

**Governor's Council on Domestic Abuse
February 14, 2018**

- Present:** Senator Tim Carpenter, Nela Kalpic, Patricia Ninmann (via phone), Susan Perry, Renee Schulz, Susan Sippel, Representative Lisa Subeck, Alena Taylor, Gerald Urbik
- Excused:** Shirley Armstrong, Kevin Hamberger, Representative Andre Jacque, Mark Thomas
- Guests:** Martha Brock, (WBPTA), Darald Hanusa (WBPTA), Steve Tomas (WBPTA), Beth Whittemore (WBTPA), Amber Peterson (Director of State Courts Office), Patti Seger (End Domestic Abuse WI)
- Staff:** Sharon Lewandowski
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Call to Order and Approval of Minutes

Co-Chair Renee Schulz called the meeting to order with a quorum present at 9:00 a.m. New Council members Nela Kalpic and Alena Taylor were welcomed. The minutes of the October 2017 meeting were reviewed and approved as submitted.

Presentation on WI Batterers Treatment Providers Association (WBTPA): The Council welcomed the following members of the WBPTA: Martha Brock (Chair), Darald Hanusa (founder and long-time member), Steve Thomas (Chair-elect), and Beth Whittmore (Education Chair)

History

- In 1992, Darald Hanusa wrote a white paper on the need to develop standards of practice for batterers' treatment programming. This was considered a necessary move, as philosophy and practice varied greatly across the state, potentially putting survivors at risk.
- Standards for Male Batterers' Treatment were subsequently developed in the early 90's and endorsed by the Governor's Council on Domestic Abuse.
- In 1996, a multi-disciplinary group convened to revise the standards to reflect best practice and current research. The revision was completed in 1997. The Council endorsed the revised standards.
- The Wisconsin Batterers' Treatment Provider Association was formed in 1998 to oversee the ongoing development and implementation of the treatment standards. The WBTPA was established as a project of End Domestic Abuse Wisconsin (End Abuse). It is a volunteer-run organization, with administrative support from End Abuse.
- In 2003, Wisconsin ACT 130 created a rebuttable presumption against awarding joint or sole custody of a child to any party who has been the primary aggressor of serious domestic violence. However, ACT 130 allows such perpetrators to be considered for joint or sole custody upon successful completion of a certified domestic violence batterers' treatment program. The WBPTA and End Abuse sent a letter to judges, informing them of the existence of the WBPTA as a (voluntary) certifying body.
- Over the years, the WBPTA (with assistance from End Domestic Abuse WI) had looked into different ways to formalize the certification or licensure process, including exploring partnerships with entities such as the WI Certification Board, the Department of Regulation and Licensing (now Department of Safety and Professional Standards), the Supreme Court, the WI State Bar.

For various reasons, none of these overtures were successful. Thus, an appropriate formal certifying body has never been identified.

- Past discussion on certification identified a tension between programs that identify as providing “education” versus programs that identify as providing “treatment”.

Current Situation

- WBPTA is ending their current relationship with End Domestic Abuse Wisconsin, due to issues that were raised about the relationship between the two organizations by End Abuse auditors.
- WBPTA may pursue getting 501(c) (3) status as its own organization.
- As a volunteer-run organization, available resources for WBPTA are limited. To function effectively, WBPTA would need funding, staffing, and some core infrastructure.
- WBPTA will be sending a letter to their membership and will discuss potential actions for the organization at its April 2018 membership meeting.

Impact on Standards

- WBPTA certification requires a minimum number of hours of training in the dynamics of domestic abuse, supervised experience, and collaboration with community interventions for domestic abuse.
- Obtaining supervised experience may be difficult in rural communities that do not have local qualified supervisors/mentors.
- Since WBPTA is the only organization that provides certification (although that certification is voluntary), if WBPTA ceased to exist, a huge void would exist in the state.
- Judges have been confused about what a “certified” batterers’ intervention program is. Some judges have interpreted this to mean that different professional individuals (e.g., social worker, therapist) with a license or certification could qualify as a “certified” batterers treatment provider.
- If certification/licensure were required per statute, or if there were title protection for batterers’ treatment programming, practitioners would have no choice but to become certified.
- About half of the states have certifying bodies for batterers’ intervention programming (often with statutory authority and/or funding attached).

What is the role of the Domestic Abuse Council in supporting WBPTA and the continuation of Standards? Although no specific ideas were identified, Patti Seger suggested that it might be a good idea to seek a study on certification of batterers’ intervention programming through the WI Legislative Council. As further follow-up, the Domestic Abuse Council will invite representatives from WBPTA to a future meeting for more dialogue after the WBPTA has more direction about their future and potential options following their April 2018 membership meeting.

Presentation on “Future of Services” Initiative

Patti Seger, Executive Director of End Domestic Abuse WI, provided a summary of the recently completed series of meetings that examined the future of domestic abuse services in Wisconsin. In 2014, End Abuse initiated conversations with diverse groups of domestic violence program leaders/directors to gain insights about the performance of their victim advocacy services. It soon became clear that some of the leaders felt that services no longer completely resonated with their population, that they often felt constrained by funding requirements, and that the domestic abuse movement had become more focused on social services than social change.

End Abuse then obtained a planning grant from the U.S. Department of Justice, Office for Victims of Crime to continue meeting with domestic violence, sexual assault, and human trafficking leaders to

develop a statewide strategy to effect change in the capacity of programs to serve victims/survivors in the 21st century. Funders through DCF and DOJ were also present at the meetings.

Safe housing for survivors was a major focus of conversations. The needs of victims are dramatically different than they were 40 years ago when the movement started. Changing demographics, lack of access to affordable housing, multiple layers of trauma, and shifting laws that require equitable treatment for all genders have greatly increased the challenges that shelters face.

In one of the early meetings, participants drew a pie chart that indicated the percentage of time and resources that the program devotes to different services (shelter, victim advocacy, abuser treatment, prevention, community engagement). Participants then drew a pie chart of what they hoped services would look like in ten years. Nearly all participants dramatically increased the time spent on prevention and community engagement, and decreased the time spent on victims services (especially shelter) in their 10-year vision.

The groups identified three strategy areas to explore more deeply:

- Thinking About Shelter and Housing Differently
- Resourcing Sexual Violence Victim Services
- Understanding the Intersections of Domestic Violence, Sexual Assault, and Oppression

Meetings also addressed the criminalization of gender violence and the disparate impacts on people of color, and restorative justice strategies.

End Abuse will continue to lead programs in further addressing all the issues identified in the process.

Report on Domestic Abuse Services 2016-2017

Sharon Lewandowski provided a summary of client services and data from the last reporting period (October 1, 2016 – September 30, 2017, submitted by domestic abuse programs statewide. That summary is included an attachment to the minutes.

Committee Reports

Access Committee:

The Committee did a facilitated consensus building process to identify projects and directions for the coming year. Four potential areas were identified:

- More support for bilingual advocates and advocates of color working in domestic abuse programs (“See Me, Hear Me, Pay Me”)
- Creating capacity building resources for domestic abuse programs
- Igniting organizational change in domestic abuse programs
- Promoting intentional power sharing in the domestic abuse movement.

The Committee will further refine these areas for future work.

Legislative and Policy Committee:

The committee is working on two areas. Regarding the Domestic Abuse Handbook for Guardians ad Litem, more Handbooks have been printed; the original run of 5,000 has been disseminated. A small subgroup is creating more resources for judges, including bench cards, as well as a sample protocol for GAL appointment.

The other area the committee is working on is related to the process for revocation of probation, parole, or extended supervision. The committee met with Chris Nolan from the Office for Crime Victim Services to learn about training and other initiatives for Victim-Witness professionals in supporting victims during

revocation hearings. The Committee decided not to pursue or support any particular type of legislation concerning revocation at this time. The Committee is instead interested in pursuing activities around education and collaboration, and relationship building among different systems involved in the revocation process. The next meeting will be spent on a “mapping” exercise of the revocation process, from start to finish, so that all committee members understand the process and possible points of impact.

Budget Committee

A subgroup of the Committee continues to work on an update of the “Fair Minimum” Budget for Domestic Abuse Programs. The committee is trying to come up a suggested “fair minimum” for what optional benefits (insurances, retirement, etc.) should be offered by programs.

Legislative Update

Chase Tarrier from End Domestic Abuse WI was out ill, but will promised to send a summary of recent legislative developments.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 12:30 p.m.



Domestic Abuse Program Client and Service Data October 1, 2016 – September 30, 2017

Overview

The Department of Children and Families provided funding to 62 nonprofit agencies (with 42 providing shelter), one county agency, and all eleven federally-recognized tribes for domestic abuse services. Total DCF funding in CY 2017 was \$14,629,380.

Shelter

7,034 persons received safe shelter:

- 3,603 women
- 3,198 children
- 212 men
- 21 other/not reported

- The average stay was 39 days. This is an increase from 34 days in the previous reporting period. The average stay has been increasing steadily over the years.
- There were 16,710 requests for shelter that went unfulfilled because the shelter was full. This number reflects *adults only* and does not include children. These numbers includes duplication because survivors can call a single shelter more than once or call more than one shelter.
- As survivors are staying longer in shelter, there are fewer beds for additional survivors, so fewer survivors can be served, and more requests for shelter go unmet.

Nonresidential Services

34,529 persons received supportive advocacy, counseling, and other community-based services:

- 24,875 women
- 6,150 children
- 3,228 men
- 276 other/not reported

- The number of persons receiving nonresidential services has increased by 8.6% from the previous reporting period.
- This number includes only the persons who did not also receive shelter.

Total Persons Served

- Shelter – 7,034
- Nonresidential – 34,529
- Total – 41,563

Service Contacts

Individual Contacts

Contacts are include supportive services that extend beyond a brief, isolated contact; e.g. crisis intervention, safety planning, individual counseling, peer counseling, educational services, legal advocacy, personal advocacy, housing advocacy, medical advocacy, information/referral, transportation, home visits, etc.

Domestic abuse programs consistently report that survivors present with more complex and intense needs, requiring longer, more time-consuming and intensive advocacy.

- Adults received 387,708 individual contacts for supportive counseling and advocacy.
- This is an average of 12 contacts per person.

- Children received 103,651 individual contacts.
- This is an average of 11 contacts per person.

Group Contacts

- Adults received 38,367 contacts for group supportive counseling and advocacy.
- Children received 35,887 contacts for group supportive counseling and advocacy.

Other Services

Hotline Calls

Calls include crisis calls, peer support calls, safety planning, domestic violence education, technical assistance, information and referral. They do not include business calls.

Total Hotline calls – 142,632

Community Education

Domestic abuse programs offer community education and training opportunities to organizations and the general public about domestic violence. This could be training for law enforcement, health care providers, school personnel, faith communities; hosting an information table at a community event; or using creative social ;networking strategies.

Domestic abuse programs also offer developmentally-appropriate presentations in local schools on healthy relationships, nonviolent conflict resolution, and the prevention and early intervention of bullying and dating violence. These presentations range from one-time only presentations to fully developed curricula on healthy relationships that span several weeks or an entire semester.

Adult/General Public Presentations

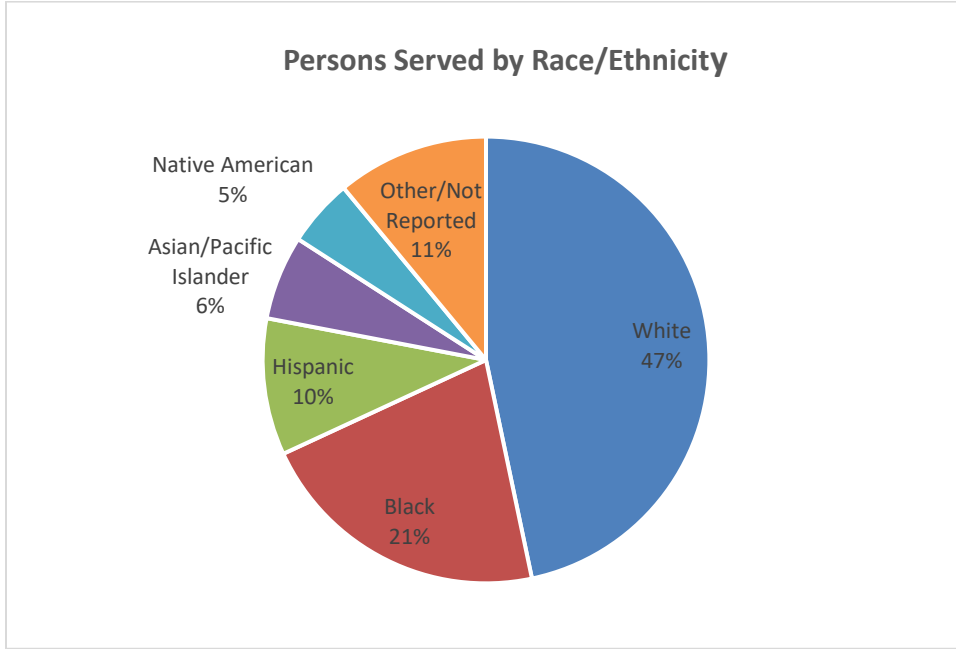
2,277 presentations, reaching 83,106 persons

Youth Targeted Presentations

3,371 presentations, reaching 80,824 persons

Demographic Information – Persons Receiving Domestic Abuse Services

Persons Served by Race/Ethnicity



Note: Of the number Asian/Pacific Islander individuals served (6%), 5.4% are Hmong/Southeast Asian.

Persons Served by Age

