

Maryland Network Against Domestic Violence
Community Partners Committee Meeting

Friday, June 28, 2013
Meeting Minutes

Next meeting dates:

August 16th, September 27th, October 25th (TBD), November 22nd, December 20th

In attendance: Tovah Kasdin (co-chair), Suzanne Bailey (co-chair), Erin Boguski (staff), Scott Beard, guest speaker, (phone), Andrea Cumberland, Linda Eggbeer, Karalyn Mulligan, Jessica Li, Norberto Martinez, Laura Yeomans, Pastor Patricia Saunders, Becky Barker, Sharon O'Brien, Lucy Young

1. Faith-based response to domestic violence
 - a. MNADV brochure "Opening Doors"—There has been a positive response to the brochure. The brochure will be translated into Spanish by the fall and we hope will be effective in reaching out to Spanish speaking faith communities in Maryland.
 - b. Committee reviewed materials on increasing resources and response to dv within the faith community from the South Carolina Coalition provided by our guest speaker, Scott Beard. These materials included how to create minimum standards, readiness checklist, and sample trainings.
 - c. Committee discussed that each faith community is differently organized, informed, and has different needs and policy commitments when responding to dv. (e.g. some communities like the African American churches do not have policy statements on dv. Other churches have training requirements for clergy like the Archdiocese in SC and the Episcopalian Church). Because of this reality, and capacity issues, Scott suggested that instead of MNADV attempting to train each community in the same way, that MNADV might be most effective in helping communities organize themselves by creating minimum standards and a readiness checklist and then help each community connect to the resources they need. Each community will need different things based on size, comfort level with issue, support, etc.
 - d. We discussed at length MNADV's role in facilitating the faith community response. MNADV can invite faith leaders to certain trainings to build capacity but does not have the resources to train congregation by congregation.
 - e. Should MNADV certify that a specific faith community met the minimum standards (could there be different levels of achievement—gold, silver, bronze?) Several committee members

had reservations that this could put MNADV in the untenable position of being responsible or liable for a faith community's response to a dv issue or what if the faith community created a policy that was not comporting to best practice?

- f. Becky suggested that when trainings are done in faith communities that they include a diversity of professionals belonging to that faith along the coordinated community response continuum (e.g. Becky is doing training for seventh day Adventist including a judge, police officer, etc.) Tovah also suggested that hypotheticals be used to train the clergy and lay leadership so they can walk through examples of how a dv situation can be best handled.
- g. Scott also spoke of a program in SC called Halos which through CPS or the relevant Social Service agency connects families in need with faith communities who can help them with practical needs (e.g. providing beds, etc). This helps build the faith communities knowledge and sensitivity to how families are affected by dv.
- h. Next steps: We agreed to continue to discuss creating a package for faith communities to help them build their capacity (e.g. minimum standards, etc) and we could consider inviting our faith contacts to the October meeting to discuss how they can implement this in their communities with the support of MNADV and other dv focused programs and orgs. Important that faith leaders do not feel alone in this effort.
- i. Other faith networks to reach out to: Annapolis - Central Care Ministry at the Bay Area Christian Church. Tovah can follow up with Elaine Wittman at Shofar Coalition to discuss the sustainability of the Baltimore site from the Federal initiative. Scott also suggested reaching out to Daughters of Abraham-Janice Lord-to discuss faith collaboratives between faith communities.
- j. Upcoming events for the faith community: July 25th, IFCADV Lethality Assessment Program; Oct. 5th, National Pastoral Care Leadership Conference; October 25-27, Baltimore City encouraging faith communities to discuss dv at their religious services, could others around the state join this effort in their communities? Still I Rise Conference, Dec. 19th-21st.