



**Interfaith Taskforce**  
*(Formerly Community Partners Committee)*  
**Meeting Minutes**

**July 25, 2014**  
**Conference call: 9:30 to 10:30 am**

Participants:

*Linda Eggbeer (Co-chair); Suzanne Bailey (Co-chair); Erin Boguski (Staff); Rev. Anne Weatherholt; Sharon O'Brien; Lucy Young; Ashley Dioanno.*

Review of June 27, 2014 conference call and updates on subsequent activities:

1. The taskforce will continue to meet monthly and decided to hold meetings via conference call (from 9:30—10:30 am) and in-person meetings once a quarter (9:30—11:00 am). The August 22 meeting will be held via conference call. The September 26 meeting will be in Lanham.
2. Instead of planning a separate immigration and faith-based training, the taskforce will support the State's Interfaith DV Coalition's Day of Learning on October 1, 2014 from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm in Annapolis, for Baltimore City, Baltimore County, Montgomery, and Anne Arundel County clergy, service providers, and other interested people. Taskforce members on the Steering Committee will advocate for an immigration component to be included.
3. The MNADV Board has changed its Standing Committees (e.g. Community Partners, DV Services, etc.) to Taskforces. The Community Partners Committee is transitioning to the MNADV Interfaith Taskforce with the primary objectives of developing an online toolkit and supporting the State's Interfaith DV Coalition. Co-chairs and staff will clarify this statement and name of the taskforce for the next meeting.
4. There was brief discussion of the successful kickoff meeting the Interfaith Coalition hosted on July 15, 2014. It was an energizing, good program and was well-attended.

Business Items:

1. Sharon O'Brien will send info on an alternative phone **conference call** which would call us (instead of us calling into the phone number) and it would identify us as we speak.
2. **Toolkit Discussion:** The content below is taken from a document on the webpage that outlines toolkit ideas:

## Ideas for the Faith-Based Online Toolkit

Title:

Design:

### DV Education

- DV 101
- Stats on Prevalence of DV/faith & DV/DV in MD (fact sheet?)
- Training resources (FaithTrust, other)
- Referral sources (MNADV webpage)
- Speaker's bureau (Suzanne)
- Request MNADV Brochures (MNADV webpage)
- Links to special topics/populations

### What Faith Groups Can Do

- Opening Doors (MNADV)
- Call to action (Karalyn)
- Readiness checklist (SC-adapt)
- Do's and Don'ts (fact sheet?)
- Faith-specific resources (wheels, etc.)
- Sample sermons
- Sample bulletin posts
- Sample prayers
- Relevant Scriptures
- When and where to report abuse
- Ideas for awareness and prevention (youth, engaging men, No More, etc.)
- Model programs (MD, SC, NoVa, etc.)

1. The group discussed the **draft toolkit** above. Linda explained the current plan for people to register for the free toolkit to develop a network across the state. Alternatively, the toolkit could be an open, free resource and invite people to email us if they want to join the Taskforce.
2. **Opening Doors** is an excellent resource. Suggestions were made to explore ways of disseminating copies to faith communities around the state.
3. Anne noted that many clergy feel overwhelmed and ill-informed about the issue; need sensitivity training using real situations; don't know easy it is to do something useful (e.g. one of **Call to Action** items) which hopefully would lead to exploration of additional information in the toolkit.
4. Many denominations have a **hierarchy** that can be tapped to promote Opening Doors. More powerful message when it comes from faith leader.
5. Anne and Sharon volunteered to draft a **sample letter** for their denominations (Episcopal and Catholic respectively) which others could adopt for use.
6. Most geographical areas have **ministerial gatherings**. Suzanne Bailey will ask Mark Byrd, Faith Based Coordinator for the State, for his advice and a list of contacts that he already has.
7. It was agreed that no new material needs to be developed but rather focus on making access to the toolkit simple, clear, and compelling.

8. **Toolkit Subcommittee:** Linda Eggbeer, Anne Weatherholt, Sharon O'Brien, Pat Williamson and several Jewish and Muslim colleagues will start a steering committee which will present results on or before the August 22 meeting. Erin's input will be vital. Linda and or Sharon will organize a working meeting in early to mid-August.
9. **Immigrant and DV Response:** Suzanne Bailey will develop the list based in part on the July 15, 2014 Kick-Off Event with the goal being to involve more faith based organizations that focus on serving immigrants.
10. **Day of Learning Subcommittee:** Suzanne will pursue how to promote the event with the goal to ensure that the attendees at the breakfast on July 15 attend the October 1 event and commit to an activity for the weekend of October 24-26.

**Next meeting:** Conference call, 9:30 am, August 22, 2014