state-wide sexual assault report form and model policies need to be developed so she is putting together a task force to make recommendations. D. Cain is delighted that A. Krause has agreed to chair the group.

G. Krieger reported on a recent sexual assault training that was held in Auburn Hills. G. Krieger said that under the governor's Secure Cities Initiative, the Board was asked to direct training efforts under the GTEA to Pontiac, Flint, Saginaw, and Detroit. G. Krieger said the IACP provided the two day leadership training. G. Krieger said the participation from the four Secure Cities was tremendous and that this will provide a platform for developing a model sexual assault policy for Michigan.

LEGISLATIVE REVIEW

A. Krause reported on the activities of a workgroup created at the July 2012 Board meeting to determine whether the Board should amend its General Principle of 12/3/2004 on accurate, complete, criminal histories for domestic violence perpetrators.

MOTION: Moved by E. Sosnick to suspend the existing General Principle. Motion seconded by C. Cowling. Motion carried.

M. Lovik presented the following proposal for a General Principle on Crime Victim Notification:

The escape or release from physical custody of crime perpetrators may re-traumatize or endanger the victims of their crimes. This is especially so in highly personal crimes involving stalking, sexual assault, and domestic violence cases where a perpetrator's past relationship with the survivor may facilitate access to the survivor or to information about the survivor's location. To facilitate survivor safety planning and peace of mind, the Board supports policies affording them timely notice of the release, death, or escape of a perpetrator in custody, and of changes in the physical location or anticipated release dates of these perpetrators. Notice of release or changes in location should be given in advance, if possible, in a manner reasonably calculated to ensure its timely receipt by survivors. Survivors should also be notified if a perpetrator applies for a reprieve, commutation, or pardon, and of the final decision on the application.

Additionally, the Board supports policies that give survivors a full opportunity to express safety and other concerns about perpetrators' release from custody. If they wish to do so, survivors should be allowed to participate meaningfully in proceedings where a perpetrator's release is under consideration. Survivor participation should include:

- Timely advance notice of a proceeding to consider a perpetrator's release from custody.
- Access to information in advance of the proceeding, relevant to the decision to release a perpetrator from physical custody.
- An opportunity to testify and present information to the body with authority over the perpetrator.
- Timely notice of the outcome of the proceeding.

MOTION: Moved by A. Krause to adopt the proposed General Principle. Motion seconded by E. Sosnick. Motion Carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT: S. Heuser mentioned that she and J. Wright attended a training that focused on improving crisis line worker skills. S. Heuser stressed the importance of crisis lines for survivors who are in need of help.

PROCESS EVALUATION: No comments.

ADJOURNMENT:

MOTION: Moved by J. Cape to adjourn the meeting. Motion seconded by C. Cowling. Motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 3:30p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Michael Bobbitt