

SANTA CRUZ COUNTY DOMESTIC VIOLENCE COMMISSION

MINUTES

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 14, 5:30 P.M.

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:

Heidi Simonson Patrick Meehan Mary Simoni
Scott MacDonald Gillian Greensite Francesca Raphael
Larry Biggam Steve Robbins Bob Lee
Alan Hiromura Jewell Roberts Irwin Joseph
Melissa Berrengé Kathy Loughlin JoAnna Goodman
Todd Mayer

COMMISSIONERS EXCUSED:

Dee O'Brien Jackie Grubelnik Linda Starn
Celia Organista Charles Molnar JoAnn Allen

COMMISSIONERS UNEXCUSED:

Mary Simoni

OTHERS PRESENT:

Jennifer Pike Julie Schneider

1. **Call to Order.**

Chair Simonson called the meeting to order at 5:36 p.m.

2. **Roll Call: Introduction of Members.**

Each Commissioner introduced him/herself.

3. **Additions or Deletions to Agenda.**

There were no Additions or Deletions.

4. **Approval of March and May Minutes.**

Commissioner Joseph made a motion to approve the March Minutes and DA Bob Lee seconded that motion. *The March Minutes were approved.* DA Bob Lee made a motion to approve the May Minutes, Gillian Greensite seconded the motion, and Heidi Simonson and Francesca Raphael both abstained. *The May Minutes were approved.*

5. **Oral Communications from the Community.**

No oral communications were made.

6. Old Business.

A. *Nominations & Terms of Officers*

The current officers are Heidi Simonson - Chair, JoAnn Allen - Vice Chair. DA Lee stated that he believes the current officers are doing a wonderful job and made a motion to keep them in their current positions. No other nominations for officers were offered or received by the Commission. Scott MacDonald seconded the motion and *the motion was approved.*

B. *Awards Ceremony*

DA Lee suggested that a subcommittee be organized to coordinate the ceremony. Scott MacDonald suggested the Commission approach the Board of Supervisors to see if they would allow the presentation of the awards at one of their meetings and the Commission could a reception afterwards. Chair Simonson suggested that each Commissioner nominate an individual from their agency and present the awards. DA Lee made a motion to have The Executive Committee contact the Board of Supervisors to see if arrangements could be made to present the awards at one of their meetings. Larry Biggam seconded the motion and *the motion was approved.*

Discussions were held with regards to the selection process of the recipients, how many categories should be offered, whether a Power Point presentation should be made for the ceremony and who would present the awards. It was determined that the Executive Committee would receive all nominations and present them at the next Commission meeting for voting purposes. The deciding categories for nominees are:

- Public Safety
- Advocacy & Direct Services
- DV Intervention/Batterers' Treatment
- Courts
- Innovative Programs
- Children/Youth
- Educator/Outreach
- Medical Services
- Survivor

C. *Removal of Member - Survivor*

Chair Simonson announced that letters and emails have been sent to Linda Byrum regarding her Survivor position on the Commission. No response has been received from her and, according to the By-Laws, if a Commissioner has more than three unexcused absences the Commission must notify the Board of Supervisors to formally remove that individual and open the position for a replacement. A motion was made by Chair Simonson to notify the Board of Supervisors to formally remove Linda Byrum from the Survivor position and open the position for a replacement. The motion was seconded by Larry Biggam and *approved.*

D. *Legislative Update*

This information was previously discussed at the May meeting. No further action or information necessary.

E. *Attorney General's Report - Improvements for Santa Cruz County.*

DA Lee reported that people who have restraining orders are continuing to purchase firearms. As part of the improvements for Santa Cruz County, the District Attorney's Office is implementing increased enforcement to prevent these situations from happening.

7. New Business

A. Subcommittee Reports:

1. By-Laws Taskforce

Chair Simonson reported that the draft By-Laws would be available to review and provide comments on at the September meeting. Due to the amount of excused and unexcused absences of Commissioners, Chair Simonson announced that new proposed By-Laws would include a clause for each Commissioner to assign a proxy to appear in their absence. All suggested changes should be emailed to Chair Simonson.

2. Education Subcommittee

Gillian Greensite reported that this subcommittee would use the blue shield video for the training sessions that will be held at departments in the county building (starting with the DAO) on how to be an ally for employee victims of domestic violence in the work force. Kathy Loughlin reported that Dominican Hospital employees were last trained in September 2001. DA Lee stated that the District Attorney's Office would be available to receive training in October. Chair Simonson suggested that Monterey and Santa Clara counties be contacted to see if they have any references for medical speakers. DA stated that he would coordinate a speaker.

3. Annual Report Subcommittee

Scott MacDonald reported that he has not received responses to the Attorney General's questionnaire that he distributed to at the last meeting. He suggested that Alan Hiromura be added to this subcommittee due to his experience working on the annual report. Chair Simonson reported that she met with David Rabow and discussed the past three years of the Annual Report and the problems they have found. Discussions were held with regards to how next years data should be presented, when the annual report should be discussed and reviewed plus when and how it should be released to the public. It was determined that the Executive Committee would meet to discuss these issues and present their ideas to the Commission at the next meeting.

B. Mandates of Probation for Batterers Treatment

Scott Macdonald announced that Jennifer Buesing was unable to attend but would be available at the September meeting to provide an update.

8. Announcements.

Sheriff Robbins announced that a new provider as been determined for the jail and he believes it is ALTO. Simply Your Best is not certified to go into the jail.

DA Lee announced that the District Attorney's Office recently received the No Mas grant. This grant will assist the DAO in educating the Latino community on domestic violence issues. The DAO will team up with Women's Crisis to do so.

9. **Adjournment.**

The meeting was adjourned at 7:05 p.m.