

**Domestic Violence Coordinating Council of Monterey County**

[www.co.monterey.ca.us/dvcc](http://www.co.monterey.ca.us/dvcc)

Salinas, CA

Meeting Minutes 2/28/18

Members/Alternates Present: Pam Patterson, Sheree Goldman, Linda McGlone, Valerie Barnes, Lauren DaSilva, Phrani Diksa, Sharon Gold, Amy Christey, Aaron Kaelin, Daniel Gonzalez, Robin Ledford, Elaine McCleaf, Al Vincent, Oliver Minnig, and Molly Thai

1. Introductions
2. DVCC Meeting
  - a. Call to order and introductions: The meeting was called to order by Robin Ledford, DVCC Chair, at 3:50 p.m.
  - b. Approval of the minutes for January 2018: Dr. Barnes motioned to approve the Minutes from the January meeting; and Elaine McCleaf seconded the motion.
  - c. Treasurer's Report provided by Aaron Kaelin, Treasurer. Aaron is looking for a new Treasurer. He would like to transfer this responsibility before he leaves his position. 3 signatures are needed to sign checks
  - d. Public Comments and Oral Communications: None
3. Education and Information  
Presenter, Elaine McCleaf, Deputy District Attorney

A case was presented about the death of a Vietnamese woman, who was strangled and bludgeoned with a lamp by her husband.

The woman suspected she had been followed by her husband and went to Victory Toyota who in fact found a tracking device hidden on her car. The victim went to the Seaside Police Department with an interpreter and the Police suggested that she move out of their apartment. The Police were willing to open a case, but the victim declined. The woman went to the Monterey Courthouse, Self-Help Center and requested a temporary restraining order (TRO) based on stalking and her fear. Her application for the TRO was written in broken English and difficult to understand. The Court denied the TRO but the court did set the matter for further hearing ten days later and requested a Vietnamese interpreter be present. However, the victim did not understand (most likely because of the language barrier) that she needed to serve her husband with notice of the 4/14/16 hearing. On 4/14/16, the victim, accompanied by her friends appeared in court however the husband failed to appear since he had no notice. Unbeknownst to the victim, the husband had placed another GPS device on her car and was able to track her movements to the Court's location. Upon her arrival home to pick up her work uniform, thinking the husband was not in the home, she entered and was killed in her bedroom.

After the victim's death, the husband called the police and maintained his innocence. The victim's body showed signs of strangulation, with many blows (21) to the head. Eventually, however the husband

pled guilty to murder. In preparation for sentencing, victim and suspect's children, ages 15 and 18 wrote letters describing the father in a positive light. At the sentencing hearing, the children were invited to address the court also about their mother and the 15-year-old daughter told the judge how much she missed her mother. The defendant received a sentence of 15 years to life in the Department of Corrections.

A discussion about the Court's Self Help Center and translation services followed the description of the case. Daniel Gonzalez talked about the availability and limits of the Self Help Center. He indicated that the Center is staffed for Spanish translation, but not Vietnamese. Staff from the Center were not available to attend this meeting and will be invited to a future meeting. The use of the Language Line was discussed, but in putting the case together the prosecutor needed more information on the culture and the nuances of the Vietnamese language. Typically, the DA tries to find volunteers to translate, but they are hard to find in small, ethnic communities.

In short, the victim reached out as recommended by DV advocates and planned to leave; but was limited in what she shared with law enforcement by fear and language barriers. These barriers may impede a victim's understanding of the legal process and the ability of the system to respond effectively to their needs.

#### 4. New Business

- a. Monterey County DV Protocol: Per their grant from the California Department of the Office of Emergency Services, the YWCA will participate in the development of the protocol, in coordination with the DVCC. There was a discussion of using other jurisdictions' protocols as a template and the use of a sample protocol from CALCASA. The DVCC felt that they could provide assistance to the police in drafting this document, which could then be routed to the police chiefs for their signature and final approval.
- b. The group did not discuss goals for 2018, due to lack of time.

#### 5. Old business was not addressed due to lack of time.

#### 6. Adjourn – the meeting was adjourned at 5:05.

Next Meeting: Wednesday, March 28, 2018, Department of Social Services, Room 110

Minutes respectfully submitted by Linda McGlone