

**MIAMI-DADE COUNTY
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE OVERSIGHT BOARD MEETING
May 22, 2024, 10:00 am - Noon
Summary Minutes
Miami-Dade County Stephen P. Clark Center
10th floor Conference Room 1011**

1. Call to Order: Roll Call & Statement of Quorum Cecile Houry, Chair
Board members present: Cecile Houry, Miguel De Grandy, Marivi Betancourt, Marlen Oria, Maria Santamaria, Judge Elisabeth Espinosa, Judge Migna Sanchez Llorens, Rosa Kasse, Major Luis Almaguer. Members Absent: Carrie Soubal, Vanessa Joseph and Isabela Corzo. Quorum attained. Guests: Dr. Marie Etienne. Staff: Sonia Grice, Tania Avellanet, Shareefah Robinson, Monique Caliste.
2. Reasonable Opportunity for Public No public comments.
3. Welcome new board member Ms. Daniella Grace Pierre- Ms. Houry recognized new DVOB board member, Ms. Daniella Pierre, who provided introductory statements.
4. Chair's Report
 - a. DVOB Domestic Violence Awareness Month Event Film Screening, The Last Drop-
 1. No action required. This was approved at the May 8, 2024, DVOB special meeting.
 2. Ms. Houry wanted everyone to have the opportunity to express opinions, concerns and have their questions answered, if any.
 3. Discussion on the specifics of the plan for the event. Agreement to preferably obtain a higher education university venue as this is a prevention focused event and would afford a captive audience. In addition, explore, if possible, to offer Continuing Education Credits for the events through UM Law School.
 4. Review of the proposed budget/costs for the event including the speaker's fee and link to a private viewing of the film.
 5. Ms. Regalado informed the board that she had conducted general research on the speaker's fee and, based on her research, this cost falls within the average range for his experience.
 6. The task before is to fundraise and seek corporate sponsorships. Liz expressed that she is concerned about when we would feel comfortable confirming the speaker based on the fundraising accomplished.
 7. For the record, Judge Espinosa and Sanchez Llorens stated that members of the judicial are prohibited from fundraising.
 8. Ms. Betancourt expressed her concern about this event not raising awareness of resources in the communities. She has experienced the community at large and has no knowledge of resources/CVAC, CAHSD services. She expressed concern about obtaining someone from out of town featuring local survivors.
 9. Ms. Houry stated the plan is to have our partners and service providers with resource tables at the event. The good thing about this film is that it provides a product, i.e. the film. Therefore, she believes it would be an easier event to accomplish.

10. Ms. Regalado stated the program must include local experts on DP/IPV. She also stated that the board does not have to wait until October to plan an event. She affirmed the PEC is identifying other events in other communities within Miami-Dade County. Rosa Kasse had concerns that this would be only in English. Ms. Regalado will ask if subtitles are possible.
 11. Ms. Houry, for the purpose of moving forward with this meeting's agenda, welcomed the board to attend the PEC Committee meeting which has been given the task of planning and implementing the event, and further discuss planning specifics and ideas.
- b. Workshops: Kick off Workshop May 29, 2024, 2pm Zoom Media Training for Board Members, Ms. Griselle Marino, Media Director, Office of Community Advocacy. Ms. Houry reminded the board of this upcoming webinar and encouraged board members to attend.
 - c. Update NIJ Victims Services Research Grant Opportunity- Strong application of a grant written and submitted by UM Law School. The study will focus on the services at CVAC. Liz stated that this could not come at a better time given the restructuring implemented in the department. She will keep the board updated on the status of the grant application.
 - d. Update on DV/IPV Leave Miami-Dade County- Review of the urging from DVOB to BCC /Mayor and related documents followed by discussion. Ms. Houry thanked Mr. De Grandy for his review and work on this business of the board. Mr. De Grandy provided a summary of his edits to ensure he captured all the board's intentions. See below for comments and changes proffered.
 - Given the meaning of "certification" required to determine eligibility for certain IPV/DV services such as victims' compensation and relocation assistance, consensus to change the word certification to documentation.
 - Discussion ensued about injunctions. Judge Migna Sanchez Llorens stressed that often the problem of injunctions being denied is related to the victims not clearly understanding the importance of their statement in court during the hearing.
 - No other comments or edits provided.

Motion by Miguel De Grandy to amend the urging to the BCC per the discussion today. Second: Marivi Betancourt. Motion unanimously passes.

5. ***Approval of DVOB Meeting Summary Minutes March 27 and May 8, 2024, Meetings **** Motion to approve minutes as presented: Marivi Betancourt. Second: Cecile Houry. Minutes approved unanimously.

6. CAHSD Introduction of new leadership VPID

Director, Sonia Grice

- a. Ms. Grice introduced the new Assistant Director of CAHSD, Ms. Tania Avellanet, who has oversight and direction of the residential programs in the department which include the VIPD and Substance Abuse/Behavioral Health Programs in the department. The board welcomed Ms. Avellanet.
- b. Ms. Grice provided information on the changes and reprogramming she has been working on with her new leadership team.
- c. She assured the board they have access to her, but if she is not available the board has access to Ms. Avellanet and Ms. Robinson.
- d. Ms. Kobrinski noted that the liaison to the board is Ms. Regalado and urged board members to go through her for more effective communications and response.
- e. Ms. Houry informed the board of the plans to meet with CAHSD staff on a regular basis and establish a report template that will inform the board and capture relevant information to be submitted prior to the DVOB meetings.
- f. Ms. Avellanet discussed the hotline training provided by Women in Distress. Ms. Avellanet stressed the need
- g. for feedback from those using the helpline to be made aware of any issues, good or bad.
- h. Victim Advocates court availability discussion ensued. Board members expressed an interest in obtaining designation to help serve as a victim advocate in court. Ms. Avellanet discussed the difference between the designation of victim advocates through the Attorney General's Office for victim advocates working in agencies other than shelters and certification of victim advocates through the Department of Children and Families DV Office in Tallahassee for victim advocates working in shelters.
- i. Ms. Avellanet has talked with Survivor's Pathway to explore the participation of their victim advocates in court. The idea is to make it easier to access services. The Intake Unit has already been training on this new digital implementation.
- j. The Division is implementing their services digitally. This includes the process for all referrals (walk ins and scheduled) and related documents/packet required. The process is now in test mode with several of the major law enforcement agencies. In addition, there is a team at CVAC that will serve as a backup. This will take place effective this coming week.
- k. Ms. Pierre asked to consider including the new QR Code in the brochures distributed by law enforcement when responding to a DV/IPV calls.
- l. Suggestion to attend the Miami-Dade County's Association of Chiefs of Police meeting to update them on this business.
- m. Ms. Kasse asked if the documents would be in Spanish and Creole. The department is working on
- n. translating the cards to English and Creole.

- o. Judge Sanchez Llorens stated this will help provide data to establish needs and requests for services.
- p. Memorandum of Agreements: 38 MOU's total. 12 Updated. There are a total of 3 partners on site for which there is a lease agreement. Ms. Avellanet is working on updates to these lease agreements.
- q. Discussion around identifying the difference between households that are experiencing homelessness and those fleeing DV/IPV. We know anecdotally that across the state, there are families accessing DV shelters who are not fleeing DV/IPV. Ms. Regalado suggested assigning a CAHSD staff member to the Homeless Management Information System and cross reference the cases/lists. She also suggested to connect with WID in Broward, Dr. Linda Parker to see what they and shelters across the state are doing to address this.
- r. Status of Salary Parity - Victim Advocates. The board welcomed Ms. Baker who offered her update on the salary parity. Ms. Baker informed the board the mayor are looking at all positions in the department not just limited to the victim advocate classifications. She reassured the board that further discussion and a report would be forthcoming. The board thanked Ms. Baker for her update.
- s. Hotel Placements Budget, Policies and Procedures- Working on finalizing changes.
- t. Department/ division vacancies- Tabled
- u. Shelter occupancy report – Tabled
- v. Shelters Length of Stay (LOS) Length of Stay (LOS) is typically 6-8 weeks but there are participants who have stayed over 9 months primarily because of the housing crisis and compounded other issues. The Department is working to find the solution and seeks feedback and suggestions. Counseling and other services offered are often not accepted because of the primary need, which is housing.

Discussion ensued regarding the Empowerment Model and engaging participants in the needed services. Ms. Avellanet stressed the services ought not mimic the abuser's behavior through the Empowerment Model. Mr. De Grandy suggested we should discuss this with DCF and express our concerns.

Judge Sanchez Llorens stressed the need to understand the types of behavior described appear to be behavioral health issues that ought to be addressed by the department in the case plan with participants. Liz stated while we understand the empowerment model, it does not negate the need for other service models to compliment and engage participants in achieving success and a better life. The board agreed this will be a conversation to have at a future meeting.

- w. Miami-Beach Funding to DVOB- Funding available. Carryover total is \$188k. Ms. Avellanet has changed the process through the new referral process. Ms. Regalado provided background information for the new board members.
- x. Status of Additional CVAC Locations and Estimated Timeline- Tabled.
- y. Overtime payment report for the division- Tabled.
- z. Meeting with State DCF DV Office- Tabled.

7. F&B Tax DVOB Fund Report

Homeless Trust

Pro Forma and Budget with Expenditures and Revenues**

Summary of the invoices that were unpaid. Based on this report, there are no pending invoices to be paid. There was no review of the budget, proforma and projected financial numbers. The board expressed concern about not receiving updated and complete reporting on the financial business of the fund. It requested a report at each of the DVOB meetings.

8. Public Engagement Committee Report

Marlen Oria

- a. DVOB Speakers Bureau
- b. Outreach and Workshops
- c. Committee Charge and Description
- d. PowerPoint on DVOB, General Talking Points, One pager on DVOB and IPV/DV Resources
Report provided on activities of the committee. No board action required.

9. Executive Director Report

Liz Regalado

- a. Invitation to Spanish Radio Show Debate Abierto Radio Mundo 1210 am. Ms. Regalado informed the board of this invitation. She has invited Ms. Avellanet to join her and speak to the services/resources. Pending the approval.
- b. **BCC Meetings:** Commissioner Steinberg, May 28 on Zoom. Pending Commissioners Bastien, Gonzalez, Regalado, Rodriguez, and McGhee.
- c. Governance
 - **Board Vacancies** Carryover: Commissioners Hardemon and Bermudez, Vacant seats: Commissioners Gonzalez, McGhee, and Gilbert.**
 - Sexual Harassment and Advisory Board Member Ethics Trainings
 - Source of Income Statement- Ms. Regalado reminded the board of this requirement and upcoming deadline of July 1.
 - Ms. Regalado added that retired Unified Family Court Judge Rosa Figarola contacted her about conducting a webinar on the connection between animal abuse and IPV/DV. The board looks forward to hearing from Judge Figarola. Animal Abuse and DV/IPV.
 - Ms. Regalado informed the board that Dr. Plantin who directs the work of the Community Relations Board has informed her there are issues rising to the CRB's attention on the immigration situation and cases that are connected to sponsoring individuals' perpetration of violence and abandonment towards newly arrived individuals.

9. Next Meeting: July 24, 2024, Miami-Dade County Stephen P. Clark Center 10th floor, Conference Room 1011 10:00 am – Noon. Followed by the Public Engagement Committee Meeting 12:30 pm same location. All board members are welcome to participate.
10. Adjournment- Motion by Miguel De Grandy to adjourn the meeting. Second: Cecile Houry. Meeting adjourned at 12:15pm.

Legend:

*** Action items**

**** Meeting package documents**

Minutes prepared and submitted by Liz Regalado and approved by Cecile Houry, Board Chair.



Liz Regalado, Executive Director DVOB

11/20/24
Date



Cecile Houry, Chair, DVOB

11/20/24
Date