

**SANTA CRUZ COUNTY
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE COMMISSION
MINUTES**

County Office of Education
Pacific Ocean Room
809 Bay Avenue
Capitola, CA 95010

Wednesday, September 10, 2003, 5:30 p.m.

Commissioners Present:

Mark Tracy, Chair
Kim Austin
Melissa Berrengé
Sonya Drottar
Michelle Finch
Gillian Greensite

Anita Henri
Alan Hironura
Tom Kelly
Dixie Mitchell-Clow
Francesca Raphael

Commissioners Absent:

JoAnn Allen (Excused)
Larry Biggam
Amy Christey (Excused)
Lynn Harrison
Loretta Kuechle
Bob Lee (Excused)
Ernesto Lopez Molina

Charles Molnar
Francine Nickell
Dee O'Brien (Excused)
Celia Organista
Mary Simoni
Heidi Simonson
Linda Starn (Excused)

Others Present:

Karen Lemon
Deborah Rasa

Jenny Sarmiento
Julie Schneider

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 5:45 p.m. by Chair Mark Tracy.

2. Introductions

Commissioners and guests introduced themselves.

3. Approval of Minutes of August 13, 2003 Meeting

Because there was no quorum, the August 13th minutes will be placed on the October 8, 2003 agenda for approval.

4. Additions and Deletions to the Agenda

None

5. Oral Communication from the Community

None was offered.

6. Report on Violence Against Women on Campus September 3 Meeting.

Julie Schneider reported that there was good attendance at the meeting, but the campus is still unclear in the direction they want to proceed. They will be doing a needs assessment to determine the best use of the funds. The next meeting is scheduled for sometime in October. For more information call the University Women's Center.

7. Budget Expenditures

Alan Hiromura reported that the last year \$4,800 was allocated for the annual report project. However, funding was still needed for production of the report. The Law Enforcement Chiefs' Association has received money from Applied Survey Research through a grant for data collection. The Chiefs have voted to give part of the money to the Commission to defray the cost of the annual report and to enhance the Domestic Violence Commission web page. The remaining funds have been allocated to WCS~DdM to support classes to parents and children around the issue of domestic violence. This agenda item will be placed on the October agenda for a vote.

8. Update on Domestic Violence Court

Judge Kelly reported that the two day a week domestic violence court is working well. He also stated that the South County court project is in process again with a completion of December, 2006.

Melissa Berrengé announced that Safe Connections has received a grant for \$20,000 to subsidize supervised visitation. They are presently applying VAWA demonstration grant which will provide \$900,000 for four counties. Currently, Safe Connections site is not appropriate for the grant. The grant will provide for an upgrade, but they have to find a suitable site.

9. Victim Information Card

Neither Celia or Joanne were present to report, but the Chair advised that the information on the card is being reviewed.

10. October Domestic Violence Events

Anita Henri said that she will be sponsoring a Clothesline Project at Mercy Housing and Neary Lagoon Housing both operated by Mercy Housing Services. She is writing an article on her personal experience in domestic violence for Mercy Housing Services October newsletter. She will also be distributing purple ribbons for the residents.

WCS~dDM will be marching to commemorate International Women's Day on October 15 for more information contact WCS~dDM.

11. Domestic Violence Awards Events

Sheriff Tracy reports that Supervisor Ellen Pirie has agreed to be the mistress of ceremonies at the annual domestic violence awards dinner. Any commissioner wishing to nominate someone for their efforts in domestic violence should submit in writing to Julie Schneider at the Santa Cruz Police Department.

12. Reports from Committees

a. Evaluation

There was no one present from this Committee to make a report.

b. Annual Report

Information is coming in regularly. ISD is working on a process for on-line submission of data. Dominican Hospital has volunteered to do the graphic design and editing of the annual report. The first section of the report will contain information on the types of organizations involved in the domestic violence commission. ISD will prepare the charts, diagrams, etc. Finally, photos and poems will be placed in the report to humanize it.

c. Direct Services Committee

A meeting is scheduled September 25 at noon at Walnut Avenue Women's Center.

13. Announcements from Commissioners

Commissioner Henri announced her displeasure at the Memorial Photo Exhibit sponsored by the Santa Cruz Women's Commission because the program lacked mention of Santa Cruz County domestic violence homicide victims. Dixie Mitchell-Clow assured Commissioner Henri that the names of the women killed in Santa Cruz County in domestic violence cases would be mentioned in the program.

11. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 7:10 p.m. to ***October 8, at 5:30 p.m. at the Santa Cruz County Sheriff's Posse House.***

Approved by Commission on:

Submitted by:

Jeanne M. Rodriguez, Secretary
Domestic Violence Commission