

**Domestic Violence Commission Meeting
Minutes – September 16, 2011
Public School Forum
3739 National Drive, Suite 100, Raleigh NC**

Commission Member Attendees: Chairperson Karen Parker Thompson, Marisol Barr, The Honorable Sharon Barrett, Sherry Bradsher (representing Secretary Lanier Cansler), Gwendolyn Burrell, Cathy Cloninger, The Honorable J. Thomas Davis, David Elliott (representing Attorney General Roy Cooper), Julia Freeman, Chief John Guard, Dr. Peggy Goodman, Lynne Harlan, Sheriff Dewey Jones, Jo Liles, Tracy Little, Deputy Secretary June Michaux, Ben Thalheimer, Marie White, and Beth Williams.

Guest Attendees: Avani Bhatt, Angelica Wind, Helen Lipman and Martha Morales.

Department of Administration Attendees: Jill Dinwiddie, Mary Williams-Stover and Charlene Kea.

A. OPENING/WELCOME – Karen Parker Thompson, Chairperson

Chairperson Karen Parker Thompson welcomed everyone to the meeting.

B. INTRODUCTIONS – Karen Parker Thompson, Chairperson

The Chair noted that the DV Commission has new members to be sworn in at this meeting.

C. SWEARING IN OF NEW MEMBERS – The Honorable Sharon T. Barrett

The following new members came forward to be sworn in: Cathy Cloninger, Lynne Harlan, Marie White and Beth Williams. Each member received the oath and then signed the appropriate form. The Honorable Sharon Barrett announced that each of the four members is now officially sworn as members of the Domestic Violence Commission. A group photo was taken.

D. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – Karen Parker Thompson, Chairperson

The Chair asked if everyone had a chance to review the minutes from the April 8, 2011 meeting and if there were any additions or corrections. Since there were none, a motion was made (Judge Barrett), seconded (Gwendolyn Burrell) and passed that the minutes of the April 8, 2011 DV Commission meeting be approved as written.

E. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT – Jill Dinwiddie, Executive Director

Jill welcomed all new members to the Domestic Violence Commission. She also announced that we have a few members whose terms expired and reminded all DVC members that when their term is up, they need to contact their appointing office to discuss possible re-appointment if interested. She then thanked all DVC members on behalf of the Governor's Office and the CFW for their dedicated service to the Commission. She extended an open invitation to all DVC members to come and visit the CFW office.

- She announced to the new members that the notebooks should serve as a guiding tool for the DV Commission. The notebooks were given to each new member present at this meeting. She explained that the notebooks include important information such as CFW's phone numbers and contact information, a current list of DVC Members, a list of the subcommittees and the subcommittee's members, DVC organizational chart, history, and legislative information.
- The CFW is in the middle of another grant cycle. She stated that the CFW started out this year's grant cycle by meeting with the necessary staff at DOA to collaborate on various issues. All staff were involved in these meetings in an effort to improve the process. This

year the grant applications and contracts were submitted electronically. At this time we have 50% of the contracts approved and sent over to DOA for their approval and we've approved 60% for payment. The CFW has improved the system over the year. CFW continues to work on improving the process each year.

- Jill announced that the budget shortfall resulted in one lost position in the Raleigh Office and in one Regional Office staffed by two people. Mary is working with the other four Regional Offices on re-designing the monitoring process to make the larger geographical territory more manageable.
- The Governor's Conference for Women is November 2, 2011 in Charlotte. The CFW is on the planning committee. Jill extended an invitation to this conference to all DVC Members and their affiliates. There is a special 50% reduction on registration for state employees but the slots are limited and on a first come first serve basis. This is a Conference where over 1,500 women come together for a day of education, inspiration and empowerment.
- Jill stated the CFW has received a grant from Z Smith Reynolds which will allow 6 DH stand alone programs to be equipped with the Osnum software for data collection. This will help to ensure that all of the programs are able to provide the same data.
- The DV Awareness Campaign Taskforce will continue to meet in Charlotte. Both Jenny Ward, who is the NC CFW Board Chair, and the DVC Chairperson, Karen Parker Thompson serve on this Taskforce. The Taskforce received a grant from Wells-Fargo for production of a short video to promote awareness statewide. Mecklenburg County and Iredell County will be the pilot counties for the project.
- Jill and Mary Williams-Stover conducted a "Women in Leadership" workshop at the AIWPN Conference. The workshop focused on broadening American Indian Women's skills and leadership potential in their communities.
- The CFW is currently beginning to plan for the 2012 Women's History event. We have expanded our partnership. If you have any ideas or thoughts, please let us know.

F. SPECIAL REPORT- Durham Collaboration for Culturally and Linguistically Specific Services – Avani Bhatt, Kiran & Martha Morales, InStepp, Inc.

- Avani began with a PowerPoint presentation to the DV Commission. She provided an overview of the collaboration and partnership efforts begun in Durham to serving immigrant victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking, and dating violence.
- There are four organizations that have come together to provide unique services: Kiran, Inc., Durham Crisis Response Center, El Centro Hispano and InStepp, Inc.
- Kiran, Inc. is statewide and is based in Raleigh. Durham Crisis Response Center is the lead agency and is located in Durham.
- The services being offered under this collaboration are split into five categories: legal, counseling, housing, life assistance, and long-term. Language assistance is also one of the most needed services offered.
- Martha Morales with InStepp, Inc. presented information on the sample cases included in the presentation and talked about how the services take a unique individual approach to providing specific services.
- The collaboration efforts have resulted in products and policies being created, and there are ongoing processes which help in strengthening the programs and services being offered.
- At the end of this report Jill thanked Avani and Martha for their collaboration efforts and for their services to the cause.

G. COMMITTEE REPORTS

Prior to the committee reports Karen took a moment to recognize Peggy Goodman for her many years of service to the Domestic Violence Commission.

➤ **Victim Services - Karen Parker Thompson**

Karen explained the current charge to this committee which is to focus on services to and needs of the American Indian community. Alisa Hunt-Lowery has agreed to chair this committee.

➤ **Batterer Intervention - Jo Liles**

Jo Liles passed out a handout which outlined the committee's work. She announced that the committee is very active and the members are devoted to their work. The committee is working on developing a Best Practices Handbook which will serve as a guidance tool. The committee is working on reviewing and certifying Batterer Intervention Programs which is done twice a year, February and August.

➤ **Law Enforcement & Pro Arrest – John Guard**

Chief John Guard began by stating the committee has not met yet. He talked about Senate Bill 311 which was passed and will go into effect December 2011. The previous law allowed on-site arrest but under Senate Bill 311, law enforcement and judicial officials can set bail and pre-arrest conditions. This bill creates efficiencies and helps the judicial system to keep its promise. John asked the committee to be supportive of Senate Bill 311.

➤ **Workplace Violence – David Elliot**

David Elliot began by informing the Commission that the group met earlier this week. He passed out a flyer regarding an upcoming event in Charlotte in October 2011 -- the Domestic Violence at the Workplace 2011 Charlotte Summit to be held October 6-7, 2011. David is asking for the DV Commission to support this event. He stated that membership in the community is growing continuously which helps with raising awareness. The group developed a mission statement which is "To improve workplace safety by raising community awareness and providing tools to assist employers and employees in preventing and dealing with violence in the workplace". David stated the group has formulated some ideas on promoting awareness. He stated also that the group will research safety in the workplace.

➤ **Legislative – Judge Sharon Barrett**

Judge Barrett stated that she would like to have a listing of the current members for this subcommittee. Judge Barrett would like for this committee to make a recommendation for the 50B revision process. She is asking the DV Commission to consider any recommendations or reports from the subcommittee on improving the 50B clean-up process.

H. SPECIAL REPORT-DOMESTIC VIOLENCE FATALITY TEAM FOLLOW UP - Marie White and Helen Lipman, Mecklenburg County Government

- Marie and Helen provided the DV Commission with a recap of the research and statistical information on this project. In 2009 a bill was passed establishing a domestic violence fatality prevention and protection review team. The bill is up for re-authorization in 2014.
- The team's goal is to identify and review domestic violence-related deaths and facilitate communication among the various agencies focused on this issue. If the Mecklenburg County model is successful, it could be replicated statewide.
- Marie stated that the team's community response is very positive. This is important for networking and building relationships.
- Helen stated that the team decided to review four case types: protective orders, children in

the home, individuals who were long-time residents of a community, and Hispanic individuals. This will be done over a 1 year time frame. The team will use information collected to continue to build data for future recommendations.

- Helen mentioned that based on the research and findings of this team, recommendations will be made to law enforcement, magistrates, the courts, health & human services, and the public.

I. MEETING ADJOURNED

Chairperson Karen Parker Thompson thanked everyone for coming and for all their support. Meeting adjourned at 1:45pm. The next meeting will be December 9, 2011 in this same location.