



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.

September 14, 2007- Meeting Minutes

Present: 47 people present

Acceptance of August 2007 minutes:

First: Ernestine Richardson, Second: Remla Parthasarathy

Amy Barasch, Executive Director NYS Office for Prevention Domestic Violence was the guest speaker.

- OPDV website: www.opdv.state.ny.us
- Amy spoke about some of the major goals of the state office:
 - o Training of state employees (OPDV does training for OCFS, OTDA, Health Workers, Police, Probation, State EAP, OASAS)
 - o Collaboration with relevant state agencies—Amy sits on the following committees:
 - Governor's Cabinet, Children's Cabinet, Trafficking Task Force, Prisoner Re-Entry, HIV/AIDS Task Force
 - o Public Education and Awareness
 - New statewide public awareness campaign will be launched in October—“Coaching Boys Into Men”—posters will be available online
 - Bulletin Updates
 - Re-Publishing “Finding Safety and Support”
 - Publishing new user-friendly publications that will be helpful to our community
 - Regionally specific handouts and information including translation into languages common in the specific region/community
 - Next year OPDV is hoping to come out with a media tool kit for the community
 - o Policy Development—some new/expanded initiatives are:
 - Expansion of services and funding available for LGBTQ communities
 - Expansion of services and funding available for Elder Victims of DV
 - Model Policies of Universities about Dating Violence
 - Victims with Developmental Disabilities- short and long term projects
- OPDV Budget= \$3.5 Million
 - o None of this money goes towards direct services
 - o Some local assistance \$ goes towards Batterers Programs across the state and to the NYS DV Hotline
- Amy indicated that Batterers Programs were a priority for the Office moving forward
- Karen Colquhoun asked Amy about funding for IDV court advocates—Amy suggested that short and long term solutions are being developed
- Amy suggested that she would like OPDV to serve as a partner for local agencies and programs in order to get grants for those programs

- Linette Creilly, from Fellowship Hill Ministry in Springville, asked Amy what she plans to do about services in rural areas of the county and state—Amy said that this is something she will look into and possibly even develop a working group to focusing on rural issues specifically

Domestic Violence Awareness Month Events:

- ECCAFV Events:
 - o SPOT-Light on DV- Kim Siejak spoke about the event at spot coffee Saturday October 13, 2007 6:00 to 9:00pm- Teen Reality Theater will perform as well as poets and musicians. Slings were distributed- call for Poets and Musicians as well as a flyer for the event. Donations of door prizes for the event are being collected.
 - o UB Law School Documentaries - Sue Tomkins is the coordinator- taking place on Wednesday Oct 17th 3-5pm at the Law School
 - o Education and training Institute Update- the next training is October 10th, 2007 –The Oppression Model and Domestic Violence. It will be held at the American Red Cross Greater Buffalo Chapter. Karen Edmond will be the trainer. Brochures with more details were distributed.
- Other Community Events and Community Calendar:
 - o Haven House Event- Oct 1,2007 Niagara Falls will be spotlighted in Purple for the start of DV Awareness month. A press conference will be held at the Falls at 7:15pm - prior to lighting the Fall Purple- details will be sent out on the email list.
 - o Haven House- African-American Women Speak Out Against DV- 10/10/07 5:30-7:30p- Merriweather Library- Jefferson Ave- contact Kristen for more info- 884-6002
 - o Hispanic United of Buffalo is having a Two day summit 9/21-/22, 2007. It will be held at the Convention Center.
 - o Crisis Services Fundraiser- “Men who cook” will take place on October 2, 2007 at 6:00pm at Erie County Community College North Campus. Tickets are Fifty dollars (\$50.00)- Contact Emily 923-7481 for more information
 - o Crisis Services- March Against Domestic Violence- meet at Lafayette Square at 11:45a- the march will be from Lafayette Square to Buffalo City Hall – Friday, October 5th 12noon- 1:00pm
 - o Crisis Services Event- Thursday October 25th “Girls Night out”- Fashion Show @ Transit Valley County Club- tickets are forty dollars (\$40.00) per person- Call Rebecca Stevens 834-2310 x 123 for more information
 - o UB Take Back the Night- Thursday October 18th Harriman Hall- 7:00p
 - o Family Justice Center Fundraiser- “UnMascarade” @ the Harbor Club – 5:30p- October 3rd – tickets are \$50 dollars and can be purchased at wegmans or unmasquerade.com

Advocacy Committee Update:

- The committee is in the beginnings stages of moving forward with new projects. The committee will be meeting after this membership meeting. Anyone interested is welcomed to attend.

Updates:

Family Justice Center: Extended invites to Visit the Center.

Citizens Task Force on Child Abuse and Neglect: The Task Force is currently in conversation with Erie County about the possibility of developing a position similar to the DV Community Coordinator Position for Child Abuse issues. The Task Force will keep the ECCAFV updated on the progress. They are also in the

midst of a membership drive. The next meeting is on Friday 9/21 at 9:15a at 844 Delaware Ave—all are welcome to attend.

Multidisciplinary Coordinating Council on Elder Abuse: No meeting in August next meeting in September 2007

LGBT Task Force: No Update

Announcements:

Erie County Dept Health Free HIV Screening at the Hamburg Medical Park

Individual from the MONDAY NIGHT SUPPORT GROUP spoke about a Victim's perspective on the Legal System, County Social Service System and the Court system these are some of their issues. Karen Colquhoun made a motion to include the entire content of the comments in the minutes. The membership agreed. As follows:

"Workers seem to make decisions about us and our Kids without letting us have a voice or even giving us all the information we deserve to know.

*We have all been treated poorly by service providers and court staff.
They seem to judge us because we are in a DV situation
Law guardians don't know the whole story nor do they put the best interests of the child first.*

We are told we are "CRAZY" or mentally unstable. We just lost our kids and our life as we knew it has fallen apart and now we are trying to understand the court system and we are overwhelmed!!!!!!

We are given a court menu to follow. What about the Men Who Did This to US and Our Children?????

SERVICES ARE NOT MANADATE FOR THE MEN OR OUR CHILDREN

WE ARE HELD RESPONSIBLE FOR THE MAN'S BEHAVIOR MANY OF US HAVE BEEN TOLD WE CAN'T HAVE OUR KIDS BACK BECAUSE OF WHAT THE MAN MIGHT DO. WHEN IS ITS TIME FOR MEN TO BE RESPONSIBLE FOR THEMSELVES???

WHEN WE CALL THE POLICE; THEY DON'T SHOW UP OR THEY SHOW UP SIX HOURS LATER. (CITY OF BUFFALO) WE HAVE BEEN TOLD WE ARE USING OUR ORDER OF PROTECTION AS A WEAPON. WE ARE TOLD THEY DON'T WANT TO DO THE PAPERWORK. WE ARE TOLD WE ARE BING HYSTERICAL. WE ARE TOLD THERE IS NOTHING THEY CAN DO UNLESS THEY SEE IT, EVEN WHEN WE TOLD THEM "THEY WERE JUST IN OUR HOME."

OUR SOLUTION:

- MORE EDUCATION IN SCHOOL, AT AN EARLIER AGE.*
- SEX EDUCATION IS TOUGHT IN FIFTH. WHAT ABOUT DOMESTIC VIOLENCE?*
- SENSITIVTY TRAINING AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS FOR:*

- POLICE
 - CPS WORKERS
 - TEACHERS
 - MEDICAL STAFF
- MORE DV ADVOCATES TO HELP US THROUGH THE SYSTEM AND TO GIVE US GUIDANCE.
 - WE DID NOT CHOOSE TO BE VICTIMIZED. WE DID NOT CHOOSE TO LOSE OUR KIDS. WE DID NOT CHOOSE TO HAVE PROVIDERS IN OUR LIVES OR HOMES. WE HAVE BEEN RE-VICTIMIZED BY THE SYSTEM. WE WANT TO MAKE IT BETTER.”

The Next meeting of the of the ECCAFV is Friday, October 12th 2007, at 9:00am at the United Way of Buffalo and Erie County- 742 Delaware Ave, Buffalo, NY.