**Minutes for Pinellas County Domestic Violence Task**

**November 13th, 2018**

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

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

Location: Epi Center of St. Pete College\*\*

13805 58th St. N. \*\*Tropics Room\*\*

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 2:01 PM.

Melissa Andress proposed approval of the minutes seconded by David Swindall.

1. **Chair’s Report** – Bobbie Hodson [bhodson@pcsonet.com](mailto:bhodson@pcsonet.com)

-in light of some internal restructuring at the Task Force the 501(c)(3) application is briefly on hold

-the Statistics committee withdrew their 2018 report from review and disbanded

-Hands Across the Bay reported concerns about the Statistics Committee report being delayed or suppressed. It was clarified the report was distributed by another entity, but it is no longer a product of the Task Force. There was discussion about prosecution rates, specific cases and concerns about victim safety.

-NOW representatives distributed a cover letter which accompanied their Statistics Report and expressed their concerns that more be done about increasing prosecution rates in Pinellas County.

-a general discussion occurred about the many facets of society united in reducing violence, increasing victim safety and the effects of trauma

- A new general assembly meeting site is being sought for 2019

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

-Nicole Rossodivita was approved as a BIP provider

-the Pinellas County Court Administration Grant has expanded BIP in the jail

1. **Education Committee Report** – Melissa Andress, Chair

Melissa has nothing new to report.

1. **Fatality Review** **Committee Report** – Frieda Widera, Chair

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

- Frieda discussed factors that are reviewed and how cases are selected

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

-continuing to work on revamping the “**Say This, Not That**” booklets.

-discussion about difficulty to access schools

1. **Steering Committee Report** –Alexis Upton, Chair [hokieupton@gmail.com](mailto:hokieupton@gmail.com)

-Alexis presented a $250 check to JAEDA in support of the ‘Yellow Dress’ performance at Seminole High School.

-Steering Committee nominated Bobbie Hodson to continue as Chair, no one else was nominated from the floor; vote was cast unanimously with Ruth Whitney abstaining.

-Chris Warwick was announced as Vice-Chair in her absence

VII. **Advocacy Committee Report** – Ambee Stephens, Chair [astephens@casa-stpete.org](mailto:astephens@casa-stpete.org)

-Katie Gardner reporting the committee met in November with a presentation about compassion fatigue by Lacey Healy of Suncoast.

-a flyer has been created for donations of holiday items for teenagers who are often ineligible for assistance during this time of year, still securing drop off locations.

-next meeting January 8th, 2019.

1. **Announcements:**

-Ellen Woll with JAEDA discussed the program for leaders in the Jewish community about domestic violence awareness occurred in October. Their next meeting is Dec. 6th. “The Yellow Dress” performance is being held at Seminole on November 14th for the Junior and Senior classes.

-Melissa Dohme with Hands Across the Bay is presenting “Teen Dating 101” for multiple student audiences at Dunedin High School November 14th and her DVD is available through the Prevention Committee and the Haven of RCS.

- Susan McMillan requested a committee be formed for the Task force to explore new legislative efforts to increase prosecution rates. Susan will be invited to the next Steering Committee meeting to present more specific actions.

- Ruth Whitney with NOW distributed their Pinellas County Domestic Violence Statistics Report for 2018.

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

pinellasdvtf.weebly.com

Facebook.com/PCDVTF/

Next Meeting: 1/15/19 @ 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