



**Monroe County Domestic Violence Coalition
Meeting Minutes
January 19, 2017**

- I. **Attending:** Heather Davis (MWH), Sam Harrell (MWH), Kendra Lanier (Connect 211), Ketelyn Lipa (MWH), Naomi Long (MWH), Debra Morrow (MWH), Julie Robertson (Monroe County Probation), Stephanie Waller (MWH), April Wilson (Monroe County Prosecution), Gustavo Jimenez (POP), Greg Lewis (Kinsey Institute), Darian Bright-Stokes (MWH), Carmen Wedding (MWH), Jacek Kolacz (Kinsey Institute), Becky Rose (MCCSC)

City Staff: Michael Shermis, Anthony Christian

II. **Guest Speaker Presentation**

Guest Speaker: Greg Lewis, Kinsey Institute

Topic: Trauma on the Brain-Body System

The Kinsey- Institute is looking to bring together care providers, researchers, and trauma survivors into the Traumatic Stress Research Consortium. This movement is being led by Stephen Porges, who is working on the polyvagal theory. This experiment explores many sciences, such as psychology, psychophysiology, biology, etc. Deb Dana, who is the clinical coordinator, is the one organizing all the points of contact.

The approach is to document personal trajectory of survivors, expand knowledge of trauma's impact, be it through health: sexual, physical, mental, and the mechanisms it affects: neurophysiological, psychological, and psychosocial.

The experiments will look closely at how trauma impacts how survivors continue to neurophysiologically regulate themselves.

A layperson's explanation is our brain regulates our heart rate. Our heart would continue to beat, however it would likely accelerate in terms of rate. Our heart rate has an influence on everything in our body. We have three states of response to situations. They are socially communicative, mobilization, and freezing or feigning death. Heart rate and these states are intricately tied. People who have undergone trauma may have problems transition from one state to another when appropriate, or may even be stuck in one state.

This experiment continues to look for subjects, and as the number of subjects increases, the location of where and how data is collected will change. It is currently done at the lab in Morrison Hall and is going to transition to a larger lab that can analyze more subjects, and will eventually move to the Internet in order to gather the most data.

With this data, they can reverse engineer treatments for trauma survivors, and help create more specified plans.

Monroe County Domestic Violence Coalition

City Hall · 401 N. Morton St., Suite 260 · Bloomington, IN 47404

www.bloomington.in · www.facebook.com/mcdrvcoalition · shermism@bloomington.in.gov



Questions:

As far as legal aspects go, could this be used to prove that someone has actually been traumatized?

It could be used to prove individuals feel traumatized. Experiment results and studies may not meet certain legal definitions.

The tech that's going into the camera using biological markers – is this being created as you go or has it been used elsewhere?

There was prototype used before this. Many entities are interested in using this technology to study biological markers, such as Homeland Security.

How can we stay informed and up-to-date with the progress of the experiment?

Business cards are available. There is also a listserv available. The website is currently under construction.

What steps are being taken to get victims' trust in order to be studied and recorded?

We are using clinics to appeal to subjects. These people have already developed a sense of trust with their current treatment providers, and have been the ones to reach out.

III. Conference Planning Update

Committee report—Sam Harrell/Stephanie Waller

- A. Volunteers are still needed. Tasks have been listed. Please sign up for them. The most common position are room monitors, who introduce speakers, answer questions, etc.
- B. Please advertise the Conference as much as you can, through Facebook, listservs, and other avenues. While there have been monies received, they are still trying to meet or be under budget.
- C. Falafels will be the catering for lunch.
- D. The Committee is proud of the accessibility measures they have taken to make registration reach as many people as possible.
- E. Registration and program/schedule is available at <http://bloomington.in.gov/dvc>

IV. Staff Update (5 minutes)

- A. Stats Booklet
Distributed at the meeting and will be sent out electronically. If there are errors or if your organization wants something added or changed, please contact Michael. This is the penultimate draft.
- B. Please send speaker recommendations to Michael.

V. Information Sharing

- A. Middle Way House received a Community Foundation Grant with which they will be hiring a part-time Prevention Specialist whose area of focus will be elementary-aged children.

Monroe County Domestic Violence Coalition

City Hall · 401 N. Morton St., Suite 260 · Bloomington, IN 47404

www.bloomington.in · www.facebook.com/mcdvcoalition · shermism@bloomington.in.gov



- B. Connect2Help 2-1-1 gave out information sheets with statistics on their service usage for Monroe County.

Next Meetings:

12. p.m., February 16, 2018, McCloskey Room, City Hall

Guest Speaker: TBD

Topic: TBD

Monroe County Domestic Violence Coalition

City Hall · 401 N. Morton St., Suite 260 · Bloomington, IN 47404

www.bloomington.in · www.facebook.com/mcdvcoalition · shermism@bloomington.in.gov