**Minutes for Pinellas County Domestic Violence Task**

**January 15th 2019**

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

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

Location: Juvenile Welfare Board

14155 58th St. N. \*\*Room 191\*\*

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.

Melissa Andress proposed approval of the minutes seconded by Chris Warwick (out of order)

1. **Chair’s Report** – Bobbie Hodson bhodson@pcsonet.com

-The Task Force will be on pause and doing some reflecting about what our goals will be going forward.

-The Task Force will be meeting with a consultant to assist us in developing a strategic plan and reviewing our goals in the future.

-There are several committee chairs positions that will remain vacant during this time of reflection and restructuring. This is a time to do some self-care before we rebuild into a better task force.

-JAEDA and PCDVTF announce Yellow Dress performance at Seminole HS was a success and presented to 850 students during 2 showings. The school was very welcoming and the students were very attentive and grateful for the information. School support staffs were present and reported many students engaged with them after the performance.

-Ellen Woll of JAEDA reported that they will be continuing to raise funds to continue to bring the performance to Pinellas County as it will be $3500 for two classes per school. Ellen requested assistance with fundraising. There was a discussion of tracking numbers of students who sought support after the performance. Ellen reports the Seminole HS principal had no parent complaints.

-Maria Taylor has sent Bobbie information about ‘Courage is Contagious’ public awareness campaign to start thinking about October events. The VA has internal system and awareness events that persist through the year.

1. **BIP Committee Report**– David Swindall, swindall.david@gmail.com (not present)

-No January meeting scheduled yet

- Pinellas County BIP in the jail credits are not being transferred smoothly and will be discussed at the next meeting. Susan McMillan expressed her concerns that the offenders do not have environmental challenges and should have to start the program over once they are released.

-Douglas Bonar reported that he has a lot of referrals from child welfare agencies for BIP but there is no representation at the meetings. Child Protection Division of the PCSO attends sporadically and Bobbie will extend another invitation. The child welfare system is extremely taxed with high caseloads, employee turnover and time constraints.

1. **Education Committee Report** – Melissa Andress, ANDRESSM@pcsb.org

Melissa is actively seeking a sponsor for the ‘Be A Better Bystander’ training which can be tailored to any audience and has no cost.

1. **Fatality Review** **Committee Report** – Frieda Widera, fwidera@largo.com

-Reviewed notes from December 6th meeting and next meeting is February 7th.

- Frieda discussed the committee will begin tracking cyber stalking and use of social media and internet to stalk victims.

1. **Primary Prevention Committee Report** – Jennifer Saulpaugh, Chair

-continuing to work on revamping the “**Say This, Not That**” booklets and brochure on talking to your teen about dating violence.

-next meeting February 12th at Largo Library

-next event Family Extravaganza in April

1. **Steering Committee Report** –Alexis Upton, Chair hokieupton@gmail.com

-Alexis reported Susan and Matt McMillan presented proposed legislation to the Steering Committee and the possibility of creating a legislation committee in the future. This will be tabled until the February meeting as the January meeting was cancelled and the December meeting had a low attendance.

1. **Presentation – Nancy Gonzalez, Mustard Seed Bags of Courage and Head Start and Early Head Start program**

-Nancy presented that the ‘Bags’ are filled with toiletries for survivors in need and can be given directly to victims, law enforcement agencies and other not for profit agencies who have the need. The program began 4 years ago and started expanding to other organizations. Now engaging with PACE center for girls along with their previous partnerships. They are looking for a location/storage unit for their donations. -Nancy also discussed the Head Start program and its eligibility and requirements and distributed enrollment packets.

1. **Announcements:**

-JWB distributed flyers for the Opioid Crisis in the Faith Community presentation

-Early Learning Coalition is presenting a ‘Self-Regulation’ seminar this Saturday

-Suncoast Inc. has openings in a court approved 5 week program for parents whose kids have experienced sexual abuse tentatively starting January 29th.

-Susan suggested the TF reach out to some former members to repair relationships.

-Suncoast Inc. has 2 hour parenting classes that last for 6 weeks, Julie Menke @suncoastcenter.org (727)543-5307 for more info.

-League of Women Voters is holding a 1 day summit on Jan. 25th at the SPC Epi-Center to design solutions and legislation to combat poverty. There is an opening for a law enforcement representative, call Doris Reeves-Lipscomb for more info (727)723-7714.

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

pinellasdvtf.weebly.com

Facebook.com/PCDVTF/

Next Meeting: 3/19/19 @ the Juvenile Welfare Board

14155 58th St. N. \*\*Room 191\*\*

Clearwater, FL 33760

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

Meeting Minutes Submitted by: Alexis Upton