**Minutes for Pinellas County Domestic Violence Task Force**

**September19, 2017**

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

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

Location: Suncoast Hospice

The Gathering Place (rooms C)

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.

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.

1. **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.
2. **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.

1. **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.
2. **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.

1. **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.

1. **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 het 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

1. **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.
2. **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.

1. 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
2. **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