

**SANTA CRUZ COUNTY
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE COMMISSION
MINUTES**

**SANTA CRUZ POLICE DEPARTMENT
155 Center Street, Santa Cruz, CA 95060
Wednesday, February 14, 2001, 5:30 p.m.**

Commissioners Present:

JoAnn Allen
Steve Belcher
Jane Brune
Vicki Dyas
Pat Ellerby
Anita Henri
Alan Hiromura
Loretta Kuechle
Christine McGuire

Laurie McWhorter
Francine Nickell
Dee O'Brien, Vice Chair
Celia Organista
Francesca Raphael
John Rhoads
Barbara Schaller
Heidi Simonson
Mark Tracy

Commissioners Absent:

Sam Stevens, Chair (Excused)
Mary Benitez
Larry Biggam (Excused)
Lisa Gifford
Gail Levine

Heather Morse
Susan Myers
Michelle Samis (Excused)
Mary Simoni
Linda Starn (Excused)

Others Present:

Kate Canlis
Cat Ring

Maria Isabel Vargas
Amy Sibiga

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 5:40 p.m. by Vice Chair Dee O'Brien. Introductions followed.

2. Additions and Deletions to the Agenda

There were no deletions or additions to the agenda.

3. Approval of Minutes of January 10, 2001

On the motion of Henri and second by McGuire the minutes of January 10, 2001 were approved as submitted.

4. Oral Communication from the Community

Q. When can may I speak

A. You may speak during the oral communication portion of the agenda. The Chair will acknowledge you by a raise of your hand. Please keep your comments to a minimum maximum of three five minutes if possible.

On motion of Canlis second by McWhorter, the following text was approved with Raphael voting no.

Q. What will the Commission do if I have a complaint?

A. If you are coming to the Commission to make a complaint against a particular organization or individual, we will listen to your concerns and the issues you raise. However, we do not have the authority to admonish agencies or investigate complaints. We will recommend refer you to that organization's complaint process. If a particular representative from an agency wishes to provide you with information or follow-up, they will do so as an agent from their organization and not as a Commissioner. We do however take these concerns into consideration in helping to assess domestic violence related services in our community.

On the motion of Organista second by McGuire the following text was struck.

Q. How do I have an item placed on the DVC agenda?

A. If you have an item or issue that you wish the Commission to address on the agenda at a future meeting, please send your suggestions to _____ for review and approval.

We value your comments and the time you have taken to address us. Please understand that due to the sensitive and confidential nature of domestic violence cases, we will not be able to make comments regarding certain issues or concerns brought to our attention. This does not mean that you are not heard or that you do not have a voice.

"We believe that all people have a right to a life free of violence"

b) Medical

Kuechle reported that the Medical Committee is working with Defensa de Mujeres/Women's Crisis Support in order to improve health care response to domestic violence victims. The Committee's next meeting is April 11, 2001 at 8:30 a.m. at

Prevention House, 220 E. Lake Avenue, Watsonville.

c) Law Enforcement

Tracy presented the medical reporting video for viewing. Tracy advised the Commission that approximately 150 copies will be made of the video and that distribution will be coordinated with the Medical Sub-committee.

McGuire recommended that a number of Commissioners schedule time at medical organizations meetings throughout the community to present the video.

9. D.V. Web Site

Hiomura stated that Nancy Carr Gordon will continue to the work on the Domestic Violence Commission Web Site. He also stated that Ms. Carr Gordon will prepare and submit the year-end report.

10. Announcements/Oral Communication from Commissioners

O'Brien announced that the Walnut Avenue Women's Center has a new domestic violence "ally hotline." The number is 1-86602 MY ALLY or 1866 269 2559.

McWhorter announced that the Community Foundation is conducting a broad needs assessment survey for the gay, lesbian, bisexual and the transgendered community. The results of the survey will result in funding for this community. Any one interested in obtaining copies of the survey should call CPVAW at 420-6298.

10. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 7:15 p.m. The next meeting will be held March 14, 2001 at the Santa Cruz Police Department Community Room.

Approved by Commission on:

Submitted by:

Jeanne M. Rodriguez, Secretary
Domestic Violence Commission