

**MIAMI-DADE COUNTY
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE OVERSIGHT BOARD**

**Stephen P. Clark Center
111 NW 1st Street, 18th Floor
Conference Room 18-2
Miami, Florida 33128**

***BOARD MINUTES
December 13, 2007
9:30 A.M.**

Domestic Violence Oversight Board Members Present

Chair Lucia Davis-Raiford
Sharon Aaron
Sophie Brion
Judge Rosa Figarola
Margaret Henghold, Esq.
Ivon Mesa
Major Grace O'Donnell
Brenda Rivera, Esq.
Migna Sanchez-Llorens, Esq.
Cynthia Sinclair

Domestic Violence Oversight Board Members Excused Absent

Judge Rosa Figarola
Craig Dearr, Esq.
Chief Therese Homer
Rev. Frances McCray

Domestic Violence Oversight Board Members Not Excused Absent

Visitors

Angela Diaz-Vidaillet
Dr. Maxine Thurston-Fischer
Sharon Denaro

Staff Present

Vaughn Tooley, Executive Director
Sarah M. Lenett, Victim Services Analyst
Mandana Dashtaki, Esq., Assistant County Attorney

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Agenda Item No. 1 – Call to Order

The Chair called the meeting to order at 9:45am.

Agenda Item No. 2 – Items for Approval

Excused absences were offered for Vice-Chair Genna Marx, Craig Dearr, and Rev. Frances McCray. The minutes from November 29, 2007 meetings were approved when quorum was reached.

Motion by: Sharon Aaron
Second by: Sophie Brion
Approved: 11-0

Agenda Item No. 3 – Chair's Report:

A question was presented to the Board as to the reorganization of the committees so the board can be more functional and accessible for people to schedule meetings. It was discussed how this can be accomplished so that the Board's work can be done more efficiently and taking into consideration the Board's primary function, which would be the construction of the domestic violence centers and activities related to that, in addition to advising the Board on issues of domestic violence across the county. The Chair also reported that intensive conversations with David Raymond (from Homeless Trust) have been very fruitful in terms of information from the perspective of both agencies working together to obtain appropriate funding for our domestic violence centers. Overall the Chair has worked with David Raymond to access his knowledge of assets and resources in terms of GOB funds, land, federal, state and local resources of money, programs, and operations to support the construction process. It was also discussed in reference to the restructuring of the committees as to how the Finance Committee can look at their goals so that they can be merged into the Construction and Needs Assessment agenda in order to be able to make sound business decisions with the construction and operation of centers. The idea of holding committee meetings immediately prior to Board meetings was revisited also. The committees would include a combination of the Construction and Needs Assessment/Finance Committees and the Community Education and Collaboration Committee.

Agenda Item No. 4 Staff's Report:

Staff reiterated the difficulty of coordinating committee meetings to accommodate everyone's already full schedules. After extensive discussion, the result was a recommendation to hold committee meetings immediately prior to regular Board meetings.

A motion was made to have committee meetings before the DVOB meeting at 9-10:30am and start the DVOB meeting at 10:30am-12:30 pm, and to combine the Construction & Needs Assessment/Finance Committees as one committee, and the other committee being the Community Education & Collaboration Committee.

Motion by: Margaret Henghold
Second by: Ivon Mesa
Approved: 11-0

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The Assistant County Attorney advised that a change in by-laws is required to formally change the committee structure.

Regarding the construction process for the Southwest center, GSA wants to determine if the DVOB intent is to use GSA for design and construction or private entities. Until the financing issues for construction of a second center and sustained operation of both are settled, we will remain in the GSA mode.

Ms. Mesa was recommended to serve as the DVOB representative on the Dial-a-Life Board.

The Office of Community Advocacy has 501c3 support for 5 of its 8 advisory boards and has offered to assist in establishing one for the DVOB. Discussion was held about creation of an entity versus contracting with an existing 501c3, including the pros and cons for each option, liability and exposure for individual DVOB members, level of control the DVOB might have, etc. Staff was directed to research both options.

Agenda Item No. 5 – Presentations:

No presentations scheduled; no public presentations requested.

Committee Reports – (Agenda Item #6)

Community Education & Collaboration

The committee discussed recognition for members who served on the Board and resigned in good standing. Staff will process a request through the office of the Commissioner who appointed the member so that a certificate of appreciation can be issued.

The protocol for removal of members was discussed, which is in the County Ordinance and DVOB by-laws. The only change that was discussed is the issue of a notification via a phone call or letter after two unexcused absences.

A request was made about what would be an effective approach to increasing the Board's capacity for oversight of operations at The Lodge. Citing the high turnover rate of staff at The Lodge, the committee wanted more information on why staff was leaving to fulfill its responsibility of oversight.

Dr. Maxine Thurston-Fisher stated that in the 3-Year Evaluation the issue of personnel equity in terms of salaries and benefits for The Lodge versus the County run shelters may have been a factor in some staff leaving as well as philosophical differences in management, which is not unusual in new organizations, particularly those that deal with challenging social issues.

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Ms. Angela Diaz-Vidaillet, proposed to bring the Executive Director of the Florida Coalition Against Domestic Violence to a meeting to address shelter issues. The Executive Director had informed the Board of Directors of The Lodge that based on state standards turnover was considered low. Ms. Diaz reiterated that philosophical differences did in fact contribute to some turnover. She offered to do a presentation for the Board on the history of staffing at The Lodge and expressed willingness to answer any questions about staff. She also extended her offer again for the Board to conduct focus groups with residential and outreach clients.

The committee will discuss next steps at the next committee meeting.

Agenda Item 7 – Old Business/Action Items:

None

Agenda Item 8 – New Business:

None

Agenda Item 9 – Adjournment:

The meeting adjourned at 11:45am.