

**CHILDREN AND FAMILY SERVICES ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MINUTES
MARCH 16, 2017**

PRESENT: Sara Barron, Laura Cherone, Pam Groh, Lindsay Just, Raquel Mehring, Diane Ripple, Diana Susitti, Sharon Thiede, Karen Villarreal, Mary Wittwer

STAFF PRESENT: Esther Jensen, Ron Pupp, Lisa Roberts,

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE FEBRUARY 16, 2017 MEETING

A motion was made by Sharon Thiede, seconded by Diane Ripple to approve the minutes from the February 16, 2017 CAFSAC meeting.

BOARD LIAISON (TBD)

Tabled until the next meeting.

SPECIAL SERVICES ADVISORY COMMITTEE (Lisa Roberts)

The committee is trying to recruit more parent participation at their meetings and are asking that you pass on to parents with special needs children to consider attending the SSAC meetings. The majority of the committee should be parents who are actively involved with Birth to Three, CCOP, the Waiver program, or have a child with special needs. The child does not have to be receiving programming from our Department. We are asking parents to bring their voices and experience which is so useful to others and in return they will be gathering information for themselves and their family on different support services and different options that are available for special needs children at the County. Recently the SSAC had presenters discuss the benefits of Health Check Other and Special Needs Trust. The next meeting on May 18 will discuss and review the Annual Survey for the CCOP and Waiver participants which assists us to better our services. Please contact Casey Vullings, the coordinator for SSAC at 262-548-7727, he will give parents information about the SSAC meetings. Future dates are May 18, Sept. 21 and Nov. 16, 2017, all meetings are held here at the Department of Health & Human Services from 12:00 – 1:30 p.m.

VICTIM WITNESS/THE WOMEN'S CENTER (Jenn Dunn/Diane Ripple)

In 2016 there were 88 deaths related to domestic violence in Wisconsin. This includes perpetrators who killed themselves as part of a domestic violence homicide, and murder/suicide. In both 2015 and 2016 three people in Waukesha County lost their lives to domestic violence. In 2016 Law enforcement made 862 referrals to the District Attorney's office, and 650 calls were made to the Women's Center. It is protocol for the County to refer the victim to the Women's Center. Studies estimate that between 3 and 10 million children are exposed to domestic violence annually, and witnessing violence between parents is one of the major indicators to setting a child on a trajectory towards risky or bad behaviors along with and health problems later in life. The U.S. Advisory Board on Child Abuse suggests that domestic violence may be the single major precursor to child abuse/neglect fatalities in our Country.

The pattern of assaultive and coercive behaviors including physical, sexual, psychological and economic coercion is growing, and this often occurs with adults and intimate partners. Financial and economic abuse are caused by an abuser that is controlling all of the money. They will withhold money, prevent the victim from working outside the home, harrass the victim at their job so much that

they lose that job. They will also open credit accounts in the victim's name and charge tens of thousands of dollars ruining the person's credit and causing them debt. The use of intimidation, threats, harm to themselves, harm to the victim, destroying pets, destroying property that is important to the victim (ex. wedding albums, heirlooms, etc.), and threatening to harm, and harm the children. "Gas Lighting" is a clever way to make the victim or other people question their own judgement about the perpetrator. Anyone looking from the outside in would think the perpetrator is doing nice things for the victim but the victim knows what the message is, which is a threat.

Cost and Crime to Society: There are immediate and long term impacts with domestic violence crimes such as home repairs, medical bills, physical and emotional costs, divorce, heart attacks, etc. We also see children doing poorly at school with several sick days. Crime victimization hurts all of us because of the ongoing costs to society. There are psychological impacts and studies that show the neurobiological impact and what goes on with crime victims. Crime victims are experiencing trauma at the time of the abuse and then in an ongoing sense. We see PTSD and other psychological and medical issues (ex. suicide, depression, etc.). Abuse happens on a continuum which is why it is important to have early intervention and prevention services. If the victim does not know that there is help available and it goes on unchecked, the physical abuses can result in their death.

The Victim Witness office provides day to day services such as letting the victim know when their court dates are, attending court with them, assisting financially and to assist with receiving other services that are available. The Victim Witness office is open from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and their number is 262-548-7909. In Waukesha County we have a crisis team called Mobile Victim Assistance (MVA). MVA is on-call 24-hours a day and are paged by police, hospital staff, the Women's Center, the Medical Examiner's office and Health & Human services. The on-call crisis responders and staff can meet with crime victims immediately and are available from 4:30 p.m. to 1:00 a.m. The quickest way to contact Victim Witness during that time is to call Dispatch at 262-446-5070, and have them page the MVA. You can also call the Women's Center Hotline: 262-542-3828 and talk with an advocate who can assist in supporting a friend or family member.

NEEDS PRESENTATION (Lindsay Just)

In preparation the mission statement will remain the same. The County's Five Pillar approach will be referenced showing that Waukesha County providers work with people who are affected by mental illness, struggle with alcohol and/or drug addiction, have a child with special needs, struggle with a disability, are a victim of domestic or sexual violence, lives in poverty, or is hard working and but continue to struggle financially. The presentation will highlight three or four specific needs within the County but overall all it will show that our providers work together to help with all of these needs (ex. the Addiction Resource Council mission is to help with addiction and alcoholism, but that doesn't mean they are not working with people who are homeless, have transportation issues or are a victim of violence.) We are trying to show that someone in this situation could utilize many services within the County.

ALICE (Asset Limited Income Constrained Employed): United Way had an initiative and wrote a report about people who are hard-working and making a wage but are still living in poverty however by federal definition they are considered technically above the poverty level. Ron Pupp mentioned that there is a perception that if you live above the poverty level you have no needs, and we are saying this is still technically being in poverty. The families we serve are not there just for handouts, we are serving people who are working but continue to struggle.

Truancy: Ron Pupp and Pam Groh will present that there is a high rate of truancy in Waukesha County. It is impacting many families and systems. There is a great deal of attention being focused on drugs in the community, disorderly conduct, and sexual offenses but when you look at all of those issues combined they continue to be less than the truancy rate overall.

Substance Abuse: Discussion regarding Heroin usage statistics from the Epidemiological Report show that the problem with younger people is not Heroin, it is the misuse of prescription drugs and drinking which is resulting in suspensions and expulsions. Ages 12 and over are using pain relievers for non-medical use which can lead to heroin abuse and dependence when they are older. According to information gathered by the Addiction Resource Council 89% of the students they counsel on alcohol/underage drinking tickets are also using marijuana frequently. Staying focused and combating issues like marijuana and the misuse of prescription drugs and alcohol use will impact heroin use in the future.

Foster Care: There are 115 children who are living in Foster Homes. Of those children 73% are between the ages of 5-18. We currently have 12 foster homes that are available to provide care for children, but out of the 12 foster homes only 2 have taken children over the age of 8. We are looking to recruit 40 new foster homes. Ron Pupp added that the children are often placed in different cities from their home school and lose all of their supports (ex. friends, guidance counselors, etc.), which can cause trauma and lead to drug usage. Where do the foster children go if they are in need of homes? A lot of teens are spending large amounts of time in Shelter Care and Secure Detention. When that is not a good plan for them in the long term they may be placed in residential care which is the most intensive placement and is not healthy for the child.

ADJOURNMENT

Pam Groh moved to adjourn, seconded by Karen Villarreal at 10:05 a.m.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting is scheduled for June 15, 2017 at 8:30 a.m. in Room 271 at the Human Services Center, 514 Riverview Avenue.

May 18, 2017

APPROVED

*Respectfully submitted,
Tammy Kokan
Administrative Specialist*