

County of Santa Clara
Clerk of the Board
Boards & Commissions
Domestic Violence Council



PSJC01-030509

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Board Clerk I
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DATE: March 5, 2009

TO: Supervisor George Shirakawa, Chairperson
Supervisor Donald F. Gage, Vice Chair
Public Safety & Justice Committee

FROM: *Maria Marinos*
Maria Marinos
Clerk of the Board

SUBJECT: Principles of the Conflict Accountability Program, Curriculum Task Group Final Report and the Parenting Without Violence Curriculum Task Group Final Report

RECOMMENDED ACTION

Consider the "Principles of the Conflict Accountability Program of the Conflict Accountability Program Curriculum Task Group Final Report," and "Parenting Without Violence Curriculum Task Group Final Report."

Possible action:

Forward recommendation from the Domestic Violence Council to the Board of Supervisors that:

1. Standards and basic principles for the 16 -week Conflict Accountability Program (CAP), be established;
2. Goals to be adhered to by referring agents for the "Parenting Without Violence" program, be established;
3. The "Parenting Without Violence" program structure be established;
4. Staff qualification criteria for the "Parenting Without Violence" program be defined;
5. Provider-participant contracts allowing for full and consistent disclosure of program practices be stipulated as part of the "Parenting Without Violence" process.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no fiscal implications relating to these recommendations.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION

Approval of the recommendations will help put standards and practices in place that will serve to improve service delivery of appropriate domestic violence interventions.

BACKGROUND

In 2006 the domestic violence provider community investigated best practices for participants ordered to attend psycho-educational programs to stop disrespectful, abusive, intimidating and/or violent behaviors in intimate partner or former intimate partner relationships. In order to increase the level of accountability for their behavioral choices, and to develop skills to exercise different behavioral choices, the domestic violence provider community proposed that an alternative, non-certified 16-week course be offered by domestic violence service providers and agencies. Criminal Courts acknowledge the need for such a class for those defendants who had been convicted of a crime based on conduct related to domestic abuse but who did not meet the standards to be required to be placed on formal probation. Family Court and Juvenile Dependency Court also acknowledged a need in the community to offer a group/class for clients whose needs did not meet the criteria for participation in the Certified Batterer's Intervention Program. These classes would address the needs of clients who may find themselves in a relationship where there is sufficient conflict that has been identified as problematic by a referral source.

In June 2007, the Domestic Violence Council Court System's Committee formed a Curriculum Review Subcommittee, in an effort to create principles and standards for the 16-week Conflict Accountability Program group/class.

"Parenting Without Violence" was first developed as a specific program provided at the Center for Human Development of San Jose (now known as the Center for Healthy Development, or CHD) beginning 1994. Because the program name was never trademarked, the name became incorporated into public domain. Because there were no formalized certification standards for "Parenting Without Violence," many programs developed without coordination or oversight. Consequently, the term "Parenting Without Violence" became a reference for services that did not reflect a consistent intervention across agencies, and for which there were no common objectives, content or structure. Further, the court's use of these programs diversified to include perpetrators and victims of intimate partner violence when there were children in the family as well as cases of child abuse and high conflict divorce.

At the November 2006 Domestic Violence Council Court Systems Committee meeting, the mental health community raised concerns regarding the lack of consistency with the "Parenting Without Violence" curriculum. In June 2007, the Parenting Without Violence Curriculum Task Group was established in order to outline standards for content and structure for all "Parenting Without Violence" programs in the County of Santa Clara. The Task Group identified service providers through existing referral lists and invited the providers to attend meetings of the Task Group.

CONSEQUENCES OF NEGATIVE ACTION

Standards and basic principles for the 16-week Conflict Accountability Program (CAP) will not be established.

The "Parenting Without Violence" program will not have approved goals, program structure, or staff qualification criteria.

STEPS FOLLOWING APPROVAL

The Deputy Clerk will inform the Commission of action taken by the Public Safety and Justice Committee, and if requested, will prepare a transmittal to the Board of Supervisors.

ATTACHMENTS

- Principles of the Conflict Accountability Program
- Parenting Without Violence Curriculum Task Group Final Report