



ERIE COUNTY COALITION AGAINST FAMILY VIOLENCE ... founded 1978

The ECCAFV is a member-driven organization which engages in social change activism to dismantle the root causes of domestic violence at the individual, organizational, and institutional level. Our goal is to end domestic violence.

ECCAFV Meeting Minutes - Friday, December 12, 2008

Welcome and Introductions: 21 people were in attendance
(Attendance list from the meeting is available to meeting attendees. Contact Greg White (gregory.white@ccwny.org) for more information.)

A **Moment of Silence** was held in honor of victims and survivors of domestic violence.

Acceptance of Meeting Minutes

- November meeting minutes were accepted: First – Pat Shelly; Second – Ernestine Richardson
 - The list-serve is the best way to receive a copy of the meeting minutes. If you are not part of the list-serve please request to be added.

Finance Update – Quarterly Report – tabled until next month.

DVCC Position Funding Update

- As of the last membership meeting, a \$2500 check was issued by the Coalition to Haven House. Another check will be issued for another \$2500 in order provide support funding for the DVCC staff person position.
- There has been discussion that the letter of support to stakeholders should be issued on Coalition letterhead. It makes an easier sell to agencies that would be willing to support this effort. Information on where to send donation checks will be included in the letter.
- It is important that we not exceed \$25,000 in holdings since that could cause the potential for an audit since we are a 501 C3 organization.
- There was some discussion about developing a plan for long-term funding for this position. In actuality, we are sending letters to the agencies we work for to solicit funding for the position. Our plan is that this letter solicitation process is a one-time effort. There was discussion at the last stakeholders meeting that the position should continue to be administered by Child and Family Services' Haven House.
- Future funding for the position continues to be an ongoing conversation.
- Beginning in January 2009, the DVCC will be doing some consulting work with the Center for Resolution and Justice in order to assist them in beginning a similar position.
- Kristen will be helping them understand how to frame an analysis for Mediation and Domestic Violence.

Committee Updates

- Five committees were developed for the next year. They are:
 - **Advocacy Committee**
 - **Education and Training Institute** – the chairs will be meeting on December 22nd to plan the training for spring.
 - **Quarterly Update** will chair the committee – the committee could use some help with editing.

- **Annual Meeting** – want to begin the group work on this event. We also need an event chair.
- **Election Committee** - Bill Zelazny and Brenda David comprise this committee.

Advocacy Committee Report

- This committee will be meeting in early January 2009 – please be aware Legislative Awareness Day in Albany is on March 10, 2009.

ECCAFV Monthly Meeting Location

- The International Institute is working well for our monthly membership meetings. The next meeting will be held at International Institute in January 2009.

Member and Friends of the Coalition Survey

- Working on the new survey since it has been five years since we developed the long-term strategic plan. The survey information that is gathered is extremely useful to the future evolution of the Coalition. The new survey will be available on-line through Survey Monkey. There is hard-copy option available to those who do not have internet access.
- We will be reaching out to people who have attended meetings in past years since we want to include them in the survey process.

Updates:

- Family Justice Center – No representative present at meeting to give update.
- Council on Elder Abuse
 - There was a grant secured in order to offer training to prosecutors, law enforcement, elder-abuser workers. Training was well attended.
 - New brochures for Council on Elders Abuse are now available.
 - The Council has completed their Strategic Plan.
 - Next meeting is on January 6, 2009 @ Meals on Wheels
- LGBT DV Committee of WNY
 - Publicizing that domestic violence exists in the LGBT Queer Community. Poster has been developed for community awareness.
 - 16-days on gender bias – get the word out to the community.
- Citizen's Task Force on Child Abuse and Neglect
 - TF is still developing their committees. Next meeting on Friday, 12/19/08.
 - Leadership planning is working to change the name of the Task Force.
 - Celebrations in April are being developed since that is Child Abuse Prevention month.
 - Looking for people who are interested in working on the work of this group.

Announcements:

- CAPC is coordinating some training opportunities. See brochure.
- NYSOPDV has updated their booklet on: "Finding Safety and Support" – includes new "Fair Access to Family Court" information. This information is available to order for FREE from the OPDV website.
- Free Tax Season – See handout distributed at the meeting – posters and paycheck stuffers- also check out CASHBUFFALO.ORG for more information
- Calendars are on sale for \$10.

Coalition Membership Development:

- We want to educate ourselves and do some self-training at our meetings every-other month. There is a wealth of information out there that we could all benefit. The business of

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the meeting would be completed by 10am and the self-training presentations would follow the business portion of the meeting. We are looking for additional ideas for presentations such as International Status on Domestic Violence, Leadership Development, How to Run a Meeting, Erie County Sheriff's Department and Native American Community – Tribal Courts, etc.

New Laws Presentation – Legislative Update:

- Presented by Courtney McGowan.
- See Newsletter handout – “Legislative Update”
- Shelter Reimbursement – shelters will now be reimbursed for services provided to immigrant victims of domestic violence. Undocumented citizens can now safely seek shelter without fear of deportation.
- Criminalized interference with Emergency Assistant Calls – blocking someone interfering would be guilty of criminal mischief. This is a useful tool for prosecution. Through this legislation, this is now recognized as dangerous behavior.
- Criminalized Destruction of Jointly Owned Property. Useful tool for prosecution. Property has to be valued at \$250 or greater.
- Free Security Freeze of Credit Report – prohibited from sharing this information. Keeps financial information safe. Abusers can track victims based on their credit card use. A freeze can be temporarily and permanently removed without charge. A freeze is limited to credit reports and not separate credit card account information. Remember the conditions of this legislation: an order of protection, domestic incident report, police report, affidavit from a provider is necessary.
- Good Faith Effort to protect a Child are Not to be Penalized – parent is not deprived or limited in custody or visitation. Some parents who tried to protect their children were penalized in custody or visitation proceedings. PAS was sometimes an issue in determining custody. Parent seeking to protect child sometimes lost custody because protecting the child meant disobeying the order of protection.
- Reporting False Child Abuse is Criminalized – a criminal offense to report to statewide central register of any person required to report child abuse or maltreatment.

An Orientation for New Members was held at the end of the meeting.

The **next monthly membership meeting** of the Erie County Coalition Against Family Violence will take place on **Friday, January 9, 2009** in the **International Institute, 864 Delaware Avenue, Buffalo, NY**