

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS



## COUNTY OF SANTA CRUZ

GOVERNMENTAL CENTER

701 OCEAN STREET SANTA CRUZ, CALIFORNIA 95060-4069  
 (406) 454.2200 ATSS 564-2200 FAX (408) 454-3262 TDD (408) 454.2123

JANET K. BEAUTZ  
 FIRST DISTRICT

WALTER J. SYMONS  
 SECOND DISTRICT

MARDI WORMHOUDT  
 THIRD DISTRICT

RAY BELGARD  
 FOURTH DISTRICT

JEFF ALMQUIST  
 FIFTH DISTRICT

AGENDA: 8/4/98

June 26, 1998

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
 County of Santa Cruz  
 701 Ocean Street  
 Santa Cruz, CA 95060

RE: APPOINTMENT OF AT-LARGE REPRESENTATIVES  
 TO THE DOMESTIC VIOLENCE COMMISSION

Dear Members of the Board:

I recommend the appointment of the following persons to the Domestic Violence Commission, as at-large appointees in the categories indicated, in accordance with County Code Chapter 2.118, Section 20:


Representative of Latino community

Mary Benitez  
 P.O. Box 1465  
 Soquel, CA 95073  
 728-0262 (H)  
 763-1345 (B)

Representative of the gay/lesbian/bisexual community

Sheri Whitt  
 1400 Emeline Avenue  
 Santa Cruz, CA 95060  
 454-0940 (H)  
 454-4960 (B)

Sincerely,

  
 JANET K. BEAUTZ, Supervisor  
 First District

JKB: ted

cc: Mary Benitez; Sheri Whitt; Domestic Violence Commission

1037A1

APPLICATION FOR APPOINTMENT TO A COUNTY ADVISORY BODYINSTRUCTIONS

If you are interested in serving on a County Advisory Body please complete the following application and return it to the Board of Supervisors, 701 Ocean St., Room 500, Santa Cruz, California. If you are interested in being considered for more than one advisory body a separate application should be submitted for each appointment you are seeking.

Upon receipt, your application for appointment will be routed to each Board member and then filed for further consideration by Board members when there is a vacancy on the advisory body. If a Supervisor is interested in nominating you for appointment, the Supervisor will contact you and discuss the appointment, the appointment process, and requirements for the advisory body in question.

Please specify below the Commission/Committee or Board to which you are seeking appointment and provide the requested information.

Thank you for your interest in County Government.

COMMISSION, COMMITTEE or BOARD

Domestic Violence Commission

Name

Mary Benitez

Address

P.O. Box 1465

Soquel, CA 95073

Phone

(Home)

408. 728-0262

(Business)

408. 763-1345

Supervisory District

Length of Residence in Area

1981 - (17 yrs)

Age

(Optional)

Circle one:

Under 21

21-30

31-40

Over 40

PREVIOUS COMMISSION OR COMMITTEE SERVED (Please specify)

Advisory Body

Term

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**EDUCATION**

209

**Institution****Major****Degree,****Year**

*please see resume*

**WORK/VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE****Organization****Address****Position****Year**

*please see resume*

**STATEMENT OF QUALIFICATIONS**

Please attach a brief statement indicating why you are interested in serving on the advisory body in question and why you are qualified for the appointment.

**CERTIFICATION**

I certify that the above information is true and correct and I authorize the verification of the information in the application in the event I am a finalist for the appointment.

*Mary Benitez*

Signature

*6/10/98*

Date

June 8, 1998

To The Board of Supervisors,

I am interested in serving on the Santa Cruz County Domestic Violence Commission. I became aware of the effects of domestic violence from early childhood, through life experiences with my own family, foster family, and orphanage.

To Norman

Terror  
strikes  
my  
heart  
When  
I  
hear  
his  
truck  
drive  
up  
Hide.  
get  
small.  
hope  
he  
forgets  
I'm  
here.

Voices From Norman

"I'm going to bash your head in..."  
"Goddam worthless piece of..."  
"Ass backward;..."  
"Who do you think you are..."  
"I'm going to knock some sense into you..."  
That's what happens when you mix the races,,,"  
"Aw, she doesn't know anything..."  
"Shut your goddamn mouth..."  
"What the hell do you think you are..."

memory blanks.  
beatings w/big stick w/nails.  
sharp whips of tree limbs.  
kicks over my body  
punches to the head.  
thrown against the wall.

Love,  
Daddy.

I understand very well the effects of domestic violence upon families. Unconsciously, the abuse becomes "normal" if that is the only way of life that has been modeled.

Often times the abuse continues through adulthood as the familiar patterns so ingrained throughout childhood become part of a woman's relationships.

Esto es terminado  
Simplemente  
O .  
no simplemente.  
Golpes. Gritas. Corages.  
Terminado.

*This is finished.*  
*Simply*  
*or*  
*not simply.*  
*Punches. Cries. Rages.*  
*Finished.*

Tu en cárcel.  
 Y yo  
 en el refugio.  
 Tristé  
 Estoy bien cansada de  
 tus juegos. engaños, insinceridades.  
 excusas.  
 Estaba bien usáda.  
 no mas.  
 Terminádo. Anulado.

You in jail.  
 and I  
 in this refuge.  
 Sad.  
 I am very tired of  
 your games, entrapments, insincerity.  
 excuses.  
 I have been well used.  
 no more.  
 Finished. Annulled.

Personally, after much struggle, counseling and education, I know that it is possible to learn to distinguish between healthy and unhealthy behaviors. I am a Latina survivor with experiences of nightmarish domestic violence. I bring firsthand knowledge and understanding of domestic violence to the commission. I bring the years of healing, learning.

Sometimes when pain  
 overwhelms us  
 til we feel stripped away  
 and empty of life  
 there are those in our lives  
 who love us  
 and want to hold us up  
 til we are strong and  
 and full of life  
 once  
 again

A veces, cuando dolor  
 desconertanos  
 hasta sentimos fajado  
 y vacío de vida  
 hay algunas en nuestra vidas  
 que nos amos  
 y quiere dan appollo  
 hasta estamos fuerte y  
 y lleno de vida  
 otra  
 ves

I bring my commitment to work against domestic violence. Thank you for your consideration of my application.

Sincerely,



Mary Beni tez

**Mary Benitez**  
P.O. Box 1465  
Soquel, CA 95073

Home 408/728-0262 Office 408/763-1345 Fax 763-1377

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#### EDUCATION

1997-1998	New College of California, San Francisco, CA MA program In progress Organizational Leadership studies to be completed summer semester 1998
1997	New College of California, San Francisco, CA BA Humanities with an emphasis on Cultural Competency for Human Services
1988.1994	Cabrillo College, Aptos, CA AS, AA with Liberal Arts, ECE Awarded Lion's Club Scholarship, Student Speaker for <b>Latino</b> Graduation Ceremonies
1996-1997	Grant Writing Certificate
1996 to present	Numerous Diversity <b>Trainings</b>
1998 1 to present	Earned certificates for Group Facilitation
1995	Awarded Kellogg's Foundation Leadership Training for 1 of 32 new non-profit organizations of the United States & Caribbean
1990	RIE Human Development
1979, 1980	Earned Accelerated Christian Education Teaching <b>Certificates</b>

#### ORGANIZATIONS

1994-1996	<b>Latina</b> Leadership Network
1995-1996	Educational Leadership Institute (ELI ) <b>Fellowship</b> by SC COE
1995	Community Action Board (CAB) board member
1994 , 1995	Spirit of <b>Watsonville</b> Organizational Committee
1993-1994	Community Representative for Pajaro Valley Healthy Start
1993	Fundraised \$3,000 and car in two weeks for child with leukemia
1994	Dealing with <b>Difficult</b> People *Cultural Competency Workshops
1994	Awarded commendations from CAB and the Mayor of Santa <b>Cruz</b>
1986	Represented Cabrillo College CA State Child Legislative Symposium
1981-1990	Staff Family for International Students at Monte Vista Chr. School
1972-present	Volunteer & paid activities fundraising, organized small to large events for school and church programs, elder care

#### SKILLS/ASSETS

Good Organizational and Communication Skills  
Good Public Relations and Extensive Public Contact  
Computer Literate  
Intake Interviewing and Screening experience  
Diversity & Leadership Training  
**Conflict** Resolution Training  
Group Facilitation  
Bilingual , Bicultural (Spanish)

## References

Clark Blaisdell  
Executive Director, Northbay Ecumenical Housing  
415/382-2530

**Counselo España**  
Instructor, Cabrillo College  
408/479-6515

Albino Garcia  
Gang Violence Reduction Counselor, Barrios Unidos  
408/457-8208

Rebecca Garcia  
Principal, Rolling Hills Middle School  
408/728-6341

Dr. Martin Krovetz  
Professor of Education, CSU San Jose  
408/924-3616

Rosemary Ledesma-Downey, LCSW  
Domestic Violence Counselor, Monterey YWCA  
408/372-7411

Claudia Melendz  
Editor, El Andar Bilingual newspaper  
408/457-8353

Victoria Mendoza-Stass, LMFCC  
Janus Substance Abuse Counselor, Community Liason  
408/ ~~462~~-1060

Dr. Babbi Winegarden  
Stanford University, Clinical Psychologist, New College of California  
415/437-3455

APPLICATION FOR APPOINTMENT TO A COUNTY ADVISORY BODY

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INSTRUCTIONS

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Thank you for your interest in County Government.

COMMISSION, COMMITTEE or BOARD Santa Cruz County Domestic Violence Commission

Name

Sheri Whitt

Home:

Address

1400 Emeline - CMH

860 Summit Dr

Santa Cruz - CA 95060

Bonny Doon, C

95060

Phone

(Home)

408/454-0940

(Business)

408/454-4960

Supervisory District

3 (Mardi Wornhardt)

Length of Residence in Area

8 years

Age

(Optional)

Circle one:

Under 21

21-30

31-40

Over 40

PREVIOUS COMMISSION OR COMMITTEE SERVED (Please specify)

Advisory Body

Term

\* none in Santa Cruz County

Alternatives to Domestic Violence

'85-'87

Advisory Board (Riverside Co.)



EDUCATION

215

<u>Institution</u>	<u>Major</u>	<u>Degree</u>	<u>Year</u>
CSUSB	clinical/couns psych.	M.S.	'89
UCSC	psychology	B.A.	'82

WORK/VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE

<u>Organization</u>	<u>Address</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Year</u>
Co. of Santa Cruz, M.H.	1400 Emeline	Sr. Mental Health Client Specialist	'91 to present
Big Brothers/Big Sisters	Santa Cruz	Casework Sup.	'90-'91
Family Learning Center	Cotton, CA	intake coord. clinical coord.	'87-'90
Alternatives to Domestic Vio.	Riverside, CA	outreach counselor	'84-'87
Childhelp USA	Beaumont, CA	child care	'83-'84
Domestic Violence Shelter Supervisor	Claremont, CA	shelter supervisor (weekend)	'82-'83

STATEMENT OF QUALIFICATIONS

Please attach a brief statement indicating why you are interested in serving on the advisory body in question and why you are qualified for the appointment.

CERTIFICATION

I certify that the above information is true and correct and I authorize the verification of the information in the application in the event I am a finalist for the appointment.

Sheri Whitt

Signature

6-19-98

Date

June 19, 1998

To members of the Santa Cruz County Domestic Violence Commission:

I am interested in serving on the Domestic Violence Commission in Santa Cruz County and hope you will seriously consider my request to serve as a commissioner. I am particularly interested in filling the vacancy for a commissioner who is willing and capable of representing the views of the gay/lesbian/bisexual/transgendered community. I am alarmed by preliminary studies which show that 22% to 46% of all lesbians have been in a physically violent same-sex relationship. I am also aware that in at least one study (Gay and Lesbian Community Action Council, 1987) it was found that 17% of gay males had also reported having been in a physically violent gay relationship. As we know, with all domestic violence statistics, frequently this is an issue which is underreported due to a variety of causes, not the least of which is the shame many victims of domestic violence experience as a result of the behavior they are subjected to. These dynamics are further heightened and efforts to seek help are further hindered when the individual being affected by domestic violence is a member of the "queer" community. Fear of being misunderstood or treated differently because of homophobia place additional barriers in front of gay/lesbian/ bisexual/transgendered people seeking help. Finally, there has been a historical reluctance in the "queer" community towards acknowledging that domestic violence exists in our relationships and our community. There is much work to be done in educating victims/survivors and service providers alike about how to best help this population.

I feel quite energized by this issue and have had experience working directly with persons affected by domestic violence. I have helped develop domestic violence programs, have trained others to provide assistance to persons affected by domestic violence (law enforcement officers, hospital personnel, social services personnel, business leaders in the community, women's groups, clergy, etc.) and have designed and produced educational materials for use in training and outreach to the community. With respect to gay/lesbian/bisexual/transgendered issues, I have helped co-facilitate a training on working with gay youth and their families with Kate Kaufman, author of "Free your Mind", a book on working with gay youth and their families. I helped in initial efforts to organize a group for gay youth in Watsonville, and remain .

committed to doing whatever I can to improve the quality of lives for domestic violence victims/survivors and the “queer” community in Santa Cruz County.

Thank you for your time spent reviewing these materials and I hope I will be working with you soon!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sheri Whitt". The script is cursive and fluid, with a long horizontal flourish extending from the end of the name.

Sheri Whitt