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

**July 18th, 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 2:03 PM

F. Widera proposed approval of the minutes and D. Lancaster seconded the motion.

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

Jennifer reports that they are returning to the Coaching Boys to Men program and 3 kits have been purchased. They are working with Joan Ruebens from PCSB to have approval to train coaches at the schools. They are still looking for male role models for the program to be the point of contact for the coaches to reach out to when they need assistance. They are continuing the parent presentation at PTA meetings and are gearing up for the new school year. They had two successful outreach events at CASA’s back to school event and the St. Pete Pride. They have events coming up and are looking for volunteers: 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). They meet the 2nd Tuesday of the month at Largo Library at 10am.

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

They reviewed a murder/suicide from the Pinellas County Sheriff’s Office. It was an older couple, control issues, and family did not know about the domestic violence. The husband made the decision for them and killed her, then himself. There was potential for interventions as the husband had been making suicidal statements and guns were in the home. The adult daughter could have talked to her father’s doctor about her concerns. The physician could have addressed the pressures of caring for an ailing loved one with health issues. There has been a subcommittee formed for high lethality cases and they are looking to start a pilot project with cases from the Tarpon Springs Police Department. There may not be meeting in August as the pending case may not be released. For information on the Fatality Review Team contact Frieda at [fwidera@largo.com](mailto:fwidera@largo.com).

1. **BIP Committee Report** – Denise Hughes-Conlon

The group has completed the handouts for attorneys and judges on the difference between anger management and BIP. They were printed and laminated. Judge Grissinger will also be sending out an email to the other Judges to explain the differences and importance of the handout, especially the IPV cases. Also discussed triggers, victim blaming, and training requirements for BIP providers vs anger management. The next meeting is scheduled for Aug. 10th at 10am at David Swindall’s office.

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

They have been concentrating on community outreach. They sent out the first Speak Out Newsletter which included 3 awards for community members. They plan to create 2 newsletters each year with the next in January. If you have any ideas for what to include or what to cover in the newsletter, please email Katie. They are also working on a community walk with Eckerd College for October for DV Awareness. Katie and Bobbie have completed strangulation training in Trinity for Eckerd in Pasco. They are scheduled to do the same training in Tampa next week as well. The next meeting is the 2nd Tuesday of the month at Park Station at noon in the Pinellas Park. For information on the Advocacy Committee contact Katie at [ktgard15@gmail.com](mailto:ktgard15@gmail.com).

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

Ruth reviewed the reports that were created by the committee and discussed with the group so that they could make them official and send them out. There were multiple questions and good discussion. Per CPI, Florida’s biggest maltreatment is domestic violence. In Pinellas, DV is a close second to Substance Abuse. Both the DV stats report and DV Recommendations Report were approved with minor corrections by the committee. Steering Committee will make sure the changes are made prior to being sent out.

1. **Steering Committee Report**  – Alexis Upton

One meeting has been held. Alexis reports that they have been working on injunction applications being denied at 49th St. There was no additional new information due to summer months.

1. **Education Report** – Denise Hughes-Conlon

Denise reports that she has been in talks with people to get more trainings in the community including Chief Holloway for a BBB training in St. Petersburg.

1. **Chairs Report** – Bobbie Hodson

Bobbie reports she attended a 6 hour meeting the Health Dept. for the Community Health Improvement Plan. Bobbie said she was surprised to learn that there are almost 1 million people in Pinellas. According to the statistics gathered at this time, Pinellas is in line with National Statistics with 1 in 4 have experienced DV and 1 in 2 have witnessed DV.

1. **Announcements:**

The Yellow Dress will be held on 10/19 at 7pm at SPC Clearwater and sponsored by JAEDA and PCDVTF. Several agencies have donated $1000.00 including the Tampa Bay Rays and Hands Across the Bay. The biggest need is publicity.

Peace 4 Tarpon has two events on 8/16. One is a seminar for Trauma Informed Care and how to utilize in your business as well as have trauma-informed staff. Also that night they are having an event at SPC Tarpon Campus to show “Healing Voices” which will help people understand mental illness.

Zonta is hosting an event on 10/5 to help raise money for family pet sheltering. They will be at Painting with a Twist and having raffle tickets with one prize being a trip to Cabo. There will be 50 openings for painting but everyone can purchase raffle tickets. Also Zonta is hosting an event at Empath Health on 9/27 at 6:30 for groups and individuals to come together and hear about legislation and how each can get involved and make sure that people are involved.

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

www.pinellasdvtf.weebly.com

Facebook.com/PCDVTF/

Next Meeting: 9/19/17 @ Suncoast Hospice

5771 Roosevelt Blvd. Clearwater

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

Meeting Minutes Submitted by: Courtney Hendrickson