



NCPAT Minutes 1/15/10

William R. Davie Park, Charlotte

Attending: Donavan Grant, Chair, NOVA; Ellen Elliott, Co-Chair, Life Skills Counseling; Ruth Phelps, Secretary, Family Guidance Center; Kathleen Balogh, Robin Colbert, and Bernetta Thigpen, NCCFW/DVC; Joe Marinello, Ron Schimph, Karen Burke, Mary Guecia, Don Taylor, Michael Maxwell, Elizabeth Ganda, and Maggie Bruce, NOVA; Carol Davis, Jeff Medford, Jason Handy, and Lynnsey Rierson, Genesis; Bea Cote, Impact; Fred Barnes, SLIDES, Inc.; Larry Blount, Alamance County DV Prevention Program; Joetta Shepard, Abuser Intervention Program/Family Services; Marilyn Ransick and Jennifer Clausell, Living Solutions; Iris Voss, Phoenix Program/Randolph County Family Crisis Center; Thomas Wyatt and Tina Wyatt, Alternatives/T&T Consultation Services; Ron Pollard, DVIP/Safe, Inc. of Transylvania; Crystalle Williams, Raleigh Department of Social Services; Don Houts, SAFE, Inc.; Angie Pitcher, and Pat Dean

- I. Welcome and Introductions** – NCPAT meeting was called to order by Donavan Grant, Chair, during the catered lunch of the NCPAT Training. The morning topic was “Burnout/Stress” presented by Alyson Berbiglia, Mecklenburg County Human Resources.

The topics scheduled for the afternoon training were “BIP vs. Anger Management” presented by Joe Marinello, Carolinas Health Care Behavioral Health, NOVA, and “DV and Mental Health” presented by Dr. Russell Hancock and Dr. Terri Watters, Carolinas Health Care Behavioral Health.

Donavan welcomed all the “new faces” and expressed gratitude for the strong attendance. As this was the first NCPAT meeting of 2010, an encouragement was extended to attendees to commit to strengthening NCPAT by ongoing involvement.

II. Regional reports and program updates

- The Family Violence Coalition in Raleigh is focusing on parenting through their “Strong Fathers Program.”

- NOVA is experimenting with a new database which will provide unifying information between Victims' and Children's Services.
- Donavan shared information about a new initiative (two weeks in operation) through NOVA to provide an alternate way men can access the abuser program even if they do not have the finances to pay their fees. The plan allows men to work 24 hours per month doing community services in exchange for the monthly fee.

This initiative is being coordinated with the judges, the DA's office, Probations, etc. At present, the initiative is focused on the men coming from criminal court only. If successful, it may later be extended to civil court, DSS referrals, and self referrals. If an individual participant chooses this option of community service, he will commit to a total of 144 hours (24 hours for 6 months).

- III. **Treasurer's report and membership** – Joe Marinello reported the NCPAT treasury has a balance of \$5,021.08. The money is used for educational purposes, such as the training on this date, the cost of which was \$395.

Present NCPAT membership fee continues to be \$25 per year.

NCPAT's total membership was not available at this meeting.

IV. **Continuing Goals for NCPAT**

- Donavan stated training would be a focus as NCPAT looks ahead. The format, such as on this date, will be considered as a model, having the NCPAT meeting on Friday versus Saturday with a training series before and after the lunch meeting.
- Joe Marinello led a discussion from a financial perspective. If extensive training and lunch is to be provided at the NCPAT meetings, the financial cost will need re-consideration. It was suggested that a fee might need to be paid in order to take advantage of the training. It was also suggested that NCPAT re-look at how fees are assessed. One option for change would be to have each individual members versus each program pay \$25 for the year's membership.

Another suggestion was to charge a modest amount per person per meeting/training to offset the lunch cost.

An effort will certainly be made to use the resources in the community of the NCPAT meeting to keep costs down. The present goal is to have the quarterly NCPAT meetings in various locations across the state to provide equal access to all.

The next NCPAT quarterly meeting will be April 23, 2010, in Asheville, NC. Details of this training/meeting will be announced as they become available. The regional directors and program leaders in each area will need to be available to help identify speakers, location, catering, etc. This coordinated effort is greatly appreciated. Suggestions for “training” topics are welcome.

V. Best Practices suggested by the Council for Women/DV Commission;
Kathleen Balogh

- Kathleen reminded everyone that the deadline for program re-certification is 2/20/10 (postmarked). A new application is available and can be completed online, as well as re-certification. However, signatures must be sent separately as they must still be in blue ink.
- The new executive director of the Council for Women is Jill Dinwitty.
- Discussion is still ongoing in regards to abuser treatment program name change to Batterer Intervention Program (BIP).
- Kathleen was pleased that 87% of programs participated in the survey/questionnaire sent in August 2009. Results will be available later.
- Social Services also completed a survey. The referral piece for Social Services is still being addressed.
- Kathleen reiterated the responsibility of each abuser treatment program to provide services to persons with any kind of disability or language issue. If a program is receiving any funding from the county or federal government, it must provide services regardless of issue; otherwise, it will be a violation of equal opportunity laws.

VI. Additional Business

- Two upcoming trainings were identified. “Voices for Recovery” will be 4/6/10, at MAHEC in Asheville, NC. Ellen Elliot has more details. “Beauty for Ashes” will be 3/18 and 3/19/10 in Charlotte, NC. This training will address domestic violence in the black church.

VII. Next meeting, date and site

Friday, April 23, 2010

*Site and time to be announced.

VIII. Adjournment

Appreciation is extended to Donavan Grant and his “helpers” for planning this meeting/training. A lot of energy/work was invested to “pull off” such an excellent training/meeting.