

## Tri-County Batterer Intervention Provider Network Meeting Minutes--5/9/00

Present: Paula Manley, Chris Huffine, Vivien Bliss, Michael Davis, Mark Hess, Guruseva Mason.

Minutes by Paula Manley.

Discussion-difficulty of working with individuals referred for other violence than DV was brought up. On occasion, this individual may not fit into the group. It was decided that this should be put on the future topic list for discussion.

### **Topic: Coordinated Community Response**

There is difficulty in developing a truly coordinated community response system. There seems to be great effort toward achieving this goal. Difficulties include lack of funds, problems with how to share information, and lack of DV-specific knowledge among some elements of the system. When one client received a new offense, in Clackamas County, the DA on the new offense did not appear to be aware of the deferred sentencing charge, even though it involved the same victim. The concern is lack of knowledge in the arms of the criminal justice system. One possible issue is that DA may only consider convictions, and deferred sentencing is not a conviction.

Victim Advocates have been really involved in progress for the movement. Chris quoted Don Chapin, who defined Coordinated Community Response as, "An interagency effort to change the climate of tolerance toward battering by institutionalizing practice and procedure which centralize victim safety and the notions of accountability in domestic assault-related career."

In Clackamas County, there seems more of a focus toward meeting needs of "troubled families" than to address victim safety. This increases the danger to families and decreases the responsibility of the offender. There seems great concern as to the offender's ability to pay, which doesn't hold him accountable. Multnomah County has progressed during the past 3 years.

Part of the problem is lack of training for some of the decision-makers involved in coordinating counsels. Vivien offers free training to court staff in Marion County. Courts there wanted to know if intervention programs work, and at what cost to the families. It is hard to keep the coordinated response moving without getting the victims advocates voices drowned out. Theirs is a very important voice in the movement. In any movement, we need to have these folks who have a strong, different voice than the dominant societal voices.

Chris pointed out that people often think of the coordinated community response as primarily focusing on men arrested for domestic violence so the key players, aside from women's shelters are identified as law enforcement, probation, and the courts. He offered an alternative conceptualization of a coordinated community response which is broader and more extensive including mental health, medical, churches, schools, etc.

Change is occurring, though slowly. Doctors, counselors and others who traditionally did not refer people to DV perpetrator groups are now doing so.

While we are changing, we need to provide ongoing support for victims