



**Monroe County Domestic Violence Coalition  
Meeting Minutes  
October 20, 2017**

**Mission:** The Monroe County Domestic Violence Coalition is committed to improving our community's response to domestic violence issues through communication and coordination of services.

**Attending:** Gustavo Jimenez (Protective Order Project), Michelle Gregory (H. Michelle Gregory LLC), Evelyn Smith (MWH), Pamela Sojka (MWH), Heather Davis (MWH), Precious McMillion (Office for Sexual Prevention and Victim Advocacy), Sally Thomas (IU), Stephanie Walker (POAP), Sam Harrell (MWH), Darian Bright Stokes (MWH), Chris Gaal (Prosecutor), Naomi Long (MWH/POAP), Debra Morrow (MWH), Kendra Lanier (Connect2Help211), Alison Bishay (POAP), April Wilson (Prosecutor's Office)

**City Staff:** Morgan Wells (Office of the Mayor), Ryan Ricker (CFRD), Michael Shermis (CFRD)

**I. Introductions**

A. Brief introductions were provided.

**II. LGBTQ Interventions and Barriers, Evelyn Smith**

A. Gender

1. Differences between gender and sex
  - a) Gender: person's relationship to societal understanding
  - b) Sex: biological (genitals, chromosomes, hormones, reproductive capacity)
2. Stereotypes
  - a) Lesbians are manish and Gay men are feminine
  - b) Keep these in mind how these stereotypes impact you
3. Gender and sexuality
  - a) Gender is separate from sexuality
4. Transgender
  - a) Gender expression may vary
5. Terminology
  - a) Terminology changes for every community
  - b) Cultural competency is not something you can achieve by memorizing a set of words, but learning how to learn.
    - (1) Ask questions and be respectful

- c) Definitions handout
  - (1) Highlight cisgender, queer
- d) Pronouns
  - (1) His, he
  - (2) She, her, her's
  - (3) They, Their, Theirs (Gender neutral)
  - (4) Inappropriate to ask someone "What do I call you?", but it is a good idea to put a place on forms or on nametags
  - (5) If you recognize that people may shift pronouns or names, it may be a safety issue (they feel same using their preferred with you) so be aware

B. Power and control wheel

- 1. What people may use at a micro level to assert control or power in a relationship
  - a) LGBTQ specific
    - (1) Isolation: may not have close contact with family or small community, very common abuse tactic in LGBTQ
    - (2) HIV

C. Domestic and Sexual Violence Against Queer/LGBTQ People

- 1. People who interact with men face more violence
- 2. Transgender intimate violence is over 50%
  - a) Seeking services are seen as not safe (stats back this up)

D. Organization audit

- 1. Use the audit provided to evaluate your organization's LGBTQ inclusion

E. Strategies

- 1. Many services are gender based, so be sure to pay close attention to dynamics of abuse instead of a script
- 2. Bring LGBTQ people into your agency to make change in your institution
- 3. Ask what services would be a good fit for them, especially for non-binary people
- 4. LGBTQ people are more likely to face higher anxiety, depression and drug use due to stress, so make mental health services available
- 5. Make trauma informed and sensitive services available

F. Questions

- 1. Feel free to reach out to Evelyn with any questions
  - a) (270) 314-9451, evelyn@middlewayhouse.org

**III. Conference Planning Update**, Sam Harrell and Stephanie Walker

A. Met on Monday to review submissions

- 1. Notifying people that were selected now, have until October 27th to confirm and then the list of presenters will be shared

**IV. Staff Update**

A. Michael Shermis

- 1. No updates

**V. Information Sharing**

- A. Chris Gaal
  - 1. Strangulation training open to community first responders
  - 2. Tuesday, November 14, 9a.m. to 1p.m., Wegmiller Auditorium, IU Health Bloomington Hospital
- B. Kendra Lanier (Connect2Help 211)
  - 1. They have updated their cards to be bilingual so reach out if you would like cards
- C. Middle Way House
  - 1. Conflict and Abuse: What is the Difference?
    - a) October 24th, 7pm-8:30, Monroe County Public library room 2A, free and open to the public
  - 2. Queer Talk
    - a) First Wednesdays of the month in the Monroe County Library
      - (1) Talks about
      - (2) Reach out to Evelyn if you would like a poster

**Next Meeting:**

*12 p.m., November 17, 2017, McClosky Room, City Hall*

Guest Speaker: Tebogo (Tebby) Kaisara, Indiana Youth Services and Indiana Human Trafficking Victims Program

Topic: Labor Trafficking