



BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Meeting Date: April 12, 2006, 5:00 pm

Location: United Way Good Neighbor Center, Renton, WA

Board members present:

Non-Fiduciary	Sonia Foss	Cynthia Chandler	Clem Benton
	Kerry Annette Wade	Karin Schuyleman	Betty Nomura
	Margie Staulcup	Kim Bennett	
Fiduciary	Cathy Williams	C. C. Scott	Don Lincoln
	Vyrn Muir		

Board members excused: Binoy Varughese Florenda Wyatt
Asosa Sailiai Alan Bulger (Alt.)

Guests present: Jean Hueston, Board Alumni
DeDe White, Kent School District, New Board Member in May
Elizabeth, Survivors Panelist

Staff members present: Dianne Heide Denese Bohanna Jodie Campbell

Call to order – Chair Kerry Annette Wade called the meeting to order at 5:06

Quorum – There was a quorum.

Agenda – Approved as written with the addition of a discussion concerning the 501(c)(3) Bank account and the SKCCN offices.

Approval of March 8 Minutes

Motion 1 Karin moved to **approve the March 8, 2006 minutes as written.** Second by Cynthia.
The motion passed.

SKCCN Offices

Dianne informed the Board that the United Way Good Neighbor Center will be closing and that the lease will not be renewed on July 1. This means the SKCCN will need to find a new location. The folks at Kent Youth & Family Services in downtown Kent have a nice suite available at \$325 per month (\$55 more than current rent) which looks like it will work swell. If any Board member has an objection to that location or an idea of another possible office they were asked to contact Kerry, Margie or Dianne. The offices will move in mid-June.

One problem with the move will be finding a new location for SKCCN Board meetings in a central location. Dianne will be working on some ideas and will report to the Executive Committee on possible solutions.

Targeted Audiences – Communications Committee

The Communications Committee is working to collect information on the four possible choices for targeted audiences in 2006-07. They include: early childhood providers, schools, healthcare workers and businesses.

Surveys have been sent to 182 early childhood providers in Kent/Covington, 130 school counselors at each school in South King County and 35 healthcare workers at the Covington Multicare site. Surveys will measure how much each group believes domestic violence affects the families they work with, how much knowledge each group has about how domestic violence affects children, what they know about available

services and if they believe more education would help them to serve families better. In addition to the written surveys the group is doing some key informant interviews.

The Committee will report to the Board on the results at the April 29 Retreat at the Springwood Head Start facility at 13111 SE 274th Street in Kent from 9:30 am to 3:30 pm. Dianne will be sure to send out many notices to the Board reminding them of the date, time and location.

Nomination of Officers for 2006-07

Margie reported on behalf of the Nominations Committee that the group will be contacting each Board member during the next month to find out who is interested in running for an elected office. All Board members were asked to consider becoming an officer and to not be shy about asking questions. The open positions are: Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary and Treasurer. Each position requires certain duties as written in the bylaws and attendance at Executive Committee meetings. Kerry joined in and told the Board that working as an officer was rewarding and the Executive Committee meetings could be a lot of fun.

Final Retreat Information

Once again the Board was reminded that the Retreat is planned for April 29 at the Springwood Head Start facility at 13111 SE 274th Street in Kent from 9:30 am to 3:30 pm. Leslie Anderson's son is doing the catering which will include a breakfast pastries and lasagna (both meat and veggie) with salad for lunch. Please be sure to let Dianne know if you cannot attend.

Legislative Wrapup

Kerry reminded the Board that the legislature has restored \$1.5 million of the \$2.3 million lost at the beginning of the biennium. This is the time to contact legislators and thank them for restoring the funding and letting them know how much we will accomplish with that money. This session many legislators came together to support Networks and we will need their continued support next biennium.

SKCCNA Bank Account – Finance Committee

Margie reported to the Board that at this time the only signer on the Washington Mutual bank account for the 501(c)(3) is Kristie Lund and Kristie is no longer a member of the Board. The account was opened several years ago and has only a small amount of money on deposit (\$331.37). Now that the Board is looking to do the Walk-A-Thon and is collecting Heart Bucks the situation needs to be fixed.

Margie and Kristie went to the local branch and tried to remove Kristie and add Margie but the bank refused without a set of minutes from the SKCCN that approved the change. It was suggested that perhaps moving the account from Washington Mutual to another bank might be a good idea at this time. Washington Mutual is not easily accessible from the office and they do not seem to be willing to make banking easy for a small non-profit.

Motion 1 **Sonia moved to allow Margie Staulcup to research and make final decisions about changing the SKCCNA bank account to another bank or to make the needed changes to the Washington Mutual account ie removing Kristie Lund and adding Margie Staulcup (and newly elected SKCCN officers) as a signatories.** Second by Cynthia. The motion passed.

Domestic Violence Task Force (DVTF) Collaborative

At the request of the Board Dianne, gave a quick report about the first meeting of the Collaborative. Dianne felt the meeting went really well. Six of the seven DVTF were represented with Enumclaw being the only one not at the table. Since the meeting a SeaTac DVTF has been formed and will be joining the Collaborative. Everyone was excited about the return of quarterly joint meetings and the idea of the Walk-A-Thon which will be handled by a sub-committee. Dianne is working on the first DVTF newsletter and will have it out soon.

Dianne was unsure about how the SKCCN Communications Committee (the lead committee for the Walk-A-Thon) and the Walk-A-Thon committee will communicate – will there be joint meetings or will there be one rep that moves between the two or what. This issue will be discussed at the next Communications Committee and by the Walk-A-Thon committee.

Survivors Panel – Organized by the PRP Committee

Jodie introduced two survivors and provided some background information. The PRPolicy Committee has begun to develop a Survivors Advisory Council on behalf of the SKCCN Board. Its purpose is to provide diverse perspectives about what needs to change in order to reduce and prevent domestic violence and its impact on children.

During the presentation survivors were asked to answer three questions:

1. Who did you turn to and were they helpful?
2. In hindsight, who do you wish you could have turned to?
3. If you could have changed one or two things or would have one or two things available to you that would have made a more positive and significant impact on you and your children, what would they be?

Elizabeth had to overcome several obstacles to be able to come to the Board meeting but concluded that by “sharing my pearls with someone else, I may help someone else.” When “the light bulb went on” about the reality of her abusive marriage, Elizabeth turned to three categories of people:

1. Church and her personal relationship with Christ for spiritual support:
Her faith is very important to her, and support from her church was especially important since her abusive husband was seen as so positive by the community.
2. Long- time friends – those who knew her before she was married: they served as a mirror to help her remember who she really was. Their voices reminded her to keep “the presence of me” verses being invisible.
3. Family – they were all out of state. Face to face contact with supportive family would have been helpful.

Elizabeth also wished she had been able to talk to her father who had passed away. He hadn’t been present in her life as a child but had developed a relationship when Elizabeth was an adult. He had a way of giving advice more like an open “template” which provided some structure for Elizabeth’s exploration.

Ideas for what to change:

1. Establish a twelve step program (like Alcoholics Anonymous) for DV survivors with a focus on learning to manage dependencies and having a personal sponsor, especially when her son began to act out .
2. Simplify requirements for enrolling children in school or child care.
Elizabeth had to flee her abuser and move out of state. She was re-traumatized by the school by being held at fault for not having her children’s immunization records. She would have had to pay \$35 to request the records which were scattered across six entities in two different states. She ended up having her children re-immunized despite her belief that the mercury in the immunizations placed her children at health risk. She had a similar experience with the requirement of having her children’s birth certificates. Elizabeth advocates for easier access to such records.
3. Temporarily waive truancy laws. Washington’s “Becca Bill” holds parents accountable if children are absent from school without an “excused” absence. The school where Elizabeth enrolled her children did not recognize domestic violence as an “excused absence” Note: This same situation was reported by another survivor at the PRP committee meeting. In that case, the mother had held her children out of school for a few days while she was arranging for a protection order. The school threatened truancy action despite the fact that the mother was going to school each day to pick up and deliver homework.

The second survivor, Kim, turned to no one initially. She went through a very difficult pregnancy. Her abuser controlled her every move. She had no friends or church to turn to. Her daughter became very fearful of her step father and began to act out at child care. Her child care provider talked with Kim about the behavior which alerted Kim to the spread of the problem. Kim didn’t dare to talk to co-workers. Her OB doctor knew during the pregnancy so referred Kim to a public health nurse (PHN) after delivery. The PHN was helpful in locating resources for Kim. Finally an older couple from church offered their home as a safe place for Kim and her children to live. The school district had a special protocol for DV so Kim didn’t have to face the immunization struggles.

Kim wishes she could have talked to her family, but they lived in another country. She simply didn't know who might be safe to talk to. She also had to work hard to convince herself that "I'm not such a bad person". She "lived in fear so much that she couldn't trust". Kim felt that once she got "into the system", "it swallows you whole." She had spent \$60,000 in court battles but still lost custody of her son. Even after years, her abuser continues to manipulate her, largely through the court system, and she hasn't seen her son since November despite court ordered visitation.

Kim has many ideas for how to change the system:

1. Eliminate threats of deportation. Since Kim is not a citizen, despite being here legally, she feared deportation. Her abuser held that threat over her and even today whenever she might miss a child support payment.
2. Hold the batterer accountable. Kim's abuser continually defies s protection order but hasn't been held accountable. Watch for a pattern of manipulating the legal system.
3. Require Batterers Intervention Programs to stay in touch with victims. Kim's abuser told her program that she had moved out of state.
4. Give victims the name of the abuser's probation officer.
5. Kim's first child's father prevents her from moving to her homeland by not giving his permission. In custody situations, courts should recognize domestic violence as a legitimate reason for moving out of the country.
6. Provide easier access to DV advocates.
7. Require more collaboration across the different systems.
8. Provide more legal representation in court actions.
9. Educate judges about DV.
10. Specify details of "supervised visitation" in protection orders and Parenting Plans.

Committee and Staff Reports

All reports were provided in writing.

Meeting Evaluation

Short comments from the Board about the meeting included:

- Grateful and honored by our quests – THANK YOU!
- Some things sound so small and we CAN DO something about them.
- Knowing about your courage will benefit everyone.
- Just don't know where you got the strength. Thanks for the catalyst from the PRP Committee
- Enraged at the judicial system – Thanks for sharing!
- We need more opportunities to listen and sorry there wasn't enough time.
- Surprised that you wanted to turn to friends
- Thank you for your openness to receive me – your compassion – your tears
- Received more understanding about the fight for change
- Hopeful about change
- Grateful and motivated
- Thanks for sharing
- This was informative
- Frustrated and wish I had gone to law school.

Meeting adjourned – 7:25

Minutes Approved:

Signed

Date