

**SANTA CRUZ COUNTY
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE COMMISSION
MINUTES**

Santa Cruz Police Department
155 Center Street
Santa Cruz, CA 95060
Wednesday, March 10, 2004, 5:30 p.m.

Commissioners Present:

Bob Lee, Chair
JoAnn Allen
Melissa Berrengé
Larry Biggam
Linda Byrum
Lynn Harrison
Alan Hiromura
Tom Kelly

Dixie Mitchell-Clow
Celia Organista
Terry Pohle for Michelle Finch
Francesca Raphael
Steve Robbins for Mark Tracy
Jennifer Rose for Dee O'Brien
Mary Simoni
Heidi Simonson

Commissioners Absent:

Kim Austin
Amy Christey (Excused)
Sonya Drottar
Gillian Greensite (Excused)

Ernesto Lopez Molina
Charles Molnar (Excused)
Francine Nickell
Linda Starn (Excused)

Others Present:

Marie Corwin
Ofelia Gomez
Donna Lind
Dawn Montgomery

Jennifer Rose
Jenny Sarmiento
Julie Schneider
Martine Watkins

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 5:38 p.m. by Chair Bob Lee. Larry Biggam led everyone in the pledge of allegiance.

2. Introductions

Commissioners and guests introduced themselves.

3. Additions and Deletions to Agenda

There were none.

4 Approval of Minutes of February 11, 2004

On the motion of Lynn Harrison that was seconded by Tom Kelly the minutes were approved as submitted.

5 Oral Communication from the Community

Ofelia Gomez, a survivor of domestic violence, told the Commission that she has a pending petition in the immigration court to obtain a green card as a domestic violence survivor. Ms. Gomez has been instrumental in favorably changing Federal VAWA laws to include divorced spouses of batterers. She requested either a letter of support or someone from the Commission to attend the next immigration hearing. Heidi Simonson will contact her immigration attorney and ascertain his recommended approach. Action will then be taken by the Agenda Review committee only.

Dawn Montgomery, a victim of domestic violence, related her difficulty with law enforcement in their interpretation of her protective order. Steve Robbins offered to meet with her to resolve the issues. She also has had difficulty with the way in which her school handles her domestic violence restraining order. Jennifer Rose offered to contact the school administration in order to resolve the problem.

6. Schedule of Future Meetings

Bob Lee distributed a schedule of meetings for the remainder of the year. The Commission will meet on May 12, June 9, September 8 and October 13. On November 10 the Commission will note their achievements at the Domestic Violence Commission Awards Banquet. There will be no meetings in April, July, August and December. The revised calendar will be submitted to the Board of Supervisors for their approval.

7. Proposal and Discussion for commission Objective 2004

Bob Lee suggested that the major Commission objective for 2004 be Batterers Treatment Programs. On the motion of Heidi Simonson that was seconded by Larry Biggam the motion passed with Linda Byrum in opposition.

Celia Organista suggested that the Commission be more active in outreach to the community. She asked that the Commission actively gather information and address issues of concern for domestic violence issues.

8. Discussion of Membership on the Commission

Bob Lee stated that he has contacted those Commissioners who have not been attending meetings regularly. This item will be placed on the May agenda to finalize membership on the Commission.

9. Discussion on Committees Objectives and Purpose

The primary objective for the Commission for the year 2004 is the Batterer's Treatment Programs. In order for the Commission to fully understand the programs, Larry Biggam suggested that all batterers treatment programs be invited to the May meeting. Two batterers treatment programs will make a short presentation to the entire Commission, and Commissioners will then have the opportunity to ask questions. The remainder of the treatment programs will be invited back to the June meeting to make their presentations. On the motion of Joann Allen seconded by Larry Biggam the motion passed. Bob Lee will be responsible for inviting all batterers treatment programs.

There will be further discussion on this matter to the May meeting to determine the how the goals will be measured.

10. Reports from Committees

a) Evaluation

Joann Allen distributed a report on the Batterer's Treatment programs they have evaluated.

b) Annual Report

Alan Hiromura is continuing to gather information, and is also in the process of printing the annual report.

c) Direct Services Report

Julie Schneider reported that the Direct Services Committee met briefly to discuss the next step in our process. Given the information that the Commission was going to set up new goals for 2004 we decided to put the training issue on hold pending direction from the Commission.

11. Announcements from Commissioners

None

10. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 7:15 p.m. to ***May 12, 2004, at 5:30 p.m. at a location to be determined.***

Approved by Commission on:

Submitted by:

Jeanne M. Rodriguez, Secretary