



DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

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October 9, 2002

Mr. David Burroughs
 Chair
 Forum for Equity and Fairness
 in Family Issues
 185 Springfield Drive
 North East, MD 21901

Dear Mr. Burroughs:

First of all I would like to thank you for your reminders that I failed to send you a rejection letter for the concept paper that was submitted under the FY 01 S.T.O.P. Formula Block Grant Program.

For the record, I would like to respectfully clarify the information you stated in your letter dated September 3, 2002. During the May 4, 2001 VAWA Implementation Committee meeting, FY 01 S.T.O.P. funding allocations were not discussed. The purpose of that meeting was to discuss the de-obligation of funds from one program and re-allocating those funds for a Hispanic Shelter in Georgetown, Delaware (see attached minutes) and set priorities for the FY 01 Request for Concept Papers.

Effective August 2001, I was replaced as the VAWA Planner. Furthermore, FY 01 funding allocations were not confirmed until September 2001. In June 2002 at the VOCA Advisory Committee meeting, was the first time that I had heard that rejection letters were not mailed out to applicants. Unfortunately, during the transitional period, important tasks were overlooked. I apologize for the lack of detail of not following-up with a formal rejection letter.

After reflecting on the minutes from the VAWA Implementation Committee Meetings, the concept paper submitted by the Forum for Equity and Fairness in Family Issues was rejected on the following merit:

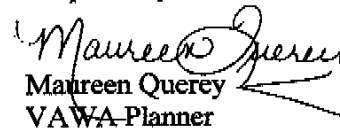
- The concept paper focused on serving men who are victims of domestic violence. Under the S.T.O.P. Formula Block Grant, funding must be allocated to programs that focus on violence against women. The following documentation was provided from the Violence Against Women Office:

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“STOP subgrantees should continue to provide services for both women and men who are victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, or stalking. The statutory purpose areas governing the STOP Formula Grant Program and the legislative history of the Violence Against Women Act, however, demonstrate that Congress was focused on violence against women and, in particular, on institutional discrimination against women victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, or stalking. Reliable statistics, moreover, continue to demonstrate that the overwhelming majority of domestic violence, sexual assault, and stalking crimes are committed against women. To reflect Congress’s focus on violence against women and the demonstrated need in communities across the country to improve response to women victims, states must fund only programs that focus on violence against women; however, such programs must provide services to a similarly situated male victim in need”.

If you have any questions, concerns, or comments please feel free to contact me at (302) 255-0407 or via email at Maureen.querey@state.de.us. Again I apologize for the delay in getting this letter to you.

Respectfully,


Maureen Querey
VAWA-Planner

cc: federal file
VAWA Implementation Committee
Ronald Keen

**VAWA Implementation Committee
Minutes
May 4, 2001
Law Library – Family Court, Fourth Floor**

Minutes:

Committee Members Present: Honorable Vincent Poppiti, Chief Judge Family Court; Honorable Richard Gebelein, Judge Superior Court; Jennifer Barber, Esq., and Natalie Wolf, Esq.

Staff Present: Ronald Keen, Executive Director of the Domestic Violence Coordinating Council; Corrine Pearson, Victims Coordinator; and Maureen Querey, Criminal Justice Council.

Public: Carol Post, Delaware Coalition Against Domestic Violence; and David Burroughs, F.E.F.F.I.

Chief Judge Poppiti brought the VAWA Implementation Committee to order at 9:45 A.M. During this meeting, the following agenda items were discussed:

1. Honorable Richard Gebelein and Natalie Wolf were introduced as the two new VAWA Implementation Committee Members.
2. The VAWA Implementation Committee approved the minutes from the December 6, 2000 meeting.
3. Discussion was held around the outcomes of the FY2001 Strategic Planning Session. During this meeting it was determined that Maureen Querey would summarize and distribute the priority list to the VAWA Implementation Committee. In addition, the VAWA Implementation Committee requested a comparison between current STOP funded programs and the summarized priorities. From there, a follow-up meeting would be scheduled to prioritize the needs and develop a Request for Proposal.
4. Under Other Business the following issues were discussed:
 - Criminal Justice Council staff presented their recommendation regarding the outcome of the La Esperanza evaluation. The Memorandum recommended de-obligating \$50,000 from La Esperanza's current grants. The \$50,000 would be utilized to establish a new Hispanic Domestic Violence Shelter in Sussex County. The balance of funds would remain with La Esperanza to hire a case manager. Judge Gebelein made a motion to accept the

Criminal Justice Council's recommendation. Jennifer Barber seconded the motion, and the motion was carried.

- **Jennifer Barber requested that available funding allocations be posted under the Delaware Criminal Justice Council's website.**

Public Comments:

Carol Post asked for clarification where the actual location of the domestic violence shelter would be. In addition, she asked where future funding for the shelter would come from. As mentioned in the Concept Paper submitted by Maria Picazo, the physical location of the shelter would remain the same. In addition, the Criminal Justice Council asked the VAWA Implementation Committee to consider the new shelter and the case manager position for potential funding under STOP and the Family Violence Prevention Service Act.

David Burroughs: Mr. Burroughs commented that during the VAWA Strategic Planning Session, the need for male victim services was identified. He further commented that under the reauthorization of VAWA 2000, males could receive victim services with STOP Formula Funds.

Respectfully Submitted,


Maureen Querey