

Minutes for Pinellas County Domestic Violence Task Force

January 17th, 2017

Chair: Bobbie Hodson- Pinellas County Sheriff's Office

Vice Chair: Christine Warwick- Retired (Haven)

Location: Suncoast Hospice

The Gathering Place (Room C)

5771 Roosevelt Blvd.

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.

Bobbie Hodson called the meeting to order by reading the Vision, Purpose and Goals of the Task Force at 2:03 PM

Bobbie opened the floor for Kelly from Empath Health to introduce their agency and what resources they have for the community. Bobbie also allowed Erica Wiedemann, Haven of RCS Director to introduce the new CEO of RCS, Kirk Smith, and he spoke briefly as well.

D. Swindall proposed approval of the minutes and B. Holmes seconded the motion.

I. **Primary Prevention Report** – Frieda Widera /Ellen Woll

There was not a meeting in January. They are still waiting on the Coaching Boys to Men curriculum to use and train in the community. They have the DVD they shared previously regarding dating violence available for presentations and to take back to

our agencies. They are still looking for schools to be able to present the information about Dating Violence Awareness to. Please share any leads you may have with Jennifer at Jennifer.Saulpaugh@rcspinellas.org. They have secured a date for the Yellow Dress presentation on 10/19/17 at SPC. Details will be shared as they are solidified. JAEDA and PCDVTF are sponsoring. It is a Boston-based one person presentation on teen dating violence. It is very impactful and they will be looking for trained volunteers to be available for the audience members as needed. Students will be free and it will cost \$10 in advance, \$15 at the door.

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

Two cases were reviewed on 12/1/16. They were St. Pete Police and Pinellas County Sheriff cases. Both were short term relationships and men with possible personality disorders. One case did not find intervention opportunities while the other had family tried to intervene and there could have been court system accountability. There are not any cleared cases for the February meeting so they will be working on the annual Fatality Review report that is distributed in the spring.

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

The Committee met for their quarterly meeting and discussed and started to create a table to address the differences between anger management and BIP. It is a reminder that BIP is designed for intimate partner relationships and anger management does not have requirements and standards. This will be provided to court system personnel so that they know the difference for sentencing.

IV. **Advocacy Committee Report** – Sherry Clester, Chair

On 1/10/17 several individuals attended a free strangulation training through FCADV. Sherry reported that in 2016, there were 7 DV homicides and victims were in each of the age ranges starting with the 20's and ending with someone in their 80's. For misdemeanor domestic advisories defendants are now being brought to court, not showing the perpetrator on the TV monitor as they were previously. Assistant state attorney Alexis Upton will check on the status of why this was changed but it was possibly to directly hand them the no contact order. The committee is starting a Victim Advocate newsletter with two reports each year. This will help update everyone in the field related to domestic violence and what is happening in our community. It will be filled with educational information as well as supportive and uplifting stories. If anyone has any ideas or thoughts on this, please let Sherry know sherry.clester@aaapp.org . Also, they are looking for

people that should be recognized for their hard work to be featured. They are also looking to have either another awards event or a walk in October.

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

Susan reported that they are looking to revise some of the by-laws to make sure that they are more concrete. Susan got loads of feedback from members and is sorting through it all. She has been asking for additional feedback especially with the rules to follow to change the by-laws, including feedback from an Alpha Phi Omega member. She will share the proposed changes with the steering committee in February and then bring them to the entire task force at a future meeting. The committee wants to make sure it is done correctly as the by-laws are not just for those of us that attend now but also to set the ground work for the future of the task force.

VI. **Statistics Committee Report** – Sherry Clester, Co-chair

They have met and are trying to create a training for prosecutors. It is scheduled for 4/7/17 and CLE's will be provided. Assistant state attorney Alexis Upton is assisting with this. They are also trying to implement DV cards to place in the State Attorney's Office (SAO) investigation rooms for prosecutors. They include information on better understanding DV and how to best approach a victim. Erica Weidemann has offered to laminate them at the Haven of RCS. Request made to add a list of contacts for victim advocates and the DV centers for the SAO to share with victims. They also were asked to look at the language used so that it is more a team oriented approach that it encourages working together. The committee is sending out letters and the strangulation report (previously approved by the task force) to SAO prosecutors this week and they will also be mailed to the police departments and school board. One thing they have discovered with speaking with the SAO and researching the statistics is the strangulation statute is hard to prosecute due to the wording. They are looking at how to change the wording of the statute. Sherry suggested asking for assistance from FCADV as they are more experienced with this. Their next meeting is 1/26 @ 10:30.

VII. **Steering Committee Report** – Alexis Upton, Chair

Katy Connor-Dubinahas stepped down as chair and Alexis has agreed to step in. The committee is working on the DVTF website and what would be the best way to do it cost effectively. They discussed where to move forward with the DVTF and the roles of the new chairs of the DVTF and sub-committees. Melissa Andress is

working on a list of what trainings are available in the community. The committee is also working on the by-laws.

VIII. Chairs Report – Bobbie Hodson

Bobbie has been chair for 17 days and still learning. She attended the Pinellas County Alliance meeting for the first time and it was eye opening. She was surprised by how many players were involved but their biggest focus was on Trauma Informed Care. She feels our group should model those ideals. They are starting back with the training for new hires at Eckerd based on the interagency agreement from 2009. Several people felt there was a newer version that was signed and they will go back to their agencies to find a copy to share. Bobbie shared a Health Dept. Resource update with the help of Jocelyn from the Health Dept. They are looking for questions to ask around the subject of DV and wanted our input. They will be doing random calls in the community and wanted dv questions to be a part of it. She will keep in contact with Bobbie. The Sheriff's office received a grant and will be providing a mobile command bus in the community. Bobbie provided them with palm cards from both DV centers and other resources.

IX. Announcements:

If you have any requests for the education piece in the coming months, contact Alexis Upton hokieupton@gmail.com or Bobbie bhodson@pcsonet.com .

DVTF has a new Website address:

pinellasdvtf.weebly.com

Next Meeting: 3/21/17 @ Suncoast Hospice

5771 Roosevelt Blvd. Clearwater

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

Meeting Minutes Submitted by: Courtney Hendrickson

Minutes for Pinellas County Domestic Violence Task Force

March 21, 2017

Chair: Bobbie Hodson- Pinellas County Sheriff's Office

Vice Chair: Christine Warwick- Retired (Haven)

Location: Suncoast Hospice

The Gathering Place (room C)

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Clearwater FL

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Bobbie Hodson called the meeting to order by reading the Vision, Purpose and Goals of the Task Force at 2:02 PM

Bobbie announced that minutes will be posted on the website and sent out electronically in the future. There will not be hard copies at the meetings.

There was discussion about corrections but the corrections had been made before the meeting.

D. Swindall proposed approval of the minutes and Maria Taylor seconded the motion. The minutes were approved.

I. **Primary Prevention Report** – Jennifer Saulpaugh

There are no hard copies of the **Coaching Boys to Men** curriculum yet but plans are being made to present it to the school board. The goal is to have coaches present this material to their teams.

The Prevention committee has put together a folder containing information outlining the vision and goals of the Task Force, along with information regarding raising children without violence, the effects of domestic violence and trauma on children and dating violence. These folders can be handed out at any of the prevention committee's events or presentations.

Scheduled prevention events are:

On 4/1/2017. Largo Park

On 4/22 Suncoast will be hosting a 5K run from 8AM -12PM

On 6/25/2017 in St Petersburg the Pride Festival from 10AM- 6PM

Volunteers are needed to assist at the 5K run, the Pride Festival and upcoming events not yet scheduled. PTA's and other school organizations are showing an interest in having teen dating violence presentations. So the hope is there will be many presentations in the near future. A power point and other materials will be provided if you are willing to help. Please contact Jennifer. Her information (and all the Committee Chairs contact information) is on our new website. <http://pinellasdvtf.weebly.com/>

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

There was no meeting in March. On 4/16/2017 the committee will be reviewing a case from St Petersburg and Katie Gardner will discuss a webinar she recently attended.

The committee is working on The Fatality Review Report that will be completed and presented in May.

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

The BIP Providers met with people from the State Attorneys Office, the Public Defender's Office, Judges Grissinger and Helinger.

The purpose was to discuss the increase in batterers being court ordered to anger management classes.

A consensus was met with the State Attorneys, Public Defenders and Judges Grissinger and Helinger agreeing not to refer batterers to anger management. In the event the charge is pled down and 26 weeks of BIP cannot be ordered all agreed to refer to 12 weeks of DVIP and the BIP Providers will put these people in

the BIP group with the hopes of them staying for 26 weeks. The understanding is this will be the exception and not the rule.

Gaby Lopez has finished the bookmark size flyer describing the difference between batterers intervention and anger management. The names and phone numbers of the approved providers are on the back.

We would like to have them laminated and give them to the State Attorneys, Public Defenders and Judges.

Possible funding sources will be approached to pay for the laminating.

IV. **Advocacy Committee Report** – Sherry Clester

The committee is creating a flyer to be distributed to hospital social workers defining what services Crimes Compensation may be able to cover. They are starting a Victim Advocate newsletter that will come out in June and January. It will be educational, uplifting and honor heroes in the community who are helping DV victims. There will be information in the newsletter regarding yoga and self defense classes for victims or people working with victims. There will also be information regarding personal safety.

The committee is organizing people to attend trials of victims who may not have other support.

They are organizing a walk for domestic violence awareness in October.

They are also working on a handout for victims applying for Injunctions. It will be in Spanish and English and will inform victims they can ask for things like BIP, child support, neutral drop off places, and mental health or substance treatment.

V. **By-Laws Committee Report** – Gaby Lopez

The committee presented the updated by laws. The three main updates are that the trauma informed principles will be followed in all meetings and committees, ad hoc committees are more clearly defined, and all committees are to work toward a consensus in their undertakings. If for some reason a consensus cannot be reached, the committee can approach the Steering Committee. If a consensus can still not be reached, a resolution committee can be formed with three non biased members appointed by the Task Force Chair

Chris Warwick motioned to approve the amended bylaws and Denise Hughes-Conlon seconded. All were in favor. By Laws as amended accepted.

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

The committee report will be presented in July. This year there will be recommendations for BIP Providers, law enforcement and prosecutors.

The committee is developing training for the State Attorney's Office with Alexis Upton's input on intimate partner violence, working with victims, sharing how advocates work and the best ways to reach them. The training will be presented during Victim Rights Week and offer CLEs to attorneys.

Last year's misdemeanor prosecution rates increased to 45%. This was up from 28% in 2015 and 24% in 2014.

Felony arrests were at 29 % in 2016, 28% in 2015 and 24% in 2014.

Misdemeanor non arrests were at 10% in 2016, 12% in 2015 and 1% in 2014.

Felony non arrests were at 10% in 2016, 10% in 2015, and 2% in 2014.

These increases may be due to the diligence of this committee.

VII. Steering Committee Report – Alexis Upton

Alexis stated that a great deal of work was done on the By Laws and updating them so they would best represent the operating procedures of the Task Force. She also asked for members to become more involved in committees and volunteering for events. There is a great deal of work being done and it cannot continue without the help of all members. Please choose an area you would like to work in and contact the committee chair to lend a hand. Committee Chair's contact information can be found on the new website <http://pinellasdvtf.weebly.com/>

Alexis also thanked Katie Gardner for the work she has been doing with the State Attorney's Office. Alexis believes it has been very productive.

VIII. Chairs Report – Bobbie Hodson

Bobbie commended all the committees for the work they are doing to make things happen in our County.

She has been invited to read off's at PCSO for the last six weeks and has also been invited in June to train new recruits and deputies regarding intimate partner violence, strangulation, trauma and interviewing victims.

ABC action news has asked Bobbie for a history of the Task Force to be used for a segment they are doing in October when they are covering The Yellow Dress put on by JAEDA and supported by the Task Force.

The Task Force recommended an editorial letter be written regarding the demeaning treatment and the victim blaming language used in describing the abuse, kidnapping and attempted murder of Alyssa Summers. Frieda Widera made the motion and Gaby Lopez seconded it. All were in favor. Bobbie agreed to write the letter.

IX. Announcements:

Ellen Woll announced that JAEDA held their 4th Elder Awareness workshop on 3/13/17. The theme seemed to be awareness of ourselves and others. Ellen said it felt it was like our efforts in Being Better Bystander trainings.

If you have any requests for the education component in the coming months, contact Alexis or Bobbie.

DVTF has a new Website address:

<http://pinellasdvtf.weebly.com/>

Next Meeting: 5/16/17 @ Suncoast Hospice

5771 Roosevelt Blvd. Clearwater

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

Meeting Minutes Submitted by: Denise Hughes Conlon

Minutes for Pinellas County Domestic Violence Task Force

May 16th, 2017

Chair: Bobbie Hodson- Pinellas County Sheriff's Office

Vice Chair: Christine Warwick- Retired (Haven)

Location: Suncoast Hospice

The Gathering Place (room C)

5771 Roosevelt Bld.

Clearwater FL

Time: 2:00 PM-4:00 PM

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Bobbie Hodson called the meeting to order by reading the Vision, Purpose and Goals of the Task Force at 2:02 PM

D. Hughes-Conlon proposed approval of the minutes and J. Saulpaugh seconded the motion.

I. **Primary Prevention Report** – Jennifer Saulpaugh

There have been multiple requests for presentations at schools/PTA meetings and they have put aside the Coaching Boys to Men for now. They are starting to book presentations for the new school year already. They have events coming up for the Peace Wall: 6/25 Pinellas Pride, 8/1 Pinellas Park National Night Out and 10/3 Clearwater National Night Out. If you would like more information on the Primary

Prevention Committee, please email Jennifer at:
Jennifer.Saulpaugh@rcspinellas.org.

JAEDA: Ellen Woll discussed the upcoming presentation for the Yellow Dress. It will be held on 10/19 at 7pm at SPC Clearwater. The event should be on the DVTF website and Lissette Campos and Wendy Ryan from ABC Action News will be the emcees for the night. It is a Boston-based one person presentation on teen dating violence. It is very impactful and they will be looking for trained volunteers to be available for the audience members as needed. Students will be free and it will cost \$10 in advance, \$15 at the door for non-students. They are still looking for sponsors so please let Ellen know if you have any connections.

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

A murder/suicide from St. Petersburg was reviewed on 4/6/17. Patterns and trends included firearm as weapon, depression, and medical issues. Perpetrator was a retired police officer. Possible 2 cases for June if they are released. Katie discussed high risk case info from a webinar and planning committee to see if there is a way to have a high risk team developed. Frieda presented the annual Fatality Review Report to the DVTF. There have been 145 cases since the team started. She will email a copy to the DVTF as well as handed out paper copies. They are discussing doing the report every other year to make sure the impact of the report is still there. They will do something yearly on the website but not a full report every year. A motion was made for the Task Force to adopt the Fatality Review Team's recommendations and each sub-committee see how they can implement them in their work. D. Swindall approved, and S. McMillan seconded the motion. If you would like more information on the Fatality Review Team email Frieda Widera at fwidera@largo.com

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

Training was provided for Child Protection Investigators (CPI) on BIP and they are still working on a presentation handout on Anger Management vs BIP. They will have training in June for Eckerd Community Alternatives (ECA) per the interagency agreement. Alexis discussed BIP felony level referrals and she is trying to reach out to the attorneys but there is a high turnover rate. It was reported that Judge Grissinger was shocked to hear that anger management can be lethal for batterers vs ordering BIP. The attorneys and Judges need more one on one training on the subject. Judge Grissinger has started to spread the word and wants to organize

something for everyone to come to at their courthouses. If you would like more information about the BIP Committee email David Swindall at dswindall@me.com

IV. **Advocacy Committee Report** – Katie Gardner, Co-chair

A special meeting was held last week and addressed gaps in services between advocates and they shared resources and what they do to assist clients. A big gap they discovered was the need for more volunteers in the injunction rooms for all the courthouses. In April, a letter was sent out to hospitals on Victim Crime Compensation and Morton Plant requested training for their social workers. They gave good feedback for future trainings. They are finalizing the first newsletter for the community. The next meeting is the 2nd Tuesday of the month at Park Station at noon in Pinellas Park. For information on the Advocacy Committee contact Katie Gardner at ktgard15@gmail.com

V. **By-Laws Committee Report** – Alexis

Alexis reported that they reviewed the by-laws at the steering committee and discussed who could be on the steering committee per the by-laws. They agree to allow the DV centers as a standing member and allowing the sub-committees chair or co-chair to attend but they only have one vote per committee. This was asked to be approved by the DVTF. E. Woll approved, and Taylor seconded.

VI. **Stats Committee Report** – Ruth Whitney, Co-Chair

They had training with the SAO and 23 attorneys attended (2 felony attorneys). On the evaluation they handed out, they received a 3.5 out of 5. They want to set up training for the Felony Court SAOs specifically. The training they want to provide will include DV 101, BIP wheels, what victim advocates do, effective work with victims, red flags while reviewing reports and this would be their 2 hours they need yearly. They will be handing out the 2016 stats at the next meeting. There has been an improvement with the prosecution from 30% to 44%. They created small purple information cards for victims at injunction court and shared them with the DVTF. For information on the Stats Committee email Ruth Whitney at ruthwhitney@verizon.net

VII. **Steering Committee Report** – Alexis

They want to do awards every other year in October as last year was such a success. This year they want to focus on the Yellow Dress event. They have been working on the by-laws as a committee.

VIII. Education Report – Denise

Denise and the steering committee are creating a list of the trainings that the DVTF members offer so that she can create a flyer for the entire community. Not everyone knows what the Task Force can offer in training and this could also help spread the word about the Task Force. She requested that Ruth send her the purple cards so that they can include that information as well.

IX. Chairs Report – Bobbie Hodson

Bobbie wrote a letter to the TBT editor about the mother escaping abuse which contained victim blaming. The DVTF had asked that her letter with the article link be added to the website for records and if there was a response from the letter. It was also asked that it be added to the DVTF Facebook as well. Bobbie reported that she and Sherry trained 89 child welfare workers (CPI and ECA) on strangulation. They have been asked to also train the ECA staff in Trinity (Pasco) next month and in Tampa as well. It will be 1 hour CEU training. Linda Chamberlain put a YouTube video in the waiting room at the probation office on the effects of DV on children. They are hoping that people waiting will start to absorb some of the information while waiting. So far they have had a positive response. It is the 11th Circuit Court's YouTube video. The Tampa Bay Rays have trained all their employees to assist victims to contact a DV center. They also put posters in all 380 bathrooms in the building on how to ask for help and resources. This is the 1st team to do this and other teams are taking notice. They also require that any allegation, not just incident, has to be investigated and if they don't, there are additional fines and suspensions.

X. Announcements:

If you have any requests for the education piece in the coming months, contact Alexis or Bobbie bhodson@pcsonet.com

DVTF has a new Website address:

<http://pinellasdvtf.weebly.com/>

Next Meeting: 7/18/17 @ Suncoast Hospice

5771 Roosevelt Blvd. Clearwater

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

Meeting Minutes Submitted by: Courtney Hendrickson

Minutes for Pinellas County Domestic Violence Task Force

July 18th, 2017

Chair: Bobbie Hodson- **Pinellas County Sheriff's Office**

Vice Chair: Christine Warwick- **Retired (Haven)**

Location: Suncoast Hospice

The Gathering Place (room C)

5771 Roosevelt Bld.

Clearwater FL

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Bobbie Hodson called the meeting to order by reading the Vision, Purpose and Goals of the Task Force at 2:03 PM

F. Widera proposed approval of the minutes and D. Lancaster seconded the motion.

I. **Primary Prevention Report** – Jennifer Saulpaugh

Jennifer reports that they are returning to the Coaching Boys to Men program and 3 kits have been purchased. They are working with Joan Ruebens from PCSB to have approval to train coaches at the schools. They are still looking for male role models for the program to be the point of contact for the coaches to reach out to when they need assistance. They are continuing the parent presentation at PTA meetings and are gearing up for the new school year. They had two successful outreach events at CASA's back to school event and the St. Pete Pride. They have events coming up

and are looking for volunteers: 8/1 Pinellas Park National Night Out and 10/3 Clearwater National Night Out. If you would like more information on the Primary Prevention Committee, please email Jennifer at: Jennifer.Saulpaugh@rcspinellas.org. They meet the 2nd Tuesday of the month at Largo Library at 10am.

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

They reviewed a murder/suicide from the Pinellas County Sheriff's Office. It was an older couple, control issues, and family did not know about the domestic violence. The husband made the decision for them and killed her, then himself. There was potential for interventions as the husband had been making suicidal statements and guns were in the home. The adult daughter could have talked to her father's doctor about her concerns. The physician could have addressed the pressures of caring for an ailing loved one with health issues. There has been a subcommittee formed for high lethality cases and they are looking to start a pilot project with cases from the Tarpon Springs Police Department. There may not be meeting in August as the pending case may not be released. For information on the Fatality Review Team contact Frieda at fwidera@largo.com.

III. **BIP Committee Report** – Denise Hughes-Conlon

The group has completed the handouts for attorneys and judges on the difference between anger management and BIP. They were printed and laminated. Judge Grissinger will also be sending out an email to the other Judges to explain the differences and importance of the handout, especially the IPV cases. Also discussed triggers, victim blaming, and training requirements for BIP providers vs anger management. The next meeting is scheduled for Aug. 10th at 10am at David Swindall's office.

IV. **Advocacy Committee Report** – Katie Gardner

They have been concentrating on community outreach. They sent out the first Speak Out Newsletter which included 3 awards for community members. They plan to create 2 newsletters each year with the next in January. If you have any ideas for what to include or what to cover in the newsletter, please email Katie. They are also working on a community walk with Eckerd College for October for DV Awareness. Katie and Bobbie have completed strangulation training in Trinity for Eckerd in Pasco. They are scheduled to do the same training in Tampa next week as well. The next meeting is the 2nd Tuesday of the month at Park Station at

noon in the Pinellas Park. For information on the Advocacy Committee contact Katie at ktgard15@gmail.com.

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

Ruth reviewed the reports that were created by the committee and discussed with the group so that they could make them official and send them out. There were multiple questions and good discussion. Per CPI, Florida's biggest maltreatment is domestic violence. In Pinellas, DV is a close second to Substance Abuse. Both the DV stats report and DV Recommendations Report were approved with minor corrections by the committee. Steering Committee will make sure the changes are made prior to being sent out.

VI. **Steering Committee Report** – Alexis Upton

One meeting has been held. Alexis reports that they have been working on injunction applications being denied at 49th St. There was no additional new information due to summer months.

VII. **Education Report** – Denise Hughes-Conlon

Denise reports that she has been in talks with people to get more trainings in the community including Chief Holloway for a BBB training in St. Petersburg.

VIII. **Chairs Report** – Bobbie Hodson

Bobbie reports she attended a 6 hour meeting the Health Dept. for the Community Health Improvement Plan. Bobbie said she was surprised to learn that there are almost 1 million people in Pinellas. According to the statistics gathered at this time, Pinellas is in line with National Statistics with 1 in 4 have experienced DV and 1 in 2 have witnessed DV.

IX. **Announcements:**

The Yellow Dress will be held on 10/19 at 7pm at SPC Clearwater and sponsored by JAEDA and PCDVTF. Several agencies have donated \$1000.00 including the Tampa Bay Rays and Hands Across the Bay. The biggest need is publicity.

Peace 4 Tarpon has two events on 8/16. One is a seminar for Trauma Informed Care and how to utilize in your business as well as have trauma-informed staff.

Also that night they are having an event at SPC Tarpon Campus to show “Healing Voices” which will help people understand mental illness.

Zonta is hosting an event on 10/5 to help raise money for family pet sheltering. They will be at Painting with a Twist and having raffle tickets with one prize being a trip to Cabo. There will be 50 openings for painting but everyone can purchase raffle tickets. Also Zonta is hosting an event at Empath Health on 9/27 at 6:30 for groups and individuals to come together and hear about legislation and how each can get involved and make sure that people are involved.

If you have any requests for the education piece in the coming months, contact Alexis (hokieupton@gmail.com) or Bobbie (bhodson@pcsonet.com)

www.pinellasdvtf.weebly.com

[Facebook.com/PCDVTF/](https://www.facebook.com/PCDVTF/)

Next Meeting: 9/19/17 @ Suncoast Hospice

5771 Roosevelt Blvd. Clearwater

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Meeting Minutes Submitted by: Courtney Hendrickson

Minutes for Pinellas County Domestic Violence Task Force

September 19, 2017

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Vice Chair: Christine Warwick- Retired (Haven)

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Bobbie Hodson called the meeting to order by reading the Vision, Purpose and Goals of the Task Force at 2:05 PM

Chris Warwick proposed approval of the minutes and Ruth Whitney seconded the motion. The minutes were approved.

Bobbie also mentioned that Melissa has been working on consolidating the email addresses and asked everyone to pay closer attention as to how they sign in their email addresses and not to add your email if you are receiving task force information.

She also relayed that the topic of the steering committees and Task Force has been how each individual can do their part and asked all members to think about how they can be more active in the Task Force.

The next meeting will be November 14th due to the Thanksgiving holiday.

Also in October we will be working on turning Pinellas Purple again on the 17th. Flyers will soon be sent out.

In September on the 25th it is the national day of remembrance for victims who have been murdered. Please take a minute out of your day to think of them.

Bobbie took the next several minutes to honor Frieda Widera for her years of dedication and hard work in the effort to prevent domestic violence and work with survivors to move forward and grow. Frieda has touched thousands of lives and so this year she was given the Pinellas County Domestic Violence Task Force Leadership Award. It was a much deserved reward.

- I. **Batterers Intervention Report**- Lola Blevins reported that the providers met and were able to view the interview of a batterer from David Swindell's group and the batterer's partner. The survivor had many good things to say about the effects of the class. And in that same segment there were questions asked as to why so few men re required to attend the program.
- II. **Education Committee Report** – Melissa Andress
The flyers outlining the trainings available have been sent out and the flyers for Painting Pinellas Purple will be out soon. Working with Chief Holloway and the Health Department to have 'Be A Better Bystander' training possibly for St Petersburg Police and the Health Department.
- III. **Fatality Review** –Frieda Widera, There was no meeting in August but there is expected to be a meeting in October. Unfortunately there was a domestic related homicide right before Hurricane Irma.
- IV. **Primary Prevention** - Jennifer Saulpaugh There was no meeting this month due to Irma However there are two new kits ready for the **Coaching Boys to Men** curriculum. There is still a need for men to volunteer to help with this program. The men are needed to help the coaches present and be around to answer questions once the curriculum is presented. The curriculum centers on how to interact respectfully with women.
Volunteers are needed to assist with the national night out October 3rd at the SuperTarget. Set up begins around 3:30 and the event ends between 8 pm.

V. Advocacy Committee Report – Did not meet due to the hurricane. They have been working on coordinating a walk for awareness with Eckerd but it does not seem like it will happen this October, however they are working towards next year.

They are working on making ribbons to pass out for Turn Pinellas Purple and they have done training with Eckerd Youth Alternative Case Managers on Strangulation.

VI. Statistics Committee Report – Ruth Whitney

The letters were sent out and there were 2 replies. One was from Judge Campbell who phoned Ruth to tell her that she noticed there was new information in this report and she had even pulled out her old report to check. The Judge was also interested in more information regarding the BIP groups and Ruth gave The Judge David's contact information.

Judge T.Ramsberger also phoned. He could not attend this meeting but is interested in attending the next Task Force meeting

VII. Steering Committee Report – Alexis Upton – Working on ensuring Injunctions are granted across the board in an equal fashion. This task takes a lot of different connections and collaboration.

VIII. Chairs Report – Bobbie Hodson

ABC action news, Lisette Campos will be interviewing Bobbie and Ellen Woll as they are covering The Yellow Dress put on by JAEDA and supported by the Task Force.

Bobbie also asked that we all work on peace and unity amongst ourselves to set the example for the community of what a violent free organization can be.

IX. Pat Riley gave a presentation on coordinated community response based on what she learned at the FCADV conference. Major Burney presented. He used the case of Susan Still to point out how law enforcement, victim advocates and the criminal justice system are all working with the same person but see things very differently. Major Burney had suggestions for ways for us all to work together to establish peace in our communities. It was Pat's suggestion that we see if we could get Major Burney to come work with us at some point in the future

X. Announcements:

Ellen Woll announced that The Yellow Dress will be shown at St Petersburg College on Thursday, October 19th, 2017 at 7 pm. This event is a one person show and is sponsored by JAEDA and The Task Force to bring awareness to the effects of domestic violence. The audience should be college students or older. The fee is

\$10 for adults but free for students with an ID. Registration is appreciated. Please pass the information to others, particularly youth.

Denise Hughes-Conlon requested anyone interested in working on Peace4Pinellas contact her. P4T has been a long time partner with the Task Force and they are now working to make this movement nationwide and would like Pinellas to be a part of it. There is a summit in January for all P4 counties and it would be good to have P4Pinellas a part of that.

Paint for Paws is Wednesday, October 5th, 2017. The fee is \$35. This will include painting, edibles and wine. Proceeds benefit family pet sheltering for victim of domestic violence.

Ruth Whitney announced a showing of the movie Hidden Figures on Sunday October 15, 2017 @ 2 pm. The movie is being presented by NOW and will describe sexism, racism and discrimination with a discussion following on ways to alleviate these issues.

Devin Pappas announced that there will be a fundraising event at Patchington at 280 Indian Rocks Road on Friday 10/13 from 12-3. It's a party for a purpose. There will be people there to discuss domestic violence and its effects. There will also be food fun and wine. The fee is \$10 and wear purple to receive a free raffle ticket. Proceeds benefit Hands Across the Bay. There will be a Fun Run for Hands Across the Bay on 9/30/2017. You can register at Pure Life Med Spa. The run will begin at 7 am at Marlin Darlin in Belleair Bluffs. Registration is \$40 and includes a t-shirt.

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

DVTF has a new Website addresses:

<http://pinellasdvtf.weebly.com/>

Next Meeting: 11/14/17 @ Suncoast Hospice

5771 Roosevelt Blvd. Clearwater

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

Meeting Minutes Submitted by: Denise Hughes Conlon

AMENDED AGENDA

PINELLAS COUNTY DOMESTIC VIOLENCE TASK FORCE

Chair- Bobbie Hodson – Pinellas County Sheriff's Office

Vice-Chair-Christine Warwick – Retired (Haven)

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.
4. To emphasize the principles of trauma informed care.

GOALS:

1. To develop and implement primary preventive 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.

Date: November 14, 2017

Time: 2:00 pm to 4:00 pm

Location: **Suncoast Hospice **Meeting Room 'C' within the Gathering Place****

5771 Roosevelt Blvd.

Clearwater, FL

AGENDA

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|-------|--|--------------------|-------------------|
| I. | Review of the Purpose and Goals of the Task Force, Introductions, Agenda Review, Approval of 9/19/2017 Minutes | All Members | 5 minutes |
| II. | Chairs Report | Bobbie Hodson | 5 minutes |
| III. | BIP Committee Report | David Swindall | 5 minutes |
| IV. | Education Committee Report | Melissa Andress | 5 minutes |
| V. | Fatality Review Team Report | Frieda Widera | 5 minutes |
| VI. | Primary Prevention Report | Jennifer Saulpaugh | 5 minutes |
| VII. | Statistics Committee | Ruth Whitney | 5 minutes |
| VIII. | Steering Committee Report | Alexis Upton | 5 minutes |
| IX. | Victim Advocacy Committee | Katie Gardner | 5 minutes |
| X. | Educational Component – Neurobiology of Trauma – Christina Simonetti | | 20 minutes |
| XI. | Announcements | | 10 minutes |

WE HAVE A FULL AGENDA SO PLEASE REMEMBER ANNOUNCEMENTS ARE NOT FOR AGENDA ITEMS. THANKS FOR YOUR HELP IN THIS MATTER.

Website:

<http://pinellasdvtf.weebly.com/>

**Future Meetings: 1/16/18, 3/20/18, 5/15/18, 7/17/18, 9/18/18,
11/13/18 (early due to holiday)**