

# Okaloosa Walton Domestic Violence Coordinating Council

## Council Minutes

July 19, 2007

**Present:** Judge William Stone, Virginia Barr, Rose Berry, Beth Blankenship, Agnes Coppola, Jeannette Debs, Michelle Espinoza, Angelina Garofalo, Roberta Hollaway, Kristen Klein, Tammy Matthews, Sylvia Mobley, Kathy Pacheco, Mary Jean Peterson, Kay Pitts, Sharon Rogers & Leyla McLemore.

- 1) After **introductions**, Judge Stone called the **meeting to order** at 3:36 p.m.
- 2) Kathy Pacheco moved and Kristen Klein 2nd that the **minutes of May 23** be approved as distributed. Passed.
- 3) **Committee Reports**
  - a) **Criminal Justice:** Roberta and Agnes are now the new co-chairs and reported that the committee met June 12. Both bases were represented at the last meeting with JAG and Security Forces as well as state probation and parole. Agnes is recruiting someone from the Public Defender's Office to participate. The next meeting will be either August 7 or 14. The committee will present to the military JAG how we serve victims & perpetrators in the civilian world. Also they are exploring how to establish protocol to ensure perpetrators' compliance in civil injunctions (BIP, etc.)
  - b) **Prevention:** Jeannette Debs reported for Stephanie (who is ill) that the group has completed Getting to Outcomes Step 1 and Monday will meet to begin working on Step 2. Let Jeannette or Stephanie know if you are interested in helping with this process.
  - c) **Public Awareness Committee (PAC):** Since Stephanie was not present, Ginny Barr reported that they are focusing on the Nov. 2 district wide conference. The PAC's role is to arrange two domestic violence speakers. We need an organization to underwrite the cost of 500 color brochures. Our DVCC website is almost finished thanks to Sherry Kennedy. Call Rebecca Bussman at WISE with any ideas or suggestions.
  - d) **Victim Advocacy:** Due to the dismantling of the Victim Advocates Program of the Okaloosa Sheriff's Office, Kaye Petralia resigned as co-chair of Victim Advocacy Committee. Fortunately, Michelle Espinoza has agreed to co-chair with Mary Jean Peterson. The Steering Committee gratefully agreed to this change in committee leadership. Both bases are searching for ways to continue the VA positions that DOD has unfunded effective Sept. 30. The Family Advocacy Officers will try to participate in the DVCC in the interim.
  - e) **Family Justice Center:** Mary Jean reported that Bill Eddins is reviewing the letter to stakeholders that was drafted to go out with his signature.
  - f) **Steering** recommended that Beth Blankenship be added to the Steering Committee as an "Honorary Member." Ginny moved and Kathy seconded, the motion passed.
  - g) **Walton Co.:** Last meeting was June 28. The committee is exploring whether and where Shelter House, Inc. might locate a domestic violence shelter. Help has been recruited from the Institute of Senior Professionals from Okaloosa Walton College to assist in designing a needs assessment.

#### 4) Announcements

Ginny Barr shared a **free training opportunity July 27** from Access Behavioral Health. Free registration and food but registration is required. Continuing credits will be available.

**Shelter House, Inc. Restaurant Tour July 14-31** posters were distributed.

**COPE Center will be hiring a full time and part time victim advocate** to replace Sylvia Mobley (going back to school teaching) and Carolyn Hammond (move to LA).

Judge Brace **Visitation Center in Crestview** is open at the First United Methodist Church, 898 Texas Parkway, Crestview.

Dates for the remaining **meetings for 2007 are September 17 in Crestview and November 7 at Shalimar Courthouse.**

Respectfully submitted, Jeannette Debs, Secretary Pro-tem