

**SANTA CRUZ COUNTY
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE COMMISSION
DRAFT MINUTES
First National Bank
655 Main Street, Watsonville, California, CA 95076
Wednesday, November 13, 2002. 5:30 p.m.**

Commissioners Present:

Commissioners Absent:

Others Present:

1. Call to Order

Chair McGuire called the meeting to order at 4:45 p.m.

2. Introductions

Commissioners and guests introduced themselves. Chair McGuire announced that this would be her last meeting as chair and as a member of the DV commission. She announced the following new officers: Chair: Mark Tracey; Vice Chair: Celia Organista; Agenda Review: Jo Ann Allen and Heidi Simonson.

3. Additions and Deletions to the Agenda

Item number 6: *Presentation by Monterey County Domestic Violence Council* was moved up to item number 4.

4. Presentation by Monterey County Domestic Violence Council (MCDVC)

Members from the MCDVC introduced themselves and distributed various handouts to the commissioners.

They explained that the MCDVC originated from a DV task force. The Monterey team reviewed the bylaws and membership composition of their DV council. They distributed their 2001 goals sheet, which include the following:

- Create a witness waiting area in Courthouse
- Develop a medical protocol – one page “cheat sheet” for medical professionals
- Increase membership representation
- Obtain a grant or other funding resource

The Monterey team also provided information and discussion about the following:

- Their annual conference, which is organized by their Community Education Committee
- Their member agencies share staff time of DV Council operations
- They have created a web site
- There are 16 law enforcement agencies in Monterey County
- The Monterey Probation Department is considered their weakest link due to a caseload of 1500 per probation officer.
- They have limited funds for activities and use the conference as one method to garner funds and resources.
- Recognition of their Council is extremely important and they use media campaigns and ongoing data collection to support service needs.
- They have several subcommittees, with a membership of 5 to 15 participants each
- They have similar challenges as we do in maintaining committee participation.

Christine will put together a packet of our DV Commission information for the Monterey County DV Council.

5. Approval of Minutes of October 9, 2002. Meeting

On the motion of Commissioner Henri and seconded by Commissioner McWhorter the October 9, 2002 minutes were approved as submitted.

6. Oral Communications from the Community

There were no oral communications from the community

7. Approval of 2002 Annual Report

On the motion of Commissioner Henri and seconded by Commissioner Lopez-Molina the 2002 Annual Report was approved by all. There was no discussion.

8. Report from Research and Development/Annual Report committee

Commissioner McWhorter updated the commission of the following:

- The committee has excluded the demographics information from the research tool and limited it to about 20 questions.
- There is a need to create a database to collect the information gathered by the survey. In order to create and maintain this database funds are needed to support the process.
- There was also a suggestion to use a university intern to create the database.

9. Discussion and vote to expend up to \$5,000 to gather and measure data for the Research and Development Annual Report

Commissioner McWhorter motioned and Commissioner Austin seconded the motion for the use of \$5,000 contributed by the Probation Department for the Research and Development Committee Annual Report.

Discussion: Commissioner Cox discussed the Probation Department's obligation to ensure the funds are spent appropriately. She shared that fiscal at probation had not been notified of the \$5,000 contribution to the DVC and needed time to identify an appropriate funding stream. There was a discussion regarding how the funds will be spent and if a system will be developed from these funds that will allow for continual use by the reporting agencies. It was suggested that this item be discussed at length at our January meeting. Commissioner McWhorter revised her original motion, which was seconded by Commissioner Austin to be a recommendation that the committee spend up to \$5,000 to gather and measure data, pending the commission approval of a written proposal outlining the use of said funds by the committee. Approved by majority, one opposition to recommendation.

At this time Commissioner Mc Whorter announced that she would be leaving the Commission for the Prevention of Violence Against Women on December 10th and subsequently leaving the DV Commission as CPVAW representative.

10. Report from Evaluation of Domestic Violence Services Committee

Commissioner Allen reported that the group had met twice and discussed how they should approach the evaluation of services and determined that the first step would be to design a community audit process of batterer's treatment and victim's support services.

Commissioner Cox volunteered to provide the committee with an inventory of existing treatment programs identifying the various services, targeted areas, targeted populations, etc. as recommended by the group. She will also provide the committee with a copy of the probation batter's treatment certification form.

It was determined that once the committee had reviewed the information from probation, they would determine next steps.

11. Report from Direct Services Integration Committee

There was no report.

12. Report regarding collection of Domestic Violence statistics during October 2002.

It was reported that last year there was a documented 152 Domestic Violence incidents and this year there was a documented 347 incidents during October. No

one seemed to know exactly why the numbers were higher for this year. A discussion of possibilities ensued. Commissioner Austin volunteered to investigate some of the possibilities and report back to the commission in January.

13. Announcements from Commissioners

Commissioner Berrenge announced the following, regarding supervised visitation programs:

- There was \$600,000 awarded from the *Violence Against Women's Act* to be equally distributed between San Mateo, Santa Cruz, Santa Clara and Monterey Counties.
- These funds are used for supervised visitations.
- The sites must have a separate entrance and parking lots for participant's safety. Currently, Walnut Avenue Women's Center is the only site set-up for such visitations.
- Commissioner Berrenge wanted to provide 10 supervised visitations, she could only find four needing the service.

This led to a discussion regarding the decline of restraining orders issued from the Watsonville Court. Various issues and concerns were discussed. It was determined that this issue should be placed on the January agenda and discussed further.

There was also discussion regarding resource cards being distributed by law enforcement. Several commissioners were concerned if the numbers and information on the cards needed to be updated. Commissioner Austin will collect and review the resource cards being distributed by law enforcement and report back to the commission.

14. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 7:20 p.m.

Approved by commission on:

Submitted by:

**Jo Ann Allen
Domestic Violence Commissioner**