

**NEVADA COUNCIL FOR THE PREVENTION OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE  
UNDERSERVED POPULATIONS COMMITTEE**

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING**

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**Monday, September 26, 2011 at 2:30 p.m.**

Via Teleconference with Public Access Located at:  
Office of the Attorney General  
5420 Kietzke Lane, Suite 202, Reno, Nevada 89511

**Committee Members Present**

None

**Committee Members Present Via Teleconference**

Anya Arechiga  
Deborah Armstrong  
Kathleen Bergquist  
Matthew Deal  
Christina Hernandez  
Suzanne Ramos

**Committee Members Absent**

Toni Downen  
Leisa Moseley  
Larry Mosley  
Dallas Smales

**Public Present**

Judy Henderson, Nevada Network Against Domestic Violence

**Attorney General's Office Staff Present**

Kareen Prentice, Domestic Violence Ombudsman  
Lorraine Webber, Assistant to the NCPDV

**Attorney General's Office Staff Present via Teleconference**

Henna Rasul, Deputy Attorney General

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

Suzanne Ramos called the meeting to order at 2:38 p.m. A roll call was taken and quorum was established.

**2. Public Comment.**

There was no public comment at this time.

**3. \*Review and approval of minutes from the June 27, 2011 meeting.**

Christina Hernandez made a motion to approve the minutes as submitted. Anya Arechiga seconded the motion. A vote was taken and the minutes were approved unanimously.

**4. \*Discussion and possible action on family court judge survey.**

Ms. Ramos stated that she had contacted Washoe Legal Services to gauge what the current issues might be happening with the courts but she had not yet received a return phone call.

Ms. Prentice reported that she had spoken to Robin Sweet from the AOC and that Ms. Sweet thought the survey was way too long. The AOC sends out one or two of their own surveys per year and that they would not be able to send out this one. However, they are willing to work with the IT department to assist the Attorney General's office in distributing the survey. Ms. Ramos asked if some of this Committee's questions could be included in an AOC survey. Ms. Prentice stated that it would not be possible. The AOC's surveys are on different topics and planned years in advance. Ms. Sweet suggested developing language regarding the reason that the Committee wants the information and either breaking the survey down into three pieces, or paring it down to under 10 questions. The AOC has not had any success with surveys longer than 10-15 questions.

The Committee discussed what issues are most pressing. Ms. Ramos brought up the topics of court interpreters and long waits for restraining orders. Ms. Hernandez commented that although she had not had any issues with family courts, she has faced the problem of courts not updating their websites. This has resulted in survivors of sexual assault and stalking arriving at court having filled out the wrong forms.

Ms. Prentice stated that she would look at the survey and try to condense it and then send it to the Committee for review. She said that the Committee needs to spell out the reason why they want the information.

Ms. Ramos asked Mr. Deal if he knew of any issues regarding obtaining protection orders in the rural communities. Mr. Deal stated that the victim advocate assisted victims through the process and had not heard of any difficulties. He added that he thought question #15 regarding prohibitions on possessing a firearm was really important and was an issue in the rural counties he worked in.

Ms. Ramos stated that another important issue was when primary custody of children is given to the responding party. Ms. Ramos will review Ms. Prentice's condensed and revised survey before it is sent to the Committee.

Ms. Bergquist asked why this survey was being developed by the Underserved Committee, specifically, when it the issues affect anyone applying for a protection order. The Committee discussed the origins of the survey including the lack of interpreters and Joe Tommasino's survey which was the model for this one.

**5. \*Discussion and possible action regarding outreach to Lesbian Gay Bisexual Transgender (LGBT) community, including presentation by Judy Henderson on education and outreach being done by the Nevada Network Against Domestic Violence.**

Ms. Ramos asked if everyone had the brochure that Judy Henderson had distributed to the Committee for review. Ms. Hernandez stated that she had sent it to her colleagues in the LGBT community and would like a little more time to provide feedback. Ms. Henderson said that was fine. She would like to have feedback no later than October 14<sup>th</sup>.

Ms. Henderson reported that the network La Red is very interested in coming to Nevada to do a training. A specific date has not been set, but it will be sometime in March, 2012 in the Las Vegas area. She stated that she had attended a La Red training in Boston and that they had done an excellent job. La Red has a handbook called *Open Minds and Open Hearts*, which can be downloaded from their website. This handbook is written for advocates and would give interested Committee members an idea of the scope of their training. Ms. Henderson said that the materials for the training in March will be made available for any advocate who wishes to have them.

Ms. Hernandez asked if the La Red training would address policy-making. Ms. Henderson stated that she would be happy to include policy-making and other specific needs in the contract. Ms. Henderson invited Committee members to email her with any other ideas they might have.

Ms. Ramos asked if there were any other comments regarding outreach to the LGBT community. Ms. Hernandez stated that she had contacted the Emerge program in Boston and that the director suggested that if group batterers treatment sessions for the LGBT community could not be offered, then it was best for offenders to go to one-on-one counseling. In mixed groups, batterers may pretend to be straight and are unable to work out their issues or they may be honest and might be harassed by the other participants. The director of Emerge told Ms. Hernandez that she uses the same curriculum for everyone. Ms. Ramos asked if she had discussed how the court or the provider would know that a person needs individual counseling. Ms. Hernandez stated she didn't know but thought that maybe during the intake process

a person might identify him or herself as gay or lesbian. Ms. Ramos suggested asking Jennifer Kandt how that worked with Nevada providers. She asked Kareen if it were possible to have Dr. Hughes ask that question when he inspected providers. Ms. Prentice stated she could add that as an agenda item for the next Committee on Domestic Violence meeting. Ms. Prentice stated that Dr. Hughes usually only does what is written in the NAC and so she would have to check to see if it were possible to include things not in the NAC.

Ms. Prentice commented that they are looking at bringing Emerge to Nevada to do a training for batterers treatment and that it could possibly be opened up for other interested people.

**6. \*Discussion and possible action regarding outreach to the Asian Pacific Islander (API) community.**

Kathleen Bergquist reported that she has met with some agencies to pinpoint some API advocate training to be held in late February or early March. The training will be 31 hours and is a collaborative effort. Becki Masaki, who started the Asian Women's Center in San Francisco, has agreed to be a speaker. She stated that it is possible that Ms. Masaki may be willing to do an additional training while she is in town. She will check with the planning committee and then find out if there is interest in having her do a second training.

Ms. Bergquist asked about the process to get STOP Grant and SASP Grant funding and stated she wasn't sure if the funding would be appropriate for what she is doing. Ms. Prentice said she thought that it would be and that one of the priority areas was to fund free or low-cost training in Nevada.

**7. \*Discussion and possible action regarding outreach to tribal communities.**

Dallas Smales was not present at the meeting and so this agenda item was tabled until the next meeting.

**8. \*Discussion and possible action regarding outreach to the African American Faith based community.**

Ms. Armstrong discussed the community block party that she and Ms. Ramos attended at a church this summer. She reported that the event was well attended and that they had a booth that offered information about Safe Embrace, the City of Reno Attorney's Office, and the NCPDV. Their presence did generate interest from one of the churches in learning more about available services.

**9. Discussion and possible action regarding outreach to Hispanic community.**

Ms. Arechiga reported that she recently interviewed General Masto regarding the recent report which ranked Nevada at the top of the list for states with the most women killed by men.

She stated that the response from viewers on the domestic violence stories aired by Univision has been good and that she received a phone call from a viewer asking for the contact information for one of the resources.

**10.\*Schedule future meetings and agenda items.**

The next meeting was scheduled for November 14, 2011 at 2:30 p.m.

**11.Public comment.**

There was no public comment.

**11.\*Adjournment.**

Christina Hernandez made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Deborah Armstrong seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 3:14 p.m.