

**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
October 25, 2007
9:30 A.M.**

Domestic Violence Oversight Board Members Present

Vice Chair Genna Marx
Sophie Brion
Margaret Henghold, Esq.
Major Grace O'Donnell
Brenda Rivera, Esq.
Migna Sanchez-Llorens, Esq.

Domestic Violence Oversight Board Members Excused Absent

Lucia Davis-Raiford
Judge Rosa Figarola
Chief Therese Homer
Craig Darr, Esq.
Ivon Mesa
Rev. Frances McCray
Cynthia Sinclair

Domestic Violence Oversight Board Members Not Excused Absent

Visitors

Sharon Denaro
Angela Diaz-Vidaillet
Dr. David McGriff

Staff Present

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

*Staff Summary/Not a Verbatim Transcription

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Agenda Item No. 1 – Call to Order

Vice Chair Genna Marx convened the Miami-Dade County Domestic Violence Oversight Board (DVOB) meeting at 9:45 a.m. Board Members, staff and visitors introduced themselves. New member Migna Sanchez-Llorens has been in the Public Defender's Office for the past 10 years and has been a Domestic Violence Training Attorney for the past seven years. She has also been a federal Public Defender and is a member of the Domestic Violence/Sexual Assault Council.

Agenda Item No. 2 – Items for Approval

The Vice Chair announced excused absences for the Chair Lucia Davis-Raiford, new member Cynthia Sinclair, and Judge Rosa Figarola. Rev. Frances McCray called the prior evening and reported that she was stranded in another city and uncertain whether she would get back to Miami in time to attend the meeting.

The minutes from the July 26 and September 27, 2007 meetings could not be approved due to lack of a quorum.

Agenda Item No. 3 – Chair's Report:

There was no Chair's Report presented for this meeting.

Agenda Item No. 4 Staff's Report:

Mr. Tooley reported that the DVOB staffing issue was not yet settled. Initially, the Executive Director and Contracts Officer positions were included in the move of DVOB staff to the Office of Community Advocacy. However, based on the Board's duties and responsibilities the Victim Services Analyst position was more appropriately suited for the overall activities of the Board than the Contracts Officer position. An exchange of the Victim Services Analyst position for the Contracts Officer position was requested. The Contracts Officer position was funded at 100% from the Food & Beverage Tax, and the Victim Services Analyst position is at a comparable cost. The Board Secretary was funded at 50% from the Food & Beverage Tax and efforts were still underway to get a match for the remaining 50% from the County General Fund.

With this exchange, some Alliance for Human Services contracts for domestic violence services that are currently managed by DVOB staff would be given back to the Department of Human Services Contracts Management Division. DVOB staff would continue to manage the Victim Response, Inc. Center Operator, the Advocate Center for Training & Treatment, and the Grants to Encourage Arrest Program contracts. The activities associated with design and construction of a second shelter in the Southwest area will require a large amount of time, effort and coordination with General Services Administration (GSA) and the Office of Capital Improvement (OCI) for the two remaining staff. Continuing to manage all of the current contracts would not be feasible.

Motion by:
Second by:
Approved:

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The newly calculated pro forma confirms that the portion of Food & Beverage Tax dedicated to domestic violence will not fund the construction of a second shelter and sustain operations of two centers without significant outside support. These projections were based on annual growth in the fund of 7%, which is even higher than the Office of Strategic Business Management would normally predict. The results of these calculations underscore the need to find support for construction from other sources such as the General Obligation Bonds program.

At the August 2006 Government Facility Hearing for the Southwest Center we submitted drawings of The Lodge for the site plan, which was the incorrect format. However, the general finding was that the proposed usage is compatible for the site and would not adversely impact the area's infrastructure or services. At that time it was determined that a lease amendment with the current tenant would be sought that divided the site into two parcels, with one parcel for the Southwest Center. GSA had asked for proof that we could construct the second shelter and sustain operations at both prior to seeking the lease amendment, but went ahead with the amendment anyway without a demonstration of sustainability. The lease was amended and 5.8 acres was designated to the Department of Human Services on behalf of the Domestic Violence Oversight Board.

We are continuing the process for a new Government Facility Hearing even though the additional resources for construction of a second center and operation of both have not yet been identified. A Work Order will be opened with GSA to provide a site plan for the Southwest Center as required by the Government Facility Hearing process.

Ms. Henghold asked if there is a chance we can lose the property and if the property is ours to build on. The amendment to the lease identified the property for a Department of Human Services project (on behalf of the DVOB). Ms. Brion asked if the whole process needs to be started over since the first Government Facility Hearing was through the Department of Human Services and now DVOB is staffed by the Office of Community Advocacy. Ms. Marx also asked if the lease needs another amendment because of the move to Community Advocacy. The GSA Chief Real Estate Officer said that the lease amendment would not have to go back before the Board of County Commissioners because of the move to Community Advocacy. Ms. Dashtaki, Assistant County Attorney, stated that if GSA says the move is not an issue we can rely on that but ultimately it comes down to the lease agreement. Therefore, if the lease agreement is between the County and the Office of Community Advocacy and the BCC approves it, there will be no problem.

There was general concern voiced that the process not be prolonged and delayed. (A copy of the Government Facility Hearing Process is in the meeting package).

Regarding the lack of quorum at the past two meetings and absenteeism in general, a discussion was had about provisions in the Ordinance and

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By-Laws for absences. It was recommended that staff contact chronically absent members and get a commitment that they are able to serve on the Board or encourage them to resign and allow someone else to serve. Members pointed out that chronic absenteeism for any reason limits the effectiveness of the Board in meeting its duties and responsibilities for the community.

Mr. Tooley reported that staff will be mailing out The Thurston Group's Year 3 Evaluation Report. He asked that members read the report prior to the November meeting because The Thurston Group will present findings and recommendations there. Copies of the Report will also be sent to County Commissioners, the Mayor, and the County Manager.

Ms. Lenett reported that she has been working with the Advocate Center for Training & Treatment on updates to the Gaps in Services Report. She also has worked with Miami-Dade's Government Information Center on developing a website for the DVOB and will get further direction from the Community Education & Collaboration Committee and the Board as a whole to identify specific content. The Domestic Violence Fatality Review Team is nearing completion of the 5-year report and will be sharing it with the Board. Also, some Fatality Review Team members are working on a proposal for a presentation at the National Coalition Against Domestic Violence 2008 Conference.
Assistance Center.

Agenda Item No. 5 – Presentations:

The Lodge

Ms. Diaz-Vidaillet reported on The Lodge/Victim Response, Inc.'s National Domestic Violence Awareness Month event: the Hunton & Williams Miami Women's Networking Forum sponsored a Cocktail Reception to raise cash, donate baby items, women's personal care items, gas cards, bus cards, pre-paid phone cards, women's and children's clothing, toys, gift certificates and old cell phones. Ms. Diaz reported that the event was a great success and The Lodge received many donations for their clients. She also alerted members that invitations are being sent for the Annual Winter Gala scheduled for December 7th at the Douglas Entrance in Coral Gables. The plan is for an outdoor event if the weather cooperates this year.

Committee Reports – (Agenda Item #6)

Agenda Item 7 – Old Business/Action Items:

None

Agenda Item 8 – New Business:

None

Agenda Item 9 – Adjournment:

The meeting adjourned with no quorum.