

COMMITTEE DESCRIPTIONS

2008

Agency and School Liaisons Committee

Co-Chairs: Mark Capobianco (Vestal Central Schools)/Barbara Mullen (Johnson City Schools)

The Agency and School Liaisons Committee establishes linkage between Department of Social Services, school liaisons and agency liaisons to facilitate lines of communication. The committee identifies obstacles to addressing family violence and problem solves to promote early identification, treatment and prevention of family violence. The committee also developed the Model Policy and Procedures Manual for school personnel to follow in cases of child abuse and neglect. The second annual Joint Superintendent's Day for school pupil personnel services and agencies was held on 10/5/07.

Community Education Committee

Chair: Tina Van Noy (Fairview Recovery Services)

The Community Education Committee is charged with developing and implementing programs designed to inform the public, on family violence issues, and needs identified by the Council. Public Service Announcements, posters, and call-in shows have been used. Multi-Media campaigns may be run to educate the public regarding issues of child abuse, domestic violence and elder abuse. Information placemats were designed for community civic groups, senior groups, diners, etc. Teen healthy dating wallet-cards are distributed throughout the community. For three years, a poster contest for area middle and senior high schools students regarding issues of healthy family relationships was held. School Kindergarten Kits, a child abuse prevention project, is also ongoing.

Executive Committee

Chair: Raini Baudendistel (Crime Victims Assistance Center)

The Executive Committee is charged with coordinating the activities of the Council, setting the agenda for Full Council meetings, monitoring the Council's objectives, planning for meeting these objectives, monitoring, reviewing and evaluating committee work and engaging in long range planning.

Interagency-Planning Committee

Chair: Beth Saxton (Broome County Youth Bureau)

The Interagency-Planning Committee shall define needs and resources and perform other similar functions in order to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of the family violence delivery system. The committee looked at the effects of family violence on children and how the community is dealing with recognizing the effect, looking at the needs of the children and how the community meets those needs. The Council still provides training on this topic. Historically the committee has looked at the development of model policies on domestic violence for our community. A policy was developed for employers, for substance abuse providers, mental health providers that treat victims or perpetrators of domestic violence and the legal and judicial profession. A bench book for local criminal courts was developed and distributed to facilitate consistency and best practices regarding domestic violence in the local courts. The SAYIT committee was developed from this committee.

Marketing Ad hoc Committee

Chair: MaryAnn Novitske (OFB Head Start)

The Marketing Ad hoc committee is charged with disseminating information and education to the community consistent with the mission and current goals of the Council.

Medical Issues Committee

Co-Chairs: Robert Ford (Lourdes Hospital) / Dr. Stephen Gomez (United Health Services)

The Medical Issues Committee is charged with addressing problems with identifying and intervening in family abuse cases that present themselves in a medical setting. The committee has focused on developing internal case review teams that are effective in medically identifying child abuse. The committee did a community training on elder abuse for medical professionals on September 2007 and 164 persons attended. They have recently developed a “Community Guidelines for Medical Professionals” on when to report elder abuse and victimization.

Multidisciplinary Case Review Team (MDCR)

Co-Chairs: Gerald Mollen (District Attorney) / Julia Hepworth (Director – Children’s Services, DSS)

The MDCR team reviews cases of family violence. Its purpose is to assist in the diagnosis, assessment and treatment of family violence and to make recommendations and report its findings to the appropriate professionals and to help coordinate the efforts of the agencies involved. The membership of this committee is changed only as deemed necessary by the committee itself.

Nominating Committee

Chair: Nancy Frank (United Health Services)

The Nominating Committee is charged with initiating a process for recommending a slate of officers and nominees for Council membership. This committee evaluates participation of Council members when issues arise regarding attendance. The Vice-Chairperson of the Council will Chair the Nominating Committee. Membership on the committee is limited to Council members.

Professional Education Committee

Chair: Brenda Zeoli (Broome County Mental Health – Families First)

The Professional Education Committee is charged with developing and implementing programs designed to inform professionals based on needs identified by the Council. The committee has held many conferences locally for professionals in the area to attend at a low cost. Widely recognized national speakers are brought in for these conferences.

The committee co-sponsored a conference in April of 2007, with the Family & Children’s Society Inc. Nationally known expert and author Dr. Jeffrey Edleson was the speaker. In May of 2007 the committee provided training “Broome County Loves Safe Babies” informing the community on safe sleep environment for babies.

Sexually Aggressive Youth Intervention Team (SAYIT)

Co-Chairs: Cheryl Sullivan (County Attorney’s Office) / Lori Wilmot (Director Probation)

The Purpose of the Team is to improve the system’s response to known cases of sexually aggressive youth. The Team developed and published a Position Paper, “Improving the Identification, Referral and Treatment of Sexually Abusive Children & Youth”.

The Team initially developed a pilot project with two school districts and their police departments. These policies were developed and adopted by schools and the Team assisted the schools in implementing the policies through staff training. The Team is available as a case consultation mechanism for community professionals. The Team has provided training on the topic of sexually aggressive youth, both locally and throughout the state at various conferences.