

**Non-residential DV Subcommittee Meeting Notes  
December 5, 2008**

Attendees:  
Present in Albany:

Kathy Magee- Equinox  
Anne Ball-OCFS  
Pam Jobin- OCFS

Unable to Attend:

Rose Garrity-A New Hope Ctr.  
Lucia Riviuccio-STEPS to End Violence  
Jeanine Costley- Sanctuary for Families

On the phone:

Beth Feder - Sanctuary for Families  
Dottie Barraco-Hetnar- Vera House  
Pamela Johnston- VIBS  
Jessica Vasquez- NYSCADV  
Tracy Thorne- HRA  
Karen Colquhoun-Erie Co DSS  
Bincy Jacob-My Sister's Place  
Clarice Murphy, VIBS

**Reporting Out:**

Joanne Rosen from Salvation Army of Onondaga County will be joining the committee for future meetings as well as Clarice Murphy from VIBS.

Robin Bronstein from Otsego Opportunities will be joining one of the sub-committees, unknown currently which one.

New due date for work plans- **January 15, 2009**

Jessica Vasquez graciously "volunteered" to be the subcommittee chairperson.  
Kathy Magee volunteered to be assistant/co-chair as needed.

The meeting minutes from 11/17/2008 were approved by the group and will be distributed to other committees and posted to the OCFS and OPDV web sites.

**Follow Up From Previous Meeting:**

Question to OCFS legal regarding what would be needed to change the authority to approve non-residential programs. OCFS legal staff, Sonia Meyer, responded that a change in statute would not be required. The regulations could be changed to reflect a change in approval authority. Sonia also stated she would be willing to attend a future sub-committee meeting to answer questions regarding child abuse/maltreatment reporting requirements. However she requested questions in advance as they may crossover SCR and policy areas as well as legal. Subcommittee members decided this may be useful in the future but are not prepared with substantial questions at this point. HRA (Tracy) wanted it noted that they are comfortable with their current RFP process and would not support any language that would eliminate HRA's role in approving programs.

### **New business:**

- Jessica shared her proposed rewrite of eligibility requirements ( Sec 462.6). She will change it slightly to add that a person does not need to be financially eligible nor do they need to apply for non-residential services. Jessica will distribute the new wording to the members and if approved it will be shared with OCFS legal and policy to see if there are any major problems with the new language before sharing with the full DV Workgroup at the February meeting.
- Discussed definition of counseling and reviewed draft by Beth to make the definitions consistent. It became quickly apparent that there are many other issues with the definition besides consistency that will need to be worked out by committee. These include:
  - Does the regulation language need to be tightened up and made more specific and how?
  - If we make regulation language more specific, would this close out smaller programs who could not fulfill new requirements?
  - Current definition stresses “self-sufficiency”- it is not clear what this term means or what its purpose is-maybe change to “safety planning”?
  - Need to stress empowerment, enhancement of self esteem, address emotional trauma
  - Current definition needs to better define “counseling” to distinguish it from merely providing “information”
  - Should it specifically say couples counseling is not recommended?
  - Is it possible to find language to allow for a range in the types of counseling?
- Kathy suggested NYSCADV do a survey of programs to see what is being considered counseling currently, what is actually being provided by programs and what is the background/education of staff who are providing counseling Jessica agreed this is a good idea and will develop a survey to share with the sub-committee. Once approved she will survey programs and bring back a summary. This may help the group decide how to proceed with the counseling definition. It was also suggested that a subgroup of the subcommittee (Beth Feder and Pam Johnston) could continue to look at problematic areas in the definition while awaiting responses to the survey before developing additional language.
- Discussion of networking by programs with each other and coalitions. There was some disagreement on whether networking should be included as a core requirement in the regulation language. This will continue to be discussed by the group. Networking is not specifically mentioned in current County Children and Family Services plan. Additionally the regulations do not address networking although there is mention in the section on community education and outreach, 462.4(a)(5), that when there is more than one residential or non-residential program in a community, the non-residential program must “make an effort to coordinate” its community education and outreach with the other agencies.

- Recommendation was that coordination should be required for more than just community education and outreach. Maybe the language should be separated from the outreach and community education section
- Should programs be required by regulation to describe networking activities?

Karen mentioned that she had a document that showed various definitions of the same DV terms and she agreed to try and put something in writing and send to the group for review. (See attached)

- It was decided to table the mandated child abuse and neglect reporting requirement for the time being.
- Vague definition of the hotline in regulation is also a concern to be addressed in future meetings
- Anne sent out the format and instructions for County Child and Family Service plans for the group's review. This will be discussed at the next meeting.

**Next steps:**

- Walk through regulations section by section
- Discuss quality assurance guidelines draft
- Develop survey of providers re "counseling" practices
- Develop work plan
- Next meeting : **Wednesday January 7, 2009, 3pm-5pm**

**OCFS Follow up to do :**

- Write up meeting minutes for group review
- Revise sub-committee chart to add new members and send out to sub-committee as well as posting on websites
- Share new eligibility wording with OCFS legal and policy after approved by sub-committee.
- Work out a format for the work-plans and send out to group to modify.