

SANTA CRUZ COUNTY DOMESTIC VIOLENCE COMMISSION  
MINUTES  
FEBRUARY 12, 2003

Commissioners Present:

Dee O'Brien  
Francesca Raphael  
Bob Lee  
J. Windt  
Tom Kelly  
Michele Finch for Judy Cox  
Anita Henri  
Charles Molnar  
Alan Hiomura  
Larry Biggam  
Kathy Agnone  
Amy Christey  
Kim Austin  
Francine Nickell  
Lynn Harrison  
Mark Tracy

Others Present:

Julie Schneider  
T. Renee Parrish  
Jennifer Rose

The meeting was called to order by Chair, Mark Tracy at 5:34 p.m. at the Community Room of the Santa Cruz Police Department. Introductions were made including a welcome of the interim staff person for the City of Santa Cruz Commission for the Prevention of Violence Against Women, Kathy Agnone. Minutes from the November 2002 and January 2003 meetings were not approved as the Commission lacked a quorum. There were no additions or deletions to the current agenda. There were not oral communications from the community.

Chair, Mark Tracy, updated the commission on the South County Court Services Task Force. Chair Tracy did not call a meeting of the Task Force feeling that it was in the best interest of the commission to speak to all the individuals and agencies involved to resolve the matter. Chair Tracy has defined that Family Court Services is in the process of hiring a mediator who is bilingual and will be available to provide services in South County in the near future once certain issues are resolved. Chair Tracy will continue to keep the

commission informed of the status of services in South County and will call a meeting of the task force if necessary.

#### Committee Reports:

##### Evaluation of DV Services Committee:

Commissioner Biggam reports that the committee sees itself as a qualitative committee who will inventory services for batterers and victims. Currently they have planned to meet with probation about the batterer's programs and how they are certified. They would then look to interviewing program managers and then individual participants in a focus group setting looking at accessibility and success of the groups.

##### Research Committee:

Commissioner Hiromura reported that the questionnaire has been revised and sent to the appropriate agencies for follow-up. They have contracted to create the database and should begin to compile data soon.

##### Direct Services Committee:

Attendance has been challenging. Initially the group was involved in doing inventory and looking for gaps in services in the community. A form was sent to the members to streamline the information collection process but return has been slow. Last month the group discussed changing the focus of what the group is looking at and possibly coming up with a unified message as a community for DV Awareness Month in October 2003. The group feels that it is important to have individuals who are actively advocating for clients attending the meeting to clarify services

#### Announcements:

Commissioner Raphael would like to seek a mid-county location for the meeting and requested a yearlong calendar of meeting dates, times and locations.

The District Attorney's Office will be expanding their DV attorneys to the Watsonville court for pre-trial, preliminary hearings and trials. Arraignments and bail hearings will continue to be done by the regular attorneys assigned to South County. Also, Lorena De La Torre will be returning to the District Attorneys Victim Services Division. Ms. De La Torre is bilingual and a very qualified advocate who will be returning after a short leave.

The District Attorney's Office has been experimenting with a different approach to investigating DV. Over the past several weeks a DV attorney and inspector have been conducting on-site investigation immediately following the report.

Women's Crisis Support is announcing the Open House of their new office on Friday, February 14, 2003.

The next meeting of the Santa Cruz County Domestic Violence Commission will be held on Wednesday, March 12, 2003 at 5:30 p.m. at the Santa Cruz Police Departments Community Room.

Respectfully submitted

Julie Schneider