

LCDA CBLC Meeting Notes November 13, 2003 @ 3:00 pm

I. Welcome

Cynthia welcomed everyone to the meeting.

II. Program Update

Cynthia: The legal/immigration subcommittee decided that the project should collaborate with Catholic Charities on a grant since there are many victims who need help with translation and immigration issues. The joint grant application was successful in obtaining funding from VAWA which will be an effort from Catholic Charities, Legal Aid of Central OK and LCDA. The family issues subcommittee issues include the Batterer's intervention certification which has received the preliminary certification for this component. The second phase of certification began today and it will be back at the State Board in January. The marketing subcommittee is finalizing the billboard for the project.

Fabrizio: The billboards will be located in areas most heavily traveled by Latino families. The project needs CBLC's input about the location of the billboards. Should the billboards be on the highway or in the communities? There are two billboards and ten benches that will be used to inform the community.

Comments: Place the billboards in the community. It may create more awareness on the highway but it might miss those who don't live in the community.

Suggestion: The billboard should be placed in the Southwest side of the city where there is a high concentration of Latinos. The other billboard and the bus benches should be spread through out the city.

Questions: Have the locations for the benches been picked up yet?

Cynthia: We are going to look at the location of the benches tomorrow.

Comment: How about placing the benches by some of the service agencies? Many people use the bus to get to these agencies.

Fabrizio: We are also trying to put the ads in the bus. We are currently working on the price for doing that.

Suggestion: Place the billboards and benches between Shields and I-35 in the Southwest corner of Oklahoma City.

Suggestion: There are also a lot of Hispanic businesses on Commerce.
Ruth: We will probably even include the big churches.

Suggestion: Also include schools in the area such as Columbus Elementary.

Update on women's group: The group has been meeting once a week for four times a month. Some members are meeting twice a week to attend ESL classes. Cynthia discussed the vigil that was held following the previous CBLC meeting held on Oct. 23, 2003.

Update on batterers' intervention group: By next meeting, the group may develop a new name other than batterers' intervention group. It is an interesting group. Some individuals are there voluntarily and some are court referred. They are learning about the process of violence. They are gaining understanding on how they become violent. Some are having a hard time understanding the concept. The model is excellent and very helpful. Some say they are applying the model and are beginning to control their emotions. The model is also good because it addresses the cultural issues.

Question: Have you had good attendance?

Answer: Yes, from those who have been attending.

Cynthia: If they fail to attend then appropriate procedures can be taken. The meeting is held weekly.

Announcement: Service providers work hard for safety and want to minimize injury to the victims. However, in a recent incident, a domestic violence victim lost her life and the perpetrator killed him-self. The meeting attendees are requested to wear black and purple ribbons in the memory of the victim through Saturday evening when the burial service will take place.

The meeting participants discussed about safety concerns and the plight of the IPV/SV victims. These events then become news and make victims feel very helpless about their situation. Effort will be made to get the media to provide information to victims as where to obtain help following any news on domestic violence.

Cynthia thanked the Domestic Violence Coalition for information about the Dolores fund that addresses the victim's safety needs.

The CBLC also discussed the need to include military wives to be helped by the police department since the military police who responds to domestic violence calls tends to place the blame on the victims because they don't see a bruise on the victims.

III. Open discussion on HR 2671

CBLC engaged in an open discussion of HR 2671 which requires the police to report any domestic violence victim who is an illegal immigrant to the immigration services. Discussion focused on the needs of these victims.

IV. Announcements

There will be a meeting of the core CBLC members in December. The larger committee will meet in January.

V. Closure

Cynthia thanked the CBLC members for attending.

The meeting adjourned at 4: 49 pm.