

MEMORANDUM

Office of the Mayor



To: City Council

cc: City Manager Tom Williams

From: Mayor Bob Livengood

Subject: Domestic Violence Information and Resources Workshop

Date: December 7, 2008

The above mentioned workshop was recently held on in Milpitas on December 10th at the Indian Community Center. The sponsoring agency was the Domestic Violence Information and Resources (DVIR).

This event includes dinner for the attendees and other ancillary costs like printing, postage and supplies.

I am requesting that the City Council appropriate \$500 from the city's Community Promotion Fund to defray these costs for this important event.

Domestic Violence Information and Resources (DVIR) is a large multidisciplinary collaborative formed by the court in partnership with a broad-range of resource providers to provide outreach and education for victims of domestic violence and their families. DVIR presents workshops, explained in more detail below, throughout Santa Clara County. While supervising the county's criminal domestic violence (DV) courts, Judge Erica Yew observed that DV victims did not always seem to be aware of resources available for them in this community.

Since judges are barred from serving as advocates for either party, and since there was a need for information, Yew approached community members and resource providers to form a collaborative with the intent to provide information about resources to victims of DV and their families.

The aim of the DVIR workshops is to educate adults about domestic violence, increase awareness of resources within the county, and provide accurate, helpful and current information and resources about domestic abuse to individuals. The two and a half hour evening workshops are provided on a quarterly basis in various locations throughout the county as far south as Gilroy and as far north as Palo Alto. The workshops include plenary panel discussions, question and answer sessions, and resource tables (the latter is akin to a resource fair).

Initially the target group to be served was the case-related victim community and their children. At the outset, the victims were identified with the help of the Court and Adult Probation. After the second workshop, DVIR partnered with school districts for space and for distribution of information. As a result, victims of DV who are not yet identified by any governmental agency (the police, the DA, the Court) are now receiving outreach and education. The school district hosting the site of any workshop disseminates fliers announcing the workshop to the parents of all their students.

Publicity is placed in news media. People attending are those dealing with DV even before any case has been initiated. We are truly trying to reach out to families –

whether they are populated by victims or perpetrators -- dealing with every stage of domestic violence in their homes.

Since agencies and volunteers are present during the entire workshop – including the plenary session – the community of resource providers is also benefited, learning more about other resources and being better able to cross-refer their clients for services as a result.

A range of 70 to 100 public/victims have attended each workshop. Additionally, a range of 35 to 70 resource providers have also attended each workshop. We have served the entire county of Santa Clara from Gilroy to Palo Alto.

The workshops are two and a half hours long including a one hour plenary session. The plenary session includes a number of judges, the director of the Court's Self-Help Center, a District Attorney, a Public Defender, a law enforcement officer, a victim advocate, a housing specialist, and a representative from First 5, among others. The plenary consists of a question and answer session where the participants ask questions by posing them in writing, which allows them to maintain their confidentiality. The process allows attendees to acquire concrete information. Representation from the Court through the judges and the attorney directing the Self-Help Center is an integral piece of the plenary session. Attendees have remarked that they appreciate the Court's "human face" and level of commitment to addressing their needs.

The workshop provides free interpreters in languages such as Spanish, Vietnamese, Chinese, and Korean; free food and beverages so that families can have dinner during the workshop; free child supervision to allow parents to participate in the plenary and to allow them to receive private and individualized counseling during the workshop

The following is where checks for the DVIR workshop should go, if there is interest in making a financial contribution:

Domestic Violence Intervention Collaborative

P.O. Box 612317

San Jose, Ca 95161

(The DVIC ein number is 72-1592492)

Please write under the memo portion of the check that this is for the March 7 DVIR workshop.

Thank you.

Steve Preminger

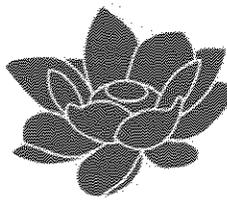
DVIR volunteer

Help create peaceful, healthy families.

You are Invited!

Domestic Violence Information & Resources Workshop In collaboration with India Community Center

Wednesday, December 10, 2008
6:00 PM - 8:30 PM



India
Community
Center

525 Los Coches Street
Milpitas, CA 95035

Join us....

- If you are a community member who wants to take action against domestic violence in our community
- If you or a friend, family member, or coworker is in a dangerous or abusive situation
- If you want to connect with other agencies and learn about the process of reporting and getting help.

Over 40 agencies, court personnel, and law enforcement groups will share resources and answer questions about: navigating the court system, working with law enforcement, housing and shelter, immigration/legal/tax services, LGBTQ resources, mental health and substance abuse counseling, emergency and social services.

**FREE Dinner for you and your family • FREE Child Supervision
No registration necessary**