

MINUTES FOR JULY 30, 2012**COLUMBUS, KANSAS, CHEROKEE COUNTY****OFFICE OF THE COUNTY CLERK****CRYSTAL L. GATEWOOD**

The Cherokee County Commissioners met July 30, 2012. Those in attendance were Commissioners Collins, Garner, and Hilderbrand. The Pledge of Allegiance was said by all. Commissioner Hilderbrand made a motion to accept the commission amended minutes for July 23, 2012; his motion was seconded by Commissioner Garner with Commissioners Collins, Garner, and Hilderbrand voting in favor. Those signing off on the commission amended minutes were Commissioners Hilderbrand, Collins and Garner, and County Clerk Crystal Gatewood.

MOTIONS MADE BY COMMISSION

Commissioner Garner made a motion to move Shawn Turner from 10:30 AM to 10:22 AM on the agenda; his motion was seconded by Commissioner Collins with Commissioners Hilderbrand, Collins, and Garner voting in favor.

Shawn Turner, representing the Riverton Sewer District, submitted the lowest bid for the project in the amount of \$273,841.00 from Warstler Excavating, and he also recommended the commission amend their bid loan. **Commissioner Garner made a motion, pending KDHE approval, and with the recommendation of Shawn Turner to approve the Warstler bid of \$273,841.00 for the Riverton Sewer systems; his motion was seconded by Commissioner Hilderbrand with Commissioners Garner, Collins, and Hilderbrand voting in favor. Shawn will return on Monday, August 6, 2012 at 10:30 AM with the figures that will be needed to amend their bid loan.** (A copy of the bids is attached to these minutes.)

OTHER BUSINESS

Leonard Vanatta, Supervisor of the Road and Bridge Department, reported Weaver Bridge should be completed this week and that in September the county will be seeding the area with native grasses. He also said they will be hauling dirt on Tuesday for the museum project and they also will be bringing in clay, and that will take a couple of days. They discussed area railroad crossings and Commissioner Collins said there were about five that needed attention here in the county, and he did not understand why the railroad will not take care of them.

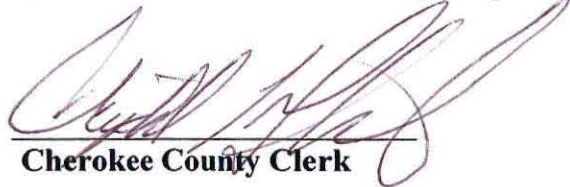
Katy Parker, representing the Family Peace Initiative, which is a domestic battery program that started back in 1992, came before the commission. The program needs \$50,000.00 to operate for a year and they are asking commissioners in Cherokee, Crawford, Bourbon, and Labette counties to donate \$12,500.00 from each of the counties. Ms. Parker asked if the commission would be able to meet with the other counties to see if this would be something they all wanted to fund so the service is available. The commission recommended she get with the two County Attorney Candidates on the November General Election and discuss it with them, and Commissioner Hilderbrand asked Commissioner Collins to meet with the group when the meeting was scheduled. She agreed to make sure he knew when the meeting was scheduled. The commission thanked her for coming in.

Election Officer Crystal Gatewood reported that she held poll worker training on July 24, 2012 and July 26, 2012 here at the courthouse in the break room for all poll workers who will be working at the August 7, 2012 Primary Election polling places in the county. She said the training went very well and everyone is ready. Open voting ends August 6, 2012 at noon.

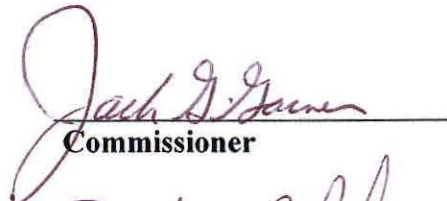
ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Garner made a motion to adjourn at 11:30 AM; his motion was seconded by Commissioner Collins with Commissioners Collins, Hilderbrand, and Garner voting in favor. The next Cherokee County Commission meeting will be held August 6, 2012 at 9:00 AM in the Cherokee County Courthouse in Columbus, Kansas.

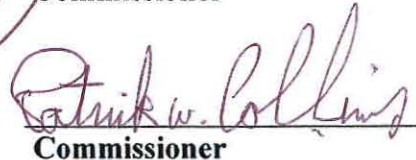
Resolved and ordered this day, August 6, 2012



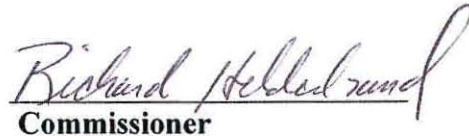
Cherokee County Clerk



Commissioner



Commissioner

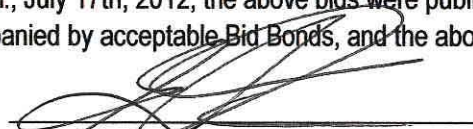


Commissioner

**Tabulation of Bids
Sewer System Improvements
Cherokee County, Kansas**

	Warstler Excavating	Laforge Const.	Crossland Heavy	Goins Ent.	Tri-Star Utilities
1 Clearing and Grubbing LS A	\$2,500	\$2,000	\$4,600	\$11,000	\$1,500
2 Excavation, LS A	\$9,900	\$4,400	\$16,550	\$17,000	\$25,000
3 Concrete and Piping, LS A	\$119,519	\$121,000	\$105,000	\$162,000	\$158,000
4 Sewer Extension, LS A	\$7,720	\$10,000	\$12,400	\$9,400	\$22,000
5 Force Main Ext, LS A	\$4,560	\$7,600	\$11,400	\$9,500	\$6,000
6 Clearing and Grubbing LS B	\$800	\$1,500	\$7,850	\$2,300	\$4,000
7 Excavation, LS B	\$9,960	\$2,700	\$23,700	\$4,400	\$20,000
8 Concrete and Piping, LS b	\$107,382	\$131,000	\$100,200	\$131,000	\$142,000
9 Sewer Extension, LS B	\$5,200	\$3,600	\$5,350	\$8,300	\$2,000
10 Erosion Control,	\$1,600	\$1,100	\$1,930	\$4,000	\$1,000
11 Surface Restoration,	\$1,200	\$2,000	\$8,800	\$4,000	\$3,000
12 Mobilization	\$1,000	\$1,500	\$3,000	\$20,000	\$10,000
13 Const. Staking	<u>\$2,500</u>	<u>\$800</u>	<u>\$1,200</u>	<u>\$4,000</u>	<u>\$1,000</u>
	\$273,841	\$289,200	\$301,980	\$386,900	\$395,500

This is to Certify that at 2:00 P.M., July 17th, 2012, the above bids were publicly opened and read aloud, and the above bids were accompanied by acceptable Bid Bonds, and the above totals are correct as to additions and extensions.



Shawn Turner, P.E.

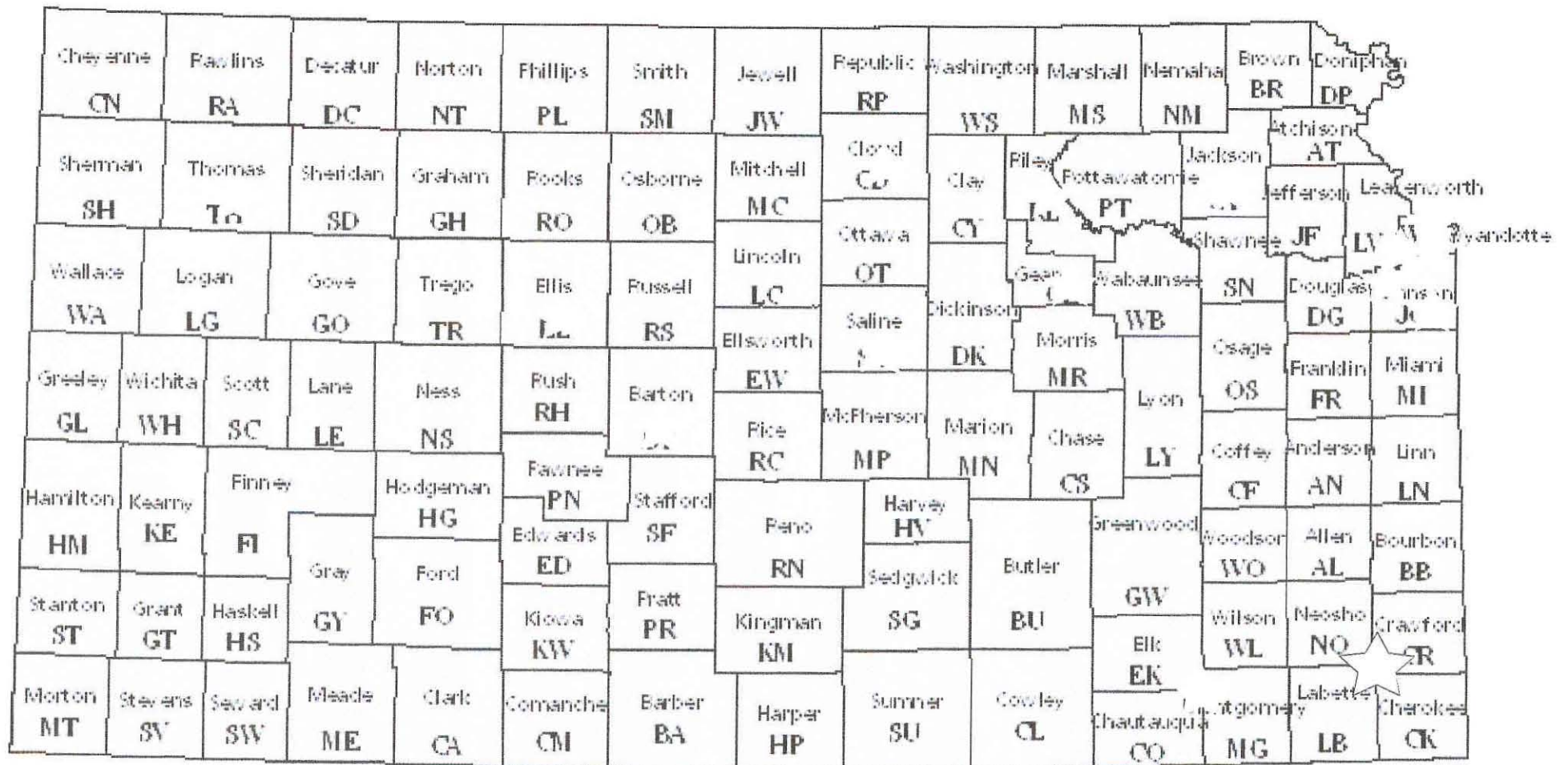
The Family Peace Initiative

Katy Parker LMSW

Brooke Saathoff MS

Who are we?

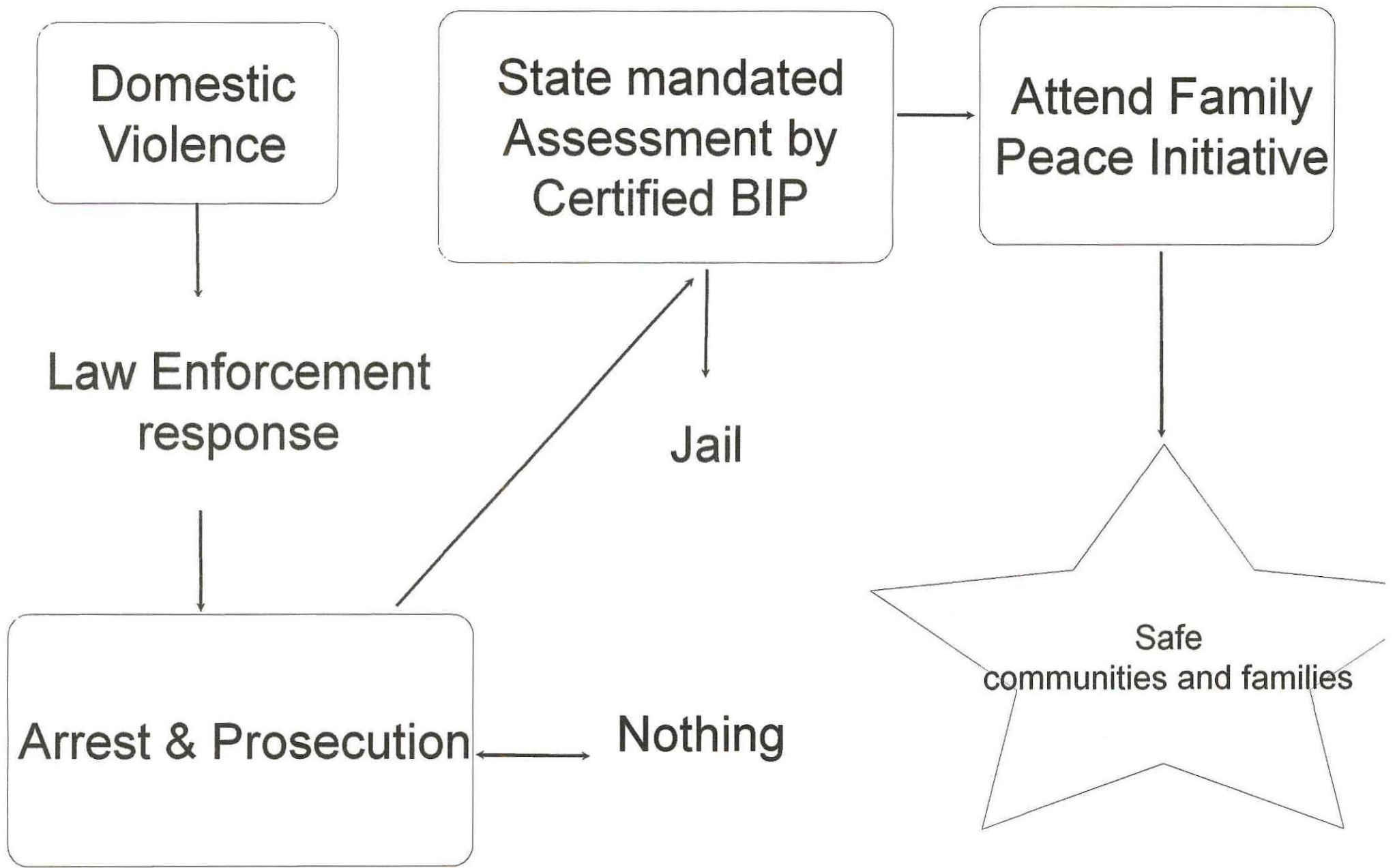
- Part of a collaborative effort to achieve safety for battered women and children.
- An extension of the court.
- A local resource.
- Model for the rest of the state.



FPI has been certified since February 2010.

What do we do?

- Assess to determine risk and lethality.
- Hold batterers accountable.
- Provide an alternative to jail.
- Increase victim safety.



Why are we worth the investment?

- We allow for professionals to do their jobs better.
- County Jail costs \$44 a day.
- Ultimately tax dollars are spent more efficiently.
- It would take years to replicate what we have in place in TODAY.

What happens if we go away?

- Law enforcement may spend more time dealing with domestic violence calls.
- Jail may be the only sentencing option.
- There is a connection between domestic violence and child abuse.
- Courts will have to look outside the community for required assessments.
- Batterers will not get effective treatment.

What do we need from you?

- Financial support.
- \$50,000 will fund our program for a year.
- Community support and referrals.
- Clearly community issues are many and resources of time and money are short.
- “Is _____ making our communities and families safer?” BIP programs do make communities safer.

July 25, 2012

Katy Parker
Family Peace Initiative

Dear Katy,

I appreciated the opportunity to discuss with you today your hope and plan to continue providing services to intervene in domestic violence in the SE corner of Kansas. I am aware of the impact domestic violence has on our children and families in Cherokee County. For that reason our agency has supported services for domestic violence for many years.

In the past we cooperated with the Alternative to Battering program by offering space in our facilities to provide space for their treatment groups. Although that was short lived that offer still stands and we would be glad to offer the same to Family Peace Initiative.

Understanding that with the new law individuals must be assessed by a certified program and yours is the only one in the area adds even more importance that your program continues.

You have the support of Spring River Mental Health Center in your efforts and if we can be of assistance in any way, please let me know.

Sincerely,



Scott Jackson
Executive Director

11th JUDICIAL DISTRICT FIELD SERVICES

Crawford County Judicial Center

602 N. Locust

Pittsburg, Ks 66762

(620) 232-7540

(620) 232-5646 (FAX)

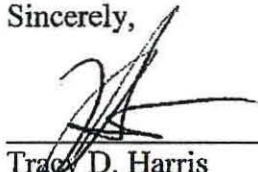
July 11, 2012

Commissioners:


We are submitting this letter in support of the Family Peace Initiative/Alternatives to Battering Program supported through SKIL (Southeast Kansas Independent Living Resource Center). Recently we have been made aware of funding issues that were placing this program in jeopardy of closing its doors. The Family Peace initiative has been an integral part of our supervision practices for years, being the only certified batterer's intervention program in the area. It is vital to our communities and our clientele that we continue to promote the safety of victims of Domestic Violence and stalking, as well as provide the tools necessary for the batterers to accept responsibility for their actions and attain the necessary skills to cultivate non-violent and controlling relationships.

The Family Peace Initiative has been a significant collaborative partner to our agencies, providing excellent and affordable services to our offenders. The loss of this program will have immediate effects on the quality of services available to our clientele, on the ability for clients to fulfill mandatory court orders placing them in jeopardy of additional court intervention and on the safety of victim's within our communities. Any assistance, financial or supportive, you can provide to them will be greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,



Tracy D. Harris
Community Corrections Director



Mac Young
Community Corrections Admin Director
Chief Court Services Officer

July 11, 2012

To Whom it May Concern:

I am writing as not only a concerned citizen, but one who has worked with the Safehouse Crisis Center, Inc. (Safehouse), in various capacities since 1992. Safehouse developed one of the first batterer's intervention programs in the state in 1992. This program, now known as the Family Peace Initiative (FPI) has been a part of Southeast Kansas Independent Living (SKIL) for five years. While the work of the FPI is not centrally related to the mission of SKIL, at the time, the administrators of SKIL recognized the need of this program in our community and agreed to provide space and money to ensure that men (and women) in our community who use abusive and violent tactics in their relationship are held accountable and provided alternative tools that will not only prevent them from using such tactics in the future, but will be able to have healthier relationships with their partners, children, and with those in the community. It is my understanding that their support is, unfortunately, no longer possible.

I have been working in many capacities on the issue of domestic violence and sexual assault since 1986. The most relevant of these include serving as a co-facilitator of the Alternatives to Battering program (now known as FPI) for five years, professional (academic) expertise in the area of domestic violence and sexual assault, and my current service as a member of the Kansas State's Batterer's Intervention Program Certification Board for the Kansas State Attorney General's Office.

Our communities in Southeast Kansas are at risk of losing the FPI program. I urge you to consider providing support for FPI, in order for the organization to have time to more clearly develop and implement a plan to become financially independent. Without support, momentum that has been gained by this program will be reduced, and the chances of its success are drastically reduced. With support and some time, this program could become fiscally independent. Beyond that, and more importantly, individuals and families in SEK will be safer. Obviously, a safer community has direct ramifications for the emotional, psychological, physical, and financial well being of its citizens.

For the sake of simplicity, I will highlight the following points:

- The "typical" batterer does not stop battering without intervention. Supporting a victim of abuse does help that particular victim, but the statistics---and my experience working as a volunteer for Safehouse---indicates that while one victim may be "saved," another one is successfully targeted as a victim by the same batterer.
- Intervention is critical to stop the aforementioned pattern of a batterer.
- FPI, which serves SEK, is currently one of the strongest programs in the state. It was the first in the state to be certified by the Kansas Attorney General's office, with ***no identified proficiencies***.
- The state legislature recently passed legislation which recognizes the need and essentiality of batterer's intervention programs (BIP). Hence, communities that do not have certified BIP services available for those who are arrested for domestic violence crimes are not in compliance with the law.
- Currently, batterer's intervention programs (BIP) all across the state are rushing to ensure that they have certified BIP programs that not only provide services which are so essential, but are in compliance with the law.

These, together, serve as a foundation for the most obvious reason to support the FPI:

- The need in SEK for this service is paramount.
- Victims and their families, *including children* in SEK, will be at increased risk of abuse of all kinds, violent assaults, and even the possibility of homicide if batterers are not held accountable for their actions
- **Providing support to FPI so that its services can be sustained is the right thing to do.**

I strongly and sincerely **urge** you to support FPI and the critical services that FPI provides. If I can provide you with any additional information, feel free to contact me. You may call me at 620-249-8154 at your convenience.

Sincerely,

Julie A. Allison, Ph.D.

Dear Commissioners of Labette County,

My name is Bill Troester Sr. I'm a proud graduate of the Family Peace Initiative Program here in Parsons. I've recently been made aware that this program is going to suffer a funding cut, which will endanger its existence in our community. This would be a tragedy of horrific proportion. Causing a domino effect of increasing domestic violence and abuse in a community that is already deeply infected with it. Through this program, I was able to become a calm, peaceful, rational, and loving person that deals with the everyday stress that we all face in our daily lives, with love, kindness, consideration, and understanding, instead of the panic stricken, temper tantrum ridden, violence that plagued my life for so long before. The tools I gained from my wonderful group leaders, Katie Parker, and her partner Christine Haskew, completely changed my life in more ways than I can count. I have them, and the Family Peace Initiative Program itself, to thank for a second chance in life. As a former abuser, I can speak for most, if not all abusers. That is what they were taught as they grew up in their abusive homes. It's all they know. And unless we have a resource to teach and enlighten them that there is a much better way to live, they will continue to be abusers. And their children, and their children's children will be abusers. I implore you to reconsider this funding cut. And keep the Family Peace Initiative Program alive and strong. For the sake of the mental, emotional, and physical well being of everyone involved in the terrible world of family violence, and for peace in our society in general. Thank you for your time, and God Bless America.

Sincerely,

Bill Troester Sr.