



**Monroe County Domestic Violence Coalition
Meeting Minutes
April 12, 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: Andrea Bennett (BIP Provider), Rachel Burnworth (DCS), Andrew Chandler (Monroe County Probation Department), Heather Davis (MWH), Yah-Yeplah Dolo-Barbu (District 10 Probono), Pam Gladish (BPD), Erika Killian (POP), Lizzy GcGrevy (IN 211 Partnership), Diane Walker (District 10 Probono),

City Staff: Michael Shermis (CFRD), Danya Tabesh (CFRD)

I. Introductions

A. Brief introductions

II. Domestic Violence and Immigration Law- Christie Popp, Popp & Bullman, Attorneys-at-Law

A. Benefits for survivors

1. Violence Against Women Act Self Petition
 - i. Survivors of abuse can petition for themselves to obtain green card
 - ii. Processing time has increased from 9 months to 2 years
2. U Visa
 - i. For crime victims
 - ii. Must cooperate with law enforcement to be eligible for lawful status in U.S.
 - iii. No relationship with citizen required
 - iv. Processing time is 4 years, which has been difficult to change under current administration
 - v. Only give out 10,000 of these visas per year
 - vi. Once approved, the waitlist is 5 years and can still be deported while waiting because status is only temporary
3. Trafficking Visa (T Visa)
 - i. Labor/sex trafficking victims
 - ii. Same requirements as U Visa

- iii. Processing time is 1 year
 - 4. Waiver of the Joint Petition Requirement
 - i. File form called I751
 - ii. Allows immigrant to apply for permanent US green card themselves if they prove subjected to battery
 - iii. Processing time is 1.5 years
- B. Updates on changes to immigration law
 - 1. Increase of processing times
 - 2. Fee waiver issues
 - i. Used to be a waiver for filing fees, which are over \$1000, until last summer immigration started denying them
 - 3. More denials
 - i. Due to current political climate
 - ii. Has led to harder cases and more stressed clients for the firm
 - 4. Started November 2018, whenever an immigrant is denied benefits, they are sent directly to the first step of deportation
 - 5. Reinstated ICE hold system
 - i. If put in jail, ICE can request to hold that person in jail for 48 hours after they were allowed to be released so that ICE can come get them
 - ii. This is a current issue in Bloomington that Christie Popp has been dealing with for 2 years
 - 6. Protections of survivors in immigration court
 - i. ICE no longer has discretion to not put people in deportation proceedings
 - ii. Judges can no longer close cases once immigrant can apply for benefits
 - iii. Immigration judges have case quotas they must satisfy
- C. Questions
 - 1. Are there that many immigrants in Bloomington to keep you busy?
 - i. Clientele does not only come from Bloomington, some are from the University as well, and other places
 - ii. 100s-1000s of undocumented immigrants in Bloomington from everywhere
 - 2. More about the I751 form?
 - i. Green card application takes 2 years, but if marriage breaks down during those 2 years, then this form assists immigrants

III. Staff Update

- A. January through June 2018 DVC Statistics Booklets are ready, please contact Michael if you are interested in obtaining multiple copies

IV. Information sharing

- A. Possibility of starting a "My Story" section for survivors to share their stories

- B. Middle Way House's next event is today, a de-stress zone for Little 500 at People's Park from 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Next Meetings:

May 17, 2019, McCloskey Room, 12-1pm

Guest Speaker: Brad Swain, Monroe County Sheriff

Topic: Domestic Violence, Protective Orders and Guns

June 21, 2019, McCloskey Room, 12-1pm

Guest Speaker: Stephanie Waller

Topic: Domestic Violence and the LGBTQ+ Community

July 19, 2019, McCloskey Room, City Hall, 12-1pm

Guest Speaker: Catherine Stafford, Judge, Monroe County Circuit Court, Division IV

Topic: Domestic Violence and the Courtroom