

# Domestic Violence Council San Mateo County

Action Plan for Calendar Years  
2004, 2005 & 2006



## **I. Vision Statement**

The vision of the Domestic Violence Council is a community of individuals who value, teach and practice safety, peaceful conflict resolution and mutual respect in intimate relationships.

## **II. Mission Statement**

The purpose of the San Mateo County Domestic Violence Council is to provide countywide leadership to reduce the occurrence and impact of domestic violence.

## **III. Areas of Focus (from the resolution creating the DV Council)**

The Domestic Violence Council will evaluate, make recommendations and initiate activities regarding:

1. Current responses and interventions by law enforcement, the judicial system, health care services and community resources,
2. Local government efforts to reduce domestic and family violence,
3. Prevention through public education and awareness.
4. The collection of statistics and data
5. The adequacy of federal, state and local laws, and
6. Services for all who are impacted by domestic and family violence.
7. Adequate funding for all the above.

## IV. Domestic Violence Council

Accomplishments: 2001 2002 2003

DV Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Assisted Foster City in effort to set aside one affordable housing unit for DV victim</li> <li>➤ Developed and distributed information to other cities regarding transitional housing</li> <li>➤ Wrote letters regarding pending legislation</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Conducted an informational meeting on transitional housing for all interested cities at the Board of Supervisors Chambers</li> <li>➤ Outreached to multiple cities regarding transitional housing for the 2<sup>nd</sup> year</li> <li>➤ Provided information &amp; support for the Domestic Violence agencies and their merger</li> <li>➤ Supported pending legislation regarding Domestic Violence.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Advocated for a transitional house in EPA</li> <li>➤ Provided direction for the Probation Trust Fund working group</li> <li>➤ Supported pending legislation regarding Domestic Violence.</li> </ul>
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## V. Future actions for 2004, 2005 & 2006

### 1. Group self- education

- ❖ Learn more about what each agency/member of the DV Council does now and is planning for future; use this information in broader context.

### 2. Group outreach

- ❖ Review representation on Council and Committees and decide if participation should be increased and to what group (e.g. faith community, Aging and Adult Services and others)
- ❖ Support and/or sponsor Domestic Violence related events that are sponsored by the Domestic Violence Council and/or other groups.

### 3. Barriers to Service

- ❖ Identify barriers to securing shelter/transitional housing.
- ❖ Ensure adequate funding for DV activities.

### 4. Local Agency Support

- ❖ Continue to support the County's Domestic Violence agency through building their infrastructure.

### 5. Data

- ❖ Support efforts to collect and analyze data on domestic violence.

## **VI. Committees**

### **A. LEGAL PROCESS**

**CO-CHAIRS: ELAINE TIPTON & DEBBIE APPEL**

**Purpose:** To foster coordination and responsiveness of the legal and law enforcement systems working with victims of domestic violence and their children; increase access to and effectiveness of the legal system for self-represented litigants; ensure effective investigation, prosecution and judicial intervention in domestic violence cases; seek coordination of the civil and criminal legal systems involved in addressing domestic violence; continue to raise awareness within the legal system to issues of domestic violence.

**Accomplishments:**

2001	2002	2003
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Established TRO working group</li> <li>➤ Worked with County Communications to log EPO calls</li> <li>➤ Began revision of Law Enforcement DV Protocol</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Established TRO calendar and Restraining Order Court</li> <li>➤ Continued work on Law Enforcement DV Protocol</li> <li>➤ Worked with the Superior Court, law enforcement &amp; County communications to ensure that EPO's are readily available</li> <li>➤ Worked with law enforcement to ensure the implementation of newly-enacted laws re: free &amp; timely police reports</li> </ul>	<p>Currently:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Addressing issues related to EPO's, police reports, TRO calendar, law enforcement DV protocol, &amp; Victim Witness monies</li> <li>➤ Providing valuable input, support and discussion of VIP coordinated response efforts</li> </ul>

**Future actions for 2004, 2005 & 2006:**

1. Revise and update judicial benchcard for use by judicial officers handling domestic violence cases;
2. Provide bilingual (Spanish) materials for use in specified domestic violence court proceedings;

3. Increase law enforcement membership on committee;
4. Review, provide recommendations and support for technical advances in use of on-line Family Law forms;
5. Review, provide recommendations and support for Domestic Violence Law Enforcement Protocol;
6. Continue to provide forum for information sharing, response and solutions to issues within the domestic violence legal community.
7. Assess efficacy of Domestic Violence Prevention Act proceedings, including family law admonitions.

**B. CHILDREN-MULTICULTURAL-EDUCATION**  
**CO-CHAIRS: MARK LANE AND TAGI QOLOUVAKI**

**Purpose:** To review and inventory currently existing systems and based on the inventory, recommend enhancements, coordination, or the development of new programs targeted at the children experiencing domestic violence. To continue to raise public, private, and professional awareness as to the needs of children experiencing domestic violence. (Since this charter was developed the Committee has expanded to include multi-cultural issues.)

**Accomplishments:**

2001	2002	2003
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Received Packard Foundation Violence in Families Initiative Program (VIP) grant</li> <li>➤ Co-hosted DV &amp; Pets post conference regional event</li> <li>➤ Merged Children's Committee with Multicultural &amp; Education Subcommittee</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Functioned as oversight body for the VIP, including giving important input, support and direction to training, coordinated response and data efforts</li> <li>➤ Helped promote Public Health DV trainings</li> <li>➤ Interfaced with Fatherhood Collaborative</li> <li>➤ Provided input for H.S.A. contract with CDVP regarding support services for transitional housing</li> <li>➤ Provided input to Health Services Family Violence Prevention Strategic Plan</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Offered multicultural panel trainings, to date Tongan/ Samoan/ Fijian; Latino; Filipino; and Chinese</li> <li>➤ Functioned oversight body for VIP including giving important input, support and direction to training, coordinated response and data efforts</li> <li>➤ Provided input for DV Council retreat</li> </ul>

## **Future actions for 2004, 2005 & 2006:**

### **1. Committee Organization**

- ❖ Expand membership by recruiting new members more representative of the demographics of the community.
- ❖ Evaluate the Committee process, involvement of members, and liaison process with Domestic Violence Council

### **2. Violence in Families Initiative Program (VIP)**

- ❖ Continue to function as VIP Oversight Committee.
- ❖ Plan for the continuation of the vital components of VIP by assisting in the institutionalization process of VIP.
- ❖ Continue to implement and expand VIP in the community.
- ❖ Utilize the needs assessment completed by Applied Survey Research (ASR) for planning, advocacy and community education.
- ❖ Provide input and oversight to the ASR needs assessment project.
- ❖ Support the development of protocols, policies and procedures of the VIP Response Task Force.

### **3. Multicultural**

- ❖ Compile and disseminate information in the community from the multicultural panel presentations.
- ❖ Begin to collect and compile data obtained at the multicultural panel presentations.
- ❖ Sponsor at least three multicultural panel discussions/trainings.

### **4. Education**

- ❖ Compile and distribute data to the community on the effects of children exposed to domestic violence.
- ❖ Educate and advocate for services for children and families affected by domestic violence.
- ❖ Advocate for and make funding recommendations to the Probation Trust Fund, First Five Commission and other funding sources regarding funding programs for children affected by domestic violence.

**C. LEGISLATIVE  
CHAIRS: TBD**

**Purpose:** The purpose of the Committee is to monitor state legislation that impacts domestic violence issues, and to assist the Board of Supervisors in developing and communicating positions on legislation in order to further the County's goal and vision for reducing domestic violence.

**Accomplishments:**

**2001**

**2002**

**2003**

<p>➤ Provided valuable information on many bills before the legislature and provided background &amp; research</p>	<p>➤ Provided valuable information on many bills before the legislature and provided background &amp; research</p>	<p>➤ Provided valuable information on many bills before the legislature and provided background &amp; research</p>
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**Future actions for 2004, 2005 & 2006:**

**1. Committee Organization**

- ❖ Appoint a chair or co-chairs and expand membership.

**2. Confidentiality**

- ❖ Effect legislation so that we can communicate more effectively regarding confidentiality.

**3. Public Policy**

- ❖ Explore hosting a legislative breakfast to discuss public policy in regards to domestic violence (e.g. confidentiality laws).



**D. DEATH REVIEW**  
**CHAIR: LINDA GIBBONS**

**Purpose:** To review reports from law enforcement, community-based organizations and information sources that may help to profile patterns of behavior that may lead to homicide and how the system may need to better respond to call for help from victims of domestic violence.

**Accomplishments:**  
**2001**

**2002**

**2003**

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Presented “Love Shouldn’t Hurt” program targeting Latino community and faith-based community including presentations and flyer distribution</li> <li>➤ Reviewed DV Homicide(s)</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Began meeting again in April, 2003 and engaging partner agencies</li> <li>➤ Revised case definition to include DV related suicides in addition to homicides</li> <li>➤ Began reviewing cases</li> <li>➤ Establishing standardized data collection tool and database</li> </ul>
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**Future actions for 2004, 2005 & 2006:**

1. Review the Case Review form and finalize it for use.
2. Review the six pending cases for 2003 and any new cases.
3. Expand the review of cases to involve suicides/ family violence relating to deaths.
4. Work with the Legislative sub-committee to review legislation on sharing information at the Death review sub-committee.
5. Share regular reports with the Domestic Violence Council.