

NC Council for Women/Domestic Violence Commission

Quarterly Meeting Minutes NC Council for Women May 8, 2009

Location: Department of Agriculture Building
4300 Reedy Creek Road
Raleigh, NC 27607

Time: 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM

Attendees: Sylvia Ray (Chair), Bobbie Deese, Robin Coates, Sonya Reid, Mary Peterson, Dr. Stephanie Deese, Muriel Offerman, Rhonda Minnifield, Dr. Evelyn Williams, Deputy Secretary June Michaux, Executive Director Mel Chilton, Patti Kelley, Jackie Jordan, Bernetta Thigpen, Courtney Watkins

Participating by phone: Dr. Betty McGrath, Joanne White, Darlene Waddell, Meenal Khajuria, Reeta Wolfsohn, Lynne Jenks

Guests: DOA Legislative Liaison Christy Agner, Megan Brown-Policy Analyst, Susan Ball and Betsy Brodeur-Women's Resource Center of Greensboro, Inc.

- I. Chair, Sylvia Ray called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone. Phone attendees introduced themselves.
- II. Approval of Minutes
 - Sylvia Ray asked if everyone reviewed the minutes from the last meeting and asked the Council for approval of the minutes. Dr. Stephanie Deese made a motion to approve the minutes, Muriel Offerman seconded, and the minutes were approved.
- III. Directors Report- Mel Chilton
 - Mel congratulated and thanked the Council for organizing a successful “Women in Government” reception.
 - She thanked the subcommittees and their chairs for all their progress, especially for reviewing the FY 09-10 DH grant applications.
 - Mel asked the Council to think of people who might be willing to volunteer to read the FY 09-10 DV and SA grant applications. Contact Jackie or Elaine with the names and contact information of the volunteer.
 - As of March, the NC CFW/DVC has started tracking performance measures for all DV, SA, and DH programs. They report the number of clients they serve and the number of educational presentations they give on a monthly basis. The data will be collected and posted annually.
 - This grants cycle, the NC CFW/DVC will also be tracking the number of fully complete grant applications that go over to DOA Fiscal, so we are strongly encouraging the programs to pay attention to detail. Hopefully, this will cut down on delays in getting the contracts in place.
 - The NC CFW/DVC will be adding a resource on the website that lists Spanish speaking contacts for each region of the state so victims who don't speak English can receive assistance.
 - Board terms expire on June 30th 2009 for Lynne, Reeta, Joanne, Dr. Williams, Darlene, Meenal, Carolyn, Rhonda, and Mary. Contact the Governor's Office or

Boards and Commission to express interest in being reappointed. Other member terms expire June 30th 2010. Sylvia expressed her desire to resign as Chair of the Council.

IV. Report from Grants Administration

- Divorce Filing Fees have not yet been affected by budget cuts
- The majority of programs receiving DFF money have spent all their money.
- The Office of State Budget and Management has directed NC CFW/DVC not to release any 4th quarter money until further notice. 3rd quarter money was just received in mid-May.
- Iredell county and Wilson county are new DH applicants this year.
- Jackie asked the Council if they will be developing/using a funding formula to award funds to the 09-10 grant applicants.
- Muriel had a concern that the DH grants were too subjective and points need to be assigned to each question in every section, not just a section total score. The programs won't know where they faltered if there are no points assigned to each question.
 - Sonya said that she used the comments section to address missing information and anything they did wrong.
 - Stephanie and Betty expressed their concern for assigning points to every question because last year applicants received points for inconsequential material. It was more about compliance than the quality of the grant.
 - The team leaders agreed to meet to come up with a more balanced and consistent points system for the grant reviewers.

V. Program Presentation

- Women's Resource Center of Greensboro(Guilford Co)- Susan Ball, Betsy Brodeur
 - 1000 DH clients come through the center every year and the Program Director reviews all the intake sheets to ensure they are truly DH clients.
 - They maintain partnerships with the community for referral services and jobs (help with budgeting, resumes, job placement, self-esteem, goal setting, etc)
 - They try to follow up with clients after they complete the program, but sometimes it's difficult to locate them after they've moved several times.
 - Ways the Council could help this program:
 - Look at the excessive reporting requirements. Takes time away from clients they could be helping. (29 different reports required in one year to satisfy state funding requirements)
 - Reliable funding delivery
 - Stephanie asked the program to come up with four active ways the Council can address the reporting requirements. Maybe the Council needs to look at all the required forms.
 - Bernetta explained the reason there are so many forms is because if a program is receiving funds from different pots of money (DV, MLF, SA, DH), they are required to fill out forms for each of them.
 - A question was raised asking if the Region Directors could be responsible for separating out the forms for the different pots of money so the program only has to turn in one form. The RD's need to be fiscally aware of how their programs are spending this money.
 - Bernetta commented that the RD's spend a lot of their time traveling to monitor the programs so they aren't in the office that much to handle the reporting paperwork.

VI. Comments from Deputy Secretary June Michaux

- Mrs. Michaux has previously worked with public housing, real estate, and Office of State Property and said she is excited about her current position because it ties all of her knowledge and experience together.
- She thanked the Council for arranging the Women in Government reception
- Currently the budget is at 9 % cuts, but it will more than likely move to 10 %
- Grant funding has been cut 6.4% and she's unsure how much more will have to be cut
- As budget cuts and restrictions happen she will let the Council know how they may be affected

VII. Committee Reports

A. Status on Women Report Committee

- There are two different report options. One contains more material than the other and the committee would prefer the more inclusive report, but they're waiting to hear if the price can be lowered (currently charging \$50,000)
- The max amount the Z. Smith Reynolds grant will cover is \$30,000, but Tara researched other grant options with Z. Smith and there may be the potential to receive more money.
- After the report is generated, the Council wants it used to conduct mini-trainings for Program Directors, which would enable them to develop ways to make services more equal across the state.

B. Grants Committee

- Bernetta reviewed the committee minutes and the changes and recommendations that were made for the 09-10 DH grant review process
- The only concern that Council members had was the assignment of point values and the team leaders will meet to address this issue.

C. Women and Money Committee

- Reeta would like to put together a survey for the programs to see how they are teaching women about finances.
- The goal of this committee is increased self-awareness and self-sufficiency
- Bobbie Deese and Sonya will set up a time to have a conference call with Reeta

D. Standardization of Services

- Sonya came by the CFW/DVC office and copied all 35 of last year's DH grant applications. She focused on the partnerships/community supporters/collaboration section to see how the resources vary across the state.
- Next steps: 1) develop a matrix of services 2) cross reference services per region 3) connect with DH grantees to discuss additional programs and services 4) offer potential listing of services and activities, especially for youth.
- She will report findings at the August full Council meeting

E. DH Manual

- At the quarterly Women Work meeting there was a lot of interest to have the manual updated. A couple program directors would like to participate in the process.
- A DH mission statement is being worked on by Kathleen Balogh and Jenny Sliker
- Patti has started receiving forms that some DH programs are currently using and she will send those out to the committee so they can start working on best practices and standardization of services

F. Legislative

- Met with Katie Dorsett in regards to Senate Bill 223
- Concerns about the name change 1) the Council is a group of people and not a center 2) makes it sound like DV is the focus when the name should represent empowering women to economic self-sufficiency
- Concern that changing the Council board member requirements would disrupt the progress they've made
- Committee researched other Women's Councils in other states and found: 13 are independent, 13 are housed by the Governor/LT. Governor/state, 8 housed under the Dept. of Labor or Administration, 5 were business connections/community affairs. Mary will email the 68 page report
- Next step is to try to talk to Governor Perdue to get her input on her vision for the Council
- Anyone who wants to advocate please call your Senator by May 15th.

VIII. Legislative Update

- House Bill 115 passed the House and will be up for discussion until the short term in 2010. The companion bill, Senate Bill 223 has been referred to the Mental Health and Youth Services Committee.
- This bill came about during an interim period from a committee who focuses on DV issues and the Council was not given an opportunity to address their concerns until after it crossed over because the full Council meeting wasn't until May 8th
- The course of action is to meet with the Governor and talk to Boards and Commissions about how they will handle board appointments.
- Christy will share the comments from today's meeting with Senator Bozeman and Atwater (chairs of the interim committee who created the bill) to work on ways to amend the bill
- Budget Concerns- 1) there could be significantly greater cuts than the Governor first predicted in her budget 2) spending targets will be given to each agency and they will need to figure out where they can cut/move money 3) could expect to see a House budget by June 1
- Council vote on Senate Bill 223
 - 1) Agency Name Change- not something the Council is seeking at the present time and feels it doesn't add any real value
 - 2) Membership- the Council is open to a discussing the membership requirements, but feels there should be no limiting categories
 - 3) Purpose- the Council doesn't want DV and/or SA listed in the purpose, a Council mission was created in Apr 2008 and that should be brought to legislators for consideration, overall the Council should be viewed as an empowerment agency, not one focused on victims.
- Christy encouraged the Council to address any further comments/concerns to the legislative committee and she will check in with them for updates.
- Council should cultivate relationships with legislators and educate them on the work of the Council while Christy and Mel keep an eye on Senate Bill 223.

IX. New Business

- Next meeting tentatively set for July 24th or 31st. Patti will send an email to confirm dates.

IX. Meeting adjourned at 2:00 pm.