

**SANTA CRUZ COUNTY
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE COMMISSION
MINUTES**

**Santa Cruz Police Department
Community Room
155 Center Street
Santa Cruz, CA 95060**

Wednesday, January 9, 2002, 5:30 p.m.

Commissioners Present:

Christine McGuire, Chair
JoAnn Allen
Steve Belcher
Melissa Berrengé
Amy Christey and for Mark Tracy
Lisa Gifford
Anita Henri, Vice Chair
Alan Hiromura
Jim McMillan for Larry Biggam

Laurie McWhorter
Ernesto Lopez Molina
Francine Nickell
Dee O'Brien
Francesca Raphael
John Rhoads
Mary Simoni
Linda Starn
Maria Isabel Vargas

Commissioners Absent:

Jane Brune
Evelyn Hall
Lynn Harrison
Loretta Kuechle
Heather Morse

Celia Organista
Barbara Schaller
Heidi Simonson
Sam Stevens

Others Present:

Kim Austin
Kay Archer Bowden
Paula Gammell

Jennifer Rose
Julie Schneider

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 5:45 p.m. by Chair Christine McGuire. Introductions followed.

2. Additions and Deletions to the Agenda

There were no deletions or additions to the agenda.

3. Approval of Minutes of November 14, 2001

Jim McMillan asked that the minutes for November 14, 2001, under item number 7, should include Commissioner Biggam's statement that he felt it unfair for a domestic violence criminal calendar judge to sit on the Commission. On the motion of Anita Henri and seconded by John Rhoads the minutes of November 14, 2001 were approved as corrected.

4. Oral Communication from the Community

Captain Kim Austin announced that since Santa Cruz County medical providers have been trained by the Commission on how to recognize and report domestic violence to law enforcement, reporting of domestic violence cases to the Watsonville Police Department has gone from 0 to 15 cases.

Kate Canlis brought an article in the San Jose Mercury to the attention of the Commission. A judge in Kentucky sought to hold two domestic violence victims in contempt of court because they violated a court stay away order. The commissioners offered their points of view. Some expressed strong disagreement with the judge and offered to sign a letter to the editor of the Mercury. Canlis offered to draft the letter and send copies of the article to the commissioners. Since some Commissioners felt differently it was decided that no letter would come from the Commission in its official capacity.

5. Reports from Committees

The Medical Committee, Education Committee and Law Enforcement Committee made no report.

Christine McGuire reported on behalf of the Executive Committee. She stated that the ordinance changing membership from two Judges to one Judge was approved by the Board of Supervisors on January 8, 2002. A second vote is required and the matter will be on the Board of Supervisors consent agenda for January 15, 2002.

Christine McGuire also reported that the Board accepted the \$2,500 grant from the Community Foundation.

6. Approval of 2000-2001 Annual Report

Christine McGuire distributed copies of the draft 2000-2001 Annual Report. The following additions to the annual report will be included in the report:

- The Commission received funding from the Board of Supervisors in the amount of \$5,000.
- Statistics on the increase in reporting domestic violence by medical providers since the video was distributed and training completed.

- The study session on evidence based prosecution.

On the motion of Laurie McWhorter seconded by Anita Henri the report was approved. Christine McGuire asked Commissioners to review their attendance records and to report any changes to Jeanne Rodriguez at 454-2546 no later than January 18.

7. Update Regarding Website Links

Francesca Raphael will contact Karen Gillette to create headings and titles for the new links.

8. Update Regarding South County location for 2002 Meetings.

Christine McGuire announced that Commission meetings for the months of April and November will be at the First National Bank, 655 Main Street, Watsonville.

9. Report from Chief Probation Officer John Rhoads and/or Paula Gammel regarding Couple's Counselling.

Paula Gammel made a presentation on the Probation Department's position on Couple's Counselling. She stated that the Probation Department does not advocate Couple's Counselling. A discussion followed.

10. Preparation for February 22, 2002 Planning Retreat Meeting, including approval of Funds to be Expended.

Christine McGuire introduced Kay Archer Bowden to the Commission. Ms. Bowden will be the Retreat/Study Session Facilitator. Ms. Bowden stated that she will be sending out a questionnaire to Commissioners in order to get their views on the Commission. After Commissioners have submitted their completed questionnaires to Ms. Bowden she will analyze them and will compile an agenda for the retreat.

Hironura stated that the Community Foundation has awarded the Commission \$2,500 for the retreat. These monies will be used toward the retreat facilitator's fee and food. He asked that the Commission expend an additional \$1,250 from the Commission's budget for the balance of the costs of the retreat. On the motion of Steve Belcher and seconded by Lisa Gifford the motion carried.

Christine McGuire asked that Commissioners make every effort to attend the Retreat/Study Session.

11. Announcements

Francesca Raphael distributed an article from the National Institute of Justice entitled

Documenting Domestic Violence: How Health Care Providers Can Help Victims, September, 2001.

Laurie McWhorter announced that the Commission for the Prevention of Violence Against Women will be having their Annual Public Hearing on Wednesday, January 30, 2002 at 7:00 p.m. at the City Council Chambers, 809 Center Street, Santa Cruz. She encouraged Commissioners to attend, and the public is also invited.

12. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 7:10 p.m. to February 22, 2002 at 8:00 a.m. at the Simpkin Swim Center.

Approved by Commission on:

Submitted by:

Jeanne M. Rodriguez, Secretary
Domestic Violence Commission