

Minutes  
NETWORK Meeting  
August 28, 2013

Minutes taken by Rosemary Traub

1. Introductions - around the room

2. Announcements

A. Meetings are held every other month - usually on the last Wednesday

3. Housekeeping Matters

A. There are no breaks built into the agenda, so attendees can take their own break whenever they choose.

B. For CEU's for social workers, See Carol White.

4. Speaker #1 - Julia Szendio

A. She works for NMCAN, a non-profit agency & is coordinator for BFF (Building Futures and Foundations) project, which has been going for one and one-half years.. They are starting a new mentoring project called Youth Opportunity Initiative for youth coming out of foster care. The goal is to build youth communities. She runs the day to day operation. They recruit volunteers from the community for kids aging out of foster care and who may not be adopted to reunified with their family. The goal is to put a stable, consistent adult in their life to be a coach and support person and have fun with.

B. The mentees are between 14 and 21 years of age and they must make a 1 year commitment. They spend at least 8 hours a month with the mentor. Referrals come from New Day, shelters, CYFD, etc. Mentees go through an orientation, then submit an application, go through an in depth interview and then learn what the expectations are.

C. The mentors must make a 3 year commitment. They are not expected to be crisis managers. They must submit an application, go through an orientation, background check, reference check, individual interview, 2 days of training and matching process. Mentors get together with monthly to meet and talk and for ongoing training. For each mentee there are 4 possible mentors. Male mentors are needed. Usually they match male-male, female-female but it depends on the circumstances.

D. She showed a video about the project. Funding is through VOCA & United Way grants.

E. Anne Lightsey talked about her experience as a mentor.

5. "How to Protect Yourself Online" will not be presented today.

6. Speaker #2 - Gabe Campos

A. He is the Human Rights Officer for the City of Albuquerque. He focuses on discriminatory practices in employment, housing and accommodations. He can be reached at 311.

B. There are family and community services for people who are starting again. Any agency in the city can take advantage of the mediation services available for free. There is a pay equity initiative re: pay between men & women; however, there is no enforcement component yet.

7. Speaker #3 - Patrician (Patsy) Romero

A. She works at the NM Secretary of State's Office with the Confidential Address Program. She can be reached at her direct # in Santa Fe, which is 827-3615. Call her for any questions.

B. The program started 7/1/2007 to provide secure address for 1st class mail service for victims of domestic violence, stalking and sexual assault. Even though it is supposed to be for 1st class mail only, they receive a lot of packages and catalogs, which they send on to the victims. They are trying to work with county clerks' offices so that the victims' confidentiality can be maintained on the voting records. Victims can also include others in family group as participants in the program. The legislature did not provide funding for this program and it is very costly (approximately \$400.00 per month). MVD will not accept P. O. Box address. There is a \$75.00 fee for the service which can be waived (No questions asked). Right now they have about 300 registered clients. Any victim advocate can help a victim apply. It must be resulting from a violent incident. In the future there is a possibility of having a password code. Problems with implementation and funding are due to the legislative committee and judiciary committee.

C. She distributed an Application Packet and Information Brochure.

8. Panel on topic of Stalking - Edna Sprague (Deputy DA), Det. Julie Jessen (APD) & Lisa Weisenfeld (policy coordinator for State for CADV) - Moderator - Kara Johnson (NM Legal Aid)

A. 2010 Changes in criminal statutory definitions of harassment & stalking.

B. There was a lot of discussion about lack of enforcement & disappointing attitudes of judges towards stalking, harassment & DV. Training is a problem because there is only a minimal amount each year at the Judicial Enclave and otherwise it is voluntary. Laura Bassein from Judicial Education Center (277-1083) says they cannot mandate judges' attendance at DV training; Can only offer & provide training. Pam Lambert is director of JEC. At the last DV training, there were 35 attendees and most were DV hearing officers.

C. Discussion re: Northern Pueblos - There is very little going on. No movement or institutional changes. There are jurisdictional issues about which law enforcement agency has responsibility for enforcing it. Bonds are not commensurate with potential lethality.

D. Handouts from Stalking Resource Center website & pamphlet with tips.

E. Re: text messages use password or tin foil (per Edna Sprague)to protect them. Insist on police filing an informational report. If they won't, call their supervisor.

F. Edna Sprague's contact information is Office 222-1245, Cell 573-6404

G. There was a suggestion to have speakers come from Judicial Standards Committee and State Bar Disciplinary Board. Another suggestion was to get Court watch programs started.

9.. Meeting adjourned.