

**MICHIGAN DOMESTIC AND SEXUAL VIOLENCE PREVENTION AND  
TREATMENT BOARD  
MEETING MINUTES  
November 19, 2015**

**\*\*\* Approved\*\*\***

**Members Present:**

Dr. Cris Sullivan, Chair  
Yvonne Brantley  
James Fink  
Hon. Jeffrey Sauter  
Jacqueline Schafer

**Members Absent:**

Jeffrie Cape  
Hon. Elizabeth Pollard Hines

**Staff Present:**

Debi Cain, Executive Director  
Michael Bobbitt, Board Secretary  
Donna Cornwell  
Debbie Felder-Smith  
Julie Giddings  
Sarah Heuser  
Gail Krieger  
Mary Lovik  
Sandra Pilgrim-Lewis  
Karen Porter

**Guests:**

John Lazet – Department of Attorney General  
Stacey Westra – State Court Administrative Office

**WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS**

Chair C. Sullivan convened the November 19, 2015 Michigan Domestic and Sexual Violence Prevention and Treatment Board meeting at the Library of Michigan – Lake Superior Room in Lansing, Michigan at 2:06 p.m. Introductions were made and a welcome extended to guests.

**BOARD CONSENT**

Review of agenda and approval of October 15, 2015 meeting minutes.

**MOTION: Moved by J. Fink to approve the November 19, 2015 agenda and to approve the October 15, 2015 meeting minutes. Motion seconded by Y. Brantley. Motion carried.**

**CHAIR'S REPORT**

C. Sullivan announced that Y. Brantley, J. Sauter and L. Hines have agreed to apply for a second term on the Board – thank you Yvonne, Jeff and Libby!

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

D. Cain said that she is grateful to the Board members for all the time and expertise they provide – Happy Thanksgiving 2015.

D. Cain shared a list of the various universities that Michigan's First Lady Sue Snyder's Campus Initiative was able to fund with a half million dollars in continuation of the work she is doing on behalf of campus sexual assault. D. Cain said the applications contained many innovative ideas.

S. Heuser provided an update on the MI TEAM Domestic Violence Enhancement training utilizing the Safe and Together Model™, which is a new approach that the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services has adopted to address domestic violence cases in the child welfare system. S. Heuser is a certified trainer and is one of ten trainers along with J. Wright who are being deployed across the state to provide training for all CPS and Foster Care workers including supervisors in both state and private agencies. Trainers were deployed to Business Service Center 1 (BSC1) at the end of September which covers the entire Upper Peninsula and a portion of the Northern Lower Peninsula. The training was also delivered in Ingham County. Four day comprehensive trainings for all child welfare workers in BSC1 and Ingham will be completed by December 1, 2015.

S. Heuser described how the Safe and Together Model™ created by David Mandel and Associates, has been incorporated into Michigan's case practice model and manual named MI TEAM. S. Heuser said all of the concepts from the Safe and Together Model™ work well with the Teaming, Engagement, Assessment and Mentoring aspects of the MI TEAM model. Board funding supported having the David Mandel concepts incorporated into the MI TEAM manual. The four days of training match the text that guides their work.

S. Heuser said the guiding principles of the approach are keeping children safe and together with the non-offending parent, partnering with the non-offending parent as the default position and intervening with the perpetrator to reduce risk and harm to the child. This approach is different because everything begins with a 360 degree assessment of the perpetrator's pattern of coercive control and actions including the adverse impact of the perpetrator's behavior has had on the children. The full spectrum of the non-offending parent's efforts to promote the safety and well being of the children is also assessed. Taken altogether, this creates better documentation, service referrals and interventions with perpetrators. When you begin with the perpetrator assessment, you are partnering with the survivor and are understanding her behavior and decision making in the context of a perpetrator's specific behavior pattern. Over time, this approach has the potential to substantially improve case decision making across systems with regard to child safety and well-being.

D. Cain asked G. Krieger to share with the Board a current example of how policy and legislation has a real impact on people's lives. G. Krieger said that when Capt. Michaud of the Michigan State Police found out two years ago that a brutal rapist was on parole and was about to be released to the same location where one of his victim lives he contacted everyone he could to try to stop the offender from being released. Capt. Michaud's efforts made it possible to schedule a rehearing with the parole board which resulted in the offender's parole being suspended.

On November 18, 2015 the offender was up for parole again. The survivor was able to attend and tell her story to the parole board. G. Krieger and D. Cain both advocated to have the offender remain in prison as did the former and current prosecutor and both arresting Michigan State Police officers. The victim will have to wait until April 22, 2016 to find out whether the offender will be paroled this time. The victim is worried not only for her own life, but for the life of her son if the offender is eventually released. D. Cain said that legislation translates to real people and real lives and she thanked the Board for all the work they do to make intelligent policy and legislation recommendations to the governor and legislature.

K. Porter provided an overview on the variety of site visits that the Board performs. The primary site visit is a standards review. The Board staff is legislatively required to set standards and those standards have evolved so that now there are more than 119 standards. Standards review site visits occur every three to five years for grantee programs. Monitoring at the agencies takes place for about one and one half days, but the monitors are in the community for about two to three days interviewing community partners and staff members. Personnel, Board governance, financial and accounting policies are all reviewed by site visit teams which consist of Board staff and peer monitors.

In addition, 1 day on-site contract reviews are also conducted over a three to five year period looking at specific contract elements. There is also an off-site desk review which focuses on finance. Annually there are approximately 36 visits per year and of those visits 12 -15 will be standards reviews and 15 - 18 will be on-site contract reviews. An additional 6-8 contract reviews are also conducted annually for the Children's Advocacy Centers and state partners, which are MCOLES, the Attorney General's office, PAAM and MCEDSV.

## **LEGISLATIVE REVIEW**

M. Lovik reported on the House-passed version of HB 4476, which would restrict the use of mediation in domestic relations cases.

**MOTION: Moved by J. Fink to oppose the House-passed version of HB 4476 unless it is amended to strike the requirement that a personal protection order or other protective order be supported by "objective and verifiable evidence or other written, audio, or visual evidence that supports the [requesting party's] allegations" before it will trigger the bill's prohibitions on mediation. Motion seconded by Y. Brantley. Motion carried.**

M. Lovik reported on the House-passed version of HB 4478 regarding protection against animal abuse in personal protection orders. As passed the House, the bill would limit such protection to companion animals. Staff noted that this limitation was not consistent with a substantially similar bill supported by the Board in a prior legislative session, HB 4741'07. Staff further reported on proposed amendments to subsection (1)(j) of the House-passed version, which would make the bill more consistent with HB 4741'07 by extending protection to other animals in addition to companion animals. These amendments include language taken from SB 28'15, which the Board has supported in concept. Board members discussed the proposed amendments and raised no objections to them.

M. Lovik reported on the House-passed version of HB 4481, which would expand existing prohibitions on awarding custody or parenting time to perpetrators of criminal sexual conduct against the other parent of a child. The Board expressed its continued support for the bill and requested staff to convey concerns that the

definition of “fact finding hearing” in the House-passed version is not necessary and does not reflect the realities of domestic relations cases.

Board members acknowledged that they had an opportunity to review other bills of interest to the Board’s constituency including HB 5064 that had been introduced since the Board’s October 15, 2015 meeting.

**BOARD ANNOUNCEMENTS**

No comments.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

J. Lazet applauded the Board for everything it has done to promote victim’s rights.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

**MOTION: Moved by Y. Brantley to adjourn the meeting. Motion seconded by J. Sauter. Motion carried. The meeting ended at 4:30 p.m.**

Respectfully submitted,  
Michael Bobbitt