



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.

July 13, 2007 ECCAFV Meeting Minutes

Present: 31 people present

Acceptance of May 2007 minutes:

First: Ruth May Kane, Second: Amy Fleischauer

Annual Meeting Recap:

Annual meeting at Shanghi Reds was very well attended. Comments were made that the food was very good and a big thanks to Amy Fleischauer for all of her hard work in putting things together. The Coalition members would like to follow up on the documentaries that were presented at the meeting by the UB Law students to see if we could get copies. There will be a complete viewing on October 24, 2007 from 3:00 – 5:00. To update those that could not attend the annual meeting the videos were about female victims of domestic violence who in prison for various crimes related to the domestic violence committed against them.

Education and Training Institute:

There are only 2 spots left for the upcoming training in July. Please call and reserve a spot while you are waiting to mail in a payment to avoid any confusion. This training will be capped at 30 people. A smaller group this time will make for a better conversation. The committee is all set with everything, thanks to all who assisted.

October- Domestic Violence Awareness Month:

The Executive Committee had decided that maybe an advanced training would be a good idea for this years October training. If any of the coalition members have any suggestions for training or a guest speaker please let us know. A committee will be devised to assist with the events scheduled for October Awareness month and will work along side with the training committee. Volunteers are needed for both.

There will be NO bridge walk this year.

Advocacy Committee:

Every year we go to Albany for the NYS Coalition Against Domestic Violence's legislative awareness day. Currently we have no follow up after that yearly event. We are now seeing a need to get an advocacy committee going again. If anyone is interested, please sign up- or contact Kristen Luppino- kluppino@cfsbny.org. A Legislative Breakfast is an event that other organizations have successfully done on a yearly basis and perhaps something that the coalition should think about. Just a reminder that signing up for this committee does not mean that you have to go to Albany; there are a various ways you can assist. We need people power!!

Erie County Family Violence Profile- Research Committee:

Amy Fleischauer commented that although the report card was well put together and she commends everyone for their hard work and dedication we still need more information. The problem according to the coalition is that different agencies track their data in different ways. Some agencies such as Baker Victory were never asked for their statistics. Agencies recognize that DV is underreported and or not reported at all. We need to find out where the gaps are and address them. We should prioritize this committee so that we have the statistics to educate the community but this is intense work and needs funding. Right now the committee is exhausted and the problems seen with tracking in this county are also being seen nationwide. Perhaps this is something that the new MSW intern can work on.

Tri County Training Collaboration- Elder Abuse Training:

The Coalition, Haven House and Community Agencies will be sponsoring. Gavin Kasper will be a key presenter. The training is scheduled for November 7th, 2007 from 9a-3:30p at SUNY Fredonia. A save the date flyer was distributed.

Updates:

Family Justice Center: Linda Ray was hired as the new Executive Director of the Family Justice Center. She comes to the FJC with a wealth of knowledge and current staff is eager to begin working with her. She will start part time at the beginning of August and full time in November. A new volunteer coordinator will be hired around August 15, 2007. Currently the FJC has served 1000 people and the Forensic Medical Unit has serviced 195 people. There will be a Signature event celebrating one year of service in October, if you would like to volunteer please contact Paul.

MDCCEA: Commemorated Elder Abuse awareness day on June 15, 2007 with an event at the Amherst Senior Center- approximately 120 people attended.

CTFCAN: This agency is currently on hold for the summer and working to build up their current task force membership. They are looking for funding for part time position to work with agency.

LGBT DV Task Force: No one was present to give an update on this group's work.

Announcements:

- YWCA & Fidelis health will be hosting a health fair at the YWCA Grant St. location on July 19, 2007.
- The Mental Health and Empowerment rally will be held on July 14, 2007 at 6:00 p.m. at Bidwell Parkway.
- New member orientation will be held after this meeting and the committee for Domestic Violence Awareness month will be meeting after this meeting as well.