

Network Meeting Minutes – June 22, 2016

Attendees: 39 present
Note Taker: Connie Monahan

TOPIC: Meeting Details, Welcome, Short Announcements

Comments Teresa D'Anza welcomed folks and gave the overview of the day, house-keeping details. Members introduced themselves and their agencies.

TOPIC: Update on DA Candidate Debate

Comments Alisha Chavez gave an update on the multi-agency collaborative that is planning a candidate debate for the District Attorney position for the 2nd Judicial District. The agencies who are spearheading the effort are the Coalition against DV, the Coalition of SA Programs, the Coalition to Stop Violence against Native Women, the Women's Agenda, the League of Women Voters, and the Network. The candidate debate will be held on Tuesday, September 20th, from 6-8 p.m. at the Hispanic Cultural Center. At this point, we are recruiting attendance at the event and questions for the candidates. This is an opportunity to give attention to our issues and to hold the candidates accountable. We want a full house. We will be getting the word out but please help in sharing the info with your colleagues.

TOPIC: Agency Highlights

Comments **Patricia Galindo spoke about the Administrative Office of the Courts.** She has partial funding from VAWA to address "process" questions when the system doesn't work well. She travels around the state and provides info/training with a focus on orders of protections, but also how to work with the courts, with an eye on how to build consistency and promote best practices so that victims can be served. She also works with tribal courts. Much of her work is explaining what judges and court officers can/cannot do. If you are experiencing frustrations, you can contact Patricia at 505-670-2656 or by email at aocpmg@nmcourts.gov. The AOC will launch their new website which will serve as a resource including a special focus on Domestic Violence, Sexual Assault, and Stalking. The goal is to provide accurate, useful information and will include a Self-Help guide to help people who do not have an attorney to guide them. The website will have downloadable documents along with links to community services.

Connie Monahan with the New Mexico Coalition of Sexual Assault Programs spoke to the Backlog of Untested Sexual Assault Programs. She gave a brief update on the state efforts to assess law enforcement needs, train law enforcement, and develop a process for informing/engaging victims, some of whom were assaulted many years ago. **Beverly Wilkins with the Blue Corn Mothers program** spoke about the program's efforts to provide advocacy, counseling, and other support through the legal system for Native Women. It is a small program, fairly new, that focuses on services for victims in Bernalillo and the urban Albuquerque area but would serve others who access/need support. For more information, contact bjwilkins05@msn.com.

Crystal Lucero with the New Mexico Aging and Long Term Services Dep't announced that they will be hosting their annual Conference on Aging, at Isleta on August 23-24. For more information, go to their website, www.nmaging.state.nm.us, or call Crystal at 505-383-3905.

Claudia Timmons, Program Director for Hope House for Crossroads for Women, spoke to how Crossroads has expanded within the past year. They have received new grants and opened two new residential programs to serve women who are in transition from prison. Check out their website, www.crossroadsabq.org, for more information.

Alexandria Taylor, Valencia Shelter Services, spoke to one of the aspects of Crossroads' growth, that when new services move into a community, it is important to stand together. She and Claudia spoke about how the community of Los Lunas was initially not welcoming, but with time, communication, the intersection of our work, and an open house that opened the door to building relationships, we can change attitudes for the better.

Quentin McShan, retired from DPS, now runs a for-profit business that focuses on investigations, training, and consulting to improve the coordination between individuals and law enforcement agencies. He is finding that individuals who call police for help or services often get a runaround, no answer, or multiple referrals partly because they don't know the process. Quentin's business helps facilitate the process. If you would like more information on his agency, his website is www.homelanditc.com or if you have questions, you can contact him at either mcschan@homelanditc.com or at 505-927-7571.

Cole Carvour from Rape Crisis Center of Central NM reported that they will once again be hosting their training for Community Professional Sexual Assault Response, scheduled for September 8-9 and 15-16, two Thursday/Friday resulting in a four day training. This was held earlier this year to resounding success and members are invited to sign up. For more information, contact Cole at ccarvour@rapecrisisnm.org.

Gabe Campos from the City of Albuquerque spoke to the city's efforts to fill a recent gap in services relating to the U-Visa (U-Visas are for victims of crime who are here with undocumented status; the U-Visa provides a window of time for these victims as long as they cooperate with law enforcement. For a while, the City of Albuquerque was relying on the DA's office, but the documentation needs to be signed by a certified law enforcement officer prior to submission to the DA's office. APD is now supporting the intermediate steps (along with Catholic Charities). If you want more info, contact Gabe Campos (gcampos@cabq.gov).

TOPIC:
Comments

Panel Discussion: We Can't Change a System If We Don't Understand It

Panelists Tori Heaton and Nicholas Onken from Rio Rancho, and Stephanie Villalobos from Valencia Shelter Services, each spoke to their personal motivation for getting into this work. They then spoke as a collaborative team on how to bridge communication between advocates and law enforcement. They spoke to the challenges of public perception of law enforcement, expectations, training, resources/lack of resources, laws and departmental policies, and how they all intersect on a daily response and service for victims. They playfully gave an example to highlight how we all come to this work from different perspectives with different priorities and agendas, all of which color how we work together. They outlined the different roles of law enforcement, advocates and the victims themselves and how the three interact. The team of presenters opened the group up to open discussion, including:

- How do we have a stronger representation of law enforcement at the Network, with discussion of who is the appropriate level, how do we get the buy-in from the Chief's level that attendance/collaboration is important and how do we make the Network a safe place for law enforcement to attend?
- How do we keep domestic violence calls important in the face of all the other crimes, to keep specialization, to provide on-going training and professional development?
- How do we build relationships between law enforcement and advocates, to move past incidents that may have adversely colored past relationships, to build respect for the differences, how to ask why professionals do what they do without seeming to attack their practices?

TOPIC: **Lunch and Networking**

Comments Members wrapped up the meeting and enjoyed lunch and networking.

Next Meeting – September 28, 2016