



Maryland Network Against Domestic Violence

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES

Friday, June 10, 2016

10:00 am – 1:00 pm

Board Members Present: Laurie Duker, Inga James, Suzanne Bailey, Joan Stine; Karalyn Mulligan, Kelley Rainey, Shirley Schreffler, Lauren Shaivitz, Tovah Kasdin, Tanya Sisler and Jeff Spaulding.

Board Members Absent: Keyandra Brisco

Staff: Michaele Cohen, Amy Johnson, and Erin Boguski.

■ Welcome and Introductions

■ Written Material to Review

■ Board Minutes – May 2016

- The minutes for May 2016 were accepted.

■ Executive Director's Report – June 2016

- The Board reviewed the report.
- Several areas were highlighted:
 - Kudos to the staff for a well done job at **MNADV's DV Conference**. Anna Melbin, the keynote speaker from Full Frame Initiative, was outstanding. We had twice as many sponsors as last year. A few board members mentioned that some of the presentations were too basic and there were some issues with the Spanish interpreter, but overall the conference was a success. It was suggested that staff ask for training references for future conferences.
 - **NNEDV Advocacy Day** was attended by Michaele Cohen, Laurie Duker, Rae Leonard (AAMC) and Sarah Kaiser (Alleghany County Family Crisis Resource Center). The "Maryland Team" met with staff from each of the two Senators and eight Representatives. While they did not meet with any Senators/Representatives, they felt it was a positive experience. The focus of the meetings was to ask for full funding for FVPSA and VAWA and to maintain the increased level of funding for VOCA. The group conveyed information about domestic violence services in Maryland as well as funding challenges in Maryland. Packets of information were provided to Congressional staff at each meeting.
 - Michaele Cohen attended the **National FVPSA meeting**. Several issues were highlighted in the meeting presentations and workshops, including: underserved populations, male victims, LGBTQ victims, homelessness, and children. FVPSA will be issuing new Rules soon, which will include a number of clarifications for coalitions and programs. Historically, FVPSA funding in Maryland has only gone to the comprehensive domestic violence programs. However, it is anticipated that future funding will need to include culturally-specific, community-based domestic violence programs.

- MNADV received a \$3,000 check from the Maryland States Attorney's Association for the **7K Run**.
- A new **Family Justice Center in Prince George's County** held its grand opening on June 9. MNADV staff Michael Cohen and Tiffany Garner and board members Karalyn Mulligan and Shirley Shreffler were in attendance. The Prince George's County Circuit Court is the lead agency, the new Director is Denise McCain, a former MNADV board member, and it will be directed by a nonprofit board. The FJC will be open to clients on June 27.
- The new **Neshante and Chloe Davis Domestic Violence Prevention Task Force** (SB1143), which originated in Prince George's County, was amended to be a statewide effort. GOCCP has asked Michael Cohen to serve on the Task Force.
- New **legislation** passed in 2016 to provide a **review of lethality assessment programs in Maryland** authorized the Maryland Police and Correctional Training Commissions (MPCTC) to write the report for the legislature. Alicia Bickoff, MNADV LAP Manager is working with the MPCTC to create the report.

■ **Role of the Board - Discussion**

- Several documents were distributed and reviewed.
- The **Mission and Vision Statements** were reviewed, and the broader principles of providing education, training, resources and advocacy were discussed.
- A summary of the **Responsibilities of the Board** include: providing leadership, supporting the mission, vision and activities of MNADV, and ensuring the MNADV's financial health. Inga James suggested that governance should also be included.
- The **MNADV by-laws**, specifically Section VI Board of Directors, were reviewed. Tovah Kasdin explained that when the MNADV's Board was reorganized a few years ago, it was an effort to streamline it to make it a more effective governance body. She also discussed the need for board members to clarify their roles so they can appropriately serve as "ambassadors" for MNADV. Shirley Schreffler said that the Board's primary responsibility is oversight. Lauren Shaivitz pointed out that our decisions should focus on policy, rather than individuals and their current positions, to ensure future continuity. Laurie Duker expressed a need to focus on guidance and direction as a proactive measure. Michael Cohen noted that as a coalition representing a diversity of stakeholders, the MNADV represents a broader constituency, and decisions must take this into consideration.
- **Two subcommittees** were formed and will meet by conference call:
 - **By-laws review committee** – Inga James (Coordinator), Laurie Duker, Kelley Rainey, Tovah Kasdin, and Suzanne Bailey.
 - **Board membership and nominating committee** – Laurie Duker (Coordinator), Lauren Shaivitz, Shirley Schreffler, and Joan Stine.

- The Board reviewed areas of responsibility to determine if we are accomplishing our roles successfully. The following roles were discussed as they apply to each of the following areas:
 - **Board Roles** – Direction, Guidance, Oversight, Facilitation, Ambassador/ Spokesperson
 - **Areas of Responsibility** - Finances, Governance, Education/Training, Resources/Funding, Advocacy
 - **Finances** – a Board member serves as the Treasurer. If there is an issue or question, the Executive Board is alerted. A subcommittee may be established as needed. The Board has financial oversight and asked to receive monthly financial information (as opposed to quarterly). Annually, the Board reviews the 990 and the financial audit.
 - **Governance** – the MNADV by-laws should be periodically reviewed by the Board. A subcommittee was created to review the current by-laws (last revised in 2008). Policies are drafted by the MNADV staff and approved by the Board. The Board is tasked with identifying gaps/needs and relaying information to MNADV staff. The Board also has oversight of the Executive Director position (hire/fire/review). The Board is also responsible for approving the annual budget and salaries. Policies are included in the annual Board Retreat packet given to all Board members. However, Michaela Cohen said she would make current policies available to the Board (e.g., financial policies and personnel manual). Amy Johnson volunteered to create a password protected page on the MNADV website to house information for the Board of Directors (e.g., Board list, by-laws, Board minutes, and MNADV policies).
 - **Education/Training** – The MNADV provides a variety of trainings and events as well as technical assistance. The Board has oversight of these activities. Michaela Cohen provides a detailed description of all activities in the monthly Executive Director’s Report. The Board has a responsibility to identify gaps and needs and to relay this information to the MNADV staff. The Board may also take a proactive stance and provide guidance on the future educational focus. However, it was noted that MNADV staff must comply with the requirements established in the grants. The staff also conducts annual surveys of domestic violence needs/gaps (FVPSA requirement) and training/technical assistance needs, and the Board should review these responses. The Board may also review materials and publications for accuracy, updated information and adherence to best practices. One board member suggested an annual review of materials. It was noted that MNADV brochures are available on the MNADV website and in hard copy at the MNADV office for review. No subcommittee was formed.
 - **Resources/Funding** – This focus area was not discussed due to time constraints and the need to focus on Advocacy.
 - **Advocacy** – focus on public policy and legislative advocacy

- Policy and legislative focus is on survivor safety and abuser accountability. This can also include long-term survivor independence and abuser behavioral change.
- The MNADV has a long history of legislative advocacy and these positions can guide future positions. The MNADV develops an annual legislative agenda after obtaining input from the field and in collaboration with legislative partners.
- Members of the Board expressed their desire to expand the Board's role in directing the legislative process. Members said that the Board should be responsible for the short term and long term legislative vision, review of the legislative strategy and oversight during the legislative session.
- Jeff Spaulding suggested that the Board's focus be at the strategic level, as opposed to the tactical level. He suggested identifying 1-3 strategic goals.
- The Board should be responsible for identifying gaps/needs and relaying this information to MNADV staff. The Board has the responsibility to provide direction and input.
- Input is also sought from the field as well as partners and stakeholders. Tovah Kasdin recommended that the MNADV conduct conference calls to hear about issues that are affecting victims/survivors. The MNADV regularly solicits this information from the comprehensive domestic violence programs as well as a broad diversity of others through e-mails. There was a brief discussion on making changes to the solicitation to produce more feedback. The MNADV staff also reviews the county DVFRT reports for recommendations. It was also suggested that DVCCs be consulted.
- Tovah Kasdin offered to create a legislative timeline of Board responsibilities. Laurie Duker offered to create a broader Board timeline (yearly calendar) that encompasses legislative strategies.
- It was noted that the MNADV has a vetting process for legislation, provided as a handout to the Board, which outlines how legislative proposals are reviewed for support or opposition.
- The following topics were identified as possible areas of focus for future legislative initiatives:
 - Limiting offender access to firearms
 - Technology – adequate protection and prosecution
 - Improve the provision of emergency child support in protective orders
 - Require continuing education on domestic violence for court personnel
 - Strangulation
 - Offender program effectiveness – funding for research
 - State funding for domestic violence programs
 - Review regulations and databases
- Suggested timeline (Tovah Kasdin offered to draft this):
 - Conduct legislative survey to obtain feedback on needs/gaps (July)

- Conduct two conference calls with the field, stakeholders to obtain feedback: biggest challenges that can be addressed legislatively (August)
- Board member participation in MNADV Legislative Committee: Joan Stine and Kelley Rainey

■ **New and Noteworthy**

- Inga James talked about a recent **comprehensive domestic violence program Executive Director's meeting** in May, which was attended by 6 executive directors. Issues discussed included: VOCA, human trafficking, staffing issues, and Board issues. The group plans to meet quarterly. The next meeting is scheduled for September 1.
- The board discussed the **2016 MNADV Annual Meeting**. MNADV offered two dates to consider (Oct 20 and Oct. 27) and will start looking for locations. The Board would prefer a dinner, as opposed to a luncheon. Michael Cohen stated that the theme would be "Connections" and staff would start working on award nominations and a keynote speaker.
- A **meeting with Glenn Fueston, new Director of GOCCP** has been scheduled for July 6. Michael Cohen, Erin Boguski and Amy Johnson will be attending.
- The **Exelon Golf Tournament**, scheduled for July 18, is sold out. The proceeds will go to the MNADV.

**The next MNADV Board of Directors Meeting
will be
Friday, July 8, 2016
10:00 am – 12:00 pm
in the
MNADV Board Room, Suite 320**