

Mayor Anthony Foxx

Michael D. Barnes
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Mayor Pro Tem Patrick D. Cannon

David L. Howard
Patsy Kinsey
James Mitchell, Jr.
Edwin Peacock III
Warren Turner

CITY COUNCIL WORKSHOP

Monday, May 2, 2011

- | | |
|------------------|---|
| 5:00 p.m. | Dinner |
| 5:15 p.m. | Federal and State Legislative Update |
| 5:45 p.m. | Housing & Neighborhood Development: Charlotte-Mecklenburg Coalition for Housing Update |
| 6:15 p.m. | Economic Development: Small Business Week 2011 Overview and Preview of Small Business Web Portal |
| 6:45 p.m. | Community Safety: Mecklenburg County Domestic Violence Advisory Board Annual Report |
| 7:30 p.m. | Citizens Forum
Room 267 |

COUNCIL WORKSHOP AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY

TOPIC: Federal & State Legislative Update

RESOURCES: Dana Fenton, City Manager's Office
Rich Gold, Holland & Knight

KEY POINTS:

- On Wednesday, January 5, 2011, the 112th US Congress convened. Among the issues facing the new Congress were the FY 2011 federal budget (leftover from the 111th Congress), FY 2012 federal budget, transportation reauthorization, and long term fiscal issues. An agreement was eventually reached on the FY 2011 budget.
- On Wednesday, January 26, 2011, the North Carolina General Assembly convened its 2011-2012 session. Fiscal issues are also front and center as the State is facing a \$2.4 billion deficit for FY 2012 and \$2.0 billion for FY 2013.
- Members of Council travelled to the National League of Cities Congressional City Conference in March 2011 for briefings on federal issues of importance to cities nationwide and visited with the Federal Delegation.
- Members of Council will be updated on several federal issues including FY 2012 federal budget, transportation reauthorization, Blue Line Extension, DNC Security, Airport Control Tower, Community Development Block Grant, and other issues as needed.
- Members will also be updated on State issues including FY 2012 State budget, Blue Line Extension, high speed rail, billboards, annexation reform, residential design standards, and other issues as needed.

COUNCIL DECISION OR DIRECTION REQUESTED:

None. This information is for presentational purposes only. The Council is reminded of Town Hall Day on May 4, 2011, where many of the State issues will also be discussed.

ATTACHMENTS:

None.

COUNCIL WORKSHOP AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY

TOPIC: Charlotte-Mecklenburg Coalition for Housing Update

COUNCIL FOCUS AREA: Housing and Neighborhood Development

RESOURCES: Mike Rizer, Chair, Charlotte-Mecklenburg Coalition for Housing

KEY POINTS:

- On May 24, 2010, City Council approved creation of the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Coalition for Housing (Coalition) to oversee the implementation of the Ten-Year Plan to End and Prevent Homelessness (Plan).
- The Plan goals are:
 1. Housing – Get homeless families and individuals into appropriate and safe permanent housing as soon as possible;
 2. Outreach and Engagement – Link chronic homeless to housing, treatment and services through intensive outreach and engagement; and
 3. Prevention – Promote housing stability for those families and individuals most at risk of becoming homeless.
- The Coalition has structured its work around the Plan goals.
- The Coalition recommends strategy for the implementation of the Plan to the City Council and County Commission including setting of priorities for programs and services. The Coalition also recommends the priorities and funding allocations for the City’s Housing Trust Fund.
- The Coalition board consists of 12 community members and three non-voting ex-officio members. The Board composition is as follows:

Board Member	Industry
City Appointments	
Mike Rizer – Chair	Corporate/Economic Development
Ken Szymanski	Community
David Furman	Affordable Housing
Rabbi Judith Schindler	Faith-based
Scot Williams	Financial
Renata Henderson	Real Estate
David Jones	Legal
Michael Marsicano, PhD	Non-profit
County Appointments	
Frank Cantrell	Public Safety
Annabelle Suddreth	Human Services
Lori Thomas	Education

Ex-Officio Members	
Patrick Mumford	Neighborhood & Business Services
Stacy Lowry	Community Support Services
Charles Woodyard	Charlotte Housing Authority

- This update will be given to the County Commission on June 7, 2011.

COUNCIL DECISION OR DIRECTION REQUESTED:

None. This presentation is for informational purposes only.

ATTACHMENTS:

None.

COUNCIL WORKSHOP AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY

TOPIC: Small Business Week 2011 Overview and Preview of Small Business Web Portal

COUNCIL FOCUS AREA: Economic Development

RESOURCES: Dennis Marstall and Emily Cantrell

KEY POINTS:

- The City's Neighborhood & Business Services department is coordinating an enhanced Small Business Week effort in 2011, in collaboration with the City's Small Business Resource Partners and area business associations.
- There will be over 25 events, seminars, and resource sessions provided throughout the city focused on helping small businesses improve operations and/or enhance growth. Most events are free or some are low-cost.
- In celebration of the week, a unique contest is being offered to Charlotte-Mecklenburg small businesses called *Extreme Makeover: Small Business Edition*, whereby one lucky small business will be selected to receive five free services in the areas of: strategic planning, marketing/advertising, sales enhancement, accounting and tax advisory, and human resources. These services are offered by local small businesses who have agreed to donate their time.
- Small Business Week will also feature the public release of Charlotte Business Resources (www.charlottebusinessresources.com), the City's small business web portal. The web portal has been developed in collaboration with the City's Small Business Resource Partners and will serve as a virtual resource center for Charlotte's business community, connecting business owners to relevant information and resources for all stages of business development.
- At the Workshop, City Council will receive an overview of Small Business Week activities and a brief preview of the web portal, including an overview of the marketing strategy around the portal's public launch.

COUNCIL DECISION OR DIRECTION REQUESTED:

None. This presentation is for informational purposes only.

ATTACHMENTS:

None.

COUNCIL WORKSHOP AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY

TOPIC: Mecklenburg County Domestic Violence Advisory Board Annual Report

COUNCIL FOCUS AREA: Community Safety

RESOURCES: Joe Marinello, Chair
Patrick Burris, Co-Chair

KEY POINTS:

- In 1992, the City of Charlotte and Mecklenburg County formed a citizen advisory commission entitled Domestic Violence Advisory Board (DVAB), to address the systemic problems associated with domestic violence.
- This body is charged to review and evaluate Mecklenburg County and City of Charlotte domestic violence services and make appropriate recommendations to the Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) and City Council on the need for additional services to victims of domestic violence. The members are appointed by the Mayor, the BOCC, and the City Council.
- The DVAB also provides vigorous advocacy and works to increase public awareness of domestic violence within the community.
- Pursuant to City Council resolution, the DVAB Annual Report was received by the Community Safety Committee on March 21, 2011. The Community Safety Committee unanimously recommended that the report be presented to the full City Council.
- The Domestic Violence Advisory Board will present its 2010 Annual Report to City Council.

COUNCIL DECISION OR DIRECTION REQUESTED:

None. This report is for information only.

ATTACHMENTS:

Mecklenburg County Domestic Violence Advisory Board – 2010 Annual Report
Handout to accompany 2010 Annual Report
2010 Annual Report PowerPoint

**MECKLENBURG COUNTY
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE ADVISORY BOARD**

2010 ANNUAL REPORT

**Mecklenburg County Board of Commissioners
And
Charlotte City Council**

January 2011

Continuing Appointees:

Joe Marinello, Chair

Patrick Burris, Co-chair

Marage Blakeney

Bea Cote'

Jackie Dienemann

Julie Owens

Andrea Pettit

Elizabeth Thornton Trosch

Debra Wideman

New Appointees:

Myna Advani

LiMia Bowen

Bev Foster

County Commissioner Liaison- Jennifer Roberts

Domestic Violence Advisory Board 2010 Report

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Purpose of the Domestic Violence Advisory Board

In 1992, Charlotte-Mecklenburg County formed a citizen advisory commission entitled, Domestic Violence Advisory Board (DVAB), with members appointed by the Mayor, the Board of County Commissioners (BOCC), and the City Council to address the systemic problems associated with domestic violence. This body is charged to review and evaluate Mecklenburg County and Charlotte domestic violence services and make appropriate recommendations to the BOCC and Charlotte City Council on the need for additional services to victims of domestic violence. The DVAB also provides vigorous advocacy and works to increase public awareness of domestic violence within the community.

Recommendations

VI. Recommendations

- 1. Continue to identify Domestic Violence (DV) as a priority health and safety issue as reflected on the Mecklenburg County Community & Corporate Scorecard and maintaining a data warehouse for domestic violence**
- 2. Continue funding hotel shelter when United Family Services (UFS) shelter is full and families are in imminent danger (a Collaboration of Community Support Services – Women’s Commission and United Family Services).**
- 3. Continue support for UFS fundraising for a larger DV emergency shelter(s) and transitional housing while continuing funding for current shelter.**
- 4. Sheriff’s Office allocate additional resources to respond to increased volume of protection orders.**
- 5. Local police departments review arrest policies in order to ensure arrest of primary aggressors.**
- 6. Continue to support CMS in the development of partnership programs to increase awareness and services related to dating violence among Middle and High School students.**
- 7. Continue the partnership to allow indigent perpetrators on probation to “pay” for Abuser Intervention Program with community service.**
- 8. Appoint a liaison with the DV Advisory Board from City Council.**
- 9. Look for funding opportunities for**

Domestic Violence Advisory Board 2010 Report

- i. DV coordinator for city/county services**
- ii. Supervised visitation/child exchange center**
- iii. Remote access for Magistrate by teleconference for north Mecklenburg**

I. INTRODUCTION

As the official Citizen Advisory Board on domestic violence issues, the Mecklenburg County Domestic Violence Board (DVAB) has been charged with reviewing and evaluating Charlotte and Mecklenburg County domestic violence services and making appropriate recommendations to the Charlotte City Council and Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) regarding the need for additional services for victims of domestic violence and their children. The DVAB was also entrusted with the task of providing vigorous advocacy for domestic violence victims and playing a role in increasing public awareness and education pertaining to the problems and related costs of domestic violence within the community.

In 2005, Mecklenburg County commissioned a comprehensive domestic violence study by Carol Morris, to identify key needs, gaps, and challenges that the community faces with the existing domestic violence service delivery model. Recognizing that a coordinated community response is the most effective, the report's focus was on both improving the County's services and developing a community wide response to this issue.

In January 2006, *Domestic Violence in Charlotte-Mecklenburg: an Overview and Assessment of Our Community Response* was presented to the Board of County Commissioners detailing suggestions of how to define and organize the work and resources, as well as, strategies and ideas to be considered to create a more integrated, effective and predictable community response to domestic violence. The County has moved forward with several of the recommendations contained in the report. It also led to the creation of a domestic violence leadership team that developed a vision statement and consensus definition of domestic violence stating that:

We define domestic violence as occurring when one person in an intimate relationship attempts to gain coercive power and control over the other by using physical, emotional/verbal, sexual or material force including intrusive violation of privacy. This abuse takes place within a system of power and control and is not an isolated incident.

This group is working to increase both data collection about domestic violence and the public response.

The data reviewed in this report was collected through the City/County Domestic Violence Data Warehouse, the NC Council for Women/Domestic Violence Commission, the NC Coalition against Domestic Violence, and direct contact with multiple agencies. The DVAB also collaborates with local service providers and the Domestic Violence Advocacy Council (DVAC) to evaluate the City/County response to domestic violence, new initiatives underway, and service gaps that have been identified.

II. DATA ON DOMESTIC VIOLENCE IN CHARLOTTE/MECKLENBURG COUNTY

A. Criminal Justice Statistics

2010 Domestic Violence Related Homicides

Eight of the seventy-three domestic violence-related homicides in North Carolina occurred in Mecklenburg County. One was a murder-suicide with an additional death. The state of NC is 4th nationally in the number of homicides by men against women based on 2008 statistics (Violence Policy Center, 2010).

2010 Charlotte Mecklenburg Police Department (CMPD)

In 2010 CMPD responded to 35, 627 Domestic Disturbance 911 calls that resulted in 3,869 adult arrests for DV. There were 129 juveniles arrested for DV with 24 of these being repeat offenders. **This is 863 more calls and 161 more adult arrests than 2009.** Breaking down by gender, 2,977 men and 892 women (251 were dual arrests man and woman in same incident). Last year there were only 748 arrests of women and no dual arrest data available but the difference of 144 could possibly be attributed to more dual arrests.

Total charges for DV with or without a call were 7,014 (one person may have multiple charges) of these, 2,204 were repeat charges of the same person. This is 1% less than last year.

For the period January – December 2010 CMPD police Criminal Incidence Reports in Selected Crime Categories chosen by the DV Community Leadership Team as trend indicators for DV. Crime categories that increased are in bold.

Selected Crime Categories of Charges	Totals with at least one domestic relationship listed	Change From last Year
Murder	8	-8
Forcible Rape or Sex Offense or attempt all	66	-22
Robbery or Burglary or attempted	37	-23
Simple Assault/stalking/strangulation	1495	+253
Assault of a female	2075	-23
Intimidation/Communicate Threats/ Telephone Threat/ Harassing Phone Calls	911	+57
Kidnapping, Felonious restraint, false imprisonment	162	+19
Stalking and Stalking to cause fear	5	-23
Violation of Restraining Order	324	-75
Total DV charges	7014	-214

B. Civil Domestic Violence Protective Orders data through November

The Mecklenburg County Sheriff's Office received 3,510 domestic violence protective orders in 2010 (28% increase) and allocated 6,377 hours (24% increase) to **servicing 2,416 perpetrators with the orders (17% increase)**. The MCSO seized 101 weapons (91% increase).

C. Impact on Children and Families

Area Mental Health Child Development-Community Policing program (CD-CP)

In 2010, 2,893 families were referred to this program for immediate treatment to minimize trauma and refer for follow up as appropriate by police officers. Over 44% (1,283) of these clients were referred for domestic violence. **This percentage of DV cases has risen each year for the last two years (41%, 43%, 44%) and the absolute number of families referred also increased 16.7% since last year.** On average 82% of clinical referrals are also referred to Child Protective Services for abuse and neglect. This is the same percent as last year. However, this program only has funding for seven of 12 patrol divisions of CMPD.

Child Witness to DV

North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services revised its structured intake process. A Child Protective Services assessment is warranted anytime a child is present when violence occurs to evaluate the impact from exposure. In FY09-10 Mecklenburg County Department of Social Services screened 2,082 cases (14% decrease) in which domestic violence was a concern and in 143 cases domestic violence was identified as the primary source of child maltreatment. **In 184 cases with 410 children it was substantiated that DV was the primary or contributing factor to maltreatment.** Sixty eight of these children were removed from their homes due to DV, 21 of the 68 were reunified and 6 were placed in guardianship with a relative, making the total reunified or in guardianship with relatives 39.7%.

Charlotte Mecklenburg Schools

The youth risk behavior surveillance (YRBS) 2009 survey, given in odd years, asked two questions regarding domestic violence. **The first question referred to the instances of physical abuse committed by a boyfriend or girlfriend. The positive responses increased from 10.7% in 2007 to 11.7% in 2009. The national average is 9.8%. This is the third survey showing an increase.** Question 2 asked about forced sexual intercourse and this remained the same in 2007 and 2009 at 7.2%, near the national average of 7.4%. These questions were not included in the CMS website reporting on the YRBS results. The state mandated schools to focus on bullying this year, but with dating violence increasing more attention needs to be given to prevention.

Domestic Violence Advisory Board 2010 Report

CMS also tracks violent acts in schools, but not dating violence since that happens primarily outside of schools. In 2010 there were 1298 reportable acts that included 1 rape, 9 sexual assaults and 16 sexual offenses. All but 1 sexual assault occurred in a middle or high school.

Local Universities

UNC Charlotte is the largest university with 25,000 students and the most students living on campus. Their on campus police department reports 12 dating violence incidents that resulted in arrests or warrants in 2010. One was aggravated assault, one was damage to property and the other 10 were simple assault. Campus police at Queens University security reported no dating violence incidents and Johnson C. Smith campus police had 1 dating violence incident that resulted in a warrant or arrest. The charge was simple assault.

III. SERVICES FOR DOMESTIC VIOLENCE VICTIMS IN MECKLENBURG COUNTY

In Mecklenburg County domestic violence services are provided by multiple agencies that focus either on a specific age group (such as Area Mental Health for child trauma crisis in collaboration with CMPD), ethnic groups (such as Confinanza for Spanish Speaking victims), income level, or services such as shelter, court support for victims, counseling victims or counseling perpetrators. Hospitals also provide screening, counseling, and forensic data collection. Services from some agencies overlap and some are provided in collaboration.

A. Emergency Shelter

In FY09 United Family Services (UFS) Shelter for Battered Women served 332 women. **The shelter, even with the hotel shelter described below had to turn away 921 women due to lack of space.** Social workers sought alternative shelter or other means to prevent women from returning home to dangerous conditions, which often meant seeking shelter in neighboring counties. The maximum length of residency is 30 days (with some exceptions being made due to economic conditions); despite there being no transitional housing for battered women and their children. The average length of stay increased from 17 to 28 days in 2010 due to women's difficulty locating work and housing. This reduced access to women seeking shelter. The Center of Hope Salvation Army Shelter for women and children reported 334 women cited domestic violence as the primary reason they were homeless.

In collaboration UFS/ Women's Commission of Community Support Services (WOC/CSS) with BOCC support, emergency hotel shelter rooms are provided. UFS provides motel/food/transportation and CSS/WOC provides counseling/case management through a full-time counselor. Two hundred thirty women and children received emergency shelter in hotel rooms. (This is 10.5% decrease from the prior fiscal year).

B. Protective Orders

During 2010 United Family Services (UFS) Victim Assistance accompanied 2,809 victims to civil court and 1,454 victims to criminal or felony court.

C. Counseling for Victims of Domestic Violence

Counseling services to victims of domestic violence are provided by two entities in our community: CSS/WOC and UFS. CSS/WOC provided services to 1,132 cases. They also provided information and referrals on adult services to 15,324 requests. CSS/WOC provided counseling and support group services to 475 children and teens. They also provided information and referrals on child/teen services to 7,763 requests. These numbers cannot be compared directly to 2009 due to improved methodology change to create transparency of data.

In FY10, UFS provided counseling or support to 213 adult victims (in addition to the consumers residing in the battered women's shelter). This was a reduction from last year of approximately 500 adults due to reduced resources. UFS provided domestic violence education in English and Spanish, crisis counseling and case management to 1,339 female Mecklenburg County inmates.

D. Legal Services to Victims

Legal services are provided at no or low cost to victims of domestic violence by two organizations: Legal Aid of North Carolina and Legal Services of the Southern Piedmont. Legal Aid of North Carolina received about one DV inquiry per day. That firm only provides services in English. Legal Services for Southern Piedmont provides free services with one counselor for Hispanic Spanish Speaking, low-income women. This service has a long waiting list.

There continues to be a great-unmet need for legal representation for low-income domestic violence victims. Clients need representation for continued restraining order hearings, custody hearings, and divorce or separation suits. UFS grants supported a full time attorney and a part time paralegal in 2010. The attorney's main responsibilities include recruiting and coordinating volunteer pro-bono attorneys, supervising law interns, and representing victims in court when other legal assistance cannot be obtained. **In FY2010, 281 women and children were provided pro-bono legal services on DV issues, custody, financial child support, divorce, and restraining order hearings.** This is an increase of approximately 60 clients, a result of the attorney's work to recruit more pro bono participation from the legal community. The legal hotline received 4,216 calls for information.

E. Perpetrator Services

Two organizations provide state certified batterer intervention treatment in Mecklenburg County. New Options for Violent Actions (NOVA), a batterer intervention program

Domestic Violence Advisory Board 2010 Report

operated by Community Support Services/Women's Commission 700 clients enrolled and 267 completed and 19 re-offended with a DV arrest by CMPD after completion of the program. Approximately 2.5% of clients are women, there is presently one women's group with a similar curriculum to the men's with some changes. The new indigent community service payment option for men on probation was begun and 18 qualified and chose this option with 4 completing, 6 still active and 8 terminating. The Be There Group/IMPACT (a new service established in 2007) served 33 clients in accountability groups with 17 completing and 13 terminated in 2010. One factor in these programs is cost of \$16 per week that results in some men referred by the courts not reporting (information on court referrals are not sent to NOVA and BE THERE/IMPACT) and some men choosing jail over the program. Since domestic violence offenders on probation are not now assigned to domestic violence specialty probation officers and the reduced number of officers, oversight has diminished.

IV. Advocacy and Public Awareness

Area hospitals and schools have promoted early DV detection and screening. Carolinas Medical Center (CMC) Main maintains a 24/7 DV response program comprised of social workers and volunteers. Presbyterian/Novant facilities have DV trained social workers in all Emergency Departments. All Novant and CMC hospitals have SANE registered nurses (trained in collecting forensic evidence) and UFS volunteers who collect evidence and respond to rape victims. Through the curriculum, students, receive one class in 8th grade and one in 9th grade on healthy dating relationships. This year the schools statewide were mandated to focus on bullying interventions. New attention needs to be given to safe dating, there are new initiatives from Liz Clibourne partnering with national DV organizations that is free to download with a curriculum, videos, etc.

Several trainings by UFS and CSS/WOC were conducted in collaboration with UNCC. The UFS and CSS/WOC formed the Domestic Violence Speakers Bureau (DVSB) as a collaborative initiative. They maintain a list of trained speakers and professional DV counselors and experts from DVAC with each speaker's area of expertise. DVAC sponsored several events including a Judge candidates forum, an Attorney General candidates forum. Community awareness has been increased through "take back the night" and a clothesline project at UNC Charlotte, a play "A change is gonna come" by CPCC, and several showings of "Telling Amy's Story" and two panel discussions on domestic violence on WTAV/UNC Charlotte and planned showings of "Telling Amy's Story" in 2011 on public television ETV in Charlotte.

DVAB members supported and participated in events sponsored by the Domestic Violence Advocacy Council. These included monthly "lunch and learn" seminars open to the public, domestic violence homicide awareness marches in uptown Charlotte after each DV related homicide, a Candlelight Vigil during domestic violence awareness month and the Fifth Annual Domestic Violence Memorial Tree service in uptown Charlotte in December.

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The Domestic Violence Leadership Team, in support of its goal of building a community that does not tolerate domestic violence, supported the efforts of the pilot project to review fatalities with staff time, resources and involvement despite overall reduced resources. The team also provided data for the Domestic Violence Data Warehouse update.

V. Policy and Service Changes

There were several changes in policies and services. The CMPD re-instituted its DV/Juvenile Unit with 6 officers linked to liaison officers in each police district its primary focus is domestic violence. This unit will collaborate with the Assault with a Deadly Weapon (ADW) unit that will be responsible for the most severe cases and the Sexual Assault Unit (SAU) that receives all DV and other rape cases and the Youth Crime Unit when volume is high and assistance is needed.

There is a new human trafficking task force in Charlotte with representatives from the FBI, ICE, local law enforcement, local DV service agencies, local legal aid service agencies. They are first increasing awareness of the problem in the Charlotte area.

A state law for a DV Fatality Review Team was piloted in Mecklenburg County in 2010 with support from agencies participating in the Leadership Team.

Three state laws related to domestic violence became effective in December 2010. One increased the charges to a Class H Felony for intentionally severely harming or killing an animal. The other also increased charges to a Class H Felony for a person with a protective order to trespass on the property of a safe house where the victim resides. A third required judges to consider criminal records when determining pre-trial release in DV cases.

The NC Domestic Violence Best Practices Guide for District Court judges was updated with a new “Serving People with Disabilities” appendix and a “Sample Domestic Violence Victim Statement” by the Administrative Office of the Courts. Thee AOC has contracted with a firm to develop an instructor led curriculum for judges based on the guide.

The North Carolina 10 year plan to prevent intimate partner violence was completed and approved with participation of 3 people from Charlotte on the Steering Committee. This is part of the CDC funded DELTA Project. It has four strategic directions, parenting skills and relationship norms, education, community engagement and state and local capacity to prevent intimate partner violence.

VI. Recommendations

- 1. Continue to identify Domestic Violence (DV) as a priority safety and health issue as reflected on Mecklenburg County Community & Corporate Scorecard, and maintaining a data warehouse for domestic violence.**

Domestic Violence Advisory Board 2010 Report

We thank you for the update in 2010 and strongly support continued efforts to develop and maintain the domestic violence data warehouse to bring together comprehensive, timely data to track domestic violence service needs and agency responses. This is also a resource for the priority scorecard.

2. Continue funding the hotel shelter when United Family Services (UFS) shelter is full and families are in imminent danger (a Collaboration of Community Support Services – Women’s Commission and United Family Services)

The dire need for this is related to the inadequate size of the battered women’s shelter in Mecklenburg County. 921 women and their children were turned away last year due to no available beds.

3. Continue support for planning a new DV emergency shelter(s) and transitional housing and funding the current shelter

There are 29 beds in the only battered women’s shelter in Mecklenburg County and no transitional housing. The UFS has a strategic plan to build an expanded shelter with 80 beds and had a ground breaking ceremony in 2010 as part of the capital campaign to build this shelter on land now obtained. They also have plans to erect a 20-bed facility in North Mecklenburg County.

4. Sherriff’s Department allocate additional resources to respond to increased volume of protection orders.

The dramatic increase of protection order warrants and number served in the last year is putting a strain on current allocations.

5. Police department review arrest policies in order to ensure arrest of primary aggressors.

We commend the re-establishment of the domestic violence unit at CMPD. However we are concerned about the 19.25% increase to 892 women arrested for domestic violence with 251 being dual arrests man and woman in same incident. This may mean a need for additional training of police in assessing domestic disturbance calls to identify primary aggressors.

6. BOCC work with CMS to develop partnerships for programs to increase awareness and services related to dating violence among Middle and High School students.

Services this year were less than last year through provider agencies for teens. Dating violence is related to social norms and bullying by one partner in a relationship to coerce the other. The CDC survey on youth and risk has shown increases in dating violence for the last three surveys.

7. Continue the partnership to allow indigent perpetrators on probation to “pay” for Abuser Intervention Program with community service.

This program now has had 18 men qualify and choose this option. It is a valuable alternative to choosing jail due to not being able to afford Abuser Intervention treatment that could assist them to change their behavior.

8. Appoint a liaison with the DV Advisory Board from City Council.

There presently is a liaison from BOCC who met with the Advisory Council in 2010 and utilized feedback for an initiative. A similar appointment from City Council could also be fruitful.

9. Look for funding opportunities for
i. DV coordinator for city/county services

The multiple agencies meeting the complex needs of people of all ages who are victims of domestic violence would benefit from strategic direction addressing the entire issue with one coordinator, as recommended in the 2006 report to the BOCC. It is recommended that the coordinator position be funded by all domestic violence agencies sharing oversight of the position and power.

ii. Supervised visitation/child exchange center

Many DV acts occur during child exchanges, causing trauma for child and victim as recommended in the 2006 report to the BOCC.

iii. Remote access for Magistrate by teleconference to north Mecklenburg

Traveling to Charlotte for a restraining order is a barrier for many North Mecklenburg victims. There have been talks and plans to use video-conferencing with a town police station as a low cost means to allow access to North Meck victims.

VII. Conclusion

In conclusion, the city and county have supported the strategies to end domestic violence in the 2006 report commissioned by the BOCC, such as the combining of several small agencies into Community Support Services and the funding of the data warehouse update this year.

We thank the City Council and Board of County Commissioners for these efforts. This year’s recommendations continue with the priorities set in the 2006 report through suggesting to increase child and victim safety through support of a safe haven for child visitation and exchange. We strongly support continued efforts to develop and maintain the

Domestic Violence Advisory Board 2010 Report

domestic violence data warehouse to bring together comprehensive, timely data to track domestic violence service needs and agency responses. Moving forward on these recommendations will continue the progress we have made to help make Charlotte and Mecklenburg County, as a whole, a safer place to live and work.

Domestic Violence Advisory Board

Handout to accompany 2010 Annual Report

The problem in 2010 appears to be rising

1. 8 DV homicides , 7 last year. NC 4th nationally in DV homicides by men against women.
2. 35,627 domestic disturbance calls up approximately 1000. 161 more adult DV arrests.
3. Non violent DV charges increased but total DV related charges down 1% to 7014.
4. Protection orders rise. 320 per month received by Sheriff's Office (up 25%); 256 per month served (up 13.6%) and 9.2 weapons seized per month (up 73.5%)
5. CDC High School risk behavior survey found dating violence harm 11.7%, this has risen 1% each time given for last 3 times. CMS had 15 dating violence incidents in 2010. UNCC campus police had 25 incidents resulting in arrest and Johnson C Smith had one.

The adult services for victims and treatment programs for perpetrators appear to be falling.

1. In the state 85% of DV programs reported higher demand; 82% reported reduced funds.
2. Counseling of victims by UFS and CSS/WOC is down 23% since last year to 1345 (some may be due to changes in data entry at CSS/WOC).
3. DV shelter has only 29 beds and increased length of stay (17 to 28 days due to economy) resulting in a reduction from 617 to 332 women and children sheltered. Hotel shelter for when DV shelter full served 230 (last year 257). 917 women and children in imminent danger turned away, with counseling for alternative placement. Center of Hope had 334 women reporting DV primary cause homelessness (560 last year).
4. Legal representation by pro bono lawyers up to 281 and legal hotline received 4216 calls. Grant to UFS for lawyer and paralegal to recruit and provide services.
5. Volunteers from UFS accompanied 2809 women to civil court and 1454 to criminal court. Professionals assisted 1109 women to apply for protection orders in UFS office, no grant funds to do this at Magistrate at this time.
6. UFS provided brief education on DV and services to 1339 women in county jail.

Services to Children and Teens Exposed to or Experiencing Domestic Violence

1. DHHS has a new structured intake at DSS that refers child witnesses to DV for assessment of impact → increased CPS assessed 184 families (21% increase) with 410 children. Identified 143 cases where DV was primary cause of child maltreatment
2. Child Development/Community Policing Program receives calls immediately when a child witnesses violence. 1284 referrals related to partner violence in 2010, this is second year of increased numbers.

3. CSS/WOC provides child/teen support groups for 475 DV witnesses (reduced resources led to services down from 792 last year) . Information and referrals given to 7763 calls.
4. CMS has no focused program for dating violence.

Abuser Intervention Services

1. 700 clients enrolled in NOVA in 2010, of these 267 (38%) completed, 19 (7%) of those who completed were re-arrested by CMPD in 1 year. There is one women's group.
2. 33 new clients enrolled in BE THERE and 17 (51.5%) completed the program
3. Partnership of NOVA/The courts/Community corrections department has made available the alternative payment for indigent clients on probation to pay with community service. The first 18 admitted this year. This provides an alternative to jail where they would receive no treatment when they cannot afford the \$16 per week charge.

Positive news in 2010

1. UFS has raised 8 of 10 million needed to begin construction of new 80 bed shelter.
2. CMPD DV/Juvenile crime unit with 6 officers created. Coordinates with other targeted units to respond to DV calls. Due to volume of domestic disturbance calls, many are responded to by local units.
3. Fatality review team pilot has begun to identify practices prevent future DV deaths.
4. Thank you for funding to update DV Data Warehouse for scorecard.
5. Ten year plan to end IPV for NC included 3 representatives from Charlotte.
6. All levels of law enforcement and DV service agencies began human trafficking initiative.

DVAB RECCOMENDATIONS

1. Continue DV on Priority Scorecard and funding to update DV data warehouse.
2. Continue funding shelter for DV – current shelter and hotel shelter.
3. Continue to support new shelter
4. Continue partnership for alternative payment through community service for NOVA
5. Sheriff's Department allocate more resources to serve added protection orders.
6. Police ensure primary perpetrators are arrested. Perhaps DV/J could provide leadership for more training for officers in this volatile, difficult situation.
7. CMS seek partners to provide programs to prevent and counsel dating violence.
8. Appoint liaison from City Council to DVAB
9. Continue to seek funding for: DV Coordinator for city/county/private services, supervised visitation center for child exchanges, and North Meck remote access to Magistrate.



Domestic Violence Advisory Board



2010 Annual Report

**Charge: To Review and evaluate
Charlotte and Mecklenburg County
Domestic Violence Services**

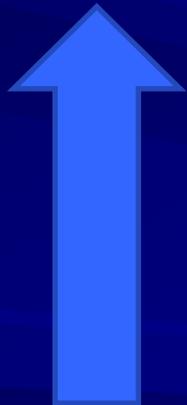


Domestic Violence Advisory Board



The Problem in 2010

DV Homicides
Domestic 911 calls
DV arrests by CMPD
Protection orders served
Dating Violence

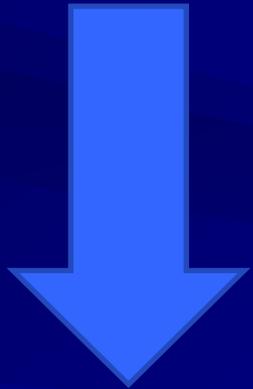




Domestic Violence Advisory Board



Adult Victim Services



DV Counseling for Adults
Domestic Violence Shelter
DV Hotel Shelter
Center of Hope Primary DV

Adult Victim Services (Cont)

Legal Services

Legal Hotline

Clients accompanied to Court

Brief Educ DV all in County Jail

Assisted to apply protection orders in UFS
Office (no funding for at court)



Domestic Violence Advisory Board



Child/Teen Services

DV related maltreatment child
CD/CPP families seen for DV
DV counseling child/teens



Domestic Violence Advisory Board



Abuser Intervention

NOVA

Alternative pay by community service
for indigent, probation clients at NOVA

BE THERE/IMPACT



Domestic Violence Advisory Board



Good News in 2010

UFS 80 bed shelter had Groundbreaking
CMPD re-instituted DV/J Unit
DV fatality review team began pilot
DV Data warehouse updated
NC 10 Year Plan to prevent IPV
New Human Trafficking Task Force



Domestic Violence Advisory Board



DVAB Recommendations

Continue -----

1. DV Scorecard /funding to update Data Warehouse
2. Funding hotel & and DV shelter
3. Support for new shelter
4. Alternative payment for indigent men on probation for NOVA



Domestic Violence Advisory Board



DVAB Recommendations

New initiatives -----

5. Police ensure primary perpetrator arrested
6. CMS seek to reduce dating violence
7. Sheriff's Office allocate more resources to serve protection orders
8. Appoint Liaison City Council to DVAB

THANK YOU
For Making Our City/County
Safer

And for continuing to seek funding for
DV Service Coordinator
Supervised Visitation Center
North Meck access to Magistrate