

**The Los Angeles County Domestic Violence Council
Minutes of March 18, 2008 Meeting**

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Vicki Lewis Adams, Chair at 12:10 p.m.

2. Minutes of the February 19, 2006 Meetings

Minutes of the February 19, 2008 were approved with corrections.

3. Public Comments/Announcements

- Jerilyn Stapleton – National Organization for Women & volunteer for The Peace Alliance asked the HR 808 be supported to have a portion created for database collection, please check www.thepeacealliance.org
- Ben Schirmer, congratulated ABIP for a great conference held at the Queen Mary and encouraged everyone to attend the DCFS Conference, please register for one of the days April 9 & 10, the same agenda will be held on both dates.
- Debra Suh, April 5, run-Walk to raise funds for domestic violence shelters. April 11, CPAF conduct 65 hr domestic violence training.
- Denise Labertew, announced that April is Sexual Assault Awareness month and April 23 is Denim Day in LA, wear jeans as a visible sign to end sexual violence. In 1998 the Italian Supreme Court overturned a rape conviction because the victim in the case was wearing jeans and therefore “invited the attack” Since the decision people around the world wear denim to commemorate support. Materials are available on the Peace Over Violence website for individuals to get involved.
- *Other announcements were made but were not clear on the tape recorder.*

4. Executive Report – Vicki Lewis Adams reported on the Executive Directors meeting; a member from County Counsel, Parjack Ghaderi, has reviewed the Bylaws and will make some revisions and return to the Executive Board with recommendations on changes to make on the Bylaws.

Received information on the Brown Act, when the DVC meets or any of the subcommittees meet is governed by the Brown Act. A notice must be given of the meeting, and has to be posted and the public has to be invited and all discussion has to be public.

The Executive Board was informed that letters of support for grants can be provided by the DVC but will state that an agency is a member of the DVC due to the narrow perimeters and guidelines.

Mary Case and Terra Slavin were approved as co-chairs of the LGBT committee and are welcomed as active members of the Executive board.

Eve Sheedy asked if the City Task Force and the System Imprudent Committee (formerly Legal Issues Committee) meetings could be combined. The Task Force and the SIC both review legislation and the question was asked if both meetings can be combined for information sharing only, since many of the same people attends both meeting. County Council is reviewing and will respond with a recommendation and a report will be made after the Executive board receives a response.

DV & Religion and Legislation reports will be made under the committees.

All committee Mission statements have been submitted to help the participants to understand the committees better and become more active and have a full understanding of what the committees do. The mission statements will be provided to everyone at a future meeting.

Letter to Board of Supervisors to make domestic violence a priority as a result of the Monica Thomas-Harris case (Olivia will report under ED report). A public report will be out soon before March 31 and will be posted on the District Attorneys' website and the information will be provided to the DVC to disseminate.

The other guest we had at the Executive Board meeting was Victoria Evers, Legislation Intergovernmental and External Affairs (IGA), Chief Executive Office parameters of involvement by the DVC regarding legislation. Kimberly Wong will explain the perimeters in regards to legislation information provided to the DVC members and guests.

Executive Director report from Olivia, one written response was received from Supervisor Yvonne Burke and communication from Supervisors Knabe and Molina regarding the Monica Thomas-Harris letter sent to all 5 Board of Supervisors. Participated in the "End Violence Against Women's" conference panel with former Chair of the DVC, Pam Booth and Linda Maxwell. At the end of the conference recommendations were made to a listening panel that included District Attorney Steve Cooley. It was recommended that the DVC be the central location for data collection. Attended the ABIP conference on Friday, March 14; Alyce La Violette was keynote speaker; the other speakers were Lynn Loar and Michael Freda.

5. Committee Reports

Shelter Directors – TuLynn Smylie - report on behalf of the committee; training will be conducted by Children's Hospital for high risk youth.

DCFS has distributed a survey with 25 questions that was not very clear in the information they are seeking.

Encouraged everyone to attend the DVC members attend other community groups to attend the April 9, 10 DCFS/DV conference

Debra, Olivia Alicia met on worked on the referral system to shelters assessment include particular areas that shelters provide that others may not.

Legislative Issues – Co-Chair Kimberly Wong and Denise Labertew reported that the committee meets on the first Thursday of the month at the cafeteria conference room. A

chart with all the bills related to domestic violence has been distributed to all members and guests. There are at least 20 bills that the committee has reviewed and has voted to recommend to support or oppose. Victoria Evers, spoke about the limits of the DVC as an advisory body, the work of the individual members can be to advocate. To that extent what we will continue to do is to provide information about well intention bills that may have certain unintended consequences for domestic violence survivors that perhaps the author did not realize at the time of creating a bill. Denice Labertew will provide a template letter as an example if an agency wishes to oppose or support a particular bill. The following bills that were discussed were sent by email prior to the meeting;

AB 1648 not moving forward

AB 2306 provide a template letter for the DVC to distribute

SB 129

Health Issues - *No report*

Issues – *Co-Chair* Gail Pincus review research and respond in a proactive way, in regard to studies. Ongoing problems with restraining order process and having more of a presence at the DV Planning Group quarterly meetings to make sure that these concerns are brought up. Gail mentioned that Gladys Nagy will be retiring and that we will all miss her.

LGBT Issues – *Co-Chair*; Terra Slavin reported that the committee is working on the September 25, 2008 conference on teen dating violence and invited people to participate on the planning. She also mentioned the recent film screening of the hip hop film and that it will be incorporated as part of the teen dating conference. Other issues that will be discussed at the next meeting will be the batterer's piece for the conference.

Training - *No report (committee is inactive at the present time)*

Religion and Domestic Violence – *Co-Chairs* Lorna Crosse; reported on the issue that the clergy has within domestic violence, includes all denominations in religion. The focus is on domestic violence perpetrated by the clergy. There is a lot going on that has not been addressed in the church. The committee is working on a conference in the near future for spouses, partners, and first ladies to address the issue of how many of them are being battered. The conferences have been on Saturday in the past and the committee will see if it can be held on a week day.

6. Guest Speakers: ***No guest Speaker for this meeting***

7. Adjournment - Meeting was adjourned at 1:55 p.m.



LOS ANGELES COUNTY DOMESTIC VIOLENCE COUNCIL

Victoria Lewis Adams, Chair
L.A. County District Attorney's Office

TuLynn Smylie, First Vice Chair
WomenShelter of Long Beach

Olivia G. Rodriguez
Executive Director

Diane Franklin, Second Vice Chair
West Covina Police Department

General Meeting Attendance March 18, 2008

MEMBERS PRESENT

Public Members

Community & Senior Services
Department of Children & Family Services
Department of Public Social Services
Department of Mental Health
LA City Attorney's Office
LA City Commission on the Status of Women
LA County District Attorney's Office
LA County Probation Department
LA County Public Defenders Office
LA County Public Health
LA County Sheriff's Department

Cheren Payne
Alma Golla
Lola Nevarez
Ellen Sanchez
Eve Sheedy
Kellie Hawkins
Victoria L. Adams
Mario Provencio
Kimberly Wong
Lorena Ayala
Suzie Ferrell

Private Members

Center for the Pacific-Asian Family
Chicana Service Action Center
Haven Hills
Peace and Joy Care Center, Inc.
Rainbow Services
Sojourn
Su Casa - Ending Domestic Violence
WomenShelter of Long Beach
YWCA Glendale

Debra H. Suh
Claudia Fuentes
Sara Berdine
Cathy Streimer
Ben Schirmer
Pat Butler
Jan Laine
TuLynn Smylie
Delie Rimer Bishil

CalWorks

Bienvenidos Family Services
Children's Institute, Inc.
Community Legal Services
Domestic Abuse Center
Foothill Family Services

Margaret Jaimes
Adriana Molina
Rachelle Neshkes
Gail Pincus
Mariela Rivera

Harriet Buhai Center for Family Law
Helpline Youth Counseling
Interval House
Legal Aid Foundation of LA
Neighborhood Legal Services of L.A. County
Prototypes
San Fernando Valley CMCH
Woman to Woman (NCAAD)

Amy Godman
Jamie Watson
Sheila
Ji-Lan Zang
AV Saucedo
Kindell Jenkins
Yliana Johansen
Mary Harris

Guests Present

ABIP
Asian Pacific American Legal Center
Coalition of Mental Health Professionals
Coalition to Abolish Slavery and Trafficking
Department of Children and Family Services
Domestic Abuse Center
Good Shephard Shelter
Little Tokyo Service Center
Los Angeles Gay and Lesbian Center
National Council of Jewish Women, Los Angeles
National Organization for Women
Peace Over Violence
Seraphim Manor
Sex Workers Outreach Project
Southern California Alcohol and Drug Programs
Victim Witness Assistance Program
West Covina Police Department

Richard M. Kenworth
Shirley Yauw
Reba Long
Haidee Crasim
Gayle Grether
Gail Pincus
Kimberly Rudy
Vivian Lee
Terra Slavin
Leslie deBeauvis
Jerilyn Stapleton
Denice Labertew
Sandra Schooley
Gennifer Hirano
Marijke Pantus
Monica A. Bustos
Diane Franklin

ABSENT MEMBERS

Public Voting Members

Attorney General's Office
California Department of Corrections
Department of Health Services
LA County Bar Association
LA County Commission for Women
LA Mayor's Office
LA Police Department
Superior Court Family Court Services

Private Voting Members

1736 Family Crisis Center
AV DVC/Oasis
Cambodian Association of America

Haven House
House of Ruth
Jenesse Center
Jewish Family Services
San Pedro Community Legal Services
Santa Clarita Domestic Violence Center
Women & Children's Crisis Shelter
YWCA Wings

CalWORKS

Angel Step Inn Resource Center
Akila Concepts
Amanecer – CCS
Center for the Pacific Asian Family
East Los Angeles Women's Center
Human Services Association
IMCES
Peace & Joy Care Center, Inc.
Project: Peacemakers

Guests

Asian Pacific Women's Center
ICCAN
Making A Difference Service Center
Seraphym Manor
Shield & Pave
Women Helping Women Services