



Maryland Network Against Domestic Violence

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES

Friday, July 8, 2016
10:00 am – 12:00 pm

Board Members Present: Inga James, Joan Stine; Tovah Kasdin, Karalyn Mulligan, Kelley Rainey, Shirley Schreffler, Lauren Shaivitz (phone), and Jeff Spaulding.

Board Members Absent: Laurie Duker, Suzanne Bailey; Keyandra Brisco.

Board Members Resigned: Tanya Sisler.

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

■ Welcome and Introductions

- Jane Lee has been hired as MNADV's new LAP Specialist.
- Amy Johnson created the new Board webpage on MNADV'S website and asked for the Board to review it and make suggestions. Information is organized by month. It currently includes monthly Board minutes, new Personnel Manual, and the conflict of interest form. Each year, the new Board will have its own password. It can be accessed through mnadv.org/board-of-directors and the password for the current Board is BOD2016.

■ Written Material to Review

- **Board Minutes** - the minutes for June 2016 were accepted.
- **Executive Director's Report**
 - The Board reviewed the report. Discussion of highlights was deferred to later as many items are already on the agenda.
- **Financial Report**
 - Michaele provided the monthly financial report as requested by the Board. The report, through May 2016, was reviewed, determined to be in good shape and was adopted by the Board.

■ Membership/Nominating Committee

- The newly formed committee (Laurie Duker, Lauren Shaivitz, Shirley Schreffler, and Michaele Cohen) had a telephone meeting and discussed potential new Board members, reviewed a list of potential members, and discussed possible gaps in representation, such as the LGBTQ and Latino communities. Lauren Shaivitz suggested that it would be valuable to have a prosecutor on the Board (since Michelle Smith left). Michaele spoke with Jennifer Morton, Assistant State's Attorney in Calvert County, who said she would be honored to be considered. Fiona Oliphant, from DVRP, had previously agreed to serve on next year's Board. Saida Agostini, Free State Equality, was contacted as well as Alexis Flanagan, HopeWorks of Howard County, and Eliane Lakem, immigrant survivor and student leader. The Board accepted Jennifer and Fiona for next year's Board slate.
- The Board discussed the nomination process. All recommendations by Board members and applications by interested individuals should be submitted and will

be reviewed at the August meeting. Applications will be sent in advance to the Board before the August meeting. The ballot should be finalized at the August meeting and sent to the paid members in September for voting.

■ **Legislative/Public Policy Advocacy** – Inga James and Tovah Kasdin

- The newly formed Legislative Committee (Laurie Duker, Inga James, Tovah Kasdin, and Michael Cohen) had a telephone meeting last week.
 - The following **legislative vision statement** was discussed and accepted by the Board: *“To improve victim/survivor safety and security and ensure abuser accountability.”*
- Tovah Kasdin created a draft **legislative timeline**, including:
 - July – gather stakeholder and field input through a legislative survey, local meetings, and other input.
 - August – hold a conference call for stakeholders to discuss survey responses. Cynthia Lifson will attend the Board meeting to provide information and review survey responses and other input.
 - September/October – Board establishes legislative priorities.
 - End of Session (April/May) – Cynthia Lifson and MNADV staff prepare an end of session memo to include what has passed/not passed and why or why not the legislative priorities were successful.
- The **legislative decision-making process** was reviewed and discussed:
 - The MNADV Board Legislative Committee will bring their recommendations to the Board.
 - After receiving Board, survey, and stakeholder input, the Board will vote on priorities.
 - When quick decisions are required, the Executive Committee can be consulted to provide direction to the Legislative Counsel. It was acknowledged that the Legislative Counsel may have to make a quick decision based on past positions, in consultation with the Executive Director, and possibly the Executive Committee, during the Session. Establishing and maintaining trust among the Board, staff, and Legislative Counsel is essential.
 - The MNADV will outline past legislative positions, which will provide a basis for positions on related issues. It is important not to vacillate on positions.
 - If there is disagreement over legislative issues or actions, these may need to be brought to the Board. A majority is needed to make decisions and some Board members may not agree. If there is a conflict of interest, a Board member can abstain.
 - The Board discussed the importance of being clear about roles, particularly when Board members testify or advocate for legislation on behalf of their own programs. If a Board member interacts with a member of the Legislature, it is important to make clear who the Board member is representing.
- **Legislative survey:** The MNADV will disseminate a survey to gain insight from stakeholders, partners, and service providers. The Board reviewed the text and suggested changes, which were incorporated into the final survey. Board members were also encouraged to complete the survey.
- A **conference call date** will be included in the survey.

- **Cynthia Lifson, Legislative Counsel**, will attend the August Board meeting to discuss the survey results and other input.
- Michaele Cohen provided a document on “**Legislative and Public Policy Strategies.**”

■ **New Developments**

- Michaele Cohen announced that the **Family Violence Council** will vote on creating a **workgroup to address firearms surrender** (including last year’s legislation). The workgroup would include all interested and relevant stakeholders. The workgroup will make legislative or policy recommendations.
- The **Maryland State’s Attorney’s Association (MSAA)** will be hosting a **conference on domestic violence** in May or June 2017. Steve Kroll, executive director, asked for MNADV assistance with the conference, including the Lethality Assessment Program. The MNADV will also be providing training to state’s attorneys and an FAQ on the Lethality Assessment Program. This partnership has been enhanced by past partnerships with MSAA in legislative advocacy and the 7K Run.

■ **Annual Meeting and Awards Dinner**

- The Annual Meeting and Awards Dinner will be held on Wednesday October 26, 2016, 6:00 – 9:00 pm at the DoubleTree Hotel in Annapolis.
- All Board members were asked to solicit sponsors and to sell tickets.
- The MNADV has developed a SurveyMonkey award nomination form for the Community Partners and Leadership Awards and a separate nomination form for the Domestic Violence Service Providers Award/Program Honorees. Karalyn Mulligan, Inga James, Jeff Spaulding, and Joan Stine volunteered to be on the Nominations Review Committee.
- Michaele Cohen suggested that the MNADV contact Senator Barbara Mikulski to present her with the Legislative Award and to be the keynote speaker. The Board agreed. Other suggested speakers included Petula Dvorak, Washington Post columnist; Carrie Bettinger-Lopez, White House Advisor on Violence Against Women; and Marylouise Kelley, FVPSA Executive Director.

■ **Updates**

- **Exelon Golf Tournament** – Monday, July 18, 2016 in Cockeysville, MD. The golf tournament proceeds will be given to the MNADV. Michaele asked for Board volunteers to attend the event. Kelley Rainey offered to be there in the early morning. Inga James and Lauren Shaivitz volunteered for the afternoon shift. There will be a “Pairings Party” the night before at The Capital Grille in Baltimore, 5:00-7:00 pm, for those interested. Inga James offered to attend with Michaele Cohen. Shirley Schreffler also expressed interest. Former Board member Janet Blackburn, who facilitated the selection of the MNADV as this year’s charity recipient, will attend both events.
- **GOCCP Meeting** – Michaele Cohen, Amy Johnson, and Erin Boguski met with Glenn Fueston, new GOCCP executive director, and Kim Herndon, GOCCP victim services coordinator, to share information and suggested opportunities for working collaboratively. Glenn Fueston expressed his interest in outcomes, data

collection, infrastructure, and client satisfaction. The MNADV offered to help agencies develop better goals, objectives, and outcomes. The SAMS report on VOCA needs and gaps has been received by GOCCP and will be one piece of information being used to determine the VOCA funding. The VOCA NOFA should be released any day. The MNADV will be submitting a large training grant application. It was also noted that GOCCP received 50 MVOC applications but has only \$300,000 to give out.

- **FVPSA Grant Reviews** - Michael Cohen and Erin Boguski reviewed the FVPSA/DOMV grants and provided comments and recommendations to GOCCP staff.

**The next MNADV Board of Directors Meeting
will be
Friday, August 12, 2016
10:00 am – 12:00 pm
in the
MNADV Conference Room, Suite 320
4601 Presidents Drive
Lanham, MD 20706**