

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE COORDINATING COUNCIL OF MONTEREY COUNTY

Minutes

DATE: April 26, 2023

TIME: 3:30 P.M. - 5:00 P.M.

PLACE: In-person and Remotely over Zoom

Members Attended: In-person: Alma Sanchez (DA), Elaine McCleaf(YWCA), Erin Ortiz(Rape Crisis), Brett McFarland(MCOE), , Roderick Franks(DSS), Heriberto Estrada(Probation), , Clara Vargas(APS), Marisa Hernandez(CSW), Jeff Watkins(Chief's Assoc.) Lee Garland (District 4)

Members Attended: Remotely: Kenya Burton(District 1), Julia Marmolejo-Muruato(MCHD), Elizabeth Aguilar (District 3), Warren Hoy(Diocese of Monterey), Ana Vasquez(YWCA), Herendida Delena(Lideres Campesinas), Joan Crenshaw(District 5), Priscilla Ortega (Homeless Sol)

Absent Members: Kelsey Hansen(CHS)- excused, Sheriff Nieto/Jason Smith,

Associate Members Present: Jillian Santillanez (Army Family Advocacy)

Guests: Arnold Westphal – Breakthrough Men's Community

Public: None

Vacant Seats: Superior Court, Medical Society, District 2

3:30 PM **1. Opening** **DVCC Chair Brett McFadden**

A. Call to order and Introductions.

 a. Quorum noted.

B. March meeting minutes – Any corrections- **None**

Motion to Accept February Minutes

Moved: EMc Second: Warren H. All in Favor: ALL Opposed: None

D. Treasurer's Report – Quarterly Report tabled until May meeting

E. Public comments and oral communications: None

3:15 PM **2. Updates and Announcements: None**

3:15PM Educational Speaker: Arnold Westphal, Director of Breakthrough Men's Community

Breakthrough is a men's support group for men over 18 yrs of age that focuses on building better relationships. A 26-to-32-week program that empowers by working on values, self-esteem, expression of feelings, inner pain, denial and inner state of reality that produces shame, and prevents healing. They try to discover what and where the pain is and through support groups members learn they are deserving of love and can make good choices. Average age of participant is 45 to 60 yrs old which coincides with the age that males are most likely to use violence upon self and are at risk for suicide. The program pairs well with private therapy and spirituality. The goal for members is to build a toolbox that assists them in becoming better versions of self. Website: Breakthroughformen.org – phone 831-219-6919.

3:45 PM 3. New Business:

- A. **Family Justice Center Strategic Planning review was presented by Julia M and Alma S.** – to learn more about family justice centers check out familyjusticecenter.org The Alliance for Hope has a published report at that website based on many family justice centers and the good work that results. In our county, the first FJC is underway in King City at the former courthouse building. With additional funding, Salinas and the Peninsula Centers will follow. With the current OCJP grant funds, a FJC Coordinator has been hired and opening date is projected to be end of 2023. As a result of the Strategic Planning Session on April 26th by Casey Gwinn, a survey with victims in our community was conducted and that report of our County's needs will be forthcoming. Most of the DVCC agencies already have operational agreements in place to partner at the FJC so the DVCC will intersect and play a role in the FJC in what way is yet to be determined.
- Discussion occurred about what process is necessary for the DVCC to donate the \$20,000 earmarked for "victims" to our FJC. Follow-up will be done by Alma.
- B. **From the February "Strengths, Challenges, Needs" strategic discussion, Brett deduced the following as the DVCC's next action steps and areas of focus:**
- 1. Reconfirm the council's mission and purpose with County leadership – Board of Sups, County Executive Officer, other departments, (specifically ask for funding for a staff person)**
 - 2. Hold a 2023-2024 annual conference - seek additional partners, co-sponsors, etc.**
 - 3. Consider establishing a sub-comm to draft a preliminary strategic plan for the DVCC (Ex-Comm plus two other regular members?)**
 - 4. Engage in exploratory discussion with county leaders about the role and**

future of the DVCC, dept leaders, non-profits, local education, agencies etc.

5. Continue with monthly meetings and meet the DVCC's core mission

The following were added after discussion:

4. Advocate and assist the establishment of Monterey County Family Justice Centers

5. Coordinate with local state legislative leaders regarding state and regional policy proposals.

6. Continue to recognize and spread awareness concerning the intersection of domestic violence and homelessness.

- C. Nominations for Secretary on the DVCC Ex-Comm. Current Secretary, EMc leaving the YWCA 5/31/23. Priscilla Ortega volunteered. Motion to follow next month
- D. SB 599 Marissa H. from Anna Cabellero's office asked the DVCC if it is possible for the Council to write a letter of support for this bill- attachment. It was discussed if the DVCC could advocate for legislation since we are a government created Council. Brett volunteered to review the possibilities.
- E. NCBI - see ncbimonterey.org

4:45

4. Working Group Reports

A. Annual Conference Committee 2023 Volunteers Roderick Franks & Brett Mc. looking for more volunteers to step forward very soon. October is right around the corner.

B. Community Education Working Group Jillian is looking for guidance on the working group's goals and it was agreed to be a discussion item for next month.

C. Offender Intervention Working Group – no meeting

D. Statistical Collection Working Group Lauren put out an email asking for what statistics already exist and is looking data from all agencies. Joan indicated that such statistics are difficult to collate since each agency collects stats for different reasons.

5:05

7. Adjourn

Please Note: NEXT MEETING SCHEDULED FOR May 30,2023 and all agreed it would be held remotely.

FYI: Quorum: Fifty (50%) plus one of the seated Council members, in attendance, shall constitute a quorum, but in no case shall a legally constituted meeting be held without a quorum.

Missing meetings: Three unexcused absences within a twelve-month period will constitute an automatic resignation and the Chair will ask your agency to appoint new member

Participation at meetings: Please have video cameras in the ON position and join in the discussion.