



**COUNTY OF SANTA CLARA  
Domestic Violence Council**

**FISCAL YEAR 2016 -2017 WORK PLAN  
AND  
2015-2016 ACCOMPLISHMENTS**

**Members:**

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## Mission statement

The Domestic Violence Council's (DVC) mission is to act in an advisory capacity to the Board of Supervisors to assure safety and restoration for victims of domestic violence, cessation of the violence, and accountability for batterers. The Domestic Violence Council will do this by:

- Improving coordination among agencies, departments, courts, members of the community and victims in matters of family violence and abuse;
- Promoting effective prevention, intervention and treatment techniques that will be developed based upon research and data collection;
- Improving the response to domestic violence and abuse in order to reduce incidents thereof; and
- Educating the public about the need to end domestic violence.

## Historical background

The Domestic Violence Council was established by ordinance in 1991. The prior year, a Domestic Violence Task Force led by the presiding judge of Juvenile Court and the chair of the Board of Supervisors formed a committee to evaluate community needs and determine what our county's first DV coordinating council could do. The DVC was initially structured with 22 interdisciplinary members with the District Attorney serving as Chair and five seats allotted to members of the public.

Today's DVC is both similar and different. Any commissioner can chair the DVC and three leadership positions exist. The size of the DVC grew significantly but was eventually restored to its original number of 22 members. The mission, purpose and duties have not substantially changed. But some differences are striking:

- Today, the DVC roster contains no "at large" seats for members of the public; all DVC commissioners all have an affiliation that is related to inclusive interdisciplinary response to DV, from survivors to immigrant voices to the LGBTQ communities
- In the early 1990's, the first DVC had only five committees to achieve its workplan goals – Court Systems, Community Education, Data, Legislation and Police-Victim Advocacy. Today, there are no formal committees to address community education, data and legislation. Much of this work, if it takes place, occurs largely within the standing committee structure.
- A number of subject-matter specific standing committees now exist, including Conference Planning; Children's Issues; Batterer's Intervention; LGBTQ and Medical.

In the more than 25 years that the DVC has been functioning, the purpose of the Council remains rooted in 4 areas that need continuous monitoring and improvement: (1) **coordination** between many interdisciplinary entities and individuals; (2) **prevention, intervention and treatment** based on evidence and best practices; (3) effective **response**; and (4) **education** about the need to end domestic violence in our communities. The accomplishments contained herein reflect a wide range of deliverables across these four areas. But our 2016-2017 work planning is occurring in a climate of change and reflection, as the County-funded IPV Task Force begins its work. Looking forward, the members of the DVC want to examine our own council/committee structure to find ways to (1) increase our effectiveness and collaboration; (2) address important themes like prevention throughout the work of the council rather than in a subject matter-based committee; (3) respond more creatively and quickly to the need for initiatives including prevention; housing and mental health; (4) inform our work with reliable data as well as the voices of family members our systems and providers serve; and finally, (5) respond to our changing awareness of the ways domestic violence impacts all members of a family system, including survivors, offenders and children, and that in our diverse communities, family members have distinct needs that require tailored and appropriate responses. We also want to create a longer-term financial sustainability plan to remove the annual uncertainty about the need to seek County and external sponsorship for the costs associated with our flagship education deliverable, the annual DV Conference.

### FISCAL YEAR 2016-2017 WORK PLAN

GOAL/OBJECTIVE	PROPOSED ACTIVITIES	PRIORITY RANKING	TIMELINE FOR COMPLETION
Monitor and improve the <b>coordination</b> between many interdisciplinary entities and individuals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improve the key systems serving children and youth to enhance linkages between families and services (Children's Issues)</li> <li>• Assess the concern that DV calls regarding new incidents, RO violations, and/or failure to comply with gun surrender requirements are not being handled according to established law enforcement protocols. (PVAC/LGBTQ/Court Systems collaborative effort)</li> </ul>	<b>3</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Q4</li> <li>• Q3</li> </ul>
Increase safety, accountability and stability through <b>prevention, intervention and treatment</b> based on evidence and best practices	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Conduct three survivor focus groups to identify gaps in service (PVAC)</li> <li>• Develop more comprehensive and standardized mental health intake for batterer's intervention programs including how to identify appropriate referrals and how to standardize transfer procedures (BIC)</li> </ul>	<b>1</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Q2</li> <li>• Q2</li> </ul>
Ensure more effective <b>response</b> to DV in order to reduce incidents	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Collaborate with the Court, deputies and other safety personnel on plans and protocols for safety in the new Family Justice Center Courthouse opening mid-2016 (Court Systems)</li> <li>• Assess concern that DVRO's granted without respondent's presence may be enforced differently or not at all; make recommendations to address any concerns (Court Systems)</li> </ul>	<b>3</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Q1-Q2</li> <li>• Q1</li> </ul>
<b>Education</b> of the community. including our systems community and the community at large	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Organize and deliver annual Conference <i>DV Across the Lifespan</i> within budget; increase cross-committee collaboration and attract more attendance by health professionals (Conference)</li> <li>• Educate the public about effects of DV on children (Children's Issues);</li> <li>• Educate the community on process to report non-enforcement of LE protocol (LGBTQ)</li> </ul>	<b>2</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Q2</li> <li>• Q3</li> <li>• Q3</li> </ul>
<b>New initiatives</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Focus on LGBTQ survivors including data collection and training opportunities (PVAC/LGBTQ)</li> <li>• Implement Guidelines for Therapists Working with Children exposed to DV (Children's Issues)</li> <li>• Raise awareness in health care community how relationships affect health (Medical)</li> <li>• Establish ad hoc to guide creation of DVC financial sustainability plan (Exec)</li> </ul>	<b>1</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Q2</li> <li>• Q2</li> <li>• Q3</li> <li>• Q1</li> </ul>

## PRIOR YEAR ACCOMPLISHMENTS

GOAL/OBJECTIVE	ACTIVITIES SUPPORTING GOAL	STATUS
<p>Monitor and improve the <b>coordination</b> between many interdisciplinary entities and individuals</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• DVC members/committees participated in annual DV Protocol for LE update</li> <li>• BIC: Researched case information on 415 dispositions; working with Court Systems, teamed with Criminal Court to hold affidavits for PWOV &amp; DVAP provider self-certification which will ensure participants get the content and courts/parties get progress reports.</li> <li>• Court Systems: Developed new streamlined Criminal Protective Order modification process in collaboration with DV service providers; includes point of contact and reduces court appearances</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Completed</li> <li>• Completed</li> <li>• Completed</li> </ul>
<p>Increase safety, accountability and stability through <b>prevention, intervention and treatment</b> based on evidence and best practices</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Medical: Promoted universal DV screening of prenatal patients and implemented Futures without Violence curriculum with Public Health Home Visiting Staff.</li> <li>• BIC: Developed revised standards and guidelines for providers to deliver 16 week Domestic Violence Accountability Program formerly known as CAP</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Completed</li> <li>• Completed</li> </ul>
<p>Ensure more effective <b>response</b> to DV in order to reduce incidents</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• PVAC: Gathered relevant data on restraining order enforcement (and lack thereof)</li> <li>• LGBTQ: Identified services to request data on LGBTQ use of DV/IPV services and LE statistics on LGBTQ calls</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Completed</li> <li>• Completed</li> </ul>
<p><b>Education</b> of the community. including our systems community and the community at large</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• PVAC: Delivered trainings on 2015 LE protocol; continued Lethality Assessment training for law enforcement</li> <li>• Medical: contributed to VMC Ob-Gyn Department DV Forum on Domestic Violence in the Asian Community; finalized white paper on DV screening and the Affordable Care Act for providers</li> <li>• Conference: Delivered successful <i>Challenging Conventional Wisdom</i> DV conference to 360+ members of the community with assistance from DVC members and all committees including PVAC, Medical, BIC, Court Systems, Children’s Issues, LGBTQ</li> <li>• Children’s Issues: Co-sponsored workshop with Child Abuse Council on teen dating violence; Created and distributed updated version of Resource Guide containing information on community resources, teaching materials for IPV curricula and a bibliography of useful books and research on domestic violence and children; Published four issues of Newsletter.</li> <li>• LGBTQ: Designed informational brochures for distribution at PRIDE booth and to agencies and service providers</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Trainings delivered</li> <li>• Completed</li> <li>• Completed</li> <li>• Completed</li> <li>• Completed</li> </ul>
<p><b>New initiatives</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• DVC provided BOS with DV information as they considered policy re: local law enforcement working with federal immigration officials. DVC created joint policy letter with Child Abuse Council related to City of San Jose’s Crime-Free Housing proposal.</li> <li>• Medical: increased community education on traumatic brain injury including creating brochures</li> <li>• Conference: focus on Housing First model included workshop with local providers</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Completed</li> <li>• Completed</li> <li>• Completed</li> </ul>

## ONGOING PROJECTS

PROJECT	ACTIVITIES	STATUS
Improve the internal/external functioning of DVC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide Orientation for new members as needed; hold annual DVC Retreat with continued focus on commissioner education and improved participation (Exec)</li> <li>• Conclude the work of ad hoc team reviewing and updating language related to DVC's mission and purpose in order to seek comprehensive revision of bylaws and ordinance where necessary</li> <li>• Engage external facilitator to assist DVC as we examine the barriers that limit our efficiency and effectiveness, including meeting and committee structures, rigidity of workplan and whether a more agile system could be used to help us respond to needs and deliver useful outcomes (Exec)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ongoing</li> <li>• Commenced March 2016; tentatively scheduled to conclude June 2016</li> <li>• Proposed to commence July 2016</li> </ul>
Best practices	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lead annual DV Protocol for LE update and implement protocol through training; Continue Lethality Assessment Training for LE (PVAC)</li> <li>• Continue to research 415 dispositions including what other counties and states do (BIC)</li> <li>• Promote family violence prevention in healthcare settings (Medical)</li> <li>• Continue exploration of best practices regarding needs of reluctant witnesses in Criminal matters including development of FAQ and training (Court Systems)</li> <li>• Ensure the new method for CAP/DVAP self-certification includes a feedback and compliance process (BIC and Court Systems)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ongoing</li> <li>• Ongoing</li> <li>• Ongoing</li> <li>• Ongoing</li> <li>• Ongoing</li> </ul>
Initiatives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Contribute DVC subject matter expertise to the IPV Task Force (DVC and committee members)</li> <li>• Continue work on implementing the Education Initiative across more school districts (Children's Issues)</li> <li>• Continue community education on Traumatic Brain Injury (Medical)</li> <li>• Continue data gathering on restraining order enforcement gaps (PVAC/LGBTQ)</li> <li>• Evaluate the ways various court systems affect access to housing for families and develop best practices to prevent the negative effects of housing instability on DV families. (Court Systems)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Commenced January 2016</li> <li>• Ongoing</li> <li>• Ongoing</li> <li>• Ongoing</li> <li>• Commenced March 2016</li> </ul>