

NETWORK MEETING MINUTES

February 25, 2015

Welcome, Introductions and Announcements:

- Reminder: AIA conference March 24-27. There have been some changes to the format, the scheduled presenters and the content will be exciting

Update on Network and Anne's (Facilitator) departure

- The Network Facilitator Anne Lightsey resigned end-of-December and the Steering Committee has been reviewing her duties, position, and the overall status of the Network with a very basic question: should the Network continue? (Attendance has been dropping consistently over the past year). Connie reported how Anne donated a lot of her time above the contract requirements and added elements of professionalism (website, minutes, webinar capacity) that may be difficult to sustain or justify if members aren't using it. Members were invited to share comments: most said it would be a shame if the Network disbanded, that it's the only gathering of DV-SA programs and issues, and that for those not primarily in the DV-SA field, the Network provided the forum to keep involved and aware. The Steering Committee would be reviewing this topic at their meeting afterwards.

Agency Spotlight: Strong Families, Adriann Barboa (www.strongfamiliesmovement.org)

- Network of agencies across the nation (125 nationally and 20 here in NM) to collaborate on issues of social justice. Their mission: All families have the rights, resources, and recognition to thrive. Current project is Mama's Day – changing mothers' day traditional into something more (the flowers are lovely but I'd prefer a revolution). Adriann shared her personal story that reflected our systems work. Adriann spoke to how we convey our work to legislators, policy makers, with real information from populations who aren't at the table. Worked with the agencies involved with reproductive health and rights and now moving into ending violence cohort of agencies. What are the gaps, how do we build cohesion. Currently working with people of color, youth and LGBTQ. Working with the Strong Families Report Card for the legislature, which bills harm/help families, and tracking over 80 bills during the current session.
- If folks would like to receive Strong Families announcements, contact Adriann directly at adriann@forwardtogether.org

Agency Spotlight: NM Legal Aid: DV Helpline: Ed Marks, Jane Zhi, and Shelby Allen

- Ten offices across the state, the largest one in Albuquerque. Ed summarized their work on a variety of legal support to those impacted by DV, network of 37 attorneys across the state, working on protective orders, family law, custody, etc. Work on poverty issues, not just situational from the DV but long term related to education, job skills, housing, benefits, trying to include wrap around services well outside just legal services. Jane gave some examples of cases she's been working on, including elderly abusive situation, same sex abuse, rural cases. Shelby summarized the monthly calls received at the DV helpline,

highlighting two peaks with the Christmas holidays and 4th of July. Average 80 to 90 calls per month, twice their numbers last year. She outlined the calls resulting in actions, additional services, court proceedings, all with an eye on empowering the individuals to make their own choices. Shelby case numbers also included the distinction of serving both the adults and children who have been assisted with their diverse programs. She spoke specifically to the children, referencing department of justice report that detailed what happens to children who witness DV. This year, NM Legal Services is exploring how best to work (and measure success) with children who witness violence. Ed summarized their caseload with FAC, CYFD, not just the DV helpline. They have staff who are bilingual in Spanish and with some tribal languages, have to negotiate federal laws that have some restrictions on undocumented individuals that do NOT apply to DV services.

- Individuals with questions are invited to contact Ed Marks by edm@nmlegalaid.org or office phone 505-243-7871 (he even shared his cell phone 505-221-1981 for urgent requests.)

Program Spotlight: Tyson Hummel presented on current effort being put forth by the City of Albuquerque on how to improve dialogue between APD and community members. They're thick in the first part of this work which is to foster collaborative dialogues within various subset communities. They've worked with various stakeholders including mental health providers, families directly impacted by police interactions, homeless, non-profits city agencies, etc. Here today to speak to the DV-SA community and recruit interest in participating in the April Network meeting, trying to capture common concerns and provide a two-way relationship building. Folks can register at the Alb website to join these meetings (www.abq.gov and go to the mayor's page and follow directions). Most of the meetings are open. For the Network members, there will be a specific closed meeting specific for the Network DV-SA programs. By now, you all have received an evite and we'll be sending out another. Reservation is required by early April to ensure appropriate number of facilitators.

Panel: The importance of men's involvement in ending violence

Jess Clark, Santa Fe Solace, Larry Hinojos, Rape Crisis Center of Central NM, and Carlos Flores and his team from the South valley Male Involvement Project

- RCC of Central NM: Larry spoke about their program, how to create a more male-friendly center, encouraging men to get involved and have a voice, create a mutual-shared space. Part of the discussion is gender equality, men can be who they want, defining the "male box," starting the message when boys are young, reinforcing the message throughout a young man's lifespan, how do we include women in the co-messaging, how do we talk about power and using power in positive ways.
- Santa Fe Solace Crisis Treatment Center: Jess spoke to how he got involved back in the early 90's with working with gay & lesbian acceptance in the schools, how their RCC changed their name to encourage boys and men to come through the door and to focus on the hope of where victims can move to in the healing path, their look at masculinity and male constructs through the GLBTQ lens, how to change idealized masculinity and instead focus on solidarity, not oppression. Gender justice, not gender inequality, stay

away from “what if you mother, what if your daughter” places value on women only in their relationship to men – no, you respect women because they’re people.

- Dept of Health South Valley Male Involvement Project: Carlos Flores spoke to his years of working this issue and the challenges of working on “prevention,” the short-term programs are less effective in sustaining the message, his focus has been on the ideas of domination and control as undercurrents that affect so many of the other topic-of-the-day, how masculinity is imprinted onto young boys, diminishes their humanity, that we need to expand the discussion to include who we are and how we relate to others, he values the ideas of activities to foster the deeper engagement of building relationships, breaking through the barriers that were imposed in our youth.
- Two young men also joined the discussion. Juan, originally from Mexico, moved to NM and got involved with gender equality when he was in college, taking classes and he shared how recognizing his past, his culture, the words we use, the activities and sports that focus attention to masculinity, the fear of revealing emotions, of crying – with the core message that building and keeping relationships is paramount, that we need to tend and practice the work on a daily basis. Xavier shared how we incorporate the practice on a daily basis (PGP – preferred gender pronouns), that how our time is precious and how are we focus our time is what matters, time is all we have and we have to think how any activity benefits ourselves and our youth, how do we speak up, be respectful and mindful and connect.

Wrap Up:

- Next meeting is April starting at 9:00 a.m. If you want to participate in the discussion and facilitated APD Community dialogues, you must reserve/confirm your attendance!
- Website: <http://www.thenetwork-dvsaorg>