

Responsible Parties Meeting: for Theme 3: Agency Cooperation

April 8, 2009

Members Present; Kevin Cox, Jeremy Hollis, Lisa Merkle, Connie Miller, Frank Lamar, Richard Shade, Sam Mclean, Mike Gallmeier and guest were Mariah Cunningham, Staci Nichols (ACCS), Deb Stinson for Tammie Colon and Tammie Hursh assistant Law Director

We started the meeting by explaining to the guests what we as a group were trying to accomplish and how we arrived at this priority. Discussion was then started on the information we had received from Sheriff Crish and Tony Swygart (LPD) at our last meeting; the time it takes for DV paperwork, a DV Task Force, and how can we involve the Social Services into the DV calls.

Tammie explained she works with the Sheriff Department and LPD to handle the prosecution and that there is a Protocol in place for DV and she believes it is followed. It was originally written in 1996 and taken from the San Diego protocol and revisions are continually being made to try to make it better. They are now trying to get the paperwork down to two pages but for prosecution the more information the stronger the case. She said that after a call, a risk assessment is done and then victim services are notified, each victim is given a card listing what services are available to them. They can not force a victim to do anything it is up to the victim. Richard explained victims are sometimes unwilling to proceed because they may blame themselves for the incident or fear of losing a place to live and income to raise their family.

Staci explained how it works if a juvenile is the offender. There is a meeting the next morning at juvenile court. The court will make every effort to keep the offender out of confinement through counseling and social services but if it continues the court has to get more involved and do what is needed.

Connie asked why two children were killed in Allen County and what are the safeguards if there were prior reports of problems. Staci explained that not everything reported in the media is factual and that she cannot reply on certain things because it is confidential information..

Connie also asked if a mentally disabled person is a problem, how is that handled? They explained that all officers have some crisis intervention training and that the individual is taken to the Crisis Center or St. Rita's if needed.

We asked if a Task Force (LPD, Sheriff Dept. and Social Services) would work better than the current way? Everyone agreed that a Task Force team would be great for freeing up manpower for the street but how is it funded, unless there is grant monies or new revenues none of the agencies could do it.

A reminder that the City would be sending out a notice about the Zoomerang survey and would like everyone to fill it out on-line before April 27th Next meeting is May 13th at 3:00 at 200 W. Market, 4th floor conference room