

**Domestic Violence Council of San Mateo County**  
**January 16, 2014**  
**Human Services Agency, 400 Harbor Blvd. Belmont, Bldg C**

**Present:** Melissa Lukin, Supervisor Warren Slocum, Brenda Adams, Sylvia Baez, Ed Barberini, Lynda Burton, Victoria Colligan, Rhonda Collins, Rev Kristi Lynn Denham, Marci Dragun, Diana Emerson, Linda Gibbons, Ben Loewy, Nadine Gonzalez-Lopez, Lisa Macias, Bernie Plotnikoff, Al Serrato, Brenda Adams.

**Staff:** Honora Miller

**1. Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order by Vice Chair, Melissa Lukin at 2 PM.  
A motion was made by Lynda Burton and seconded by Victoria Colligan.  
Motion Approved.

**2. Adoption/Approval of the Agenda**

A motion was made to approve and adopt the agenda by Victoria Colligan and seconded by Lynda Burton. Motion Approved.

**3. Brown Act Presentation**

Dan Valim, Deputy County Counsel presented an overview of the Brown Act. See attached handout. Questions and concerns about how to implement the Brown Act can be directed to Honora Miller for follow up with Dan.

**4. Approval of the September 2013 Minutes**

A motion was made to approve the September 2013 Minutes by Lynda Burton and seconded by Brenda Adams. Motion approved.

**5. Next Steps on the DV Coordinated Community Response Project**

Melissa Lukin reported that the San Mateo, Daly City and Redwood City Police Departments have agreed to participate in an evaluative process. Melissa introduced the project coordinator, Kristine King who shared her background. She worked for the Reno Police Department for three years as a violence against women crime analyst and served as co-chair of the Washo County Death Review. Previously she was a victim advocate. They are in the process of identifying the focus question and there will be a training by Praxis International related to the data collection on February 12 & 13 at the Sobrato Center. There will be interviews with staff, police ride - alongs, reviews of cases.

The general timeline for the project is:  
Praxis Training February 2014  
Data Collection: Early Spring 2014  
Organize data findings May 2014  
Distribute findings to task force for review/consensus May-June 2014  
Develop recommendations based on findings – May-July 2014  
Approval by Police Chief's and Domestic Violence Council May-June 2014  
Report Writing: Summer 2014  
Develop policies and procedures to address identified gaps –  
September/October  
Report to Board of Supervisors: October 2014 during DV Awareness Month  
Press Release and Newspaper Articles: October 2014

## **7. Update on the planning of a high risk assessment team**

Diana Emerson reported that she, Linda Gibbons, Protima Pandey, and Cori Manthorne identified and developed goals on how to reach high risk domestic violence victims. They will be developing criteria to use to identify high risk victims. They looked at 30 days of data to see what kinds of cases they are seeing in their respective organizations. Some of the numbers represent cases seen by more than one of the organizations and some of the numbers overlapped – for example cases with both strangulation and sexual assault. Overall, this represents very beginning steps to identify high risk victims in the County. Some of the questions that will be considered are:

- How do we identify victims?
- How do we flag victims for follow up?
- How do we develop a multidisciplinary team approach?

**CORA** - 11, 000 calls per year

Review of calls from October 2013 to January 2014

12 firearms

34 strangulation

30 sexual assault

**Sheriff's Office** – (30 days) 26 cases

12 felonies

4 strangulation

1 firearms

1 pregnant

**Bay Area Legal Aid** – (90 days) 38 applications for Protection Orders

9 strangulation

8 guns/knives

4 sexual assault

6 threats to kill

**Keller Center-** (last 6 months) 40 strangulation

Cori Manthorne mentioned that Jackie Campbell is willing to give a training on how to use her Danger Assessment tool. The training costs \$2000 for a full day training plus air fare. Diana Emerson indicated that she has some money available for this kind of train the trainers workshop. The session includes how to score the danger assessment and a consult on what other counties are doing regarding lethality assessment. Cori noted that danger assessment in the field conducted by law enforcement can be cumbersome yet 3-4 questions can be effectively used in the field to identify high risk cases.

Contra Costa and Santa Clara Counties uses the Campbell risk assessment. Napa County uses SARA. Rhonda Collins mentioned that Probation is considering the Campbell tool since the one they are currently using is not validated. Rhonda noted that if we were to have a training by Jackie Campbell that ten probation officers and managers would participate.

There will be a need to further explore how to appropriately handle the confidentiality issues inherent in a multi-disciplinary response. One possibility that would need to be reviewed by County Counsel is to have the victim sign release which some counties have on the scene so that the whole multi disc team can contact them

Rhonda expressed interest in joining the Lethality Assessment planning group.

Supervisor Slocum Warren is interested in having the strangulation data plotted geographically to determine whether there are clusters of areas with a higher incidence.

Diana Emerson indicated that statistically in domestic violence cases 63 percent of victims say that they have been strangled in at least once in their relationship. Strangulation is a control behavior that is geared towards silencing victims and is usually combined with other injuries and other threats.

The legal system is now recognizing the prevalence of strangulation and 20 states have now increased felony charges in strangulation cases.

The planning group will continue meeting and will report back.

## **8. Committee Reports**

**Coordinated Response Committee** - Sylvia Baez reported that the work that the CRC is focusing on related to the prevention and early intervention model of addressing domestic violence in our communities is exciting. The CRC is planning outreach events that focus on healthy relationships and has been working on a Teen Dating Violence Awareness Month (TDVAM) event for February at the county's Juvenile Hall. The group will be providing a two 2 hour session on Healthy Relationships on either Feb 20<sup>th</sup> or 27<sup>th</sup> from 6-8 PM which is after dinner time at the hall. A keynote speaker is being sought. A pre-assessment of the 25 young men ages 15-17 who will participate will be conducted to help determine the youth's knowledge and understanding of healthy versus unhealthy relationships.

**Legal Process Committee** - Jessica Dayton is presenting today and Linda Gibbons has agreed to be the co-chair going forward. Greg Tanaka just completed a two chair stint. Civil Domestic Violence Restraining Order Court has been moved to a smaller space and there are safety issues emerging. There are safety concerns both in and outside the courtroom with victims and abusers seated next to each other, victims having to pass by their abuser through narrow congested doorways and abusers sitting behind victims in the small courtroom. The small courtroom has no dividing aisle and only two rows of seats. The small, enclosed space creates opportunities for abusers to use body language to intimidate victims. The LPC developed a flyer for bailiffs on 8 things to remain attentive to in DV Court and highlights the importance of the bailiff in the courtroom to the domestic violence victim experience. Bailiff awareness and intervention to prevent intimidation of victims by abusers can have a positive outcome in terms of victim participation in the legal process. The courtroom being used is room 7C in Department 23. The Bench is aware of the issue and they may have hit a wall in terms of resolving the matter because of serious

space issues at the Court now that the Northern and Central branches have moved to Redwood City. Supervisor Slocum expressed interest in meeting with Judge Foiles to follow up.

**Death Review Team** – The Sandra Padgett death will be reviewed on February 6<sup>th</sup>.

**Batterers Intervention Programs** – Judge Swope attended their November meeting with providers to give feedback about the work that is being done. It went well. There was no December meeting. One on one meetings were held with providers in January. One of Chief Keene's prime objectives is to make sure that the batterers intervention programs are evidenced based and she is looking at the BIP for evidence based practice.

## **9. Announcements**

a. Next DV Council Meeting 3/20/14 3 PM - 455 County Center RWC

## **10. Opportunity for Public Comment**

None.

## **11. Adjournment**

Supervisor Slocum adjourned the meeting at 3:45 PM.

