



GATHER Domestic Violence/Violence Prevention Committee

4/20/06, 3:30, New Hope, 39 Taunton Green

Attendees: Jennifer Brown (New Hope), Bette Chew (BES), Barbara Clark (KDC), Annemarie Matulis (SEMA-VAV), Loran Roderigues (AHS), Lorraine Rosa (GATHER/GTHHSC), Jennifer Tinglof (SEMA-VAV). **Regrets:** Deb Brown

Discussion Highlights:

Upcoming Events/Projects:

- **Triumph Head Start Beautification Project** – Volunteers are invited to join SEMA-VAV for a day, or several times over the months, as they work to complete this landscaping adventure. All activities are weather permitting. Materials are also needed and welcome. Environment makes a difference: 1400 bulbs were planted in the past, but more work needs to be done. For details and calendar, see www.semavav.org, contact DV chairperson Annemarie at matulisannie@msn.com, or call **508-824-3227**.
- **National Crime Victims Rights Week** “Victims’ Rights: Strength in Unity” Silent Vigil featuring campaign signs will be held **4/24/06, 4:30-6:30**, throughout Taunton. Meeting place for sign distribution is a MA Infotech, 9 Taunton Green. All are encouraged to wear purple (for DV), teal, (sexual assault), and/or white (representing the victim died). The white poster signs feature 4 different sayings. High school students and others expect to participate on various street corners.
- **Take Back the Night** - Signs will be used again at the Stonehill College “Take Back the Night, 4/25/06, 5:30, at the Boland Hill Book Store at Stonehill. Participants will walk to each dorm and perform music or poetry.
- **Dress to Impress** – Voices Against Violence has contracted with 1st Parish Church to rent space in the basement. Renovation is low cost, through volunteers. Free interview attire will be provided to low income women and men who are returning to the workforce and don’t have the appropriate clothing for interviews. An authorized referral will be required on agency or organization letterhead. When ready to receive, new interview appropriate clothing will be requested as donations, especially men’s clothing and professional looking shoes for both men and women. The July or August kick off will tie in to National Make a Difference Day. The project will be volunteer run, by appointment.
- **Verizon Cell Phones Project** are still being collected. Call Annemarie for pickup.
- **Justine Kingsley**, VAV volunteer, advocate and spokesperson whose brother and girl friend were carjacked and executed in Rhode Island, will receive an award at the Rhode Island Victims' Advocacy and Support Center (RIVASC) is hosting the 2006 RIVASC Victims' Rights and Service Awards Luncheon on **4/28/06**. The group honors individuals and agencies who have significantly improved the rights and services of Rhode Island crime victims.

Past Events: National Sexual Assault Awareness Month

- **Yellow Dress** play was provided to about 250 Taunton High School juniors, seniors, and teachers, on 3/24/06. It began with an MVP demonstration of a dating violence / bystander involvement incident. The Yellow Dress is about a high school senior that engages with the audience by sharing her dating relationship and how it deteriorates and the violence escalates. She shares signs of the beginning of the control, followed by their break up, and her agreement to see him again. A change in her yellow dress shows the results of that encounter. The play was powerful, unsettling and the audience felt the reactions. After a panel discussion with Jennifer T, Annemarie, the actress and MVP students, about a dozen students stopped to thank representatives for bring the play to the school. Later, a parent shopping with her daughter at a local supermarket thanked Annemarie for bringing the Yellow Dress to the school.
- **Sexual Assault Forum** – The attendance was small, indicating the need for personal invitation at the high school, college level, or for service providers. Rape is a fast growing, violence crime in America. The press attended the event and did an article in the Attleboro Sun Chronicle.
- **Dancing for Our Stars** was a successful fundraiser. The ballroom and sets were beautiful. Included were presentations by 2 DV survivors, live and silent auction, and martini and wine tasting.
- **GTHHSC/GATHER Planning Meeting Update** (See May Advocate for complete minutes) – There has been an increase in activities in both the DV and SAC. Two agencies provide financial management. Changes in federal laws make this more difficult. The DV committee projects often extend beyond DV and into other areas of violence prevention, and funding has to be sought to meet those needs, beyond the DON money. Currently, a 501c3 has sign off on all committee grants. The committee examined the 3 proposed structure models, and in an opinion of 6 to 1, the majority chose the first: That of GATHER being a central group in the hub of a wheel with independent area committees represented as spokes.



Announcements:

- **Jane Doe Spirit Award Winner** - Janice Pothier Pac, Operations Director at New Hope received the 2006 Spirit Award at the “Voices for Change” Gala to benefit Jane Doe Inc. This year’s theme “Voices for Change” emphasized the voices of survivors and the many more voices needed to speak out against violence.
- **Registered Sex Offenders** – Information identifying individuals, their locations, and offenses is available at www.familywatchdog.us.
- **Summer Meeting Schedule** – There will be no DV meetings in July and August. The June meeting will be held as scheduled, location TBA.

Next Steps:

- ☐ Get press articles that highlight committee work in April events (Lorraine)

Next Meeting:

GATHER DV/VP: **5/18/06**, 3:30, (3rd Thursday of the Month), New Hope, 39 Taunton Green