

Network Meeting Minutes – April 23, 2014

Attendees: 38 present and 4 on conference call
Minutes by: Connie Monahan

TOPIC: Meeting details, Welcome, Short Announcements,

Comments Anne gave brief update on house-keeping details, using the microphone for those on conference call, double checking the CEU's for social workers, sign-in sheet, etc. Members introduced themselves and their agencies.

TOPIC: Agency Spotlight: Enlace

Comments Antoinette Sedillo Lopez, Executive Director of Enlace, spoke to her experience in family law, teaching at UNM law school and being an active board member of Enlace before jumping into the administration. She spoke to their Robert Woods Johnson foundation grant that focused on the effectiveness of Enlace – the full report is at www.enlacenm.org/what-works. She shared a handout, the Theory of Change – highlighting their mission statement which is to eliminate domestic violence in the Latino community. She addressed several of the barriers unique to immigrants, the strengths and allies to help immigrants, and Enlace's strategies to develop leadership, building a core of Promotoras, Youth Leaders, and Male involvement – all geared to change the cultural norms that allow domestic violence. Antoinette spoke to their program recommendations and invited folks to visit the website to learn more.

TOPIC: Legislature Report: Susan Loubet and Julianna Koob

Comments Julianna highlighted the www.nmlegis.gov website as a source for up-to-date info of interim committee meetings, agendas, bill status, and how to get involved, noting the best involvement is to vote in our June primary. Interim committees will be meeting over the next 8 months prior to the 2015 60-day session. Julianna spoke to the budget process, working with both the DV and SA Coalitions, and how direct services are exceeding budget increases. She spoke to 3 budget issues: NM Dept of Corrections' efforts to comply with federal Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA), Dept of Health efforts to build infrastructure for rape crisis centers and SANE services, and Erin's law, the child abuse education within schools for both teachers and students. Strangulation bill, raised twice in the past, will be coming up next session. Susan Loubet spoke to legislative efforts to address trafficking and women's prisons. Last year, she had focused on three trafficking bills: one would increase services, another would separate victim compliance with law enforcement for eligibility to receive services, and the third would promote safe harbor or treat minor victims as victims instead of criminals or juvenile delinquents. Last year, they negotiated the services bill and created a task force to address/figure out how to address the other issues for the next legislative session. Members are invited to contact Susan at sloubet12@gmail.com if you have input. She is also researching/reviewing other states who have addressed this. The second topic was the women's prison which involves proposals to rebuild the women's prison when there might be better ways to spend

funds than just building a bigger prison, i.e. building family visitation, job skills, transitional living, etc.

Both Juliana and Susan spoke to the themes of moving away from criminal penalties and toward prevention. Q&A – how can we “prove” that we’ve prevented a crime or injury? Resulting in lively discussion of reframing prevention as public health and safety for all, economic development, cost savings, etc. with members noting the challenges of talking about prevention with legislators.

TOPIC **Statewide look at Sexual Assault Services**

Comments

Eleana Butler from Sexual Assault Services of NWNM spoke to statewide services related to sexual assault. April is Sexual Assault Awareness Month. Eleana spoke to the SANE programs, the Rape Crisis Centers, Child Advocacy Centers, and County Mental Health Programs, providing the visual map as well as lists and contacts. The programs, in conjunction, with the NM Coalition of Sexual Assault Programs, work to make sure that services are provided throughout the state so that victims have access. If folks have comments or a program was omitted from the list, contact eleanab@sasnwnm.org. Alexandria spoke to the new Child Advocacy Center that is being developed in Los Lunas to serve Valencia County. The resources are on the Network website.

TOPIC **Legal Definition of Sexual Assault**

Comments

Jackie James from the 2nd Judicial District works in the violent crimes division, specializing in sexual assault for victims 16 years and above while other divisions work on gangs, domestic violence, children, and misdemeanors. NM Statutes Section 30, article 9 lists the sexual offenses, from contact to penetration. Jackie spoke to the gender-neutral aspects of our sexual assault laws in that they address both male and female, marital rape, and the variety of ways sexual assault can occur. Over-riding themes are unlawful and intentional, as well as force and coercion, lack of consent, and position of authority which applies within the detention/correctional settings as well as schools, noting that the challenges are meeting the elements of the crime or proving it beyond reasonable doubt. Jackie addressed jury instructions and the challenges in convincing juries. Q&A: Are jury instructions discussed with victims? Most prosecutors will be addressing the issues of “meeting the elements of the crime” with victims and speak to the process, how the legal system might seem cold/unfeeling to the victim’s trauma. The presentation is on The Network website.

TOPIC **Panel: Making the Most of Working with the Media**

Comments

Bianca Villani (Rape Crisis of Central to NM), Virginia Perez (Enlace), and Rozanna Martinez (Alb Journal). Bianca spoke about how to create a media packet and how to get the attention of the media, noting that what is newsworthy to us might not always be newsworthy to the media. The challenge is how to get their attention. Bianca provided a handout listing multiple strategies: be brief, have a packet to support the info, get to the point, build your contacts, make reporters your friends, compliment the reporter for the coverage, identify the go-to people, be prepared, and practice. She also commented that some things are out of your control: you have no idea what you’re competing against that particular moment/day. Don’t get discouraged.

Virginia Perez spoke to the elements of a media campaign. We assume that we know what we want to say/what people want to hear: it's worth your while to talk to your content experts as well as target audience to make sure the message is relevant and appropriate. You also want to brainstorm/have an outline of what you hope to accomplish, who the audience is, how will you measure your effectiveness and to listen to the feedback. Virginia acknowledged some learning curves: that you don't want to feed into stereotypes, that raising awareness about how abuse is wrong doesn't give action steps to solve the problem, and that some messages (ie., know your rights) can be inferred to mean that folks are dumb. She also mentioned the caveat about doing a campaign and not being prepared for the response which in turn may make the agency look inefficient. One approach is to make the message positive, such as responsible fatherhood, healthy relating and parents in action. For example one campaign said men can be strong without being violent. Color choices can be important. For example DV and SA programs may have purple and turquoise as our colors but those might not be the colors that men react to. Concluding comments included: it's hard to measure changing perspectives, you need to plan and implement 2nd phases of a campaign to keep the momentum going, campaigns need a specific call to action, and that we can't predict the media response to any campaign.

Rozanna Martinez from the Albuquerque Journal with 8 years of working the crime desk spoke about how to get your story printed and how to make corrections, how print media is different than television. Print stories can have the human interest angle as well as the news-breaking stories. When working with print media: get to know the reporter, documentation helps, share the angle that you want, be available to double check facts, be ready to clear up inconsistencies, be thinking of how stories can build for future articles, emphasize what is important, and be thinking of photos or visuals. Columnists might be better for the human interest stories than news desk. If you have an event, get it on their calendar – consider it free advertising. If you see an error, contact the reporter – let them know. If you can't get through to one reporter, go to the City Desk Editor or their staff. Rozanna spoke to how they protect victim's confidentiality but still need to validate the facts. You can double check your quotes for accuracy but you won't be able to review the story before it's printed. If you're hosting an event, consider sending the info to multiple desks – news, metro, entertainment. Two weeks in advance helps greatly. E-mails are good ways to contact reporters because their hours are erratic.

TOPIC

Lunch and Networking

Comments

Members wrapped up the meeting and enjoyed lunch and networking.

Nest Meeting – June 25, 2014