

Minutes
MORRIS COUNTY WOMEN'S ADVISORY BOARD
March 19, 2015
Board Room, Morris View Healthcare Center
540 West Hanover Ave., Morris Township

Members present: Ginny Lyttle, Elaine Muller, Pam Bennett-Santoro, Edith Frank, Carole Harper, Tina Liu Jen, Deirdre Wheatley-Liss

Absent: Sibi Saenz-Williams, Patti Page, Aida Visakay

Guest: Patty Sly, Director of the Battered Women's Shelter

The meeting was called to order at 6:10 PM by Chair Edith Frank

Compliance with the Open Public Meetings Law

Vice-Chair Aida Visakay advised that in compliance with the Open Public Meetings Act, adequate notice of this meeting had been provided and filed with the public.

Approval of Minutes

On motion of Deirdre Wheatley-Liss, seconded by Ginny Lyttle, the committee approved the minutes of the January 15, 2015 with the deletion of the members' names: Connie West and Patricia O'Dowd-Donohue who have resigned from the committee.

Old Business

End of Year Report

Ginny will continue working on the report. She said that one of the larger issues of the year was the lack of distinction between the sexes in reporting services requested or supplied by the Freeholders. She also mentioned that the committee's support of the elimination of human trafficking efforts would be included in the report. Pam offered to help review the report when Ginny had drafted it.

Domestic Violence

Patty Sly, Director of the Jersey Battered Women's Shelter, was introduced to the group and proceeded to explain the history of the organization and the services that the organization offers.

Summary: JBWS was started in 1976. It provides emergency shelter, transitional housing, hot line, counseling, help obtaining restraining orders, training of other professionals (law enforcement, medical, educators) and the general public. They have 2 new projects: Morris Family Justice Center (variety of services offered in MC administration center) and Yellow Card Challenge (education on Dating Abuse).

Patty took questions from the group and mentioned all the different ways that volunteers help the organization. Ginny suggested that the group would work with JBWS this year. Patty distributed packets of information and expressed her appreciation for any help the group might supply. The contact person between the two organizations would be Liz Kisatsky.

After Patty left, the group talked about ways that we can support JBWS. Deirdre will contact Liz to ask Jenn to bring to the next meeting copies of the County Budget and be ready to discuss areas that affect women in domestic violence situations.

It was also suggested that we support and promote "Purple Thursday" in October. Carol Harper, who is in volunteer training for JBWS, was asked to keep the group informed on ways that they can help JBWS.

Deirdre will ask the Sheriff or the local police dept. to provide us with a speaker for our next meeting to present the law officers' perspective.

Elaine will contact the NJ Division on Women for information on their domestic violence services.

Announcements

Ginny announced that the NJ Coalition on Human Trafficking meets in Whippany and has just received a grant for \$30,000 to help in their efforts to eliminate human trafficking. 100 organizations belong to the group.

Ginny announced that Pam, Ada and Patty Page accepted the proclamation on human trafficking from the Morris County Freeholders at their January meeting.

Tina announced the Neighborhood House's Incredible Women Program. It will be held at the Marriott in Morristown. The keynote speaker is Lt. Col. Ingrid Peltzer, the first women Garrison Commander at Picatinny Arsenal.

Tina also circulated a flyer on a women's leadership program being held at Rutgers University.

A potential new member is being proposed to the Freeholders by the committee.

Next meeting is May 21, 2015 at 5:30 pm for light dinner and the meeting begins at 6 pm.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:50pm

Respectfully Submitted,
Elaine Muller, Secretary