

LOUISVILLE METRO DOMESTIC VIOLENCE PREVENTION COORDINATING COUNCIL

Meeting Summary Thursday, April 26, 2018

Members Present: Ellie Kerstetter, Co-Chair, Onvia McDaniel, Dr. Linda Bledsoe, Ingrid Geiser, Marcia Roth, Kathy Paulin, Chris Owens, Tina Ward-Pugh, Elizabeth Wessels-Martin, Sgt. James Clark, Liz Ferguson, David Nicholson, Rep. Jeff Donohue, Tanner Jennings, Sr., Ruben Pavlov, John Bowling, and Judge Tara Hagerty.

Staff: Kim Allen.

I. Welcome/Call to Order/Co-Chairs' Report

Ellie Kerstetter, Co-Chair

The meeting was called to order by Ellie Kerstetter, Co-Chair, who thanked members for attending. She reported that Chief Conrad was unable to attend today and relayed his apologies. Members were asked to introduce themselves.

II. Introduction of Elizabeth Wessels-Martin, CWF

Ellie introduced Elizabeth Wessels-Martin and introduced her as the new President and Chief Empowerment Officer for the Center for Women and Families. Ms. Wessels-Martin expressed appreciation for the invitation to attend. She voiced enthusiasm for her new position and indicated that she has been spending time becoming familiar with the operation of the CWF. Ms. Wessels-Martin relayed that her background includes a long history of working in social services before taking a break. With regard to the vision for the agency, she advised that the CWF would continue to do everything it has been doing and keep moving forward.

III. DVPCC Updates

a. Comprehensive Community Assessment

Kim reported that she has been in touch with Professor Emily Sack and that she is currently working on drafting sections of the report and checking back with local stakeholders on items to ensure accuracy. Professor Sack plans to have sections of the report ready for review in May and the final draft completed sometime in June. Kim noted that the next meeting of the DVPCC is scheduled for July 26th, so it is likely that the report will be available for that meeting, if not sooner. Members expressed excitement about the report and Marcia voiced her hope that the report will result in a comprehensive action plan that will have community-wide impact. She emphasized the need for community-wide outreach to share findings from the report.

b. Trauma Informed Support (TIS) Data

Chris Owens distributed copies of a TIS data report derived from JC-3 reports in which a school-aged child was present. Chris recalled that the Trauma Informed Support Program was initiated in 2014 as a collaboration between LMPD, JCPS and the Office for Women to identify cases involving youth in the school system who have experienced or been exposed to violence. JCPS uses the information to provide support to the child and family.

Chris reported that the top sheet includes a summary of 13 months of the most recent data. Based on the data chart, Dr. Bledsoe asked if the majority of the reports involve juvenile behavior and Chris confirmed that 30% of the reports involve acting out on the part of a juvenile. Chris reviewed new information collected on injuries and charges which helps to provide perspective on the level of violence involved in the incidents. She advised that destroying property in one's own home is not chargeable offense, but provides an indicator of violence. Marcia asked if any of the charges included more serious offenses and Chris reported that the largest category is 4th Degree Assault with charges like Arson and 2nd Degree Assault occurring less frequently. She is considering adding a count of felonies to the chart.

Chris reviewed the final chart which provides data on incidents by zip code. Over the course of the project, Chris noted that the same zip codes continually tend to have the highest numbers. In response to a question from Ellie, Chris clarified that youth identified in the reports have either been victimized; acting out; or present, but not involved. Onvia asked about reports included in the category of "Partner of Mother/Juvenile" and Chris responded that this category could include the mother's boyfriend or a 17-year-old who has a child and is living in the home. Chris identified the importance of periodic screening for human trafficking in these cases. Sgt. Clark clarified that the JC-3 Reports are completed by law enforcement on domestic violence-related incidents.

c. Lethality Assessment Program

Sgt. Clark reported that Lt. David Allen provided LAP data for him to relay to Council members. During the 1st Quarter of 2017, there were 487 lethality screens conducted. Of this number, 387 were identified as "high risk" screens. In comparison, during the 1st Quarter of 2018, there were 481 lethality screen conducted. Of this number, 379 were identified as "high risk" screens.

Sgt. Clark reported that a grant was received to permit merging the LAP and ODARA information into an electronic version of the JC-3 Report that is being developed by the Kentucky State Police. He noted that the new report will include additional features such as a body template that will allow officers to document injuries and a drop-down box for charges. Chris asked if reports can be generated from the new JC-3's and Sgt. Clark indicated that all of the

previously collected information will remain in the report. Marcia asked how the new reports will impact the transfer of the ODARA information. It is hoped that the information can be automatically relayed to Pretrial, however a representative from Pretrial was not in attendance to address the question. Marcia also asked if victims will still receive resource information on Vine, CWF, etc. that was previously included as a tear-off on the bottom of the JC-3. Sgt. Clark reported that all officers have in-car printers and he believes that officers will be able to print the information for the victim and write the report number on it. He agreed to follow-up on this item and report back to the group.

d. Legislative Report

Faith recalled that the Criminal Justice Commission had been tracking criminal justice-related bills over the course of the legislative session. Since the most recent version of the tracking report is 77 pages, Faith will send a copy to members electronically once the Governor signs or vetoes the remaining bills (the deadline is April 26th at midnight). She presented a brief review of the following four bills of interest to the DVPCC:

HB 101 (Jenna's Law)—signed by Governor and will go into effect in July; changes the sexual assault statutes to state that a 16- or 17-year-old is incapable of consent when the actor is 28 years old or more

SB 3 (Marsy's Law)—proposal to amend the Constitution of Kentucky to create a Crime Victims' Bill of Rights; delivered to the Secretary of State and will be on the November ballot

SB 68 (Jeanette's Law)—signed by Governor; creates a new section of KRS Chapter 403 to clarify that a victim of domestic violence is not required to pay the legal fees of the abusive spouse in a divorce action when the spouse is incarcerated for crimes against the petitioner; covers assaults, sexual assaults, attempted homicides and kidnapping

SB 109 (pertaining to digital penetration)—signed by Governor; amends KRS 510.010 to include penetration by body parts in definitions of "sexual intercourse" and "deviate sexual intercourse" for purposes of describing rape and sodomy

e. DVPCC Ordinance Revision

Kim recalled that members initially reviewed the DVPCC ordinance in the fall of 2016 in response to confusion experienced while attempting to update the membership list. It was noted at that time that the current ordinance language did not clearly delineate between members serving by virtue of office versus community agency and citizen representatives. Since the current language was approved in 2003, it was the consensus of members that the ordinance needed

to be updated. Although members previously reviewed and approved the draft ordinance, it has not been formally processed through the Metro Council. Kim asked members to review the latest draft prepared by the JCAO (included in the agenda packet) and let her know if any further changes are needed. After reviewing the draft, Kim suggested that the current language listing “a member of the Jefferson County Legislative Delegation” be revised to “Chair, Jefferson County Legislative Delegation” and Rep. Donohue concurred. Once the draft is in final form, it will be forwarded to the Metro Council. Kim advised that the DVPCC Co-Chairs have agreed to present the proposed changes to the Metro Council for review and approval.

f. FRC Recommendations/Action Plan

Jamie Allen called attention to a copy of the FRC Recommendations included in the agenda packet dating back to the Committee’s 2013/2014 Report. It was noted that the document also includes more recent recommendations that will ultimately be included in the 2017/2018 Report. Jamie advised that items shown in gray scale have been completed. Jamie provided a brief overview of the pending recommendations along with a status update.

Marcia expressed appreciation for the update and asked a question about recommendation #4 on page 2 pertaining to review of juvenile cases. Jamie advised that this recommendation has been incorporated into the FRC Protocol. Kim added that by statute, the FRC must request a court order to review juvenile records. With regard to recommendation #6 on page 2, Judge Hagerty reported that the Family Court waiting rooms on the fourth, fifth and sixth floors will be getting video screens and can provide a location for future airing of the proposed video.

g. Sexual Assault Awareness Month

Ellie reminded members that April is Sexual Assault Awareness month and that yesterday was Denim Day. Chris reported that the CWF takes the lead on Denim Day and that the Office for Women helps to promote the event and encourage individuals to wear denim and to share photos on social media. Chris noted that the CWF hosted a Denim Day Summit on workplace sexual harassment and violence followed by a panel discussion. Chris recently submitted an op-ed piece through the Mayor’s Office raising awareness about sexual and human trafficking as a form of sexual abuse to ensure that Louisville is a safe city during the Derby celebration.

Chris advised members about training for adults related to the Adverse Childhood Experience Survey (ACES). She noted that the survey was originally for adults and has implications for individuals who have experience domestic violence or sexual abuse. The training highlights simple actions that can be helpful to human trafficking victims like helping them learn how to relax as

opposed to being on constant alert. Judge Hagerty reported that she recently attended an event and met an individual who has started a 501(c)(3) organization named "I'd Rather be Reading." The organization is focused on providing reading and tutoring for children during the summer and has a fundraiser (Trivia Night) scheduled on May 19th. Judge Hagerty will share the information with DVPCC members. Chris added that both mentoring and facilitating connections to the community serve as resiliency factors.

IV. Adjourn/Next Meeting

Ellie called attention to a couple of handouts in the meeting packet relating to Manchester's Domestic Violence and Abuse Strategy. Kim reported that she recently received the information from the Office of Safe and Healthy Neighborhoods and thought it might be of interest to DVPCC members. The information is from the U.K. and describes recent efforts to revisit and revise strategies to address domestic violence.

Ellie reported that May 1st is Law Day and that the event will be celebrated in Jefferson Square Park between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. Food trucks will be available.

With no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned. The next meeting of the DVPCC is scheduled for Thursday, July 26th at 12 noon in the Crown Room.