



Maryland Network Against Domestic Violence

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES

Friday, March 11, 2016

10:00 am – 12:00 pm

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

Board Members Absent: Keyandra Brisco and Cheryl Kravitz.

Staff: Michaele Cohen, Amy Johnson, Erin Boguski, and Joanne Williams-Barnes.

Consultants: Cynthia Lifson (Legislative Counsel).

■ Welcome and Introductions

- It was announced that Amanda Wilson, MNADV LAP Co-Director, had a baby boy named Charlie.
- Alisha Queen, MNADV LAP Specialist, will be moving back to Boston. Her last day is March 18.
- Dave Sargent, MNADV Senior Program Manager, is retiring. His last day is April 1.

■ Written Material to Review

- **Board Minutes – February 2016**
 - The minutes for February 2016 were accepted.
 - The Board expressed their support for having them sent earlier.
- **Executive Director's Report – March 2016**
 - Suzanne Bailey noted the MNADV's work on the statewide interfaith coalition.
 - Laurie Duker inquired about the status of the Health Care Coalition. The Coalition is under the umbrella of the Center for Healthy Maryland (affiliated with MedChi). They are not an independent 501c3 but are exploring this transition.
 - It was noted that the MNADV submitted two large grant applications: annual FVPSA grant for FY 2017 and another OVW-TA LAP grant to continue the national LAP training.
 - An inquiry was made about LGBTQ trainings. The MNADV provides resources for outreach, information on the service providers' page on the MNADV website, and information from the Northwest Network.
 - The MNADV has been increasing awareness with press releases and responses to reporters. A press release was sent about the 2015 DV Counts and another will be sent about the 2015 LAP Report. Michaele Cohen was interviewed for the WJLA-Channel 7 news and spoke about domestic violence homicides and resources for victims. She has also responded to questions from reporters about legislative issues. Additionally, she spoke to a reporter from Univision about homicides and resources. There have been particular questions about the high number of domestic violence homicides in Prince George's County.
 - The MNADV continued to communicate with SAMS, the group hired by GOCCP to do a VOCA needs assessment. This included a survey to providers.
 - It was noted that there was no update on a new GOCCP executive director, but it was also noted that there are some changes happening at DHR.

■ FY 2015 Audit Presentation – Michele Mills, Draper and McGinley

- Michele Mills presented a PowerPoint on the FY 2015 audit with financial highlights. The audit included a Single Audit (formerly known as an A-133) because the MNADV has federal grant expenditures over \$500,000.
- The MNADV received a “clean audit opinion” also known as an “unmodified opinion.” There were no “findings” of any kind in this year’s audit.
- MNADV assets were \$375,942, a decrease over FY 2014. However, 65% of these assets were cash. MNADV liabilities were \$132,324, also a decrease from FY 2014. Of this, 50% were accrued expenses. The total net assets of \$243,618 were an increase of \$3,305 over FY 2014.
- Temporarily restricted net assets were \$5,007. Wireless Funds used for expenses in FY 2015 were only \$2,760, leaving a balance of \$21,254. Other restricted funds included small amounts of money from Allstate, Verizon, and Project Connect.
- Total revenues were \$1,490,894, a small decrease over FY 2014. 89% of these revenues were government grants (\$1,325,966); 5% (\$81,823) were contributions; and 6% (\$83,105) were other funds (including a large portion of language line revenue).
- Total expenses were \$1,487,589, also a small decrease over FY 2014. 91% was for program services; 9% went to support services (administration and fundraising). These percentages are very good.
- The MNADV ended the fiscal year in the black by \$3,305.
- The Single Audit addressed total federal expenditures of \$1,325,967, of which \$795,241 was tested. The OVW-TA LAP grant was the largest program. There were no material weaknesses in internal controls and no instances of non-compliance.
- The SAS letter to the Board noted no significant changes in policies or percentages from OVW or HHS. There were no audit adjustments or disagreements. The letter was signed by Michael Cohen, Amy Johnson, and Jo-Anne Williams-Barnes. The Board was reminded that the letter to the Board is an *internal document only*.
- Michele Mills noted that the staff was well-prepared and kept excellent records, especially the grant notebooks.
- Changes under the “Uniform Guidance” next year include a new threshold of \$750,000 for federal expenditures. “Vendors” are now called “contractors.” Vendors provide goods and services; contractors or sub-recipients require monitoring. Personally-identifying information must be confidential and safe-guarded. The status of auditee corrective action plans and a summary schedule of prior year findings related to the financial statements will have to be included. The schedule of federal awards will now include pass-through funds to sub-recipients. There will also be a new format. The Note disclosures include: the basis of the presentation, summary of significant accounting policies (cost principles), and federal loan programs. If there is a 10% cost rate applied to grants that will also have to be addressed.
- The Board was impressed with the process.

■ **MNADV Domestic Violence Conference** - Erin Boguski

- **Sponsorships** include \$2,500 from Kaiser Permanente, a grant from OVC that will save \$1,300 (they will pay the keynoter's expenses directly), and other exhibitors and sponsors for a total so far of \$5,500.
- **Registration** - currently only 11 people have registered, so the next focus will be on promoting registrations. The conference information needs to be forwarded to allied professionals. The conference capacity is 300; attendance at the last conference was 263. The goal is for this conference to attract at least 200 participants. The conference information is available on the main page of the MNADV website. Workshop descriptions and presenters are on the website.
- Social work CEUs and Police and Correctional in-service training credits will be available.

Board Action Items:

- Solicit additional sponsors and exhibitors.
- Promote registrations by contacting people through e-mail, fliers, and personal connections; follow-up with contacts
- Review the information on the website and direct others to it.

■ **Executive Directors' Group** - Inga James

- Inga James reported that the group will have its first meeting in May and will probably meet quarterly after that.
- Six programs have responded so far, including the Mid-Shore Council, HopeWorks, Family and Children's Services, DVRP, Prince George's Family Crisis Center, and the Dove Center – in addition to Heartly House.
- The discussion topics will be determined at the first meeting.
- The MNADV has also created a listserv which executive directors can use to communicate.
- The MNADV is very supportive of this effort. Past groups have not been successful, and Inga's leadership is very important.

■ **Financial Development and Financial Oversight**

■ **MSAA 7K Run/Walk** - Suzanne Bailey

- It was noted that Prince George's County is also having a run earlier in the month.
- The committee has a scheduled conference call on March 18.
- Awards for different kinds of teams have been suggested. Signs are also being considered.
- A donation has been pledged from Wegmans; donations have been solicited from Giant and Kind bars.
- There will be T-shirts and a packet for runners.
- MSAA has many volunteers.
- Shirley Schreffler and Suzanne Bailey are coordinating with people who are interested in forming teams. A group of ReAnna Green's friends will be participating. A question was asked about whether it would be possible for people to register to join a team through the registration portal.

Board Action Items:

- Solicit teams and individual participants.
- Publicize the event, including the virtual run. Promote registrations by contacting people through e-mail, fliers, and personal connections.

■ **Grant Applications**

- FVPSA and OVW-TA LAP submitted.
- VAWA Coalition Set-Aside expected out in mid-March and due in April.
- VAWA STOP NOFAs are expected out in mid-April; VOCA grants will follow.
- The draft FY 2017 budget currently includes 3% increases for staff. The MNADV is anticipating receiving enough funding to cover these increases.
- A question was asked about the current rate of inflation; it is very low - 1.4%

■ **Fun with Technology**

- The staff reported on the recent hacking of the telephones through the MNADV voicemail system. An unauthorized long-distance call was made to Cuba. The telephone system provider has now improved the security of the system and voicemail codes have been changed.
- The MNADV credit card was hacked on Black Friday (November 2015). The MNADV received an alert and the credit card was replaced.
- The executive director's computer was used to view porn and fight videos on a Friday evening. The situation was reported to BECO as a cleaning person was suspected because of the nature and time of the intrusion. Staff were reminded to lock their computers when leaving their offices.

■ **2016 Legislation and Legislative Advocacy – Cynthia Lifson**

■ **Priority bills**

- *HB 155/SB 278 – Criminal Law – Stalking and Harassment*
- *HB 314/SB 346 – Peace Orders – Ground for Divorce*
- Both bills have passed the House and Senate and have crossed over to the opposite chamber.
- Cynthia attributed our advocacy effectiveness this year to the role of the MNADV Legislative Committee and collaboration work with key partners.

■ **Other bills**

- Cynthia has reviewed and tracked over 50 bills this session.
- *HB 534/SB 924 – Family Law – Protective Orders – Notification of Sunset Repeal* has passed both the House and Senate. This bill allows continued notification of petitioners of protective order service.
- *HB 1091/SB 437 – Criminal Law – Committing a Crime of Violence in the Presence of a Minor – Repeal of Residence Requirement* received an unfavorable report in the Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee.
- *HB 1371 – Criminal Law – Assault in the First Degree – Strangulation – Lethality Screening Protocol and Training* (Delegate Folden, Frederick County). The MNADV submitted substantial written testimony that included recommendations for changing the language (it was not correctly drafted). Specifically including strangulation in first degree assault was the original intent of the bill. The other

- piece in the bill included having the Maryland Police and Correctional Training Commission create a lethality screening protocol and training. At the hearing, the first degree assault section was deleted, but the lethality screening protocol and training remained. The State's Attorneys' Association took no position on this bill. There was no coordination with the LAP currently implemented in Frederick County. Inga James noted that a Frederick County team went to a strangulation conference in San Diego, but she also noted that the LAP should be known by the legislative promoters.
- **HB 1396/SB 960 – *Education and Definition of Abuse*** (Delegate Angel). This bill would add malicious destruction of property and harassment to the protective order and domestic violence training to the school curriculum. Delegate Angel is an impassioned and eloquent advocate for her bill. Linda Thomas from Prince George's County was also a very effective witness. The MNADV supported this bill but recommended an amendment to have the definitions mirror the language in the criminal code.
 - **HB 866/SB 833 – *Civil Right to Counsel – Domestic Violence – Pilot Program***. The pilots were planned for Harford and Prince George's counties. However, four senators from those counties said they didn't know about it. The purpose of the bill would be to provide low-income people with an attorney in protective order hearings. There was no date in the bill for the end of the pilots. Many questions were asked during the hearing, and there was a need for all of the parties to coordinate better. Interim session preparation may be necessary.
 - **HB 1232/SB 978 – *Child Custody – Legal Decision Making and Parenting Time***. This bill came out of the Custody Commission. The bill would reduce confusion and provide a comprehensive law listing relevant factors to be considered in custody decisions. The opposition is supporting **HB 1386/SB 962 – *Child Custody – Rebuttable Presumption of Joint Custody***, which assumes that joint legal and physical custody is the preferred arrangement for all families.
 - **SB 1047 – *Task Force to Study Deeds for Victims of Domestic Violence***. Deeds are recorded in public land records (property law). Concerns have been raised regarding confidentiality for domestic violence victims who do not want the location of their new residences to be discovered by their abusers. This bill is being championed by the state's Safe at Home Address Confidentiality Program. The MNADV recommended having a domestic violence advocate on the Task Force.
 - **HB 703 – *Public Safety – Firearms Disqualifications – Antique Firearm***. The MNADV is supporting this bill.
 - **HB 1480 – *Background Check Accountability Act***. The MNADV's supports the concept of notice.
 - **HB 1001/SB 943 – *Criminal Procedure – Firearms Transfer***. Laurie Duker reported on this bill, which is part of the leadership package that also includes other firearms bills. The bill provides a mechanism for the surrender of firearms by convicted offenders. The NRA did not oppose this bill. The MNADV sent out a legislative alert about this legislation.
 - **Expungement bills**. There are many expungement bills this year, and the MNADV opposes all of them. Many people are concerned about internet access

to this information, but confuse “shielding” with “expungement.” Special concerns have been directed to cases that are nolle prossed and dismissed.

■ **Awareness Activities**

■ **Press Releases**

- 2015 DV Counts – a press release was sent out about this year’s results.
- A press release will be sent about the 2015 LAP Report.

■ **Homicides**

- There has been a lot of concern about the large number of domestic violence homicides in Prince George's County, including four within the week. Karalyn Mulligan reported that the county is working on recommendations re: murder-suicides and children who witness domestic violence. There will be a press conference next Friday (a week after the MNADV Board meeting).
- Court Watch Montgomery has documented 480 domestic violence victims killed by guns since 2000 and is collecting photos of the victims.

■ **Announcements**

■ **Federal legislative advocacy**

- The MNADV sent letters to the Maryland Congressional delegation asking for FVPSA, VAWA and VOCA funding. An alert was also forwarded from NNEDV to domestic violence programs asking them to also contact their legislators.
- NNEDV Forum and Advocacy Day
 - The Forum on June 7, 2016 costs \$195, but Advocacy Day is free.
 - Advocacy Day is June 8, 2016 and includes visits with Congressional staff.
 - Inga James indicated that her staff member, Nina Carr, is interested. Laurie Duker and Kelley Rainey also expressed interest.
 - Michael Cohen is seeking to have a group that is geographically diverse and represents different areas of domestic violence expertise and experience. Survivors are also welcome.

■ **Executive Session**

- Carroll County Arts Council – Arts Center – presenting *Escalation* from the One Love Foundation, Wednesday, April 20, 2016, 6:30 pm.

The next MNADV Board of Directors Meeting will be
Friday, April 8, 2016
10:00 am - 12:00 noon
MNADV Board Room
4601 Presidents Drive Suite 370, Lanham, MD 20706