



Domestic Violence Council of San Mateo County

April 14, 2016

3:00 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.

455 County Center, Redwood City

Room 101 (first floor)

Meeting Minutes

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Supervisor Warren Slocum at 3:05PM.

2. Introductions/Roll Call

Introductions were given by Domestic Violence Council members and the San Mateo County (SMC) representatives who were present for the meeting:

DV Council Members: Supervisor Warren Slocum, Melissa Lukin, Selina Toy-Lee, Robert Foucrault, Mike Callagy, Lisa Gibbons, Al Serrato, Lisa Farris, Noelle Bruton, Bob Spencer.

SMC Representatives: Deputy County Counsel— Monali Sheth, SMC Intern—Daniella Navarrete.

3. Opportunity for Public Comment

Marty Fox stood up during public comment to discuss the connection between Laura's Law and the issue of domestic violence. He commended San Mateo County for being on the forefront of implementing the Laura's Law legislation.

4. Adoption/Approval of the Agenda

A motion was made by Mike Callagy and seconded by Al Serrato to adopt and approve the April 14, 2016 agenda. All council members voted in favor. Motion was approved unanimously.

5. Approval of January 2016 Minutes

A motion was made by Mike Callagy and seconded by Selina Toy-Lee to approve the January 2016 minutes. All council members voted in favor. Motion was approved unanimously.

6. Update on the Domestic Violence Coordinated Community Response Project (CCRP)

Vice-Chair Melissa Lukin gave an update for the Domestic Violence Community Response Project (CCRP). The overall goals of this interagency project are to improve safety for domestic violence victims in San Mateo County and reduce the offender opportunities to harm. The CCRP seeks to achieve these goals by assessing the strengths of the current system and interagency response, by identifying gaps, enhancing interagency collaboration, making informed recommendations, and designing goals to support these recommendations.

The project also aims to improve law enforcement's response to 911 calls and police documentation at the scene. The CCRP would like to improve the tracking and assessment of children at the DV scene, in addition to improving documentation in situations where multiple calls have been made.

Melissa reported back on the current progress of the CCRP. Various San Mateo County police departments have created and consolidated a master language resource page, which list all the multi-lingual officers in the area and their spoken languages. This resource page was created in response to the first survivor-based focus groups facilitated by CORA. Participants in these initial focus groups stated that there were language barriers at the scene of their DV incidents, after they called 911. Participants also expressed that the response time to their calls was fairly low, but that their phone calls were not "taken seriously," especially if the nature of the incident was verbal abuse or if the victim had previously reported incidents of Domestic Violence. Additionally, survivors had difficulty accessing their own police reports, which may be due to departmental issues within city police departments.

The DV Council moved forward to discuss these findings. Members of the DV council, who represented law enforcement, reaffirmed the importance of taking every 911 call seriously. Officers should be especially concerned with the DV victims who make multiple calls, due to the enhanced risk for escalating violence. They expressed the need for officers to understand cycles of violence and escalation, as it is necessary for serving the victims of violence and also a safety concern for the officers themselves. More training around DV cycles and escalation was suggested.

Another advance of the CCRP included the RIMS program— a computerized system for law enforcement's report writing. The police departments are currently exploring implementing RIMS on a county-wide scale. First, it will undergo a process of being beta tested in a few departments. After piloting the program via beta trials, the county will be able to move forward to adopt and approve the program officially.

The CCRP also emphasized the importance of identifying children present at the domestic violence scene. Some members suggested making Domestic Violence Protocol changes, which include: asking the partners if there are children present at the scene and of their whereabouts, interviewing everyone separately (including children), engaging the non-offending parent if possible, encouraging risk-focused dialogue and asking open-ended questions to get a good statement at the scene. They also suggested assessing the emotional and physical state of the child and getting CPS involved if appropriate.

Lastly, Melissa announced that she had applied for DOJ grant that would provide funding to continue the CCRP and implement the long-term recommendations. Next steps include, training law enforcement on RIMS and effective interviewing practices with children on the scene and also providing translation services at the site of the DV incident.

7. Discussion and Vote on Plan for Election of DV Council Vice Chairperson pursuant to Rule 3 of DV Council Procedural Rules

The Domestic Violence Council discussed the plan for the Vice-Chairperson position pursuant to *Rule 3* on the council's Procedural Rules, approved on January 14th, 2016.

Rule 3 states that “[t]he Vice-Chairperson shall serve for a two (2) year term.” In this case, the DV Council discussed when the current Vice Chairperson Melissa Lukin's two year term would end for purposes of Rule 3 and thus, when the next election for the Vice Chairperson would take place.

A motion was made by Robert Foucrault and seconded by Mike Callagy for Melissa Lukin's two-year term to be deemed to have begun in January 2016 (on or about when the Procedural Rules were adopted) and pursuant to the Rule 3 to continue for two years thereafter (until January 2018) with the next election for the Vice Chairperson position to occur at that time. Melissa accepted this proposal, and the *motion was approved unanimously* by the DV Council members.

8. Discussion and Vote on Authorization to Develop a Memo and Resolution to Board of Supervisors Changing Requirements for DV Council Chair position

After discussing the two year term for the Vice-Chairperson, the DV Council discussed the position of Chairperson pursuant to *Rule 3* in the Procedural Rules. The members debated whether the role should remain exclusive to the Board of Supervisors or if it should be expanded to include other DV Council members.

According to the current Resolution 65335, Number 8: *“The Domestic Violence Council shall select a chair and a vice-chair, each of whom will serve a two year term. If possible, the Vice-Chair will also serve as the chair elect and shall become the chair of the council, upon the conclusion of the current chair's service.”* However in practice, the DV Council has reserved the Chairperson seat for a member of the Board of Supervisors.

There was a discussion to evaluate the inconsistencies between the current resolution's language and DV Council's historical practice. This deliberation concluded with DV Council members; deciding to reserve the Chairperson role for a San Mateo County Supervisor.

Council member Mike Callagy moved to maintain the position of Chairperson as exclusive to the San Mateo County Board of Supervisors. Council member Robert Foucrault seconded the motion. All council members voted in favor. Motion was approved unanimously.

In light of this decision, a formal memo will be developed by Monali and Honora, and brought forward as a resolution to the Board of Supervisors for final approval.

9. Discussion: How would the DV Council like to recognize Domestic Violence Awareness Month?

The DV Council plans on hosting their annual Domestic Violence Awareness Month event in October. Garfield Elementary School was discussed as one site option. The proposal for a sub-committee was put forward and is scheduled to be created in July during the next DV Council meeting.

10. Committee Reports

Coordinated Response Committee

Council member Sylvia Baez reported back on the CRC's Teen Dating Violence event held in February at the San Mateo County Juvenile Hall. During the event, the CRC educated youth around issues of masculinity and gender roles, respect, teen dating violence, trauma, and facilitated a trivia game on healthy relationships. The participants were adolescent boys between the ages of 12-16 years and they were actively engaged throughout the workshop. The CRC plans to hold future events and will meet next on June 2, 2016.

Legal Process Committee

Al Serrato reported back for the Legal Process Committee. Attorneys in San Mateo County have stipulated for their matter to be heard in family court by a Commissioner instead of a judge. This is a case law decision called *Michaels v. Turk*. Currently, this stipulation is being forwarded to a judge for approval.

Death Review Team

Robert Foucrault reported that the Anthony Kirincic case is still going through the judicial process and as general practice, the San Mateo County District Attorney's Office does not release reports while the case is pending.

11. Announcements

a. 2016 DV Council Meetings -

Thursday, 7/14/16, 3PM - Room 101
& Thursday, 10/13/16, 3 PM - Room 101

b. CORA— Seeds of Hope Benefit Dinner

Thursday, May 5, 2016 from 6:00pm – 9:00pm at Sharon Heights Golf & Country Club, 2900 Sand Hill Road in Menlo Park.

Register for tickets at: <https://commitchange.com/ca/san-mateo/cora/events/seeds-of-hope-2016>.

12. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned by Supervisor Warren Slocum at 4:06 PM.