



**Monroe County Domestic Violence Coalition
Meeting Minutes
May 15, 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:

Andrea Bennett, Lindsey Badger, Lizzy McGrevy, Judge Catherine Stafford, Christopher DeYoung, Grace Landry, Elaine Banter, Carrie Stillions, Jennifer Whitaker, Debra Morrow, Charlotte Willian, Liz Stauth, Pam Gladishp, Shannon Bowman-Sarkisian

City Staff: Michael Shermis (CFRD), Marissa Parr-Scott (CFRD)

I. Introductions

The following organizations were represented: Abuse Awareness and Accountability, Middle Way House, Monroe County Circuit Court, Susie's Place, Centerstone, Indiana 211 Partnership, Bloomington Police Department, Anthem Medicaid, Indiana Trafficking Victims Assistance Program (ITVAP), Monroe County Public Library

II. Guest Speaker

Shannon Bowman-Sarkisian – Senior Information Assistant, Monroe County Public Library

Shannon gave a presentation on CAVS (Creating Access for Violence Survivors), which is a program that was created to help remove the barriers that violence survivors often experience in terms of accessing library services, as well as to educate library staff on how they can best assist violence survivors.

Some of the barriers discussed for violence survivors include trouble accessing new library cards due to lack of a permanent address, or being currently enrolled

in the Indiana Address Confidentiality program. Violence survivors may also have large fines or fees with the library that they cannot afford to pay in order to return their account to good standing. Barriers for staff include the lack of training that would help them recognize signs of domestic violence and trauma, and teach them how to best assist these individuals.

CAVS has created solutions to these barriers by implementing new MCPL procedures for fines/fees, issuing an agency library card to Middle Way House, providing Domestic Violence 101 training to MCPL staff, creating an informational bookmark specifically for violence survivors, and purchasing tablets for Middle Way House and The Rise.

While there are several anticipated outcomes for both MCPL staff and the targeted audience, the most important is that the library will become a more trusted institution for support and resources among survivors of violence.

Shannon also shared that she will be taking her presentation to the Indiana Library Federation Conference in November, with the hope of spreading this programs to other libraries across the State.

To request some of the informational bookmarks, or for more information on CAVS, please contact Shannon Bowman-Sarkisian, 812-349-3050 ext. 2034 or sbowmans@mcpl.info.

III. Staff Updates

- Only one more set of stats needed for DVC booklet – it will be ready soon!
 - Michael will mail them out to organizations if we do not have an in-person meeting next month
- Conference discussion
 - How do we move forward?
 - Michael/Lindsey will create a poll to send to coalition members regarding both their preference for the conference format (in person, webinar series throughout the year, virtual one day conference, etc.) and their commitment to helping organize it.

IV. Information Sharing

- Judge Stafford shared that the Monroe County courts are planning to re-open June 1st for all hearings, including non-emergency
 - Judges are triaging their caseloads
 - Almost all civil hearings will be done via Zoom