Governor's Council on Domestic Abuse
July 12, 2017

Present: Shirley Armstrong, Senator Tim Carpenter, **Representative** Andre Jacque**,** Susan Perry, Susan Sippel, Mark Thomas, Kevin Hamberger, Renee Schulz

Excused: Jill Karofsky, Patricia Ninmann, Representative Lisa Subek, Mariana Rodriguez, Gerald Urbik

Guests: Chase Tarrier (End Domestic Abuse WI); Brad Wasink (DCF); Mary Burke (DCF Legal Counsel); Terri Strodthoff (Alma Center, Milwaukee); Gene Redhail (Oneida Domestic Abuse Program), Amber Peterson (Office of State Courts)

Staff: Sharon Lewandowski

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Call to Order and Approval of Minutes
Co-Chair Sue Sippel called the meeting to order with a quorum present at 9:00 a.m.

Presentation on WI Open Records Law
Mary Burke, DCF Legal Counsel, provided a presentation and discussion on Wisconsin's Open Records Law (also called "Sunshine" law). Some information provided includes:

- Presentations are being made in response to Governor Walker's Executive Order to increase transparency and access to public records. Presentation included an overview of key aspects of the Public Records Law.
- The Freedom of Information Act is the Federal Legislation addressing this issue; in Wisconsin, it is the WI Public Records Law.
- The intent of this legislation is to shed light on the workings of government to increase transparency of government actions.
- There are approximately 5 requests per day for open records; most requests include child care complaint investigations and past foster care matters.
- The Record Retention Guide (RRG) for state boards and councils is 5 years.

Presentation on Batterer Intervention Programming in WI
Terri Strodthoff from Alma Center, Milwaukee and Gene Redhail from the Oneida Domestic Abuse Program offered presentations on promising practices in Batterer Intervention Programming.

Oneida Domestic Abuse Program:
- Offender groups focus on trauma and the healing process; Native men engage in a 3-day certification training.
- The "Man Up "movement stresses that values need to come back to respect for women. Domestic violence was very rare in Native culture at one time; now the Native American culture experiences domestic violence at higher rates than other cultures.
- The batterer intervention program is funded by the tribe.
- The focus begins with each individual story/history to work toward healing and living the Native American values of humility, compassion, and honesty.

Alma Center, Milwaukee:
Terri Strodthoff began by telling the story of Floyd. Floyd grew up in a home with a very abusive step-father; he was hospitalized many times for the abuse, but others believed he had a lot of accidents. His

hospital stays became like a vacation for him … a break from the ongoing abuse. During one hospital stay, Floyd was sexually assaulted. By age 11 years he decided he was never again going to be vulnerable. Floyd ended up serving 3 1/2 years in prison and upon his release, was referred to Alma Center as an offender. His story of healing guided the presentation.

- Alma Center programming takes a trauma-informed approach to batterer intervention. Rather than asking offenders "what is wrong with you?" they began asking "what happened to you?"
- They recognize that trauma brings about adaptive behaviors ("I'm going to get you before you get me") and that offenders have the mindset that they must take care of themselves.
- Any pain that is not transformed is transferred; the only way out of trauma is healing.
- The healing approach focuses on" what is right with you?" Healing leads to breaking the cycle of violence.

Legislative Update Preview
Chase Tarrier of End Domestic Abuse WI provided an update on legislative issues.

Bills supported by End Abuse:
- *Teen Dating Violence Bill***:** A modified version of the bill to direct schools to integrate teen dating violence prevention education into classroom instruction for middle-school and high-school students, and set guidelines for schools' response to teen dating violence to create an atmosphere in which victims can get help and abuse is not tolerated has been authored and is now in circulation.
- *Change of Venue:* This proposed legislation would allow a victim to seek remedy for domestic violence in a county other than where the victim resides.

Bills opposed by End Abuse:
*Anti-Sanctuary City Bill, AB 190***:** The bill prohibits a city, village, town, or county from enacting or enforcing a policy that prohibits local law enforcement from ascertaining whether an individual has satisfactory immigration status. Although technically separate from a 287g agreement, this bill could dramatically affect immigrant survivors by discouraging their cooperation with law enforcement due to fear of deportation and other consequences.

Civil Legal Aid Funding
End Abuse advocated for restoring the cut in finding for civil legal assistance, increasing the amount available, and expanding the type of cases that are eligible. Result: Funding levels were maintained and the sunset clause was removed.

Emergency Assistance Program
End Abuse advocated for elimination of the proposed cut in the Emergency Assistance program in the TANF budget.

Marsy's Law
Legislation known as "Marsy's Law", which proposes an amendment to the WI constitution to strengthen victim's rights, was recently introduced. While committed to protecting the rights of crime victims, End Abuse is taking a *neutral position* on the bill. Wisconsin already has strong protections and a victim rights amendment. Some of the definitions in the language in the bill are very broad and could result in unintended consequences. Other states that have passed Marsy's Law reported large increases in administrative processes, often resulting in much longer court proceedings.

Access Committee: Sue Sippel reported that there are a few new committee members. They are preparing for the End Abuse Conference in November. The Access Committee hosts a reception the evening prior to the conference and plans the "get acquainted" evening. Committee members reviewed articles on being an ally to add to the Anti-Oppression Manual. The manual is intended to be a "living" document that is added to overtime.

Budget Committee: Sue Sippel reported that the committee discussed the "Fair Minimum" document and how programs across the state are doing to comply with expectations and requirements of funding sources. Through the development of the "Fair Minimum" guidelines, it was recognized that it is not effective to compare the salary/benefits of DV programs with one another. DV programs throughout the state don't lose staff to other DV programs, staff are going to other agencies (Human Services, etc.). It's been five years since the original document was introduced and the committee felt it was time to re-look at compensation levels to remain current with cost of living increases and potential changes to the Fair Labor Standards Act. A revised document has been developed which contains an increases in salary costs for several positions. Discussion regarding proposed funding levels will continue at regional meetings.

Legislative and Policy Committee: The GAL Subgroup reported that they are beginning to saturate the state with GAL Handbooks and several trainings have been scheduled. Discussion on next-steps included possible panel discussions with court commissioners or judges regarding the role of the GAL in Family Law cases. The intent is to use the Handbook as an educational tool to open conversations on what needs to be done to effectively assess for domestic violence within the state. The Revocation Subgroup will convene an ad hoc workgroup to study the revocation process for offenders who commit additional offenses while on probation, parole, or extended supervision. Committee members are reaching out to partner agency representatives to expand the workgroup to learn more about the current revocation system response and better identify possible areas where the system may be breaking down.

Adjournment
The meeting adjourned at 12:07 p.m.

Submitted by:
Renee Schulz