

NCPAT

North Carolina Providers of Abuser Treatment

MINUTES

11/1/07 Kill Devil Hills

The Membership met for dinner after a training event; the night before the Lundy Bancroft Presentation. In attendance were members and interested persons:

Chair Ellen Elliot opened the meeting.

Introductions: Introductions were made, including the 2 guests of members present. The turnout of new/interested people was a pleasurable surprise.

Announcements: Ellen announced new Officers:

- Chair Elect: Ellen Elliott, NCC, LCAS, LPC
- Vice-Chair: Edward Clark, M.S., LPC
- Treasurer: Joe Marinello, M.A. CCFC, CSOTS
- Secretary: Bea Coté, M.Ed., LCSW, LMFT

Trainings: NCCADV and NCASA are partnering to do a sex offender training 11/7/07; Tony Porter of A Call to Men is presenting a series of workshops in Charlotte; each is worth 2 hours of credit for those working with batterers. Regarding future NCPAT sponsored training: Ellen has checked on the cost of Men Stopping Violence training and will get those to the committee. We are waiting to hear from Joetta Sheperd re: prices for a Duluth conference.

Council for Women/DV Commission: Kathleen Balogh presented an update. She discussed the role of Regional Directors and their willingness to serve as a resource and liaison in each region. She distributed the list of programs approved 10/07.

In response to questions and concerns from those present about the lack of flexibility in the Rules that places programs at risk of violation through no fault of theirs, Kathleen reiterated that once something

passes the legislature it isn't open to change or flexibility in interpretation without further legislative action. She agreed that she hears some of the same concerns numerous times and suggested that NCPAT formulate a letter outlining suggestions for Rule changes. There has now been enough time since the Rules were first implemented to see where the problems are. One is the limitations small programs have in the use of their staff and space resources. Many programs need to be able to use staff to do both offender and victim work- there just aren't enough staff to do each exclusively. Another common problem is when a victim DV agency refuses to write a letter of support for a BIP simply because they have their own BIP and refuse to "support" the competition. Kathleen again clarified that required "letters of support" are really Memorandums of Understanding (MOU's) designed to outline *how* programs will work together to provide for the safety of victims; the letters do not imply approval. *Committee requests programs to submit to Ellen their suggestions for Rule changes.*

New business: Ellen proposed a review of the purpose and future of NCPAT. Where do we want to go? Where should our focus lie? Due to the small number of members with longevity in attendance, this was tabled for future discussion, though those present felt strongly that the committee could and should be a unified voice that strongly represents BIP's and encourages legislative change, and funding options.

DV evaluations: Members statewide are being asked to evaluate for DV- not just to evaluate an offender for entry into a BIP, but to actually assess individuals-or couples- for DV. These requests most often come from DSS. There is no standard or format for these evaluations and the practice is unregulated, endangering programs and individuals with liability issues and victim safety issues, and at the least, offering assessments that are inconsistent, and perhaps misleading. The committee agrees that we can look at this issue and develop best practices standards. *Please let Ellen know if you are interested in a subcommittee to examine and make suggestions.*

Ellen and Bea reported that only 4 regions held regional meetings; regions are encouraged to continue to hold meetings. Regions without leaders are asked to support this effort.

Victim safety: The committee continues to focus on the issue of victim safety. How can we improve communication with victim service providers? What has worked and what hasn't? There was much discussion around this topic, with suggestions made for more collaborative relationship with NCCADV, including the formation of caucuses to address this.

Next meeting: Will be announced