

**SANTA CRUZ COUNTY
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE COMMISSION
MINUTES**

Watsonville Police Department
215 Union Street, Watsonville, CA 95076
Wednesday, April 11, 2001, 5:30 p.m.

Commissioners Present:

Sam Stevens, Chair
JoAnn Allen
Steve Belcher
Melissa Berrengé' for Michele Samis
Jane Brune
Tom Gilbertson for Mark Tracy
Anita Henri
Alan Hiromura

Loretta Kuechle
Christine McGuire
Laurie McWhorter
Jim McMillin for Larry Biggam
Francesca Raphael
Jennifer Rose for Dee O'Brien
Linda Starn
Maria Isabel Vargas for Celia Organista

Commissioners Absent:

Mary Benitez
Vicki Dyas
Pat Ellerby (Excused)
Lisa Gifford
Gail Levine
Heather Morse (Excused)

Susan Myers
Francine Nickell (Excused)
John Rhoads (Excused)
Barbara Schaller
Mary Simoni
Heidi Simonson

Others Present:

Kate Canlis
Mike McFarland

Amy Sibiga
Darren Thompson

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 5:39 p.m. by Chair Sam Stevens. The chair then verified the membership of the Commission. It was determined that Commissioners Benitez, Levine and Myers may have resigned from the Commission. Chair Stevens will contact them by letter to confirm their resignations.

2. Additions and Deletions to the Agenda

There were no additions to the agenda. Item 6 was deleted as Commissioner Hiromura declined to accept the position of Treasurer for the Commission. Instead he indicated he would provide financial information to the Commission. Item 7 was deleted as Commissioner Allen indicated she would address it during her sub-committee report.

3. Approval of Minutes of March 14, 2001

On the motion of Commissioner Henri and seconded by Commissioner Belcher the minutes of March 14, 2001 were approved as submitted. The motion passed with Commissioner Belcher abstaining.

4. Oral Communication from the Community

None was offered.

5. Proposed Budget Request.

Chair Stevens distributed copies of the Domestic Violence Commission proposed budget for the fiscal year 2001-2002. Discussion followed. On the motion of Commissioner Belcher seconded by Commissioner Allen the proposed budget was approved as submitted. The motion passed with Commissioner Hironura abstaining. The proposed budget will be submitted by the Chair to the County Administrative Office.

6. Information Reports:

a) Executive Committee:

Submitted as item number 5.

b. Commissioner's Biography:

Commissioners Brune and Starn and Secretary Canlis made their presentations to the Commission.

7. Subcommittee Updates:

a) Education:

Commissioner Allen stated that the County Office of Education will pay for the creative services rendered by Amy Sibiga.

Allen submitted to the Commission for their approval a draft of the handout regarding public comment. On the motion of Commissioner Raphael seconded by Commissioner McWhorter the handout was approved with editorial changes.

b) Medical

Commissioner Kuechle stated that the Medical Committee had met and is implementing ways to distribute the video to medical health care providers. The sub-committee will make

a presentation to Watsonville Hospital next week and to Dominican Hospital in July. Packets to include the video are being prepared for distribution to health care providers.

c) Law Enforcement

None was offered

8. D.V. Web Site

Chair Stevens will contact Nancy Carr Gordon for a status report on the web site and will report back to the Commission at the May 9 Commission meeting.

9. Announcements/Oral Communication from Commissioners

District Attorney D.V. Protocol: Kate Canlis stated that the District Attorney's Office is in the process of preparing the District Attorney's Office Domestic Violence protocol. The protocol will be presented to Commissioners at the May 9 meeting. Ms. Canlis also announced that David Rabow, supervisor of the Domestic Violence Unit of the District Attorney's Office, will host an open house in the District Attorney's Office for Commissioners and others involved in domestic violence issues in the near future. The purpose of the open house is to distribute the protocol, to explain how the new D.V. unit operates and to introduce the staff.

Commissioner Henri advised the Commission about a new domestic violence awareness patch sponsored by the Santa Clara County Girl Scouts. This issue was referred to the Education Committee for possible implementation in Santa Cruz County.

Maria Isabel Vargas announced that Women's Crisis Support~Defensa de Mujeres will host a fund raiser on May 11 at Chaminade. She invited Commissioners to attend and/or donate auction items. For more information regarding the event contact Commissioner Organista or Women's Crisis Support~Defensa de Mujeres.

10. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 6:45 p.m. The next meeting will be May 9, 2001 at the Santa Cruz Police Department, Community Room.

Approved by Commission on:

Submitted by:

Jeanne M. Rodriguez, Secretary
Domestic Violence Commission