

# SANTA CRUZ COUNTY DOMESTIC VIOLENCE COMMISSION

## *Draft Minutes*

Wednesday, January 8, 2003  
Santa Cruz Police Department  
155 Center Street  
Santa Cruz, CA 95060

### Commissioners Present:

Mark Tracy, Chair  
Jo Ann Allen  
Kim Austin  
Melissa Berrenge  
Larry Biggam  
Michelle Finch (for Judy Cox)  
Lynn Harrison  
Anita Henri  
Alan Hiromura

Charles Molnar  
Francine Nickell  
Celia Organista  
Francesca Raphael  
Mary Simoni  
Heidi Simonson  
Linda Starn  
Marybeth Varcados  
Janet Windt

### Comissioners Absent:

Amy Christey (Excused)  
Loretta Kuechle  
Sam Stevens

### Others Present:

Paula Gammell	Bob Lee	Heather Morse	Jennifer Rose
Julie Hopfner	Raquel Mariscal	Edenilson Quintanilla	Julie Schneider
Jean Jordan	Ernesto Lopez-Molina	David Rabow	

### 1. Call to Order

Chair Tracy called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

### 2. Introductions

Chair Tracy introduced newly elected District Attorney Bob Lee. D.A. Lee introduce Jean Jordan from the District Attorney's Office. Jean will be heading

the Family Protection Unit. Lee distributed a memo giving some background of Jean's experience. Chair Tracy asked Commissioners and guests to introduce themselves.

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

None

**4. Consideration and Approval of the Minutes of November 1, 2002**

The minutes from the previous meeting were handed out at tonight's meeting. Chair Tracy asked that Commissioners review the minutes outside of this meeting and place approval of minutes on the agenda for next month.

**5. Oral Communication**

None

**6. Discussion regarding Judge Barton/Stevens Court Order Terminating Restraining Order Hearings in Watsonville Court, Effective November 1, 2002.**

Chair Tracy introduced Chief Medina of the Watsonville Police Department who thanked the Commission for allowing him to speak on this item and asked for the Commission's help in reestablishing South County's Family Law Screener. Raquel Mariscal of the Criminal Justice Council stated this issue is not about numbers/domestic violence cases, stating numbers do not justify services. She asked for a creative approach to a solution to keep these services. Celia Organista of Women's Crisis Support - Defensa de Mujeres distributed a letter from her organization asking the Commission for their support. WCS/DDM would play an active role in reassuring that South County's Family Law Screener be reinstated. Statistics for services in the Watsonville area were handed out. Christine McGuire spoke on behalf of the Women's Crisis Support Board of Directors. She talked about how hard it is to reinstate services once they have been taken away, and why the Domestic Violence Commission was formed.

Judge Morse attended and spoke on behalf of the Courts. She stated that temporary restraining orders could still be filed in Watsonville, as well as some ADA cases. She said that this is a temporary vacancy, and she asked for the Domestic Violence Commission's help in directing qualified individuals to the courts. Education, as well as Spanish speaking/bi-cultural, are important qualifications for this position.

Chair Tracy asked Judge Morse if she would be willing to meet with a small task force to explore how the Commission could intervene in the recruitment and hiring of this position. Judge Morse was more than willing. Commissioner Allen made a motion to form a task force to look at reinstating these services. Commissioner Henri seconded. All were in favor. The task force will report back at the next meeting. All in favor.

**7. Presentation by Commissioner Organista Regarding Need for Restraining Order Hearings in Watsonville Court**

This item was combined in the discussion of item number six.

**8. Item number 9 "Approve Research and Development/Annual Report Questionnaire" moved up to item number 8.**

Commissioner Hiramura asked the Commission to finalize and give approval of the questionnaire and authorize spending \$4,800 to create a database to collect the information gathered by the survey. Hiramura gave the history of how this committee evolved and how this committee determined what information was needed.

After much discussion regarding questions that were developed on this questionnaire, District Attorney Bob Lee asked that the Commission continue this item for one month so that his office could review these questions and address any that may not be accurate in terms of the District Attorney's Office.

Chair Tracy made a motion to move forward with the expenditure process and to allow the District Attorney's Office the opportunity to address/modify any court questions. Commissioner Simoni seconded. All in favor. Chair Tracy confirmed that the Probation Department would support and fund this project.

Commissioner Hiramura announced that the next meeting would be held on January 16, 2003. He asked that the District Attorney's Office send a representative to this meeting.

At this time, Commissioner Starn asked that the minutes acknowledge Laurie McWhorter's work on this project.

**9. Report from Research and Development/Annual Report Committee**

Commissioner Rabow acknowledged the hard work of this Committee and the fact the project stayed on schedule, and that the Committee has gone from creating a tool to having maintenance. He mentioned many of the members who worked so hard but will no longer be part of this Committee. There will be some radical changes coming because of this, and he expressed the importance of the Commission to focus on bringing in new members.

**10. Report from Evaluation of Domestic Violence Services Committee**

Commissioner Allen reported that this group has met twice. At the last meeting, Commissioner Cox volunteered to do the research on Batterers Treatment and other treatment programs. The task force felt that it would not be necessary to monitor the batterers program and that it was not relevant to this task force. Commissioner Gamel is gathering information on what would be optimal services for victims, their children, etc. Gamel went over some useful information she found over the Internet. Allen stated that the committee would review Gamel's information and bring it to the Commission.

**11. Report from Direct Services Integration**

There was no report. Commissioner Rose stated that the next meeting is tentatively set for January 29, 2003, at 12:00 p.m. at the County Office of Education. Commissioner Rose will call Chair Tracy with confirmation.

**12. Discussion Regarding Domestic Violence Statistics Collected during the Month of October 2002**

Commissioner Austin talked about the Santa Cruz Sentinel's Domestic Violence article which gave disparaging numbers for the years 2001 and 2002. She stated that the reason for the jump was due to an additional reporting of 415 PC in the Year 2002, which includes a wider range of abuse, i.e. arguments, elder abuse, parent/child abuse, etc. The Committee is looking to at removing that additional reporting code.

**13. Announcements from the Commission**

Commissioner Nichol from HRA received a survey from the Office of Criminal Justice Planning regarding forensic exams and asked if other agencies had Santa received this. Chair Tracy stated that his office has received this survey and the

Santa Cruz County Domestic Violence Commission  
Minutes, January 8, 2003  
Page Five

Forensic Nurses will be preparing a response. District Attorney Lee also has received this survey and will be responding. He handed out additional copies of this survey for the Commission's review.

Commissioner Hiromura received a letter, on behalf of the Commission, from Attorney General Bill Lockyer's Office requesting domestic violence materials and activities underway in our county. Hiromura wrote a letter to the Commission asking for assistance with this request.

Commissioner Varcados announced Planned Parenthood's Reproductive Rights Event on January 18, 2003.

Chair Tracy announced that Sheriff's Rountree Lane facility has approved a program for Batterer's Treatment. He extended his appreciation to the Probation Department for their assistance.

Commissioner Hiromura asked that the Commission write a thank you letter to Christine McGuire for her chairing the committee for the past two years.

District Attorney Lee made the final comment, thanking David Rabow, personally and from the District Attorney's Office, for the hours he has put into this Commission.

NEXT MEETING: February 12, 2003

Meeting was adjourned at 6:55 p.m.

Approved by Commission on:

Submitted by:

Lisa Marr