



**Monroe County Domestic Violence Coalition
Meeting Minutes
February 21, 2020**

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: Daniel Alcantar, Tia Arthur, Judie Benckart, Audrey Brittinchar, Heather Davis, Chaz Lig Daviz, Christopher DeYoung, Stephanie Figueroa, Pam Gladdish, Julie Gerstor, Lizzy Hinderhill. Lizzy McGrey, Kim Morris, Debra Morrow, Apple Muncy, Becky Rose, Catherine Stafford,

City Staff: Michael Shermis (CFRD), Rachell Pena (CFRD)

I. Introductions

- A. Middle Way House**
- B. Centerstone**
- C. CASA**
- D. Monroe County Probation**
- E. DCS**
- F. Judge Circuit 8**
- G. Protective Order Project**
- H. Monroe County Clerk**
- I. MCCSC**
- J. Court IV**
- K.**

II. NAME of SPEAKER: Becky Rose, Director of Student Services

Topic: Choosing Silence and Being Silenced: impact of domestic violence on families

- Barriers in making disclosure (child or survivors)
 - Family secrecy (e.g. "they were the perfect family")

- Ramifications (e.g. physical discipline/abuse, parent going to jail, embarrassment)
- Lack of trust due to negative experiences
- Parentified role (to protect parent/sibling)
- Barriers after disclosure and DCS intervention
 - Documentation- only know what's been reported and documented (with details!)
 - LEA/DCS reports (including Unsubstantiated reports)
 - Extent of DV history
 - 310 – Details from report source and accuracy from hotline worker.
 - Protocols/release of information
 - Recant (child/parent)
 - All play a role in determining the decision to substantiate a report and/or take further action to offer services.
 - Children who are exposed to domestic violence are more likely to experience:
 - Childhood behavioral, emotional and social problems;
 - Cognitive and attitude problems; and
 - Long-term problems such as higher levels of adult depression and trauma.
 - → Every CA/N report is screened for the presence of domestic violence. <https://www.in.gov/dcs/2971.htm>.
 - An assessment involving domestic **violence does not always warrant an automatic removal** to ensure the safety of the child. Domestic violence **does not always constitute exigent circumstances** to interview child first without first seeking parental consent. (Chapter 4.5)
 - Domestic Violence Assessment
 - Child abuse and neglect (CA/N) may increase the risk to the child and other family members when domestic violence is present. It is important to consider how the assessment process will affect the safety of all involved and take action as outlined in chapter 4.3.
 - The primary focus of DCS is to protect the child and family members.

III. Staff Update

Stats booklet → New statistics are open!

IV. Information Sharing

- MCDVC 2020 Spring Conference
 - Thursday, April 2nd, 2020 at 8am-4:30pm
 - St. Mark's United Methodist Church
 - Volunteer opportunities still open!
- No meeting in March!

- Next meeting is on April 17th, 2020 at 12:00pm.
- Middleway house
 - Spring luncheon April 9th, tickets are available online
 - Fern sale, available on their website