

LOUISVILLE METRO DOMESTIC VIOLENCE PREVENTION COORDINATING COUNCIL

Meeting Summary Thursday, July 27, 2017

Members Present: Chief Steve Conrad and Ellie Kerstetter, Co-Chairs, Chris Owens, Dr. Linda Bledsoe, Kathy Paulin, Rachel Porter (designee for Dr. Renee Campbell), Onvia McDaniel, Joe Bargione, Pam Darnall, Steve Hilton, Marta Miranda-Straub, Stephanie Reio, Ingrid Geiser, Samantha Graves and Staci O'Neil.

Staff and Guests: 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 welcomed members and called for introductions.

II. Approval of Meeting Summary from April 27, 2016

Ellie called attention to the April 27, 2017 meeting summary included in the agenda packet and called for any additions or revisions. Following a brief review, a motion was made by Marta and seconded by Pam to adopt the summary as drafted. The motion was unanimously approved.

III. Project/Committee Updates

a. Legislative Update: HB 309

In follow-up to the discussion at the last DVPCC meeting, Kim contacted KCADV for an update on the implementation of HB 309. She called attention to a copy of a HB309 Implementation Report that was provided by KCADV and included in the agenda packet. Kim advised that Sherry Currens reported that over 2,900 people have been either trained or signed up for webinars and KCADV has fielded a large number of questions. Of note, Sherry reported that most people are upset because they are required to do something and almost no one knew that were already required to report to CHFS. Sherry also noted that KCADV could certainly use help with implementation if the DVPCC is still interested and would be happy to provide assistance from Mary Savage, KCADV Attorney, in discussing options.

Since DVPCC members had discussed becoming involved in implementation efforts at the county level at the last meeting, Kim questioned whether there is interest in taking any action at this point. Chris reported that a number of trainings on HB 309 are available and she participated in one. Marta suggested inviting the KCADV Attorney to the next DVPCC meeting to discuss what is working and not working with the implementation process. She added that DVPCC members might be helpful in identifying local training opportunities and resources. As an example, Chris identified the faith community as a group that is difficult to

reach from a statewide perspective, but would benefit from the training. She noted that the majority of the training session she participated in focused on background information and that only 20 minutes was dedicated to HB 309. Members agreed to invite the KCADV Attorney to the next meeting. Chief Conrad also suggested asking KCADV for ideas on how the DVPCC could be most helpful. Kim will follow-up with Sherry Currens to extend the invitation to the October 26th DVPCC meeting.

b. Community Assessment/Safety Audit

Chief Conrad reported that since Lt. David Allen is on vacation, he would provide the report. Chief Conrad recalled that the DVPCC decided one year ago to conduct a community assessment. He noted that the last comprehensive assessment was conducted in 1998 and resulted in recommendations that led to a number of positive community changes like the Domestic Violence Intake Center. The 1998 assessment also provided every agency with an opportunity to evaluate its internal processes and make changes. A small work group was established last summer to work on the initiative and has made significant progress.

Chief Conrad reported that a contract is in place for the assessment and that LMPD has provided funding for the project. The assessment will be conducted by Dr. Emily Sack whose bio was included in the agenda packet. Dr. Sack comes highly recommended and has conducted similar work in other large cities like Anchorage and Portland, Maine. Dr. Sack plans to be in Louisville in mid-September and will be scheduling meetings with local stakeholders. In the interim, she will be sending out a Memorandum of Understanding for review. Chief Conrad noted that as an attorney, Dr. Sack understands the importance of confidentiality in the assessment process. After reviewing and signing the MOU, members were asked to return it to Lt. David Allen, LMPD Special Victims Unit. Marta asked about the timeline for the assessment and Kathy recalled that in 1998, Sharon Denaro was on-site for three weeks. Dr. Sack plans to make two to three short visits and Kathy anticipates that the report may be completed by the end of the year.

c. ODARA Update

Chief Conrad presented an update on behalf of Lt. Allen noting that the Special Victims Unit began using the ODARA risk assessment tool on July 3rd. To date, several forms have been completed and issues have been addressed to ensure that the forms are being processed correctly. It is anticipated that the project will be expanded to include officers in the LMPD Third Division during the first week in August with the goal of going department-wide in late September.

Although the ODARA form did not get to the judge in the initial case, the prosecutor was contacted and used the risk assessment finding to obtain a higher bond. Ingrid reported that she has seen the ODARA form on a few cases and agreed that the tool will be invaluable since the current risk assessment (PSA-CT) does not cover domestic violence.

Stephanie reported that although there were a few hiccups in the beginning, the process is now working smoothly. She advised members that Pretrial Services in Frankfort has established a database and created an ODARA form that can be printed and given to prosecutors to include in the case file. A copy of the form was passed around for members

to review. Stephanie added that all defendants evaluated to date have scored 7+. Kim will send an electronic copy of the ODARA form to members.

d. Lethality Assessment Program (LAP)

Marta began by noting that Tamara Reif recently resigned her position with CWF and is now working with a sister organization, Volunteers of America. She noted that Tamara had been with the CWF for 16 years after starting as an intern. The CWF is currently in process of conducting interviews for the position and plans to make a decision within the coming weeks.

Marta provided a brief review of the LAP noting that the Mary Byron Foundation had identified the program as an effective way to reduce domestic violence homicides. The LAP initially began in Maryland and was subsequently tested in Washington, D.C.—Louisville was the third city to implement the program. Marta noted that the program is a tertiary violence prevention initiative in which trained officers use the lethality scale to assess victims on the scene and connect them immediately to the CWF for safety planning or emergency shelter beds.

Marta emphasized that having a safety plan can reduce the risk of homicide by 40%. Benefits of the program have included raising officer awareness about the CWF; enhancing the relationship between officers and the CWF; and utilizing shelter beds for true emergencies. Additionally, more victims are seeking services from the Center and Center staff can intervene at a crucial moment rather than two weeks later when a report is received. The LAP is providing access to services for individuals who the Center would not have otherwise been able to reach.

Marta distributed a handout summarizing the LAP data and noted that the minimum stay in shelter is three days, while the average stay is three months. The CWF has also talked to law enforcement in Bullitt and Shelby Counties and Indiana about the program.

e. Fatality Review Committee (FRC)

Kim reported that the Fatality Review Committee last met on July 14th and approved several revisions to the committee's protocol. Among the revisions, the FRC added language that if it decides to review a case involving a juvenile under the age of 18 years in an intimate partner dating relationship, it would request a court order per KRS 610.340 for access to information and records. Two new sources of information were added to the case file list, including the LMPD Victim Advocates and Arise to Safety screenings. Lastly, the FRC membership list was updated and revised to differentiate between primary members necessary for every case review and ancillary members who would be brought in on an as-needed basis. Kim will provide a copy of the revised protocol for members at the next meeting.

Kim also reminded members that the FRC will be compiling its biennial report for 2015-2016 and presenting the report at the October 26th meeting. She noted that the committee reviewed seven cases in 2015 (total of seven victims) and nine cases in 2016 (total of 12 victims). The total cases reviewed in 2015 and 2016 represent a reduction from the spike of 13 cases reviewed in 2014. As in previous years, the report will include an analysis of

the case data, a summary of recommendations derived from the review process, information on emerging topics, and highlights of domestic violence-related events and initiatives that occurred during 2015-16. Ellie asked about the FRC recommendations and Kim reported that a summary is currently being compiled that includes a status report on the implementation of each recommendation. She noted that some recommendations are more easily implemented than others, i.e. training, and that it can be challenging to impact areas over which the committee has no control or authority. The trend on the national level is to focus on a smaller number of priority recommendations rather than generate lengthy lists of items that may never be able to be implemented.

IV. Old Business/New Business

Marta suggested that it might be helpful to present an update on the Arise to Safety screenings at the next meeting. The grant-funded initiative represents a partnership between KentuckyOne Health, the CWF, and the Byron Foundation and involves training emergency department personnel to conduct universal screening (lethality assessment) and having trained advocates on-site. The program has provided a mechanism for outreach to individuals in the Emergency Room who may have previously been missed and has resulted in increased buy-in from hospital staff.

Onvia suggested that it would be helpful to have a presentation on the program for the EMS Diversion Committee of the Greater Louisville Medical Society. Onvia raised a question about the interplay of the heroin epidemic and domestic violence and Marta responded by noting that 60% of the women in shelter are addicted to heroin; the opioid addiction may be primary in some cases and secondary in others.

V. Adjourn/Next Meeting

With no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned. The next regularly scheduled meeting of the DVPCC will be held on Thursday, October 26th at 12:00 p.m. in the 6th Floor Crown Room of the Judicial Center. Members were asked to contact Kim if they would like to add an item to the meeting agenda.