

Network Meeting
September 30, 2015

Number in Attendance: about 44 people

Welcome and Introductions:

Jennifer Rose, the Network facilitator, introduced herself and invited members to introduce themselves and their agencies

Domestic Violence Awareness Month Updates and Activities:

- The Soroptomist Club is sponsoring a Walk/Run on November 15 to bring awareness to SA and DV. Beneficiaries are SANE and DVRC. Register on-line at www.sialbuquerque.org and click on the events tab.
- Sandoval County – Mayor’s BBQ on Oct 15 at Haines Park with free food, events, silent auction to benefit Haven House. On October 24 at Lincoln Middle School a children’s fun run with lots of activities. Bright purple ribbons have already been hung down Hwy 528 and will have a moment of silence on October 1.
- Social Media – Alana questioned how we are using social media to promote our causes and share each other’s causes.
- Valencia Shelter Services – Cut a-thon on October 24 at Inner Beauty Hair Salon. Will be 25 vendors present, pony rides, cattle rides and other stuff you do in Valencia. Booster Clubs for High Schools will be sponsoring a haunted house also.

Attorney General’s Office:

Sharon Pino, Deputy Attorney General spoke about services of the AGs office. She indicated that the Office is committed to providing more services to survivors of domestic and sexual violence. Hector Balderas stated his priority when he spoke to the Network prior to his election. Criminal Division is part of Criminal Affairs and Civil Division is part of Civil Affairs.

Criminal Affairs includes:

Special Investigations, directed by Benjamin Baker bbaker@nmag.gov 222-2902, very proud of the investigators working for this unit. AGs office isn’t bound by the same boundaries for investigation as local agencies. Regularly investigate child abuse, rape and domestic violence cases. Investigators will work with local community partners. The community can report anonymously to the AGs office or speak to someone in the office about their case. AG Investigators have a lot of connection with local law enforcement through facilitated meetings, offering assistance and on-going collaboration. When reporting to the AGs office, victims need to know that the AG has to check to see if anyone is already handling the case, it will be thoroughly reviewed and then a decision will be made about whether to undertake the case and then the victim will be contacted with the decision. There is also a very active human trafficking network. Received a DOJ grant (\$750,000) to hire two full time agents and one part-time agent. Partnered with Life Link who will also receive (\$750,000) to work on the services side.

Special Prosecutions, directed by Clara Moran cmoran@nmag.gov 222-9000, 8 attorneys who cover trafficking, domestic violence homicide, sexual assault. Addresses other criminal

investigations but is focusing on DV, SA and trafficking that haven't been taken on by other jurisdictions. Handling at least one prison rape and some campus rape cases. AG can ask for these cases from other jurisdictions, can self-generate cases and cases that local DAs might refer to the AG. Also available to do training throughout the state.

Advocacy, Laura Martinez, 505-827-5048, Supervising Advocate who assists victims prepare for pre-trials, impact statements, sentencing. LifeLink again is a very important source of assistance. The office is trying to do more statewide networking to better know health care providers, establish a crisis response team and know community resources. Advocacy for Elder abuse is somewhat new. Laura is working on a very specific case and hopes to develop more tools for advocacy.

Sexual Assault, Greer focuses on sexual assault cases. The cases she is taking on are often times cases that have not been researched as much as possible in the local jurisdiction. She will work to put the details to these cases, locate outstanding discovery, and put together the complete packet of evidence as well as support the victim as much as possible.

Non-English Speaking Clients – there are bi-lingual staff in the office, and bi-lingual forms for completing a complaint.

Q&A: What are the easy steps for engaging the AG when local community law enforcement doesn't seem responsive? Not so easy as a 1-2-3 checklist. AG must be sensitive to stepping on the toes of other community systems. It is a very diplomatic activity for engaging at the community level. Sharon has stated that the philosophy of the AGs office is not to take cases because they think they can win them, but to take on cases because it is the right thing to do.

Training: Invalid Survivors, Incredible Victims: How to identify and address Ableism in Anti-Violence Prevention Work: Sebastian Margaret. Sebastian was raised in the UK and has done disability awareness, inclusion work for about 50 years. Task is to find common, multi-lingual communication styles. We are all on different points of the learning curve and that is exactly where we are meant to be. (Sebatian's e-mail: ACCESSCHANGE7@GMAIL.COM)

Have you sat in a training room where you were to learn about disabilities, racial injustice and supremacy, gender nature of violence, violence impact in migrant communities, Violence impact on youth, LGBT youth, people who live on the street. Sebastian's goal is to encourage folks to take this work seriously and want to get engaged.

Asking questions about a person with disabilities body is the one question you shouldn't ask. It is a boundary that shouldn't be crossed. It is a question that isn't asked of those without disabilities and should be respected.

Conducted an exercise where we identified 3 positive things about the disability community and 3 negative things about the disability community.

Negative terms: crazy, sick, under-appraised inconvenient, broken, infantized, underserved,

Positive Terms: gifted, more opportunity (accessibility), resilient, adaptive and independent, strong, leaders and self-advocates, courage. Stereotypes by their general nature, become ways to oppress communities even though the term may be positive. It is a way to generalize an individual. Race, class, misogyny, femininity, masculinity are all forms of stereotypes.

Biggest barrier is oftentimes attitudinal access. This pertains to the harmful stereotypes used by the general population towards the disabled community. Ableism is the harmful attitude towards those individuals. There is also an extremely high rate of segregation that occurs with this community. In housing, in schools, in transportation, etc.

Discussion about what is present in the community that troubles each of us about the disabled community. Question was raised about how to learn whether or not someone has a disability. How do you ask the question? There is a single faceted symbol of the disabled community (the handicap sign we all are familiar with) and Sebastian advocates for a symbol that represents more of a cross-access symbol which includes, vision, hearing, that it affects all genders and gender identities, cognitive. There is also the more common practice of asking everyone the same questions about gender, gender identity, disabilities not just those who appear to have a disability.

How do we create a culture of belief about the disabled community and sexual violence? It's more of a struggle to think the disabled are assaulted b/c of the belief that rape is about sex and who would want sex with someone who is disabled. The more extreme the disability the more likely the general community is likely to believe that you are asexual and those who are perceived to be asexual, are considered "less than" and experience much discrimination.

Question asked about how to develop services for patients who have had a caregiver bring them in for services and the client is developmentally delayed and unable to articulate what has happened to them. Sebastian responded that it will take very long to have good systems in place for this type of response. He did encourage having advocates from the disabled community available and that it isn't easy to be able to discern what has happened to the patient and how to best provide services. It is a discussion that needs to occur and will take years to address.

Education about body awareness, ability to say no, sacredness of your body, body boundaries are all things that need to be taught to disabled children when they are very young. We can use lots of words to make disabled children feel very good about themselves and assign able-bodied traits to them. And when they don't behave in that able-bodied manner, they are criticized.

The goal is to treat those who are disabled as normal as possible. Messaging about those with disabilities needs to change including the use of the word "special". Instead using words such as "particular" needs is more appropriate.

Sebastian wrapped up his presentation with powerful statement: "People who feel good about themselves, who feel wanted and powerful are poor potential victims." Hinesburger DD bulletin 1994 Canada.