



BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Meeting Date: December 10, 2008, 5:00 pm

Location: Valley Cities Counseling and Consultation, Auburn, WA

Board members present:

Non-Fiduciary	Dawn Cherne	Kim Bennett	Dave Zehner
	Paula Joneli	Karin Schuyleman	Lora Dear
	Margie Staulcup	DeDe White	Abby White
Fiduciary	Don Lincoln	Venus Talarico	Ralph Talarico

Board members excused: Eric Daniels Barb Little Beth Adams

Guests present: Graham Barnes, Battered Women's Justice Project
Dave Martin, King County Prosecutor
Claudia Eilers, Family Policy Council
Rose Marie Borchers, Potential Board Member
Krystal Starwich, DAWN
Jennifer Cooper, YWCA, Potential Board Member

Staff members present: Dianne Heide Denese Bohanna Cyndy Schrage

Call to order –Chair Don Lincoln called the meeting to order at 5:05 pm

Quorum – There was a quorum.

Approval of August 13, September 10, October 8 and November 19 Minutes

Motion 1 Dawn moved to approve the August 13, September 10, October 8 and November 19 minutes with changes. Second by Lora. The motion passed.

Board Resignations

Don announced that resignations from Marsha Medgard, Vyrn Muir, and Trisha Blomquist were accepted and final. The resignation from Kim Bennett was withdrawn. Beth Adams resigned from the Board and her resignation will be final as of January 14 Board meeting unless rescinded in writing before that time.

Safety & Accountability Audit Presentation

Several members of the Audit Team joined the Board to unveil the Audit report and ask for feedback from the Board on content.

Graham Barnes set the mood by giving the Board some information about Audits and the importance of the SKCCN effort. The SKCCN Audit is the first audit in the country to focus on Batterers Intervention Providers and a focus on how treatment providers work with abusers to help them become better parents. The results of this audit could have national impacts on treatment. The Team tried to run a fine line between critical and constructive findings. The final report contains four basic recommendations. He stressed that the Audit process is not performance audit or program review and wanted to assure that everyone recognizes that there is a difference. The folks at Battered Women's Justice Project are providing facilitation services and they do not own the final Audit.

Notes provided by S&A Coordinator Denese Bohanna

- Which agencies are acknowledged and in which order – e.g. shouldn't batterer intervention providers (even if they aren't individually named) be listed in alphabetical order? Why are some people named more than once?

- How was the cultural context addressed? The Audit focused more on fundamental elements of the systems. The cultural context was not specifically explored and is one of many areas that would benefit from further exploration. Like all such efforts, the process exposes many more questions and issues that could/should be explored.
- Some liked the recognition of different levels of perpetration and suggested that providers should be therapeutically trained in order to evaluate levels.
- Another noted that court orders are often not clear and leave survivors to deal with frequent court hearings. There are lots of unintended consequences of court orders.
- Why are perpetrators referred to only as men? E.g. GLBT community clearly has female perpetrators. The Audit Question is gender-neutral, but the report focuses on male batterers. There are mixed views on gender. Predominantly (85-90%) of perpetrators are male. GLBT don't tend to access DV programs.
- Did the Audit Team answer the audit question? The report doesn't describe how batterer intervention programs per se address issues of parenting, co-parenting and children's experiences. The Safety & Accountability Audit is not a program evaluation or a performance evaluation. It does not set out to ask a standard set of questions of all participants. Rather, it is a qualitative exploration where general questions guide interviews and observations and focus groups, but the participants steer the conversations where they see the need. So the Report does not report on program activities. Rather, it focuses on the system, how parts of the system impact the ability of batterer intervention providers to address the issues, and the range of efforts to address the issue.
- When reviewing case records, children were large invisible. However, in interviews with providers all of them were addressing children and parenting issues, but in a wide range of ways. Recommended a paragraph be added about the audit question to frame the system approach.
- The report is "deficit focused" - i.e. framing the report around "gaps" comes at it from a deficit point of view. The SKCCN Board is committed to looking at resiliency so wants to see positives.
- What will happen after Denese retires 12/31? Who will take on the lead? The Board Chair suggested the need for the Personnel Committee to convene in Jan.
- Should SKCCN have final approval of the report?

The Board Chair reminded board members that, according to the Partner's Working Agreement, the report is the product of the Audit Team and is a public document. SKCCN Board does not have final approval rights.

Final Discussions

Several quick requests were handled as the Board adjourned:

Denese provided the Board with additional information for use during the legislative session as provided by the Family Policy Council.

Lora reported that the Board was still welcome to use the Valley Cities Counseling and Consultation Board room

Committee and Staff Reports

All reports were provided in writing.

Meeting adjourned – 7:00

Minutes Approved:

Signed

Date