

DHS DV Council - Notes
August 18, 2009

Present: Stephanie Merhib, Karen Collette, Choya Adkison-Stevens, Rhonda Culley, Carol Krager, Susan Hughes, Jayne Downie, Angelica Pena, Cheryl O'Neill, Richard Ott, Micki Serice.

Absent: Chantell Geels, Therese Hutchison, Pam Hurtt, Sharon McFarlane, Chris Sielieky, Nanci Jarard, Teri Herndon, Linda Pursell, Verona Turner

Assignments:

- Bring to the next meeting any materials related to battered immigrant women that you want displayed at the Diversity conference. 50 copies of each, please.
- Carol will contact communications related to director's message
- Carol will contact Sybil Hebb regarding the legislative update
- Stephanie will be checking on a presenter for a short tutorial on "Gov Space"
- Choya will follow up with Pam Briggs related to purchase of posters
- Jayne will create a display board for the resource table at the diversity conference
- Bring items for the "chocolate" theme silent auction basket to our next meeting
- Carol will send out activity used at Line Managers Meeting related to the Standards
- Stephanie & Cheryl will follow-up on appropriate venues to discuss the standards (i.e. line managers meetings or equivalent for CW & SPD/AAA)
- Cheryl volunteered to contact local programs (where nominees reside) about awareness events in their area for October.

Updates:

- Verona has been out sick and it looks like she will be for awhile. Susan Hughes volunteered to be the note taker for this meeting.

Communications:

Elizabeth Mazzara from Communications was hoping to attend in the afternoon was unable to arrive. She will attend a future meeting and discuss with us her role.

Related to request for staff (membership tools) on web page: Pam Rouske suggested use of "govspace" which is a professional networking site the state is using. Pam will be our sponsor for the sight management. Our intention is to begin to use this space to correspond between meetings and share documents and communication specific to our needs. Partners will be able to access the site however they must be granted access though DAS. Pam will make the request. Stephanie is checking to see who can provide a short tutorial on this site (Heather).

Diversity Conference:

Our presenter will be Sara McCain from Catholic Charities. The topic will be “Working with Battered Immigrant Women.” Please bring any table materials to the September meeting for display at the conference. Items should be related to immigrants, culture and related DV services.

Choya discussed posters for the conference and she will follow up with Pam Briggs about possible postage for shipping and handling of the purchase of these items through Pam’s community service group she works with.

Jane Downing offered to put together a form Board on Immigration Information with victims of DV for the Conference Table. If you have any suggested material please forward it to her before next month.

Sara has sent some masters related to U-Visa’s and self-petitioning under VAWA for permanent residency. Carol will make sure copies are made for the table.

Training on Standards:

Carol gave an update on the Standards Presentation she provided to SSP line-managers two months ago. Karen was able to attend one of the sessions. Carol will forward her presentation questions to the group for reference. She described her approach which was an audience interview with questions exploring current practice in offices. E.g. Have you done protective plans with families? Do you have private interview rooms available if you suspect DV? Do you have DV posters in your lobby? Do you have established relationships with community partners serving DV victims? Do you look for DV qualification during hiring? She then discusses how all of these things show implementation of portions of the standards. The hope is to have consistency in implementation across the Department.

Our next plan is to address line managers in CW and SPD. Cheryl O’Neill will check and see how CW divisions meet with line managers (Eastern, Southern, Metro, etc.) and report back next month. Stephanie will check within SPD about the best approach to connect with AAA’s and District SPD line managers and report back next month.

Award Nominations:

We received two nominations, one within DHS and one partner nomination. It was decided to award both nominees. There was discussion on improvements that can be made to the nomination and evaluation process. We will re-design our process for next year. It was decided that more specific questions directed at “building relationship between providers and DHS or visa versa”, we will improve the nomination process. We also want to get more specific information on innovative practice and request letters of support from DV partners if the applicant is a DHS employee and letters of support from DHS if the applicant is a DV partner.

The group discussed what we will offer as the award and how we would present the award to recipients. People wanted to present the award in the community the recipients lived during the month of October. The hope is to present it at a local DV awareness month event (depending on events in the local community). The awards would be presented by Mickey Serice or his designee. There was a discussion about a certificate or possible plaque to either be moved ahead each year, a possible gift certificate or training tuition that might be covered. The group considered soliciting donations. A question came up about whether soliciting a donation for a DHS staff person and/partner would be appropriate. Mickey agreed to check on whether there was any ethical issues around such a solicitation. Tony Peterson will know if there is any training dollars available for tuition and he will check with her.

Policy Discussion:

Carol brought a draft rule related to verifying whether or not someone is a perpetrator when they have been arrested or been convicted of DV in the past. The problem is that some perpetrators are presenting themselves as victims in order to access TA-DVS funds. The rule attempts to balance the issue of not wanting to give the perpetrator a benefit under the program and the fact that sometimes victims are arrested as the primary aggressor. The rule was taken to a rules advisory group who requested that it be reviewed by advocates and the Council. The group recommended language changes to improve the rule. Please get any additional comments to Carol before the end of August. The goal of the re-write is to hold true to the intention of not having victims be required to prove they are victims but to address concerns if there are known conflicts during a application process.

DV Awareness Month:

There was a brief discussion on ideas for DV awareness month. Carol will be doing an activity with the DV points to identify a theme for the month. The Council will also request that a message be sent out by Dr. Goldberg. Carol will contact communications about what is needed to make this happen.

Round Table:

Jayne shared that she has provided the DV, Sexual Assault and Stalking training to over 3700 state managers and HR staff.

Our Chair and Vice Chair positions need to be replaced in the near future. We like to have a Partner and a DHS person in these roles. Anticipate an additional 4 to 8 hours a month. There is generally some follow-up with Mickey and specific duties are listed on the CD every received. There would need to be communication with Verona between meetings as well.

Stephanie Merhib gave a brief update on the re-design within SPD and the separation of Community Services and Facilities she anticipates it may be more appropriate in the future for Valerie to attend DV Council, but she will update us next month.

BIG DEAL HERE, please REMEMBER TO: Bring something for a silent auction basket next month (our theme is CHOCOLATE anything, chocolate items, chocolate cook books, chocolate, chocolate, chocolate.)

Jayne and Cheryl volunteered to represent the Council at the DV Intervention Partnership Team meeting scheduled on August 20th.

Agenda items for next meeting:

- Have Sybil come and present a legislative update
- Finalize the recruitment process
- Review and update the standards document to represent to the cabinet
- Nominations for co-chairs
- Follow-up on award process

Next meeting:

September 15th – 9:00-4:00
4074 Winema Place – Salem, OR
Building 53 – Upstairs in D3 conference room