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

**May 16th, 2017**

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

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

Location: Suncoast Hospice

The Gathering Place (room 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 2:02 PM

D. Hughes-Conlon proposed approval of the minutes and J. Saulpaugh seconded the motion.

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

There have been multiple requests for presentations at schools/PTA meetings and they have put aside the Coaching Boys to Men for now. They are starting to book presentations for the new school year already. They have events coming up for the Peace Wall: 6/25 Pinellas Pride, 8/1 Pinellas Park National Night Out and 10/3 Clearwater National Night Out. If you would like more information on the Primary Prevention Committee, please email Jennifer at: [Jennifer.Saulpaugh@rcspinellas.org](mailto:Jennifer.Saulpaugh@rcspinellas.org).

JAEDA: Ellen Woll discussed the upcoming presentation for the Yellow Dress. It will be held on 10/19 at 7pm at SPC Clearwater. The event should be on the DVTF website and Lissette Campos and Wendy Ryan from ABC Action News will be the emcees for the night. It is a Boston-based one person presentation on teen dating violence. It is very impactful and they will be looking for trained volunteers to be available for the audience members as needed. Students will be free and it will cost $10 in advance, $15 at the door for non-students. They are still looking for sponsors so please let Ellen know if you have any connections.

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

A murder/suicide from St. Petersburg was reviewed on 4/6/17. Patterns and trends included firearm as weapon, depression, and medical issues. Perpetrator was a retired police officer. Possible 2 cases for June if they are released. Katie discussed high risk case info from a webinar and planning committee to see if there is a way to have a high risk team developed. Frieda presented the annual Fatality Review Report to the DVTF. There have been 145 cases since the team started. She will email a copy to the DVTF as well as handed out paper copies. They are discussing doing the report every other year to make sure the impact of the report is still there. They will do something yearly on the website but not a full report every year. A motion was made for the Task Force to adopt the Fatality Review Team’s recommendations and each sub-committee see how they can implement them in their work. D. Swindall approved, and S. McMillan seconded the motion. If you would like more information on the Fatality Review Team email Frieda Widera at [fwidera@largo.com](mailto:fwidera@largo.com)

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

Training was provided for Child Protection Investigators (CPI) on BIP and they are still working on a presentation handout on Anger Management vs BIP. They will have training in June for Eckerd Community Alternatives (ECA) per the interagency agreement. Alexis discussed BIP felony level referrals and she is trying to reach out to the attorneys but there is a high turnover rate. It was reported that Judge Grissinger was shocked to hear that anger management can be lethal for batterers vs ordering BIP. The attorneys and Judges need more one on one training on the subject. Judge Grissinger has started to spread the word and wants to organize something for everyone to come to at their courthouses. If you would like more information about the BIP Committee email David Swindall at [dswindall@me.com](mailto:dswindall@me.com)

1. **Advocacy Committee Report** – Katie Gardner, Co-chair

A special meeting was held last week and addressed gaps in services between advocates and they shared resources and what they do to assist clients. A big gap they discovered was the need for more volunteers in the injunction rooms for all the courthouses. In April, a letter was sent out to hospitals on Victim Crime Compensation and Morton Plant requested training for their social workers. They gave good feedback for future trainings. They are finalizing the first newsletter for the community. The next meeting is the 2nd Tuesday of the month at Park Station at noon in Pinellas Park. For information on the Advocacy Committee contact Katie Gardner at [ktgard15@gmail.com](mailto:ktgard15@gmail.com)

1. **By-Laws Committee Report** – Alexis

Alexis reported that they reviewed the by-laws at the steering committee and discussed who could be on the steering committee per the by-laws. They agree to allow the DV centers as a standing member and allowing the sub-committees chair or co-chair to attend but they only have one vote per committee. This was asked to be approved by the DVTF. E. Woll approved, and Taylor seconded.

1. **Stats Committee Report** – Ruth Whitney, Co-Chair

They had training with the SAO and 23 attorneys attended (2 felony attorneys). On the evaluation they handed out, they received a 3.5 out of 5. They want to set up training for the Felony Court SAOs specifically. The training they want to provide will include DV 101, BIP wheels, what victim advocates do, effective work with victims, red flags while reviewing reports and this would be their 2 hours they need yearly. They will be handing out the 2016 stats at the next meeting. There has been an improvement with the prosecution from 30% to 44%. They created small purple information cards for victims at injunction court and shared them with the DVTF. For information on the Stats Committee email Ruth Whitney at [ruthwhitney@verizon.net](mailto:ruthwhitney@verizon.net)

1. **Steering Committee Report**  – Alexis

They want to do awards every other year in October as last year was such a success. This year they want to focus on the Yellow Dress event. They have been working on the by-laws as a committee.

1. **Education Report** – Denise

Denise and the steering committee are creating a list of the trainings that the DVTF members offer so that she can create a flyer for the entire community. Not everyone knows what the Task Force can offer in training and this could also help spread the word about the Task Force. She requested that Ruth send her the purple cards so that they can include that information as well.

1. **Chairs Report** – Bobbie Hodson

Bobbie wrote a letter to the TBT editor about the mother escaping abuse which contained victim blaming. The DVTF had asked that her letter with the article link be added to the website for records and if there was a response from the letter. It was also asked that it be added to the DVTF Facebook as well. Bobbie reported that she and Sherry trained 89 child welfare workers (CPI and ECA) on strangulation. They have been asked to also train the ECA staff in Trinity (Pasco) next month and in Tampa as well. It will be 1 hour CEU training. Linda Chamberlain put a YouTube video in the waiting room at the probation office on the effects of DV on children. They are hoping that people waiting will start to absorb some of the information while waiting. So far they have had a positive response. It is the 11th Circuit Court’s YouTube video. The Tampa Bay Rays have trained all their employees to assist victims to contact a DV center. They also put posters in all 380 bathrooms in the building on how to ask for help and resources. This is the 1st team to do this and other teams are taking notice. They also require that any allegation, not just incident, has to be investigated and if they don’t, there are additional fines and suspensions.

1. **Announcements:**

If you have any requests for the education piece in the coming months, contact Alexis or Bobbie [bhodson@pcsonet.com](mailto:bhodson@pcsonet.com)

DVTF has a new Website address:

http://pinellasdvtf.weebly.com/

Next Meeting: 7/18/17 @ Suncoast Hospice

5771 Roosevelt Blvd. Clearwater

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

Meeting Minutes Submitted by: Courtney Hendrickson