



**Monroe County Domestic Violence Coalition  
Meeting Minutes  
January 18, 2019**

**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:** Tia Arthur (CASA), Jean Capler (RHI Resource Facilitation), Pam Gladish (BPD), Selina Hardt (MWH), Harry Heyer (BIP Provider), Brittany Lawrence (DCS), Debra Morrow (MWH), Erika Oliphant (MCPO), Julie Robertson (Probation), Tina Smith (Trinity), Ron Smith (Indianapolis Counseling Center), Liz Stauth (Anthem), Jennifer Whitaker (Centerstone), Arin Pritchard (Work One), Elijah Britton (IU), Sally Thomas (IU), Julia Adams (IU, CASA), Hannah Jones (MCPO), Becky Sharon (MCPO), Charlotte William (Susie's Place), Lindsey Badger (MWH), Madeleine Winter (MWH)

**City Staff:** Morgan Allen (OOTM), Michael Shermis (CFRD), Danya Tabesh (CFRD)

**I. Introductions**

A. Brief introductions

**II. How Abusers Use the Civil Legal Process to Perpetuate Abuse- Diane Walker**

A. Ways abusers abuse the civil legal system

1. Department of Child Services reports
2. Filing a restraining order against the survivor
3. Call the police on the survivor
4. Denying paternity and requiring paternity test
5. Not paying child support, quitting jobs, etc
  - a) If financial resources are depleted then that could give the abuser more time to talk the survivor into coming back
6. Threatening custody of children
  - a) If they gain custody then they could cut communication
7. Survivor portrayal
  - a) Promiscuous,
8. Not keeping to established custody agreement
  - a) Schedule

B. Resources

1. Diane shared a sheet of free or low cost legal help in the area

2. Julie Boyd Cole wrote a book on how to co-parent with an abusive ex
  - a) Get an attorney
  - b) Document everything
  - c) Know the law
3. District 10 Pro Bono Project- Counsel in Court
  - a) Can talk to an attorney and do paperwork
  - b) Unlimited
4. How to Co-parent with a Toxic Ex- book by Amy Baker

### C. Examples

1. Not paying support
  - a) DV survivors can file for child support through the Prosecutor's 4D Office even without divorce
2. Threatening custody
  - a) Within 2 years of a domestic violence conviction parenting time is supposed to be supervised
    - (1) Supervision is \$65/hour
    - (2) Recommend having someone in mind and bring them to court
  - b) Abuse can be proved with...
    - (1) Police reports
    - (2) Medical records
    - (3) Public testimony
    - (4) Cell phone data
      - (a) Indiana is a one party consent state
    - (5) Calendars
    - (6) Journals
  - c) Mediation
    - (1) Court can order mediation
    - (2) Mediation can be great, because the abuser and survivor are in separate rooms and can make very specific agreements
      - (a) IU Legal Services uses a screening process for DV cases
3. Questions
  - a) How does being pregnant play into
    - (1) The court won't grant a divorce until the child is born
    - (2) Prosecutor's 4D Office won't grant child support until the child is born
  - b) Are advocate notes helpful in court?
    - (1) Absolutely, so is your presence in the courtroom if possible
  - c) Is reassessment an option once kids get older? What resources do the children have available for them? How can they gain say in what happens to them?

- (1) Children over the age of 14 can have a say where they want to live
  - (2) Judges will sometimes take kids back into chambers for a private discussion
  - (3) Kids should talk to their parent directly or they can call the police
4. Wrap up
    - a) Email any questions to Diane
    - b) Diane provided a page of free or lower-cost legal help and a packet on recognizing and stopping abuse through the legal system that Michael will share

### III. Staff update

- A. What else can the coalition do?
  1. Bring questions about cases to pose to the group
  2. Get to know allies in the room
  3. Coalition member resource list
  4. Open discussion about ongoing issues we are facing in the community
    - a) Would need someone to facilitate conversation

### IV. Information sharing

- A. Liz Stauth - Anthem Blue Cross Blue Shield
  1. Managed care entity (MCE) that covers 24 counties and can help with a variety of issues
    - a) Substance use treatment
    - b) Work placement
    - c) Homelessness resources
    - d) Free tutoring for children in foster care
  2. Email Liz at [liz.stauth@anthem.com](mailto:liz.stauth@anthem.com) for more information or assistance with a client
- B. Monroe County Health Department is working on finding an artist with lived experience do to a mural for Recovery Month (September)
  1. Send anyone interested to Jennifer Whitaker at [jennifer.whitaker@centerstone.org](mailto:jennifer.whitaker@centerstone.org)
- C. Jean Capler is available to train your staff on brain injuries in DV
  1. Give her a call at 812.325.0885
- D. Southern Indiana Physicans will be hosting a conference on adverse childhood experiences April 12-13
  1. If you are interested in presenting or setting up a table, email [mballe@iuhealth.org](mailto:mballe@iuhealth.org)
  2. Registration opens next week
- E. MWH/MCPL need young volunteers for summer programming
  1. Information will be published by MCPL next week
  2. Email Arin Pritchard for more details at [apritchard1@dwd.in.gov](mailto:apritchard1@dwd.in.gov)
- F. Indiana Department of Workforce Development

1. Transitioned from unemployment resource center to a career resource center
2. Free/low cost training is available for their in demand occupation list

**Next Meetings:**

**February 15, 2019, McCloskey Room, 12-1pm**

Guest Speaker: Elizabeth Bullock, Indiana Department of Child Services

Topic: Domestic Violence and Child Welfare

**March 15, 2019, McCloskey Room, 12-1pm**

Guest Speaker: Stephanie Waller, Middle Way House

Topic: Domestic Violence in the LGBTQ+ Community

**April 19, 2019, McCloskey Room, 12-1pm**

Guest Speaker: Christie Popp, Popp & Bullman, Attorneys-at-Law

Topic: Domestic Violence and Immigration Law