

**STATE OF NEVADA COMMITTEE ON DOMESTIC VIOLENCE
(BATTERER'S TREATMENT CERTIFICATION COMMITTEE)**

RURAL ISSUES SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING

MINUTES

Thursday, October 20, 2011 at 9:30a.m.

Public Access: **Via Teleconference**
Office of the Attorney General
5420 Kietzke Lane, Suite 202
Reno, NV 89511

Please Note: The Committee on Domestic Violence may 1) address agenda items out of sequence to accommodate persons appearing before the Committee or to aid the efficiency or effectiveness of the meeting; 2) combine items for consideration by the public body; and 3) pull or remove items from the agenda at any time. The Committee may convene in closed session to consider the character, alleged misconduct, professional competence or physical or mental health of a person. (NRS 241.030)

Public comment is welcomed by the Committee, but at the discretion of the chair, may be limited to five minutes per person. A public comment time will be available before any action items are heard by the public body and then once again prior to adjournment of the meeting. The Chair may allow additional time to be given a speaker as time allows and in his/her sole discretion. Once all items on the agenda are completed the meeting will adjourn. Prior to the commencement and conclusions of a contested case or a quasi judicial proceeding that may affect the due process rights of an individual the board may refuse to consider public comment.

***Asterisks (*) denote items on which the Committee may take action.
Action by the Committee on an item may be to approve, deny, amend, or
table.***

1. Call to order, roll call of members, establish quorum.

<u>Members Present</u>	<u>Members Absent</u>	<u>Attorney General's Office</u>
Kareen Prentice		Jennifer Kandt, Admin.
Sue Meuschke		<u>Public</u>
Cheryl Hunt		Traci Dory
		John McCormick, AOC
		Walt Dimitroff

2. Public comment.

Note: No vote may be taken upon a matter raised under this item of the agenda until the matter itself has been specifically included on an agenda as an item upon which action may be taken. (NRS 241.020)

3. *Review, amend, and approve minutes of meetings.

a) July 26, 2011

Motion: Sue moved to approve. 2nd: Kareen

Vote: All in favor. Motion carried. Cheryl abstained.

4. *Discussion, recommendation, and possible action regarding submitted reports and information from John McCormick.

John stated that they were working on conviction numbers and having better disposition rates for FY2011, but stated that he did not have access to that information yet. He also stated that the Domestic Violence data was specialized and would not be included in the annual report. He said that he could request a data run, but needed to wait until after their annual report was finalized.

There was discussion regarding data on arrests maintained by DPS and included in their annual report.

5. *Discussion, recommendation, and possible action regarding batterers treatment options within the State of Nevada Department of Corrections (Traci Dory).

Traci reported that they do not have group sessions in Ely as it is a maximum security prison, so all the classes are done through workbooks which Traci provided. Traci said the other locations have group classes if inmates sign up.

Sue stated that it appeared that the DOC would not provide any opportunity to assist with providing batterers treatment in the rural areas.

Walt asked about the need for batterers treatment in the prison system. He stated that in the jail, inmates often inquire about the possibility of continuing treatment in prison, but that they don't get credit for the courses in prison as they are not certified. Walt further inquired if there would be a desire to train people within the prison so that they could become certified.

Traci said there would probably be a lot of questions regarding how they would get training, who would supervise them, how they would get continuing education, etc. Traci said she would follow up with the psychologists to see if there is a need or desire for certification and that she would get back to Walt.

6. *Discussion, recommendation, and possible action regarding information obtained from rural courts and updates regarding treatment providers in rural areas (Jennifer Kandt).

Jennifer stated that she had been asked to look into conviction numbers for Tahoe Justice Court and Incline Village, and John McCormick volunteered to look into conviction numbers for those courts to see if there would be enough clients to support a program.

Walt said that they had to close the agency in Fallon as they went from an average of 20 clients to 4 clients, so they could not support two therapists. Walt said that there appeared to be a reduced number of convictions because the attorneys tell the clients that if the victim does not show up, the prosecution will not move forward.

Cheryl stated that the attorneys should not be telling their clients that, but they do, and that without the testimony of the victim, it is difficult to get a conviction.

Sue asked whether law enforcement was gathering other evidence at the scene.

Cheryl stated that law enforcement was collecting evidence, but that without the victim's testimony, it is just hearsay, and that the victim needs to be able to tell what happened. Cheryl said that victims often don't cooperate with prosecutors which she stated was frustrating for prosecutors.

There was discussion regarding confusion surrounding Crawford versus Washington, and Sue stated that Brett Kandt had done quite a bit of training with prosecutors regarding this decision and how to move forward with evidence based prosecution without the victim.

7. Update on Prevention Council meetings held in rural Nevada.

Kareen stated that meetings were held in Ely in August and that batterers treatment issues came up at both meetings as Ely does not have a certified program. She said that a judge from Pioche spoke to Prevention Council and stated that he would like to see a certified program in Ely. She also reported that the victim advocate from the county said she would like to see exceptions made in the rural areas and suggested that in counties where a certified program does not exist, to require the offender to undergo a mental health evaluation.

John stated that if there was any desire to move forward with any changes to NRS, he would like to participate in the discussion.

8. *Discussion, recommendation, and possible action regarding possibilities for increasing treatment options in rural areas.

Sue requested that Jennifer create some type of spreadsheet that would document all of the ideas that have been raised to increase access to treatment in rural areas. Sue also requested that the document include exceptions that already exist in rural areas.

9. Discussion regarding future agenda items and future meeting dates.

There was general consensus that items 6,7,8 be included on the next agenda. The next meeting was set for January 26th at 9:30am.

10. Public comment.

Note: No vote may be taken upon a matter raised under this item of the agenda until the matter itself has been specifically included on an agenda as an item upon which action may be taken. (NRS 241.020)

11. Adjournment