

**SANTA CRUZ COUNTY  
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE COMMISSION  
MINUTES**

**SANTA CRUZ POLICE DEPARTMENT  
155 Center Street, Santa Cruz, CA 95060  
Wednesday, August 8, 2001, 5:30 p.m.**

**Commissioners Present:**

Sam Stevens, Chair  
JoAnn Allen  
Steve Belcher  
Melissa Berrengé  
Larry Biggam  
Jane Brune  
Evelyn Hall  
Lynn Harrison  
Anita Henri  
Alan Hiromura

Christine McGuire  
Laurie McWhorter  
Francine Nickell  
Celia Organista  
Francesca Raphael  
Jennifer Rose for Dee O'Brien  
John Rhoads  
Mark Tracy  
Maria Isabel Vargas

**Commissioners Absent:**

Lisa Gifford (Excused)  
Loretta Kuechle  
Heather Morse  
Barbara Schaller

Mary Simoni (Excused)  
Heidi Simonson  
Linda Starn (Excused)

**Others Present:**

Paula Gammell  
David Rabow

Brita Wilder Ross  
Erica Wood

**1. Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 5:38 p.m. by Chair Sam Stevens. Introductions followed.

**2. Additions and Deletions to the Agenda**

There were no deletions or additions to the agenda.

**3. Approval of Minutes of June 13, 2001**

On the motion of Christine McGuire and second by Lynn Harrison the minutes of June 13, 2001 were approved as submitted.

#### **4. Oral Communication from the Community**

None was offered.

#### **5. Presentation by Erica Wood of the What Works! Keeping Children Safe in their Families and Communities Project.**

Erica Wood made a presentation to the Commission on behalf of the What Works! Keeping Children Safe in their Families and Communities project.

The Commission agreed to write a letter of support to the Packard Foundation for the What Works! Keeping Children Safe in their Families and Communities project to collect data regarding children who witness Domestic Violence.

#### **6. Information Reports**

##### **a) Executive Committee**

No report was submitted.

##### **b) Commissioners' Biographical Orientation**

Commissioners Melissa Berrengé, and Alan Hiromura made their presentations to the Commission.

##### **c) Report on Budget Hearing Results**

John Rhoads announced that the Board of Supervisors approved funding in the amount of \$5,000 to be allocated to the District Attorney's budget for the Commission's use.

Christine McGuire stated that if Commissioners wish to expend monies on behalf of the Commission, they must first submit their request to the Executive Committee. The Executive Committee will then make a decision regarding agendaing the expenditure request for the whole Commission to vote on the request. Finally, any action to expend funds must be approved by the Board of Supervisors before the debt is incurred.

#### **6. Subcommittee Updates:**

##### **a) Education:**

JoAnn Allen reported that the Education Committee made the following recommendations for Domestic Violence Month.

- ▶ Purple Ribbon Campaign

Commissioners will hand out purple ribbons without card attachments. Information fliers will be printed and handed out with the ribbons. The costs of printing will be donated by the County Office of Education. The costs of purchasing materials for ribbons was discussed. Sheriff Tracy and Chief Belcher will donate materials for the ribbons.

▶ Theme

The Education Committee recommended the theme for this year should target children and families, and suggested the following theme for October: **PICTURE A HEALTHY FAMILY.**

▶ Art Contest

The Education Committee proposed a children's art contest. The theme for the poster/art contest will be **PICTURE A HEALTHY FAMILY.**

JoAnn Allen also requested Commissioners contact her with activities scheduled in order to develop a comprehensive calendar of events and to avoid conflicts.

Commissioner Allen also asked for volunteers to help with the preparation of the ribbons and materials.

Christine McGuire announced that the District Attorney's Office will host an open house on October 3, 2001 to distribute copies of the District Attorney's Office Domestic Violence Policy and Protocol, and to meet with the District Attorney's Office Domestic Violence Team.

Sheriff Tracy announced that the Sheriff's Office will host the awards banquet at the Posse House on Wednesday, October 10 beginning at 4:30 p.m.

On the motion of Melissa Berrengé seconded by Christine McGuire the recommendations of the Education Committee for Domestic Violence Awareness Month were approved. Motion passed.

**b) Medical**

Christine McGuire reported that there was a presentation of the medical reporting video at Dominican Hospital Grand Rounds on July 27, 2001.

**c) Law Enforcement**

No report was submitted.

**7. D.V. Web Site**

On the motion of Laurie McWhorter seconded by Christine McGuire the D.V. Web site was approved. Francesca Raphael asked Commissioners to review the web site and think about items they would like to include in the site. Karen Gillette from the Information Services Department will be invited to the September meeting to explain how the web site works and the types of information that can be added to the site.

**8. Report on Court Calendar Changes (Stevens)**

This matter was continued to the September meeting.

**9. Election of New Officers (Positions of Chair and Vice Chair)**

**Chair:**

On the motion of Anita Henri second by Laurie McWhorter, Christine McGuire was nominated to be Chair of the commission. The motion carried unanimously.

**Vice Chair:**

On the motion of Anita Henri second by Laurie McWhorter, Anita Henri was nominated for Vice Chair.

On the motion of John Rhoads, Dee O'Brien was also nominated for Vice Chair. A vote was taken by the Commission and Anita Henri was elected Vice-Chair.

**10. Update Regarding Commission Vacancies**

**a) Latino Community Representative**

Continued to the September meeting.

**b) Gay Lesbian Bisexual Transgendered Representative**

Continued to the September.

**11. Announcements/Oral Communication from Commissioners**

Laurie McWhorter announced that the Commission for the Prevention of Violence Against Women (CPVAW) is commemorating its 20th anniversary on Friday, October 5, 2001 at 8:00 p.m. at the Civic Auditorium. Commissioners were invited to attend. Admission is free.

**12. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 7:15 p.m. The next meeting will be September 12, 2001 at the Santa Cruz Police Department.

Approved by Commission on: September 12, 2001

Submitted by:

Jeanne M. Rodriguez, Secretary  
Domestic Violence Commission