

## Network Meeting Minutes – December 11, 2013

Attendees: 45 in person and 4 by conference call

TOPIC: Announcements/House keeping details

Comments Anne outlined the agenda for the meeting. Announcement for CE for Counselors/Social Workers – see Carol White for details/sign in. If you are interested, we will be looking for new Steering Committee members – the job duties and application is on our website ([www.thenetwork-dvsa.org](http://www.thenetwork-dvsa.org)) with a February deadline: please consider! Members introduced themselves and their agencies.

TOPIC Agency Spotlight: KC Quirk, Crossroads for Women

Comments KC Quirk, Director for the Crossroads for Women, gave brief update on their agency. Their primary mission is to help women released from prison and who face co-occurring challenges of homelessness, mental illness, drug addiction, and abuse. The founder was Lisa Simpson who had the vision of providing comprehensive wrap-around services. They operate two housing programs – Maya’s Place (12 to 15 women) and The Crossroads, which is a collection of scattered housing sites women and children. They provide intense wrap around services: fundamental life skills, budget, cooking, parenting, family reunification, medical/mental health with the overall goal of building confidence and competency for living independently. They visit the prison, preparing those who are about to exit. They are NOT a substance abuse treatment program in that they do not provide treatment for those in the depth of their abuse – rather they work with women who are clean, substance free while addressing the threats of relapse. Their program is also gender responsive and trauma informed: their clients are predominantly survivors of trauma and abuse.

TOPIC Panel: How Abusers use Social Networks and Technology to Abuse

Comments This is the first time Network is working with remote/off-site panelists which affirms our statewide inclusion. Panelists were: Julie Hessen from APD, Sonia Salaiz from Las Cruces La Casa, Ida Givan from Dona Ana Sherriff, Lois Kinch from AGO, and Brian Nguyen, providing the victim’s perspective. The power point presentations will be on the Network website. The Las Cruces presenters addressed: definitions of stalking, laws, data on cyber-stalking, and types of cyber-stalking. One website that sells computer spyware is <http://www.spytech-web.com/keystroke-spy.shtml>. One presenter mentioned that in finding how her ex was stalking her, she felt like she became a stalker stalking her stalker – and how this mindset was used to document his abusive behavior. Presenters also addressed how stalkers can use social media, how entries within social media can be identified by location. Presenters addressed safety planning for victims as well as advocates/professionals – see power point presentation on the Network website. Brian, a previous Secret Service Agent, shared his personal account of being stalked, how someone assumed his identity to stalk an ex-girlfriend, how the person knew uncomfortable details about their relationship and when he asked the FBI for help, the situation got twisted in that they thought he was using reverse-psychology, pretending to be a victim. He worked with Julie Jessen with APD who worked the case – he and

Julie expressed cautions, the way social media holds onto past events, and advances in technology continually change the dynamics and prevention and safety strategies. Lois Kinch from AGO presented on the Internet Crimes Against Children (ICAC), noting that concealing one's identity on the internet is easy, you can be anybody you want to be on the internet. Advocates need to keep current with ever-changing trends. Lois shared a video (Jack Vale.com) that showed how easy it is to find out personal information about strangers from social media. The second video clip showed how meta-data is embedded within cell-phone photos and posted on social media (<http://www.viewexifdata.com/>) that identifies the location (latitude/longitude) of the cell phone photo. One of the cautions was that when working with adults, they may be aware and protective – but are their children aware and reminded? Information was also provided on gaming and virtual worlds, texting and spoofing (and how to cloak your voice/originating phone number). She also shared some steps that might help protect privacy, noting that some are time-limited, the challenges in maintaining privacy settings, limitations on opt-out options, etc. For example Intelius.com is a people search engine where someone can “opt-out” but it needs to be renewed, repeating the concern that folks should not have a false sense of security. Another resource was [www.online.gov](http://www.online.gov).

The group talked about how our strategies might be better served to focus on “risk reduction” instead of trying to stop/prevent the danger, that with victims who have been isolated as part of their abuse and for children who feel immune to danger: the message of absolute “no” or total abstinence isn't going to work. Another search engine folks mentioned was [www.peakyou.com](http://www.peakyou.com) as tool to search yourself/your friends.

TOPIC

Brief History of the Network

Comments

Connie gave a short overview of the Network's 18-year history – power point available on the website. Comments and questions from the members included: can directors invite their staff, how do we keep the multi-disciplinary voices active, how do we balance the needs of management/state agencies with those of the workers in the field who can do the reality checks, and it's valuable to have the multi-disciplinary representation for the panel presentations. Gabe offered the idea of hosting smaller work groups or subcommittees on the last Wednesdays of the month when the Network doesn't meet.

Minutes taken by Connie Monahan