



## 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, August 8, 2008

#### **Welcome and Introductions: 29 people were in attendance, 3 people attended their first meeting.**

*(Attendance list from the meeting is available to meeting attendees. Contact Kristen Luppino ([kluppino@cfsbny.org](mailto:kluppino@cfsbny.org)) for a copy.)*

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

#### **Acceptance of April Meeting Minutes**

- Approval of July minutes accepted (First- Sister Martha Olszewski, Second- Cindy Chandler).

#### **Treasurer/Finance Update**

- Kristen gave a financial update. The ECCAFV account has \$ 9452.14. Actual Coalition holdings are \$ 8518.38, with about \$ 60 in petty cash.
- The LGBT DV Committee has \$ 551. The CEA has \$ 443.01.

#### **Special Election**

- Stacie went over the situation that brought about the need for special election for the Communications Chair- two people have been nominated- Greg White and Safiyya Hunter. Ballots were distributed and biographies for the candidates were included on the ballot. Those eligible, but not in attendance, were mailed their ballots.

#### **08-09 Membership Reminder**

- Sue reminded that membership dues had gone up and that it was time for the 08-09 membership dues. September 15<sup>th</sup> is the deadline for agencies to pay and be listed on the brochure.

#### **Website Proposal**

- Ruth passed around draft of letter for those that want a web page off of the ECCAFV's web page. An attendee noted that Coalition reserves the right to screen and/or edit all content for the submissions.
- It was also noted that a lag time should be outlined, a week was suggested, but to not have undue pressure on the webmaster, two weeks was decided to be the listed lag time.
- An attendee also noted that a disclaimer similar to the one on the listserv should also be noted on the agreement letter and on the pages for these organizations.
- The term "good standing" was discussed for those that would be requesting a website. Would they need attend meetings and participate in that way?
- The idea that other organizations may also want the opportunity of a web page and that eligibility and content criteria should be established.
- Membership discussed what would happen if an organization objected decisions made by the Executive Committee; could they bring the issue to the membership? An attendee didn't think that would be necessary. The members would trust the decision and that the Consensus Model was perfect for these situations.

#### **NCADV Update**

- Kristen, Remla, Amy, and Diane spoke a little about the workshop and the NCADV conference. They were disappointed about the size of the room and there was only standing room- approximately 25 people attended the workshop.
- The workshop was very well received and there was a lot of response and interest in how to address oppression in their organizations.

- Kristen noted that the large ballroom had 50 draped chairs with the story of a woman that had been murdered from each state. This was brought up as an idea to incorporate into Coalition events.
- A workshop that all attended about the intersection of oppressions that could be turned into a training in the future.
- The final ECCAFV expenditures for the NCADV conference were \$1129.18. \$1300.00 was the budget- the group was about \$ 120 under budget.

### **Fair Access to Family Court Update**

- Remla reviewed details of the bill as there were many more members in attendance than in July when the changes were also reviewed.
- Fair Access was signed into law on 7/22/08, expanding the definition of members of the same family or household.
- Haven House's family court advocate noted that there have been 7 people since 7/31/08 that came to Family Court for a case of this nature; all at this point, were boyfriend/girlfriend situations.
- There will be a statewide conference call with OPDV and NYSCADV about implementation of the law.
- Training needs for court personnel were discussed; for instance, a member noted that a woman was asked about sexual relations with her partner, but the language of the law states that this is not a factor that can be considered when determining an "intimate relationship".
- It was noted that all agencies and representatives should let the ECCAFV know about brick walls or problems that come up around the new law so that education and advocacy can be provided.
- A short training for advocates and others who would need to know about the law was discussed, possibly before or after an ECCAFV meeting. Others that would need education on the law were also discussed.
- Creation of an article for lawmakers' newsletters was discussed as was an educational op-ed article and all were encouraged to share stories about successes and problems with access to Family Court.

### **DV 101- 9/18/08**

- A list was passed around for volunteers for to help with registration, lunch, and clean-up at the DV 101 at the St. Stanislaus Social Hall.
- There is still plenty of room for people to register~ about 17 people are registered and the maximum for the space is 30 attendees.

### **DV Awareness Month**

- A flyer for the "Taking DV Out of the Closet" forum with Avy Skolnik was distributed to attendees as was the training brochure for the training with him the following morning.
- The forum will be on Wed., October 15, 2008 at Trinity Church in Buffalo and aimed at the general LGBT population. This event will be free.
- The training on Thurs., October 16, 2008 will be at the Trinity Methodist Church on Grand Island and the usual training fees will apply. Note that only 5 people from each member organization will be granted the member training fee.
- SPOTlight event will be centered around the theme of Peace, Peace at Home, What does Peace look like. October 25<sup>th</sup> is the probable date. Attendees discussed if the fact that it was the weekend before Halloween- would this prevent people from attending?? Many thought it would not, as the actual day of Halloween is on a Friday.
- The Bridgewalk will be taking place on October 3, 2008 with the Canadian partner, Women's Place of South Niagara. Lunch and speakers will be at Happy Jack's after the walk. Fee will be about \$ 15 to cover the cost of lunch.
- Fellowship Hill Ministries in Springville is planning a March Against Violence on Sunday, October 12, 2008. They may need monetary assistance with supplies and would very much appreciate help from some with tech savvy to create flyers and some marketing tools.
- The representatives from Erie Co. Sheriff's office noted that they work with the schools in Springville and could help coordinate with this event as well.

- Other events were announced- The Family Justice Center will be having an art auction, A New StART on October 28, 2008 at The Church on Delaware Ave.
- UB's Take Back the Night will be on October 14, 2008.
- The Hispanics United of Buffalo dinner will take place on October 24, 2008.
- Crisis Services Girls Night Out will take place on October 23, 2008

### **Funding Update- Domestic Violence Community Coordinator**

- Remla gave some background on the creation of the Domestic Violence Community Coordinator (DVCC- position currently being held by Kristen Luppino). In 1994, Haven House approached the United Way of Buffalo and Erie County with the idea of creating the position of DVCC. Although stationed at Child & Family Services Haven House, the DVCC would serve as point person for domestic violence in Erie County, help coordinate services, and identify gaps in service delivery. Additionally, part of the DVCC's responsibility was to provide staff support for the Erie County Coalition Against Family Violence. Having this part-time staff support has proved invaluable to the growth and success of the Coalition.
- Over the past 14 years, the role of the DVCC grew and evolved. The DVCC is now a permanent member of the ECCAFV Executive Committee, our liaison to other community Task Force and coalitions, and is a resource for the Tri-County area.
- Since its inception, the United Way has been supportive of the position of DVCC and has annually maintained partial funding for the position. However, because the UW was unable to reach their campaign goal this year, they are unable to fund all their programs at the same level. Although pleased with the administration of the DVCC position through Child & Family Services Haven House, the UW is able to contribute to the funding of the DVCC position only till 12/31/08, i.e. six months of the Child & Family fiscal year.
- Remla expressed gratitude to the UW for their support of the position all these years, and understanding why this funding decision was made, yet emphasized the negative impact that elimination of this position would have on both the Coalition and the community.
- Child & Family Services has committed to helping secure bridge funding for the remainder of the fiscal year, and to assist in finding funding to continue the DVCC position. Due to unincorporated status, the ECCAFV may not be able to apply for most, but Child & Family Services can apply as the fiduciary pass through.
- Remla stressed that it was important for the membership to understand that they will be called upon more in the upcoming months to help with tasks and Coalition driven activities, as the Kristen will be doing work to help secure funding in addition to everything else she does. The membership may also be called upon to help identify different funding opportunities and avenues
- The membership agreed that the DVCC position is extremely important to the Coalition. Members had some suggestions for fundraising such as collection boxes as October events and United Way designations of individuals donations, though there is also concern about competing with direct service partners for funds. Making an ask to elected officials was also noted for a short term fix; it was noted that there was a meeting about this later that day.
- Creativity was noted to be the key; this challenge should be seen as an opportunity to help the DVCC position change and grow.

### **CASH Coalition Announcement**

- Diane Bessel spoke about the many people who are eligible for Earned Income Tax Credit as well as those that could still apply for the Economic Stimulus payment. Literature was distributed.
- Those that CASH are targeting to be able to still apply for the stimulus are seniors, vertrans, and low wage workers. The deadline to apply is October 15, 2008.
- Volunteers are able to go to homes, applicants can come to tax prep sites, and the Income Tax also is available to come to central sites. The phone number for the tax prep site is 853-0600. For the Income Tax or for home visits, the number to call is 887-2706. There is also information in the packet of how to apply if someone does not care to pursue any of the above options.

- It was asked if low-filing rates were known by zip codes; the answer was yes and there was some targeted outreach occurring. CASH is working with block clubs, Senior Services, the senior dining sites, senior centers and with the Dept. of Veterans Services.

#### Updates

- **FJC-** The Safe Havens Chaplaincy training was well attended and received. The Behind Closed Doors tours are continuing. Upcoming dates and times are 8/5/08 @ 5:30 p.m. and 8/19/08 @ 8 a.m.
- **CEA-** The Senior Forum will be taking place on 9/25/08 at the St. Rose of Lima Church in North Buffalo. The next meeting will be on 9/2/08 @ 9 a.m. at Meals on Wheels (Later changed to 9/4/08).
- **LGBT DV Committee of WNY (submitted by e-mail and reported out)-** Bar outreach is being organized as well as a listing as for the LGBT IPV advocate in the Downtowner. There is the possibility of a fundraiser for the October events with a comedian who is well known in the LGBT community. The Committee has received preliminary acceptance for continued funding for the LGBT IPV advocate.
- **CTFCAN-** An action planning meeting will take place on September 12, 2008 from 12- 3 p.m. at 844 Delaware. All are encouraged to come. Lorien from NYSCADV will be facilitating the planning.

#### Announcements:

- Lauren Walker & Sasha McGarvey noted that this was their last meeting before moving out of state and thanked the membership for their experiences. Sasha also gave some more information about Safiyya Hunter, who is nominated for Communications Chair.
- Stacie Dopko noted her thanks to the ECCAFV and Kristen for her time as a MSW intern and hopes to stay involved.
- Amy Fleischauer noted the large amount of trafficking victims that are being assisted in the Buffalo area (28 of 36 in the state) from a statewide conference call she had recently been a part of; please call her if your agency needs training.

The next meeting will take place on Friday, September 12, 2008 at 9 a.m.  
 at **Child and Family Services, 330 Delaware Ave. Buffalo, NY 14202.**  
**\*\*\*\*Please note location change\*\*\*\***