



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

- I. **Attending:** Victoria Barnhill (POAP), Heather Davis (MWH), Pam Gladish (BPD), Michelle Gregory (Attorney), Sam Harrell (MWH), Kendra Laier (Connect 211), Naomi Long (MWH), Debra Morrow (MWH), Julie Roberston (Probation), Pamela Sojker (MWH), Stephanie Waller (MWH), April Wilson (Prosecutor), Tracey Louis (IU Health Bloomington SANE), Sarah Carnes (Bloomington Police).

**City Staff:** Michael Shermis, Ryan Ricker

II. **Guest Speaker Presentation**

Guest Speaker: Joshua Radicke

Topic: Sex Crimes Prosecution of Adult Perpetrators

Joshua Radicke is the Sex Crimes Deputy Prosecutor for Monroe County. His position is grant-funded and only handles cases in Monroe County. Radicke reviews reports and makes charging decisions on adult sex crimes.

Sex crimes are things such as rape, sexual battery, sexual misconduct, child molestation, and child pornography. Radicke asked the Coalition, "how do you define rape?" Answers included non-consensual and forceful. Radicke brought up the criminal law definition, explaining that the words "non-consensual" are not mentioned in it. Sexual battery was defined as groping or touching in a sexual manner, with intent for sexual purposes. The statute includes specifics areas that if touched are considered sexual battery. A Coalition member pointed out that this is a gendered statute, and asked how would the law work if, for example, a trans woman was touched on the breast while unconscious? Radicke explained that the prosecutor would charge but the outcome generally depends on the jury.

There are several things that are considered "non-crimes." These are things that are legally not a crime, and the prosecutor cannot file charges on, however, that does not make them okay. Non-crimes include: 1.) sexual coercion, and 2.) Non-consensual, aware, mentally able, but non-forceful. Sexual coercion is threatening someone with some kind of non-physical pressure, such as threatening to leave their partner. The second category (an event that is non-consensual but non-forceful, and the victim is aware and mentally able) generally becomes a B Misdemeanor Battery charge.

In order to understand the scope of this problem, Radicke used a 2015 survey from Indiana University. In 2015, 17% of undergraduate women experienced an attempted or completed non-consensual sexual penetration. 23% of these events occurred on campus, 23% occurred at a fraternity or sorority, and the rest occurred off campus. Victims are most likely to go to a friend, romantic partner, or family for help. They are least likely to talk to campus official, police, or even anyone at all. Male victims are incredibly unlikely to tell anyone, especially police and campus officials.

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One of the biggest issues Radicke faces is that sexual violence and domestic violence can co-occur. When they co-occur, issues such as victim safety and public perception of the crime come into play. Victim cooperation can be especially difficult in domestic violence cases. A problem that arises in cases that involve both domestic violence and child abuse, is the intervention of DCS. This is a critical intervention for the safety of the child, however taking away their child can be seen as punishment for the victim.

When a sex crimes occurs, the Law Enforcement Agency will first investigate, and if appropriate refer the case to the prosecutor. The prosecutor will then decide what charges to file, consult the victim, and prosecute the case. The prosecutor does not act as the victim's attorney and therefore there is no confidentiality. There is no standard formula when it comes to charging a case. The only reasons charges would not be filed is a lack of sufficient evidence or victim preferences.

**Questions:**

**Is your work primarily sexual assault with adults or children?**

Mostly adults (aged 11 years or older), hardly ever have children under 11. The adult population is most commonly the 14-19 age range, especially students.

**What circumstances would an arrest without a warrant occur?**

This happens for cases that are the most violent or terrible, especially if a weapon is used. Occurs generally when the suspect poses a great risk to the community.

**What happens when a no contact order is broken?**

This depends on how bad of a breach it was and the ability to prove the nature of the contact. If it occurs, you should first contact law enforcement and make a report, and then contact the prosecutor as soon as possible.

**III. Conference Planning Update**

Committee report—Sam Harrell/Stephanie Waller

- A. If anyone would like to volunteer, email or talk to Stephanie. It will mostly be room monitoring, which includes introducing speakers, answer questions, etc. Volunteers still need to register for the Conference.
- B. Numbers are looking good but the more people the better. Please advertise the Conference as much as you can, through Facebook, listservs, and other avenues.
- C. The Committee is also considering advertising each individual workshop. Michael has materials for this and will send them to Sam and Stephanie.
- D. The location for the conference is great and very accessible. The Committee wants to make the Conference as accessible as possible. There is a suggestion box on the registration form for this.
- E. Michael is still looking for volunteers for PSAs. Volunteers read off the script and can take as many tries as needed. Recording takes place every Wednesday, and volunteers are especially needed for March 14<sup>th</sup>.

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**IV. Staff Update (5 minutes)**

A. Stats Booklet

Booklets were distributed at the meeting. This is not the final version. There are some issues with the graphics that need to be fixed.

B. Let Michael know how many booklets you would like.

C. A notes section has been added to the back of the booklet.

**V. Information Sharing**

- A. Sam Harrell shared a story from working with students at North. They were discussing lethality indicators and one student brought up the recent school shooting incident and made the connection to LINK violence. It was interesting to see students make these connections on their own and begin to think more about various types of domestic violence, LINK violence, etc.

**Next Meetings:**

**8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m., March 22, 2018, St. Mark's United Methodist Church**  
2018 Spring Conference

**12 p.m., April 20, 2018, McCloskey Conference Room, City Hall**  
Guest Speaker: TBD  
Topic: TBD

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