

**SANTA CRUZ COUNTY
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE COMMISSION
MINUTES**

**Santa Cruz Police Department Community Room
155 Center Street, Santa Cruz, CA 95060
Wednesday, September 11, 2002, 5:30 p.m.**

Commissioners Present:

JoAnn Allen
Kim Austin
Larry Biggam
Lynn Harrison
Anita Henri
Alan Hiromura
Julie Hopfner
Scott McDonald for Judy Cox
Christine McGuire
Laurie McWhorter

Francine Nickell
Dee O'Brien
Celia Organista
Francesca Raphael
Mary Simoni
Heidi Simonson
Sam Stevens
Marybeth Varcados

Commissioners Absent:

Melissa Berrengue
Amy Christy (excused)

Linda Starn (excused)

Others Present:

Paula Gammell
Jennifer Rose

Jenny Sarmiento
Julie Schneider

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 5:39 p.m. by Chair McGuire.

2. Introductions

Commissioners and guests introduced themselves.

3. Moment of Silence in Honor of the Victims of 9/11

4. Additions and Deletions to the Agenda

Varcados replaced Hall as the Women's Commission representative on the DV Commission. A change needs to be made to the DV Commission roster.

Commissioner O'Brien has not been receiving agendas and minutes. Chair McGuire will investigate and correct this situation.

5. Approval of Minutes of August 13, 2002

On the motion of Commissioner McWhorter and second by Commissioner Varcados the August 13, 2002 minutes were approved as submitted.

6. Oral Communication from the Community

There were no oral communications from the community.

7. Presentation by Commissioner Stevens

Commissioner Stevens reported that reporting dissatisfaction with the performance of judicial employees was handled with three different procedures.

Judges - Dissatisfaction with a judge's performance of duties should be reported to the Commission on Judicial Performance. Complaints must be in writing and should be mailed to Commission on Judicial Performance, 455 Golden Gate Avenue, Suite 14400, San Francisco, CA 94102.

An informal process is to write a letter to the Presiding Judge.

Bailiff - Dissatisfaction with a bailiff's performance of duties should be reported to the Sheriff.

Other employees of the Court - Dissatisfaction with a employee of the Courts should be report to the Court Administrator on their grievance procedure forms. The Courts will investigate and take appropriate action usually within one week.

8. Report from the Agenda Review Committee.

A. Any Commissioner interested in serving on the Agenda Review Committee for calendar year 2003 should contact Commissioner McGuire. Those that have expressed interest to date are: Chair, Sheriff Tracy; Vice Chair, Commissioner Organista; Members-at-Large, Commissioners Allen and Simonson.

B. An announcement was made about the Annual Awards Dinner.

Date: 10/09/02

Time: 5:30 p.m.

Place Sheriff's Posse House

Supervisors Almquist and Wormhoudt will attend the function, as well as representatives from Supervisor Campos' office.

Nominees for special recognition should be submitted to Chair McGuire

as soon as possible.

- C. County Counsel in a written opinion to the Chair McGuire, stated that he believed that the DV Commission needed to amend the DV Commission's ordinance and bylaws if the Commission wanted to have a non-commissioner chair a committee. As a result, there was a motion from Commissioner Allen and a second from Commissioner Harrison to "Amend the DV Commission Ordinance and Bylaws so that a non-commissioner could chair a DV Commission committee. This motion was defeated unanimously.

Commissioners felt that a better alternative was to have all committees be chaired by commissioners and if appropriate appoint a vice chair who was not a commissioner. Although many of the duties of running the meeting could be delegated to the vice chair, the Chair would be responsible to ensure that Brown Act requirements and DV Commission policies and procedures (especially the obligation of financial resources) be adhered to by the subcommittee.

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

The RD/AR Committee is in the process of creating a survey research instrument that will enable the DV Commission to collect statistics about DV in Santa Cruz County. The goal of this project is to produce an annual report that quantifies the status of domestic violence in our county and provides the DV Commission with statistics to explore with the many agencies involved with domestic violence ways to improve services to the victims of domestic violence as well as batterers and to ultimately reduce domestic violence in Santa Cruz County. To date, the committee has developed questions for law enforcement agencies, the District Attorney, the Courts, Probation, batterers programs and hospitals and clinics.

The committee needs to review victims services, education and miscellaneous information as well as perform a final overall review of the complete survey and develop a form to collect data.

The members of the committee are Commissioner McWhorter, Chair; Commissioner Hironaka, Commissioner Starns, Commissioner Austin, Commissioner Lopez-Molina, Paula Gammell, David Rabow.

10. Report from the Evaluation of DV Services Subcommittee

The committee is having difficulty developing a work plan. Commissioner Biggam, Commissioner Organista, Commissioner Henry, Commissioner Allen, Commissioner McGuire, Commissioner Harrison, Julie Schneider, Paula Gammell have agreed to meet

and review the retreat minutes to clarify the charge of this committee; develop a work plan and present their recommendations to the entire Commission.

11. Report from the Direct Services Integration Subcommittee

The Service Providers committee is meeting Wednesday, 9/18 at noon at Women's Crisis Support. Organizations are in the process of sharing with each other the services which they provide and then hope to identify unnecessary duplication of services, unmet service needs as well as ways that the various organizations can work to coordinate their efforts and support each other.

Members of the committee are Julie Schneider, Victim Advocate with SCPD; Commissioner Nickell; Commissioner Organista; Bill Barrett, Watsonville PD; Commissioner Simoni; Renee Robinson, Career Works; Jodie Harvey, Simply your Best; Commissioner O'Brien; Commissioner Raphael; Jenny Sarmiento, Family Services of Watsonville; Patricia Gilbertson, Family Matters.

12. Announcements

Womens Crisis Support/Defensa De Mureres made a presentation and informed the DV Commission about the activities that they will produce for October, DV Awareness Month and invited other organizations to participate in their 10/19/event.

Chair McGuire will ask the DA and law enforcement chiefs in the County to provide DV statistics as they did last October. If they agree, then she will request that the SC Sentinel and Register Pajaronian publish informational boxes as the Sentinel did last year.

Commissioner Raphael recommended that commissoners watch the Frontline special, "Faith and Doubt at Ground Zero".

12. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 7:00 p.m.

Approved by Commission on:

Submitted by:

Alan Hiromura
Domestic Violence Commission