

Network Meeting Minutes – September 28, 2016

Attendees: 50 present
Note Taker: Lisa Meyer

TOPIC: Meeting Details, Welcome, Short Announcements

Comments Robin Swift introduced herself as the new facilitator. She welcomed folks, and gave the overview of the day and house-keeping details. Members introduced themselves and their agencies.

TOPIC: Update on Network Website

Comments Alisha Chavez gave an update on the Network website: <http://www.thenetwork-dvsa.org>. The Network website maintains the meeting agendas and minutes as well as lists the Steering Committee members. The list of Collaborating Agencies, currently listed on the website, is in the process of being updated – if you would like to add your agency to the list, we can add the link to your agency’s website. Alisha distributed a list for folks to add their agency or you can contact Alisha at alishac@nmcadv.org. The plan is to also have more statewide presence and to grow/expand Network community by having more people join the meetings by online webinar.

TOPIC: Three DV Coalition Updates

Comments Alisha Chavez gave an update on the **Accessibility Project**. The project is funded by VAWA/VOCA grants, through CVRC, and open to any victims/survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking, and dating violence who have limited English proficiency, or are deaf or hard of hearing in New Mexico. Accessibility Project pamphlets were distributed to attendees. The Accessibility Project brochure will be updated by the new project coordinator, Francine, who may be contacted by email at francine@nmcadv.org. Project information can be found on NMCADV’s website: www.nmcadv.org, under *Accessibility Project*. A few highlights of the project: An interpreter on the line can identify a language; an interpreter can be on the line w/in 10 minutes; in-person interpreting is available (used for sign language); may access *Reimbursement Request* and *Demographics Reporting* on website; Video Remote Interpreting (VRI) is available; translating services are available for court documents, birth certificates (must be for direct victim/survivor services); reimbursement should be pre-requested, as translations get expensive quickly. Some services may require the Accessibility Project to seek VAWA Administrator pre-approval for use of grant funds.

For the upcoming **DV Legislative Agenda**, the DV programs are working currently on strangulation prevention efforts (a new approach as compared to strangulation criminal law). Policy Committee formed a workgroup moving forward, prevention education and possible legislation, public education, and a memorial for task force to gather more info on strangulation & medical reporting. Recent KUNM radio interview (Sally from Roberta’s Place and Gail from Albuquerque SANE) spoke to the need for better response to strangulation. Also, a multi-disciplinary group was sent to a Train the Trainer training with the goal to spread the content in NM. May do a presentation at AIA. All these efforts are geared to activate grassroots awareness and improved

response which will hopefully feed into support for a criminal bill making strangulation a felony.

Other legislative priorities from the DV Coalition include:

- Firearms – taking firearms of offenders, an issue that has been highlighted by the Interpersonal Violence Death Review Team for several years.
- Prevent people from getting conceal carry permits
- Reintroduce changes to the Confidential Address Program bill; the current program is not confidential or comprehensive. DV Coalition has met with Secretary of State to ensure collaboration and support
- Lastly, budget cuts. Facing up to 15% budget cuts. Will lobby & do all they can to keep cuts as low as possible & keep services going.
- MORE INFORMATION/Alisha's summary is at the end of the minutes.

The Purple Postcard Campaign. Alisha outlined their Purple Postcard campaign to support funding for DV services across the state. Modeled after Texas, the campaign generates lists of supporters – just fill out a purple postcard – that will be shared with our 1) Representatives, 2) Senators, and 3) Governor. One postcard per person, with zip code for correct district. Postcards are also available in Spanish. Templates can be requested & printed 4 per page for distribution. There will be focused attention during DV Awareness month in October. You can go to the DV Coalition (www.nmcadv.org) & click on *Purple Postcard* link. Share the link & have colleagues fill out the Purple Postcard online. Contact Alisha with request/questions. This will be a focus until January.

TOPIC:
Comments

Update on Upcoming Legislative Session

Julianna Koob, Lobbyist for the New Mexico Coalition of Sexual Assault Programs, gave an update on the upcoming Special Session (lobbyists/legislators all waiting for the Governor to call it) and January Legislative Session. Short notes include:

- We are in a budget crisis, \$500 million in the hole between this year and next.
- For those who aren't familiar, the Special Session can be called by the Governor to address specific issues – the upcoming special session will address three topics: the budget, reinstating the death penalty, and implementing “3-strikes you're out.” If these topics are not resolved during the special session, we can expect them during the January session
- Our budget issues are serious and given our dependence on oil/gas revenue which is decreasing, we have a rough road ahead especially given that our constitution requires a balanced budget.
- Tension between parties is building because election cycle right now.
- New group on public safety coalition is being developed to address real efforts to decrease criminal activity and increase public safety without focusing on punishment and incarceration. Nationally shaped by communities of color organizations, this could become a new voice in our work.
- One of the balancing acts in the upcoming environment is to weigh the big picture issues with our own. We are often asked to wait or defer our needs. We need to speak up and ask that state budget cuts are NOT laid on the backs of victims. We need to hold firm to saying “No” to cutting victim services and “No” to cutting prevention. Flat percentage cuts hurt smaller programs harder.

- The SA Coalition will continue to work on the Sexual Assault Evidence Kit (SAEK) backlog, working to both alleviate the backlog and prevent it from happening again in the future. The NMCSAP is working with victims, exploring ideas on improving our sexual assault statutes relating to intoxication, when intoxicants are knowingly provided by the offender to a younger victim.
- Julianna reinforced many of the DV issues raised by Alisha, specifically gun possession and Orders of Protection, as well as the existing loopholes for gun buying from online & gun shows.
- Julianna demonstrated the new NM state legislature website: www.nmlegis.gov. It continues to have everything you need to know (just a matter of finding it).
- Julianna encouraged folks to vote – this is too important of an election coming up. You need to make your voice count – vote!
- Any questions, you are welcome to contact Juliana at Koobjulie@yahoo.com or 505-920-6002.

TOPIC:
Comments

Panel Discussion: Cultural Humility: Activating our Inner Ally

Panelists were Liem Nguyen, New Mexico Asian Family Center; Jana Pfeiffer, Coalition to Stop Violence Against Native Women; Virginia Perez-Ortega, Enlace Comunitario; Jaycee Lewis, Solace Crisis Treatment Center & Transgender Resource Center of NM; Alexandria Taylor, Valencia Shelter Services. Each spoke about cultural humility, providing their expertise and some personal stories, and also talked about strategies that work and/or don't work.

How to Become an Ally: Taking the AAA Challenge

Q1: What does cultural humility mean to you and how have you seen this practice make a difference in client involvement and outcomes?

- Cultural humility is making no assumptions, but meeting the person seeking services where they are, or at their level. In providing a space for clients to find their own power and abilities, often victims/survivors go on to heal and help others.
- More trainings are critical. Must close mouth, open ears. Listen. Allow person to express themselves. Listen. Wait. Cannot take a direct approach.
- Unserved populations must be recognized before they can be served; many are enduring numerous burdens and don't have spaces.

Q2: What are some common errors organizations make; where do they get it wrong?

- Not asking questions. We need to ask better questions, get better answers. Need to respect. Intake forms, for example: A name may not match the person, gender ID is not respected. Give people a chance to provide what their name is, what their pronoun is. Give respect.
- We miss the mark when the solution revolves around the criminal justice system. The mainstream approach doesn't fit. For example, when a person calls and the agency asks for a social security number. When the person doesn't have this, they hang up and don't seek services.
- The norm is to direct people through a phone system – this is a huge barrier in a community that doesn't like to talk or leave phone messages. These are simple, little things that may sound like a joke, but they are real.

- Advice to call police in many communities is not an option for fear of deportation, violence. Victim/survivor wants to stop violence, not have their loved-one harmed or taken away.
- Another error: Making basic assumptions, or stereotyping. We need to find common ground. All want healthy communities.
- Error: Friends or family members used as interpreters. This is discouraging because the person may have come in with the perpetrator and will not discuss their situation when the interpreter line is not used. If a victim/survivor has experienced DV or SV, meet the person individually. Ask if they need the interpreter line . . . so you don't break the relationship when they reach out.

Humility is not cultural competency. It is meeting everyone as we should meet, all as individuals. Asking and listening. Cultural humility is having an understanding of how exhausting it is to navigate, “to go through just being them.”

Q3: How might power and control be different for clients served and what are the messages clients get from their own culture?

- In LGBT community: What power? What control? Everywhere they go, interactions with law enforcement or the medical community, for example, are horrible. Victims/survivors are bullied by teachers, counselors, administrators who say they should not even exist. Mistakes along the way, like mis-gendering or a bad transition to other services, may keep a victim/survivor from coming back for services. So many services require gender info, when genitals have nothing to do with the issue at hand.
- It is about finding a place where a person can fit and be themselves.
- Native communities in modern times experience historical trauma, generational trauma. Confidentiality does not exist in tribal communities. This is a big barrier to seeking services & reporting. There is no trust in their social services, etc. It takes outside organization to come in. What can others outside do? Please, offer help. Communities don't know how to ask for help, how to partner, or organize.
- Must always keep in mind what the change may be representing for an individual. What is acceptable, what is feasible?
- What can be done in a community where victims/survivors face backlash when reporting or receiving services?
- Group discussed how factors such as religion can factor into issues.

Ally-ship presentation by Cole Carvour, Stephanie Villalobos, and Frida Moreno w/ Enlace Comunitario.

What does it mean to be an ally? What are some concrete steps to become a better ally?

- An ally is a person who supports members of another group and recognizes the disadvantages and discriminations they face; a member of a dominant group standing beside members of a group being discriminated against or treated unjustly.
- Take the AAA Challenge – Ally | Advocate | Activist. It's not a How-To, but provides some thought processes/mental gestures to use to be more in-line with cultural humility. I Statements. A judgment-free zone.

- Check in to make sure you're on the appropriate road. Continue to ask, "How best can I be helpful?"
- Video Tool: "Sometimes You're a Caterpillar" (on YouTube, by Franchesca Ramsey, animated by Kat Blaque). 1) Acknowledge. 2) Understand. 3) Use your privilege as a tool.

TOPIC: Lunch and Networking

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

Next Meeting – December 14, 2016

Legislative Updates for Network Meeting from NMCADV Policy Committee

Budget Cuts:

- Fight legislative cuts to DV service providers totaling up to 15%.
- Convening a Budget strategy group to plan for the session.
- Purple Postcard campaign for community support for DV services widespread throughout the state. E-blasts will be sent to Network list.

Strangulation Prevention:

- NMCADV Policy Committee has formed a workgroup and collaboration with the Sexual Assault and Tribal Coalitions to move forward on prevention, education and possible legislation. These efforts include a KUNM radio interview show on the topic, a legislative memorial to form a multidisciplinary taskforce, a possible AIA pre-conference track and sending a multidisciplinary professional team to an Advanced Train the Trainer training sponsored by the Training Institute on Strangulation Prevention in October.

Order of Protection Firearm Prohibited Possessor Bill:

- This bill would mirror current Federal law so that NM courts and law enforcement could actually take the firearms of those offenders subject to DV Orders of Protection for the duration of the Order. Standing recommendation of the IPVDRS for 4 years.

Reintroduce Comprehensive Confidential Address Program Bill:

- Current program is neither confidential nor comprehensive (drivers licenses, school enrollment, etc.).
- NMCADV will again introduce a comprehensive Confidential Address Program bill this legislative session.
- We have previously met with one Secretary of State candidate and got her blessing for the program, and have plans to meet before the session with the current Secretary to do the same.