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

**November 14th, 2017**

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

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

Location: Suncoast Hospice

The Gathering Place (rooms A & B)

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 2:04 PM

B. Holmes proposed approval of the minutes and C. Hendrickson seconded the motion.

1. **Chair’s Report** – Bobbie Hodson

Bobbie discussed the October events: Painting for Paws with CASA for a Pet Shelter. The event raised $3000 and Donna Lancaster discussed more details. The will have a soft opening for the shelter with a partnership with SPCA and CASA soon. The FACES event for the Haven and the Peace Breakfast for CASA held were both successful. On 10/19, JAEDA held the Yellow Dress performance in partnership with the DVTF. Approximately 100 people attended and there was a Q and A following. Ellen reports that they were disappointed that more “younger people” did not attend. The DVTF did receive a financial donation from JAEDA. Bobbie also reports that there is going to be a Yoga event for DV survivors but have not received a date yet from the instructor.

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

David shared the sad news that DVTF member and BIP provider Deborah Neilson passed away.

On 11/19, a provider meeting was held and the reviewed the statistics that 46 people were placed on probation and ordered BIP and only 9 completed it. There was discussion about women being arrested and being placed in a Victim program. Currently there are 14 women enrolled. Douglas reported that there is a new House Bill that requires offenders to complete BIP or there will be increased days added to their sentences. Monitoring is completed for BIP providers.

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

Melissa reports that she has been working with Chief Holloway to schedule another BBB training in St. Petersburg for SPC and USF SP. It was reminded that the trainings came about because statistics showed that 70% of friends and family knew about the DV but didn’t know what to do to help.

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

There was not a case to review in October but the team met to share information and discuss Risk Assessments. There is not a case available yet for the 12/7/17 meeting but Frieda will let the team know as soon as she can if there will be a meeting. Frieda reports that she was selected by the Attorney General’s office to be on the Statewide Fatality Review Team. The first meeting was last week. Jaqueline Campbell and Jill Messing discussed risk assessments and the risk factors and linking groups/clusters when reviewing cases.

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

Pinellas County School Board member, Joan Rubens has been working with the committee at Countryside High School to work with all the coaches for the Coaching Boys to Men initiative. They had a family fun day on 10/2 with Largo PD and had bike drawings. They are gearing up for April’s Child Abuse Run in partnership with Suncoast Center and the Exchange Club as well as the June’s Pride event. Ellen reports that she has been reaching out to all the PTA Presidents in the high schools in Pinellas to set up the Teen Dating Prevention presentations after the holidays. They are hoping to have some men from Family Resources that will partner with the Coaches for a mentor to help with the athletes. There are also two from CASA. February is Teen Dating Awareness month. They plan to go to the local schools and interact with kids on their lunch breaks.

1. **Statistics Committee Report**  – Ruth Whitney

Ruth reports that they are putting together the police department statistics with the goal of requesting victim advocates. VOCA is one way to fund victim advocate positions and hoping with information and stats, this can be presented to advocate for the positions.

1. **Steering Committee Report** –Alexis Upton (not present, delivered by Bobbie)

SC is reviewing injunction applications and temporary ex parte orders not being granted. The effort is trying to document a trend that can be brought to the attention of the courts. Frieda will contact Judge Keith Meyer who is working on a protocol for injunction court. 46 invitations were sent to all Pinellas judges to TF meetings and to review website. Steering committee is going to compile TF recommendations in the future to report cohesive proposals in the future.

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

They are working towards their goal of the Outreach Newsletter for the New Year. They are finishing up the next edition. The next meeting is scheduled for Dec. 2nd.

1. **Education Component:** Neurobiology of Trauma – Christina Simonetti
2. **Announcements:**

2/21 JWI is hosting BINGO at Hamburger Mary’s in Clearwater to collect money for the Children’s Library at CASA.

New bill for Senate to try to end Child Marriage with no bottom age if pregnant with Judge’s approval.

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

DVTF has a new Website addresses: pinellasdvtaskforce.wix.com/pinellasdvtaskforce

Pinellasdvtf.wikispaces.com

Next Meeting: 1/16/18 @ Suncoast Hospice

5771 Roosevelt Blvd. Clearwater

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

Meeting Minutes Submitted by: Courtney Hendrickson