

Meeting Minutes
02/06/18
Family Justice Center

I. Attendance

In attendance: Rachael Searcy, Minaz Jooma, Bari Gerbig, Amy Dolinky, Michael Hatmaker, Rhea Ennist, Sam Lee, Laura Berry, Sandy Booher, Bob Thomas, Elaine Wilson, Suzanne Bunton, Samyah Jubran, Brad Hall, Darrell Griffin, Kasey Stone, Mandy Scarbrough, Peggy Province, Susan Long, Katrise Thompson, Bill Tolley, and Joseph Winberry.

II. Family Justice Center

Rachael Searcy, Director of Operations for the Family Justice Center (FJC), shared some about the history and process of the FJC. When clients arrive, they are taken to the third floor where they will find rooms designed with insight from survivors of abuse. The rooms are designed to be comfortable and inviting as evidence in the dim lighting, colorful motifs, and children's toys.

The Family Justice Center has more than 60 partners, many of whom have on-site offices from which to meet with FJC clients. The Knoxville Police Department's Special Crimes Unit and the Knox County Sheriff's Family Crisis Unit—both of which handle elder abuse and many other cases—are both housed on site. Joseph encouraged CCR members to schedule a tour with Rachael and became aware with what services the FJC has for abuse victims/survivors. He also noted that the FJC is often a better option for older victims than the City-County Building for getting orders of protection and other services due to its more accessible, less intimidating facility.

III. Knoxville Police Department Systems-Change Process

Several of the grant's MOU partners will be sharing on the findings of their organization's system change process. Each organization brought or will bring together a diverse committee within their organization to go through a workbook provided by the grant. These workbooks are unique for each of our partners (law enforcement, DA's Office, domestic violence responders, etc.).

Sergeant Darrell Griffin with KPD's Special Crimes Unit led a discussion of the Knoxville Police Department's Systems Change work as it relates to elder abuse. KPD's findings will go through internal review process and will potentially be released in a future report.

IV. Grant Updates

Joseph presented several updates on the elder abuse grant.

Sheriff's Training

Began on February 1st and will continue through September. The overall feedback for the first training was very positive.

Advanced Training for Investigators

This training had to be postponed, but more details will follow. Advanced training will be offered to about 100 investigators in KPD and KCSO.

Direct Victim Services

Suzanne Bunton continues to offer assistance to victims of elder abuse through case management. Outreach is ongoing.

Next Steps

Joseph explained that the Office on Aging is currently looking for grant sources to continue the elder justice work of the CCR beyond the end of the grant period. Anyone with ideas should send those his way. Also, CCR partners may be contacted about sending letters of support for grant applications.

Mission Statement

The mission statement was updated to:

The Knox County Elder Abuse Coordinated Community Response Team pools together our expertise, our power, and our resources to promote solutions for elder abuse victims and survivors.

Vision Statement

The vision statement was updated to:

We accomplish our mission through four main objectives: (1) providing education to community members and professionals; (2) offering direct assistance to survivors as our resources allow; (3) advocating for victim-centered changes to partner organization policies; and (4) sharing potential solutions with vulnerable older adults, their support networks, & the community institutions that can affect the necessary changes.

Website

Joseph encouraged CCR members to view website as it is in the process of being updated. Information on statistics, videos, social media campaigns, training, and other tools will be listed. This website should be shared throughout the community. Any ideas should be sent to Joseph. The website address is www.knoxseniors.org/eacop.

V. Member Updates

Bill Tolley, AARP

- Providing support for Tennessee Federation on Aging's 2018 Aging Day on the Hill.
- More information and registration for February 27 event [here](#).

- Neither CCR nor grant paid staff can participate, but some members may be able to do so as individuals or as part of their other professional affiliations.

Amy Dolinky, Tennessee Suicide Prevention Network

- Applied Suicide ASIST Training Intervention Skills Training (ASIST)
 - March 8-9 2018
 - Class goes from 8:30 am – 5:00 pm (both days)
 - Register [here](#)

Dottie Lyvers, Area Agency on Aging & Disability

- Collaborative Response to Elder and Vulnerable Adult Abuse (CREVVA) Advocate
 - Funded through a Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) grant.
 - Goal is to coordinate short and long term support services to elder and vulnerable adult victims of crime in East Tennessee.
 - The advocate will arrange for the provision of emergency, victim centered services and connect the victims to other community resources.
 - The advocate will work with District Attorneys, Adult Protective Services and Law Enforcement in the 16 county area to identify individuals who are 60 years or older or individuals who are 21 and older who are vulnerable and assist them with counseling services, connection to community resources and direct services to assure they have a successful recover
 - Referrals for this service can come only from the organizations listed above – no other referrals will be taken
 - Referrals are screened for program eligibility and the staff will identify a course of action and work directly with the victim and the referral entity

The CREVVA Advocate is Tracy Armstrong. Her email is TArmstrong@ethra.org and her phone number is (865) 691-2551, ext. 4306.

VI. Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Knox County Elder Abuse CCR will be **Tuesday, March 6, 2018 at the O'Connor Senior Center, 611 Winona Street, from 2-3:30 p.m.** The main discussion will be the systems change process for the courts led by Kasey Stone and other court representatives.