ADVISORY COUNCIL

MEETING MINUTES DECEMBER 6, 2007

1. Meeting was called to order at 5:42 P.M. by Chair, Bent Messer

2. Present: Brent Messer (Chairperson) Randolph Jones, (Vice Chair), Jay Herron, Susan Nelson, Norma Charles, Michele Cripe, Mikki McDougall, Irma Virella, Shelia Dickison, Jyoti Parmar. Absent: Cammie Cromie, Roseanne Morse

   Victim Services & Rape Crisis Center staff: Loretta Golden, Karon Walker, Rita Lawrence

3. Minutes from 10/25/07 meeting read. A typo was noted by Susan Nelson “under Old Business the term “defender” should be changed to “offender”

   Minutes approved.

   The Council welcomed new member Irma Virella and Susan Nelson who was reappointed by the ACBoCC

4. Operating in the Sunshine, presentation by Majeedah Murad, Assistant County Attorney. Ms. Myrad advised all advisory council meetings, must meet the following very important criteria:
   1. Open and accessible to the public, notice given of time, date, location
   2. Minutes are taken at the meeting and promptly recorded
   3. Reasonable notice of each meeting is given, at least 24 hours in advance

   Advisory Council members may not get together and talk about issues that may come up for discussion or vote at a council meeting. This includes telephone and email conversations. Subcommittees must operate under the requirements of the Sunshine Law as well. Violations of the Sunshine law are a second degree misdemeanor can result in a 500.00 fine and/or 60 days in jail.

   Council members discussed information provided by Ms. Myrad and confirmed every effort will be made to ensure the Council is in compliance with the requirements of the Sunshine Law.

OFFICERS REPORT:

Brent expressed appreciation for Ms. Myrad attending the meeting and outlining responsibilities of the Council regarding the Sunshine Law. He explained the Victim Services & Rape Crisis Center is a new Board and is still in its growing and information gathering stage.

STAFF REPORT:

Loretta advised they have completed the interview process for a vacancy in the program. The candidate selected is currently employed as a victim advocate counselor in Chicago. The interview was conducted via the phone she met with staff November 28. She is expected to start January 2008. Loretta advised Susan Nelson that due to her concerns regarding teen dating violence and access to counseling and sexual assault services the program is in the process of developing a My Space and Face Book web site. A new out posting site has been developed at House of Hope. Two 10 week support groups The Survivors of Rape Trauma Writing Group for adult females and the Male Survivors of Rape Trauma Support Group will start in January 2008. Kudos to Jay he gave an excellent interview to the Alligator regarding the male support group. Karon informed council members of the “Be Kind to Others” initiative the program launched at Rawlings Elementary aimed at combating bullying in the schools. The Kindness Queen(s) Laura Kalt and Kenya McCray will be appearing at other elementary and middle schools in the Gainesville/Alachua County community. Karon discussed the volunteer component of the program, the number of volunteers and the hours given to the program. She inquired if council members would be interested in an opportunity to meet volunteers during their January 24th meeting? A brief discussion followed and Susan suggested the council should discuss business related issues the first part of the meeting and invite volunteers for a meet and greet the last 30 - 45 minutes of the meeting. A motion was moved and seconded, council members will meet with program volunteers at the January 24, 2008 meeting the last 30-45 minutes of the meeting.

COMMITTEE REPORTS
Stake holders Survey

A draft of the Stake holders’ survey is complete. Norma had a friend who has expertise in developing surveys review the tool. The sub-committee will meet January 9th to review and discuss the survey. The draft and recommendations will be distributed to the full council for consideration January 24th, 2008.

Banquet fundraiser

An email from Cammie asking for assistance from council members with tasks related to the banquet and auction items was read by Susan Nelson. A motion was made and seconded that each member will obtain a minimum of 2 items for the silent auction. It was agreed that members will try to get a wide range of items. Norma will inquire at the health club and Dillard’s for gift certificates. Susan was asked to write a letter to be used by Advisory Board members for soliciting auction items for donations. Jay asked that he be allowed to forego the solicitation for items as he lives out of town and does not come in often. A motion was made and seconded to relieve Jay from soliciting items for the silent auction. A brief discussion followed regarding music for the banquet. Brent and Susan will ask colleagues at their perspective offices about playing at the banquet. A motion was made and seconded to allow the entertainers to eat free. Dress for the event will be semi-formal. Color: Teal green; Randolph generously offered to be responsible for table tops and set-up. Norma suggested the council purchase a cake to be used for the center piece as a means of acknowledging the event. Brent suggested signage, Shelia offered a banner, Karon suggested roses. Brent will get w/Print Shop reference the cost for a banner. Norma inquired about decorations, tickets, invitations, printing, design etc. Advised she has a friend who designs and prints tickets she will ask her about the cost.

A Memo from the Roseanne Morse of the Miller Foundation was read outlining the Foundation’s offer to assist the council with accepting financial donations and deposits on behalf of the program. A motion was made and seconded to accept the Miller Foundation’s offer to assist the council with financial donations and deposits. Program staff will be available to provide a mailing list and track RSVP responses. This issue was tabled for more discussion at the January 2008 meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 7:35 P.M.

The next meeting will be January 24th, 2008 at 218 SE 24th Street; 5:30 P.M.

Subcommittee (Stake Holders Survey) will meet January 9, 2008, 218 SE 24th Street at 5:30 P.M.