

Minutes for Pinellas County Domestic Violence Task Force

November 15th, 2016

Chair: Dora Komninos- **State Attorney's Office**

Vice Chair: Christine Warwick- **Retired**

Location: Suncoast Hospice
The Gathering Place (rooms A & B)
5771 Roosevelt Bld.
Clearwater FL

Time: 2:00 PM-4:00 PM

VISION:

To have a peaceful and just community;

PURPOSE:

1. To promote the prevention of domestic and sexual violence.
2. To enhance victim safety.
3. To hold batterers accountable.

GOALS:

1. To develop and implement primary preventative strategies.
2. To facilitate and implement a coordinated community response to domestic violence,
3. To provide ongoing education and assessment of the coordinated community response.

The Task Force agrees to use the principles of Trauma Informed Care in conducting our meetings by creating a safe, trustworthy, collaborative and empowering environment. This supportive culture of shared decision making and choices for all involved will enhance our advocacy efforts.

Dora Komninos called the meeting to order by reading the Vision, Purpose and Goals of the Task Force at 2:06 PM

Dora opened the floor for Sgt. Morley to be honored with his award from Maj. Dalton of Clearwater PD. They were unable to attend the award ceremony last month.

D. Swindall proposed approval of the minutes and A. Ross seconded the motion.

I. **Primary Prevention Report** – Jennifer Saulpaugh, Co-Chair

Jennifer shared that the committee has been doing many different things since the last meeting. They are still presenting at schools and looking for an emblem to represent the Primary Prevention Committee. If you have any ideas, please forward them to Jennifer at Jennifer.Saulpaugh@rcspinellas.org. They want to use it for

stickers to place on folders for handouts at events. They are also hoping to connect with a gentleman from Family Resources to work with local coaches on being positive leaders. This is still in the works. There are no events scheduled until April. Frieda took this time to share the difference between primary prevention and intervention as we have several new faces at the meeting today. The next meeting is scheduled for 12/2/16 @ Largo Library if anyone wants to attend as they are always looking for new committee members and people with fresh ideas.

II. **Fatality Review** –Frieda Widera, Chair

Two cases were reviewed. The first was a relationship that had ended and the abuser returned to the state to kill his ex-partner. Family knew that he was returning and could have tried to deescalate the situation. Also, this case caused training for LEO because they were called to the home to check from family out of state and no one answered the door and they left. They did not make every effort to properly clear the home. The other case was a murder-suicide. Wife was on daily leave from nursing home and the family knew her husband was depressed and did not follow through with making sure that he got help. He decided this was the way to go and it was not a mutual decision. The next meeting is 12/1/16 and 2 cases will be reviewed if they are released on time. It's time to start the annual report so all interested, please stay after the December meeting.

III. **BIP Committee Report** – David Swindall, Chair

The committee met on 10/6 and discussed with Manny Wolf (PCSO Jail) about how they are doing the BIP program at the jail. Nancy Miller from the SAO DV diversion program was there and asked how SAO and BIP could coordinate their services together in a more efficient way. Alysia Ross spoke about a BIP client that was unsuccessful with the program but was given credit with the court. There was group discussion on how to help with these individual situations and they do not get credit going the loop holes.

IV. **Advocacy Committee Report** – Bobbie Hodson

The committee had the award ceremony as their event. USF Police have asked for assistance with their strangulation stance and want to work with the committee to use their paperwork. The committee applied for the Victim's Rights Week grant again and are hopeful to receive it again. They will be having a fellowship meeting in December before starting back up in the New Year and continuing their platform with strangulation.

V. **By-Laws Committee Report** – Susan McMillan

Susan reported that they updated their recommendations and discussed their newest options. She reports that there have not been revisions in over 2 years. She asked that the task force read over the suggested changes and submit suggested changes. They are focusing on term limits for committee chairs and making new revisions for the BIP committee. Due to the amount of discussion, the changes were tabled until the January meeting with the suggestion to read over the bylaws and be able to discuss and suggest changes for the next meeting. Dora agreed that we need to change things but need time to do it correctly. She suggested that people email Susan any changes they suggest by Dec. 31st and she will create a more usable format for the next meeting.

VI. **Stats Committee Report** – Ruth Whitney

Ruth and Frieda discussed the meeting that occurred on 10/7/16 and went through the list of what was agreed upon and what they declined to improve. There is a handout that discusses all the different proposals. It was agreed that they will send the strangulation report to the different Law Enforcement Offices and Pinellas County Sheriff's office to offer training and update them on their statistical findings.

VII. **Steering Committee Report** – Katy Connor-Dubina

No meeting in October due to event and 11/2 meeting was held to provide a tour of the Haven of RCS facilities.

VIII. **Chairs Report** – Dora Komninos

Dora reports that Alexis Upton will be taking her place at the SAO when she leaves. She will be training her leading up to that date. She has been helping with the other committees and arranging the DVTF meeting with the SAO.

IX. **Elections** – Frieda

Bobbi Hodson was elected Chair

Chris Warwick was re-elected Vice Chair

X. **Announcements:**

If you have any requests for the education piece in the coming months, contact Katy or Bobbi.

DVTF has a new Website addresses:
pinellasdvtaskforce.wix.com/pinellasdvtaskforce

Pinellasdvtf.wikispaces.com

Next Meeting: 1/17/17 @ Suncoast Hospice

5771 Roosevelt Blvd. Clearwater

Please contact Bobbie Hodson if you wish to be on the agenda

bhodson@pcsonet.com

Meeting Minutes Submitted by: Courtney Hendrickson