FVRI Hosts National Speaker Fernando Mederos

Strengthening the Batterer Accountability Community in Lane County

The Family Violence Response Initiative is pleased to announce that Fernando Mederos is scheduled to be in Eugene September 5th & 6th, facilitating conversation on enhancing our coordinated response to batterers. Dr. Mederos, a consultant with the Greenbook National Technical Assistance team, specializes in intervening with abusive men, including culturally appropriate programming. His experience includes consultation to develop effective institutional responses to domestic violence in the criminal justice, child welfare, and mental health systems; culturally competent responses to DV in institutions; and facilitating multi-agency responses to DV.

Members of the Domestic Violence Council’s Batterer Intervention Committee have been using conference calls with Dr. Mederos to plan this event. These calls have sparked conversation on many issues, including the use of protective orders, assessment of battering behavior, support & safety of adult and child survivors of DV, and the importance of culture in healing processes.

On Thursday, September 5th, Dr. Mederos will lead the Let’s Talk forum, focusing on Culture Heals: Domestic Violence & Culture. In the afternoon, he will spend time with Parole & Probation officers, examining the role of Community Corrections in supervising batterers. On Friday, the broader batterer accountability community will come together to explore batterer intervention outcome research, the importance of a coordinated community response, and further explore culture’s importance in accountability and healing. This session will help develop & strengthen our collaborative approaches to batterer accountability.

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Effective Intervention in Domestic Violence & Child Maltreatment Cases
Lane County’s Current Collaborations
FVRI’s Cross Training Committee enjoyed overall success with their first cross training pilot, held June 6th. The pilot looked something like this:

**Audience:** 22 in morning and 14 in afternoon. Advocates, child welfare workers, court appointed special advocates, and parole & probation officers. Range of years working in field from 6 months to 28 years.

**Morning Session:** “In Her Shoes” curriculum facilitated by Margo Schaefer of Womenspace and discussion of how victims’ decision making and batterer behaviors impact providers, facilitated by Jennifer Self of Aspen Renaissance.

**Afternoon Session:** Same discipline small group discussion on assessing safety followed by multidisciplinary small group discussion of a case scenario designed for this training.

**Results:** Attendees reported we succeeded in meeting both our goals 1) attendees learned from their colleagues and 2) attendees began to build relationships with others across disciplines. Afternoon attendees will be surveyed again in three months to see if these new relationships carry beyond the training.

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**Neighborhood Organizing for Change Learning Project**

On June 20th & 21st, Margo Schaefer and Diana Avery participated in the second round of meetings on neighborhood organizing for change. A project of the Family Violence Prevention Fund (FVPF), the Learning Project brings together programs from around the country working to prevent and respond to family violence.

We focused on four key questions in our discussions:

1. What are our strategies for preventing/responding to family and community violence?
2. How do we nurture the leadership of others in this process?
3. How do we “prove” that what we are doing is successful and sustainable?
4. How do we talk about our work and get others to want to support it?

The collective wisdom and learning from these programs will be captured in a “how to” manual being created by the FVPF to provide direction and principles for engaging communities as active partners in violence prevention. This manual will illustrate the process and the rationale for using an outcome-based approach to community organizing as a strategy to address family violence.

**Other programs at the meeting were:**

- African American Task Force Against Domestic Violence & Domestic Assault (Seattle, WA)
- Asian Women’s Shelter (San Francisco, CA)
- Central City Lutheran Mission (San Bernardino, CA)
- Close to Home (Dorchester, MA)
- Communities Against Rape and Abuse (Seattle, WA)

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**Update on Neighbor 2 Neighbor Project**

This joint project of the Coordinated Community Response grant, the Domestic Violence Council, Womenspace, and FVRI is moving along. In May, the steering committee received systems change funding through the CCR to hire an assistant! Cindy Bloom has been providing support for meetings and other logistics. The group has met twice with a group of residents at Roosevelt Gardens, in the Trainsong Neighborhood. At the last meeting, the group decided to participate in the National Nite Out event, hosting an ice cream social for the apartment complex.
Quick Glimpse of Mid-Grant Retreat Outcomes

Cultural Competency: Among other next steps, an FVRI cultural competency statement was suggested. “We shall appreciate cultural and individual differences and attempt to accommodate and use them to help address problems of child maltreatment and domestic violence.”

Batterer Accountability: A small group diligently laid out the scope of batterer accountability in Lane County, offering this goal: “From the moment of arrest, we have a coordinated response that is consistent across agencies and systems.” They noted that our “accountability community” is broader than the criminal justice system.

Joint Service Delivery: A small group began to map the joint service delivery projects and collaborative case work FVRI partner agencies are engaged in currently, identifying needs, and brainstorming areas for future joint service delivery. More time required to complete and prioritize needs. The group kept returning to an overarching question: Where do BIPs fit into current and future joint service delivery models and collaborative casework?

Survivor Representation: A small group discussion of the role of survivors in FVRI resulted in these next steps: meeting at the end of summer to explore a survivor focus group project and begin recruiting survivors of domestic violence to the Family Advisory Council.

Advisory Committee Membership: Suggestions were made for membership criteria and a procedure for adding & subtracting advisory committee members. Staff will follow up.

Greenbook All Sites Conference

We are pleased to announce that Lane County has been chosen as the location for the next Greenbook All Sites Conference. Date tentatively set for May 14th-17th, 2003.

Please mark your calendars and let’s show the entire Greenbook group what a great place Lane County is to work, live, and play.
### FVRI 2002 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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We need your help facilitating small group work at the annual **MDT DAY** training on November 5th, 2002 in Eugene, Oregon.

The **Family Violence Response Initiative** Cross Training Committee is looking for facilitators and trainers

*Want to increase experience ...*  
- providing cross training  
- working with multi-disciplinary groups  
- using training techniques that encourage participant interaction

*And have experience training on domestic violence or child maltreatment or working in one of the following fields ...*  
- Advocacy  
- Batterer intervention  
- Child protection  
- Community corrections  
- Law enforcement  
- Prosecution

You are also welcome to join us for a **Train the Trainers Gathering**. This session is planned for September or October in Eugene, OR and will focus on cross-disciplinary training, small group facilitation, and working with case scenarios. Sponsored by the Family Violence Response Initiative (A Greenbook Initiative Demonstration Site).

**Facilitator Orientation**  
Monday, Nov. 4th, 1:00-5:00  
Eugene, OR - location TBA

**MDT Day**  
Tuesday, Nov. 5th, 8:00-4:30  
Valley River Inn, Eugene, OR

*Modest honorarium for MDT DAY facilitators. Let us know you are interested by calling (541)682-6509 or emailing Jennifer.Inman@co.lane.or.us.*
MDT Day - “Focus on Batterers”
Tuesday, November 5th, 2002 @ Valley River Inn in Eugene, Oregon

Participants: Each county will register a team including child protective services, police, district attorney, domestic violence, child assessment or advocacy center, batterer intervention program, parole and probation, and related professionals.

Tentative Agenda:
- Nationally known keynote speaker to set the stage,
- breakout sessions by discipline identifying best practices, and
- teams working together, sharing best practice from discipline and putting the pieces together.

The discipline breakouts will be:
- law enforcement,
- district attorney/courts,
- parole, probation and batterer intervention,
- child protection, and
- advocates.

Facilitators: Facilitators are needed for the discipline sessions to assist in exercises and developing best practices and for the team sessions. Facilitators will help each multi-disciplinary team to develop goals and action steps to enhance their practice.

Facilitator Orientation
Orientation on MDT Day agenda, objectives, and themes with keynote speaker.
Monday, November 4th, 2002, 1:00-5:00 - TENTATIVE
Eugene, Oregon - location TBA
Overnight per diem provided for out of town facilitators.

Optional
Train the Trainers Gathering set for Sept or Oct
Topic: Cross disciplinary training, small group facilitation, working with case scenarios
Currently in the works, details to come in August.
Eugene, Oregon
Sponsored by the Family Violence Response Initiative (A Greenbook Initiative Demonstration Site)

For more information:
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