

**SANTA CRUZ COUNTY
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE COMMISSION
MINUTES**

**SANTA CRUZ POLICE DEPARTMENT
155 Center Street, Santa Cruz, CA 95060
Wednesday, May 9, 2001, 5:30 p.m.**

Commissioners Present:

Sam Stevens, Chair
JoAnn Allen
Melissa Berrengé
Evelyn Hall
Lynn Harrison
Anita Henri
Christine McGuire
Jim McMillin for Larry Biggam
Laurie McWhorter

Francine Nickell
Dee O'Brien
Celia Organista
Francesca Raphael
John Rhoads
Barbara Schaller
Mary Simoni
Linda Starn
Mark Tracy

Commissioners Absent:

Steve Belcher (Excused)
Mary Benitez
Jane Brune (Excused)
Lisa Gifford
Alan Hiromura (Excused)

Loretta Kuechle
Gail Levine
Heather Morse
Susan Myers
Maria Isabel Vargas

Others Present:

Kate Canlis
David Rabow
Cat Ring
Jennifer Rose

Brita Ross
Julie Schneider
Elizabeth Voorhees

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 5:35 p.m. by Chair Sam Stevens. Introductions followed.

2. Additions and Deletions to the Agenda

There were no deletions or additions to the agenda.

3. Approval of Minutes of April 11, 2001

On the motion of Henri and second by McGuire the minutes of April 11, 2001 were approved as submitted.

4. Oral Communication from the Community

None was offered.

5. Information Reports

a) Executive Committee

1. District Attorney's Office Request for Domestic Violence Investigator.

Kate Canlis asked for the Commission to support her request to the Board of Supervisors to hire an additional inspector to be assigned to exclusively investigate domestic violence cases. On the motion of Henri seconded by McGuire the motion passed with Judge Stevens abstaining. A letter supporting the District Attorney's request will be prepared and submitted to the Board of Supervisors at budget hearings.

2. July, 2001 Meeting. Discussion of need for Study Session.

Dee O'Brien addressed the Commission regarding the need for a study session. O'Brien recommended to the Commission that it convene a July meeting for the purpose of conducting a study session regarding implementation of the goals and objectives of the Commission. On the motion of McWhorter and seconded by Henri the motion passed.

3. Request from the County Office of Education for Reimbursement.

Joann Allen withdrew her request for reimbursement.

b) Commissioners' Biographical Orientation

None was submitted.

6. Subcommittee Updates:

a) Education:

JoAnn Allen stated that the Education Committee will be meeting to begin planning the events for Domestic Violence Awareness Month. Anyone interested in meeting with the Committee should contact her. Dee O'Brien asked Commissioners to solicit their respective agencies to encourage individuals to become involved in planning the events.

b) Medical

Linda Starn and Christine McGuire reported that they had conducted presentations of the

D.V. Reporting Video for health care providers to two physician groups. Three additional presentations are scheduled through July.

c) Law Enforcement

Tracy stated that he will meet with David Rabow some time after June to revise the Law Enforcement Protocol.

7. D.V. Web Site

A draft of the Web site was distributed. Francesca Raphael will contact Nancy Carr Gordon to obtain more information about the web site and she will report back at the June meeting.

8. Budget Status Update

The Executive Committee will make the budget presentation to the Board of Supervisors. Dee O'Brien asked that Commissioners lobby their respective Supervisor.

9. Update Regarding Commission Vacancies

a) Latino Community Representative

b) Gay Lesbian Bisexual Transgendered Representative

c) Family Law Bar Representative

Judge Stevens reported that letters were sent on April 25, 2001 to Mary Benitez, Latino Community Representative and Gail Levine, Gay Lesbian Bisexual Transgendered Representative, asking them if they had resigned from the Commission. The letter also went on to say that if they did not contact the Commission by May 15, 2001 that the Commission would assume that they had resigned.

Heidi Simonson will be submitting an application to the Board of Supervisors to represent the Family Law Bar on the Commission.

10. Oral Communications from Commissioners

11. Announcements/Oral Communication from Commissioners

Judge Stevens announced the following appointments to the Commission by the Board of Supervisors:

- Melissa Berrengé was appointed on April 17, 2001 to represent Family Court Services;
- Lynn Harrison was appointed on April 24, 2001, to represent Health Services

- Agency;
- Maria Isabel Vargas was appointed on April 24, 200, to represent Women's Crisis Support~Defensa de Mujeres; and
 - Evelyn Hall was appointed on May 1, 2001, to represent the Women's Commission

John Rhoads announced that the Probation Department has signed a memorandum of understanding with Child Support Services to supervise batterers who have children in the home and who are on probation who owe child support monies.

Laurie McWhorter stated that the C.P.V.A.W. will be observing their 20th anniversary on the evening of October 5 or October 6. She asked Commissioners to not schedule any events on those dates and to attend. C.P.V.A.W. is seeking community input for one main action item to request the community at the event, such as building transitional housing or lobbying legislation. Suggestions can be given to Laurie McWhorter at 420-6297.

Celia Organista announced that tickets are still available for their fundraiser on May 11 at Chaminade. To obtain tickets for the event contact Commissioner Organista or Women's Crisis Support~Defensa de Mujeres.

12. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 7:00 p.m. The next meeting will be June 13, 2001 at the Santa Cruz Police Department, Community Room.

Approved by Commission on:

Submitted by:

Jeanne M. Rodriguez, Secretary
Domestic Violence Commission