

Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, March 25, 2009
City Hall, Tower, Room 550
11:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

Members Present: Nora Campos (CSJ-D5), Rebecca Garcia (CSJ-Housing Dept.), Christine Hagion-Rzepka (The Ripple Effect), Ernest Kong (SJPD Family Violence Center) Kathleen Krenek (Next Door), Doreen Morgan (CSJ-Senior Commission), Rolanda Pierre-Dixon (SCC- DA's Office) Steve Preminger (Working Partnerships), Reshma Yunus (SEMAH) and Eve Castellanos (CSJ-CMO).

Members Absent: Chata Alfaro (Support Network), Pete Constant (CSJ-D1), Ayesha Haider (NISA), Cindi Hunter (Next Door), Petra Rigüero (CSJ-PRNS), and Wiggys Sivertsen (SJSU).

Staff, Interested Parties, and Guests Present: Jennifer Dotzler (SJPD-Vice), Coleen Kotz (DFCS), Lauren Sutherland (CSJ-D5), Meghan Revolinsky (CSJ-D1), Lauren Sutherland (CSJ-D5), Forrest Williams (County of Santa Clara Commission on the Status of Women)

The meeting convened at 11:03 a.m.

I. Approval of minutes from 02/25/09 meeting

- Minutes from the 02/25/09 meeting were approved unanimously.
Motion Member Krenek, Second Member Pierre-Dixon

II. Discussion Items

1. New Business

A. 2009 Legislative & Santa Clara County Law Enforcement Protocol Updates

Rolanda Pierre-Dixon from the Santa Clara County District Attorney's Office provided an update on law enforcement protocol that were recently approved by the Santa Clara County Police Chief's Association. Significant changes to the protocol include an inquiry regarding translation needs in an effort to strongly discourage using family members or children as translators at scenes; clarifications regarding dominant aggressor and mandating that officers offer victims Emergency Protective Orders (EPROs), among other changes. The District Attorney's Office will be providing training to law enforcement officials from throughout the County on this protocol.

B. South Bay Coalition to End Human Trafficking

Officer Jennifer Dotzler from the San José Police Department provided an update on the activities of the San Jose Police Department Human Trafficking Task

Force (spearheaded by the San Jose Police Department) and the South Bay Coalition to End Human Trafficking. Officer Dotzler reported that the Federal grant administered by the United States Department of Justice Administration which helped to initially establish the SJ Human Trafficking Task Force has concluded, however, activities related to human trafficking continue due to extended funding.

Accomplishments the Human Trafficking Task Force has achieved include the development of a Human Trafficking protocol for Law Enforcement, training for law enforcement, the development of collaborative partnerships (including with the South Bay Coalition to End Human Trafficking and the Department of Labor), and the creation of two widespread public awareness and education campaigns (with ads that ran in local theaters). Officer Dotzler explained that to date, the Human Trafficking Task Force has trained over 40,000 individuals. Specialized training has included training for nurses and training for Northern California Highway Patrol (C.H.P.). The next training will be held in Monterey and will accommodate up to 120 individuals from Santa Clara and Santa Cruz counties.

Member Pierre-Dixon added that the Santa Clara District Attorney's Office has filed its first Human Trafficking case in our county (as opposed to the cases that are being prosecuted at the Federal level.)

C. Recommendations for Upcoming Retreat

Advisory Board members briefly discussed possible topics and ideas for the upcoming Advisory Board retreat including the following:

- Follow-up on the newly created White House Council on Women and Girls
- Partnering with Faith Communities on Domestic Violence Awareness Issues

D. Action Items

None.

III. Announcements/Public Comments

- Steve Preminger announced that the next Domestic Violence Information and Referral Workshop is scheduled to take place at City Hall on April 27th.
- Christine Hagion-Rzepka announced that the Forum on Human Trafficking that was conducted recently at a local church was very successful and the event attracted over 200 attendees.
- Reshma Yunus that she would be presenting on a panel hosted by the Santa Clara County Office of Human Relations on Myths and Realities of the Muslim Culture.
- Forrest Williams announced that he was recently appointed to serve on the Santa Clara County Commission on the Status of Women.

IV. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 12:03 p.m.