



County of Santa Clara
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE COUNCIL
FISCAL YEAR 2007-2008 WORK PLAN
AND
2006-07 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

DVC OFFICERS:

Captain Alana Forrest, Chair
Nalini Shekar, Vice Chair of Administration
Margaret Petros, Vice Chair of Membership

2007 DVC MEMBERS:

Steve Angus
Julie Lind
Nancy Brewer
Hon. Katherine Lucero
Jamie Buckmaster
Nancy Marshall
Kathy Cordova
Carl McGrew
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Jamie McLeod
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VISION

The vision of the Domestic Violence Council is to end domestic violence in Santa Clara County.

MISSION

Improve coordination among agencies, departments, courts, members of the community and victims in matters of family violence and abuse.

Promote effective prevention, intervention and treatment techniques that will be developed based upon research and data collection.

Improve the response to domestic violence and abuse in order to reduce incidents thereof.

Educate the public about the need to end domestic violence.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

The Domestic Violence Council (DVC) was established as a County Commission in 1991 in an effort to improve the coordination among agency service providers, County departments, courts, community leaders and victims in matters of family violence and abuse.

The 34 members of the DVC are appointed by the Board of Supervisors and represent various government, non-profit, advocacy and community-based organizations.

The purpose of the DVC is to serve as an advisory body to the Board of Supervisors in matters pertaining to domestic violence. The Council makes recommendations to the Board of Supervisors regarding policies, programs and legislation and promotes effective prevention, intervention and treatment techniques to reduce domestic violence in our community.

This year in addition to our on-going projects, the DVC has chosen to focus on domestic violence in immigrant communities and the impact of domestic violence on children. This is particularly important at this time because of the large and growing immigrant community in Santa Clara County and the federal, state and local attention on the difficulties children face when they witness domestic violence.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE COUNCIL FISCAL YEAR 2007-2008 WORK PLAN

GOALS/OBJECTIVES	PROPOSED ACTIVITIES	PRIORITY RANKING	TIMELINE FOR COMPLETION
1. Expand outreach and education to immigrant communities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Host at least one public awareness event in a targeted immigrant community (CEPAC) • Develop educational and outreach materials for immigrant communities (CEPAC) • Provide joint community awareness/prevention presentations to specific populations in culturally relevant ways (SO CO) 	High	June 2008
2. Address the impact of DV on children	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Check with Batterer Intervention Programs on how they work with batterers who have children (CPS reports, child abuse and relationship to battering, etc.) (BIC) • Work to establish a seat on the council that is a voice for children (CIC) • Update and Distribute 300 copies of the Children and Domestic Violence Resource Guide (CIC) • Identify intervention practices that will improve victim safety and the safety of children (VSAC) • Hold community forum for teens in West Valley community 	High	June 2008

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE 2007-2008 WORKPLAN GOALS and OBJECTIVES

GOALS/OBJECTIVES	ACTIVITIES SUPPORTING GOALS	TIMELINE for COMPLETION
1. Increase communication with the Board of Supervisors to increase visibility of DVC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attend appropriate committee meetings of BOS (PSJC) • Contact appointing supervisors 	June 2008
2. Hold Annual Domestic Violence Conference	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Plan & implement Annual DV Conference to educate and inspire DV professionals in our community 	October 2007
3. Hold an Annual Planning Retreat and Establish Goals for FY 08 - 09	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Convene planning meeting in December and January retreat 	January 2008
4. All committees to meet regularly, complete individual work plans and communicate to the Executive Committee and DVC in a timely and efficient manner	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Committee Chairs plan, set agendas, call meetings and submit minutes to the Clerk of the Board in a timely manner • Two committees report out at the monthly DVC executive meetings • Committees work the goals of the engagement group into each committee's work plan 	On-Going
5. Ensure that all DVC members are well trained on County processes and provided with necessary tools to carry out their work in an effective and timely manner	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue to provide adequate training, orientation and DV manuals for all members • Continue to work with County Counsel to implement an annual Brown-Act training for members 	June 2008
6. Obtain full membership appointments and have a quorum at each meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Co-Chair of Membership will update DVC on vacancies • DVC Chair will communicate with absent council members 	On-Going

7. Collaboration with City of San Jose	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attend meetings and presentations of the City of San Jose to collaborate on activities and programs and review ways to partner on initiatives to reduce redundancies in the County • Utilize strategic alliance to plan annual DVC Conference 	December 2007
8. Santa Clara County Interagency Collaborative Committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue the work of the Greenbook Project • Attend meetings and collaborate with local and national partners to continue implementing best practices in this county to end family violence 	On-Going
9. Implement goals identified by the Engagement Group	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Integrate engagement group findings into all committees work plans 	April 2008

Santa Clara County Domestic Violence Council

PRIOR YEAR ACCOMPLISHMENTS For 2006-07

This document is a compilation of work from the DVC sub-committees

Batterer's Intervention

- Organized and conducted lethality training in Santa Clara County.
- Reviewed current victim notification and contact practices to determine potential improvement in communication with victims to increase safety.
- Participated in the Administrative Office of the Courts research grant funded by the National Institute of Justice.
- Reviewed current tracking of perpetrators where possible to identify gaps in data collection and streamline data sharing to increase batterer accountability.
- Discussed emerging issues and solutions related to batterer intervention and accountability at monthly meetings.

Children's Issues

- Published four editions of the Domestic Violence and Children Newsletter
- Updated and distributed 500+ copies of Resources for Children Exposed to Domestic Violence
- Completed a Services Assessment of Children's DV Services
- Participated in Law Enforcement DV Protocol Review
- Participated in Juvenile DV Court, DV Protocol Review
- Participated in Greenbook Safety Audit

Court Systems

- Initiated and continued to work on a firearms protocol with other partners in the system.
- Initiated and continued to work on a greater outreach to other branches of the court system who deal in domestic violence issues to assure that all phases of the court process are covered.
- Started to examine the protocols for domestic violence in the various courts.
- Started a Filling the Gaps group who meet with Judge Grilli about certain domestic violence family law matters to identify gaps in the process.

Death Review

- Assisted with DV conference
- Assisted with DV Protocol revision
- Wrote and released to the Public the 2005 Domestic Violence Death Review Report; currently working on 2006

- Conducted significant number of trainings to other agencies and lay groups on Death Review (1-2 per month)
- Recognized by California Woman's Law Center-Published in their book- "Examination of Legal and Community Responses to Intimate Femicide in California" - 2005

Community Education/Public Awareness

- Assisted with DV conference, incorporating the Silent Witness display from Kaiser Santa Teresa Hospital.
- Organized and carried out the breezeway display at the County Building for DV Awareness Month
- The Interfaith sub-committee implemented 9 trainings for clergy and members of lay church leaders.
- The Medical sub-committee promoted DV awareness events at several health promotion events, including farmer's market and DV awareness month events.
- The Medical sub-committee continues to research legislative opportunities to require DV training for physicians.

Housing

- Encouraged participation of all domestic violence shelters within the community in assessing emergency shelter resources (i.e. beds) and needs.
- Created shelter data collection tool.
- Shelter coordinators compiled data for 2005 to ascertain the number of beds available, track the number of people turned away from DV shelters for lack of space and/or support resources and additional data.
- Conducted focus groups with survivors to determine and understand barriers to accessing temporary and permanent housing within the community.
- Conducted focus groups with domestic violence advocates to determine and understand barriers to survivors accessing temporary or permanent housing.
- Reviewed shelter intake forms to determine feasibility of producing common forms for all shelters.
- Compiled data and research for Housing Committee report to be released in 2007 with recommendations to fill emergency and transitional housing gaps within Santa Clara County.

Interfaith Committee (Under CEPAC)

- Participated in Community Chaplaincy Program.
- Served on the planning committee for the second annual *Embracing Families in Need* interfaith conference, hosted by Building Peaceful Families.
- Developed *Equipping the Church: Straight Talk on Domestic Violence*, a four-part series to train clergy and lay leaders, as well as church staff and volunteers, to deal effectively with domestic violence when it occurs in their congregations.
- Presented rationale and evaluation findings of the *Equipping the Church* series at the International conference on Violence, Abuse & Trauma (IVAT) in San Diego.

- Information packets from the *Equipping the Church* clergy workshop series were requested from and distributed to a community educator in Ventura County, a minister in Washington state, a batterers' intervention program in Oregon, Social Services agencies for Los Angeles and Kern Counties, a seminary in Massachusetts, university professors in Colorado and Tennessee, women's shelters in New Mexico and New Zealand, and a graduate school for ministry in Southern California! Most recently, packets were also distributed to China, Singapore, Indonesia, Thailand, and Malaysia.
- Participated in discussion with key leadership of the San Jose Diocese regarding training/educational initiative on domestic violence for Catholic priests, nuns, lay leaders and church staff.
- Began faith-specific support group for victims/survivors.
- Strategic relationships developed with local seminaries, ministers, and faith-based organizations.
- Invited to serve on a countywide initiative to engage the faith community in addressing the issue of elder abuse.

Immigrant Survivors of DV

- Created an outreach list and tool kit
- Created resource binders in Vietnamese, Japanese, and Farsi and kept in a centralized location for victims
- Provided four VAWA, U & T visa related presentations
- Completed an Annual Report
- Revised Sujata Warrior's definition of "culture"
- Influenced DV agencies, DVC, CSW and other interested parties to think about benefits of broadening the definition of "culture" and adopt a unified definition
- Supported the South Bay Coalition to End Trafficking and emphasized that trafficking issues are immigrant issues
- Working on translations of basic DV informational handouts for immigrants
- Working on Cultural proficiency issues—reviewed PowerPoint presentation of Sujata Warrior's material on cultural proficiency
- Assisted with DV conference
- Created ad-hoc committees to work on the DV conference and cultural proficiency issues

Police Victim Relations

- Reviewed pending legislation relevant to domestic violence and victim issues.
- Discussed need for additional training for officers to document service of restraining orders and conducted a restraining order training session for law enforcement and advocates.
- Participated in the DV protocol revision committee and annual retreat
- Provided a forum for informal review and recommendations of successes and challenges between law enforcement and victims.

South County

- Assisted with DV conference
- Assisted with DV Protocol revision
- Participated in Morgan Hill PD Law Enforcement Training seminars
- Participated in the DV Awareness Month Resource Fair

Victim Survivor Advocacy

- Researched and contacted volunteer groups to determine interest in implementing a Court Watch program in Santa Clara County to ensure victims are safe and perpetrators are held accountable.
- Recruited American Association of University Women (AAUW) to implement and develop a Court Watch program.
- Trained AAUW volunteers on dynamics of domestic violence and court process.
- Committee members discussed victim safety concerns monthly.
- Discussed and provided input into the annual review of the DV Protocol for Law Enforcement.
- Gathered literature and research on women's use of force.
- Attempted to gather local data on victim-defendants (perpetrators) such as number of women: 1) arrested; 2) prosecuted for DV crimes; 3) probationers; and 4) enrolled in Batterer's Intervention Programs. Committee members were also interested in collecting data on ethnicity and language of female perpetrators.
- Discussed victim safety concerns with the District Attorney's Office in regards to reduction of cases in DV criminal court, reduced sentencing, and lethality.