

**Contra Costa County Advisory Council on Aging  
Elder Abuse Prevention Workgroup Meeting Minutes  
Tuesday, March 23, 2021**

Present: Terri Tobey, Gerald Richards, Jim Donnelly, Frank Napoli, Jill Kleiner, Marty Aufhauser, Emily Milstein

Guests: Gretchen Ellis, Program Manager, STAND! For Families Free of Violence

Staff: Glenda Pacha (standing in for Anthony Macias)

Announcements –

Nothing significant to report.

**Approval of Agenda/Minutes**

- Approve Today's Agenda – Marty moved to approve agenda, Jill motioned second, unanimously approved.
- Approval of January 2021 Minutes – Jill moved to approve with one exception as noted by Jim, i.e., Margueriette will present in April (not March). Frank motioned second.

**Presentation:** Gretchen Ellis, Program Manager, STAND! For Families Free of Violence, Concord.

STAND! addresses and offers counseling on all manner of abuses that stem from ***Intimate Personal Violence (IPV)***. STAND! administers a comprehensive family violence reduction program within Contra Costa County.

- IPV is defined as establishing a controlling environment within a family or other intimate relationship.
- Takes many forms, such as physical, verbal, emotional, psychological, isolation, sexual, economic (most common) etc.
- IVA is learned, and therefore, often intergenerational.
- Experienced by 1 in 4 women, 1 in 7 men, 1 in 5 teens (such as dating). There are over 5 million cases occurring in the home.
- Numerous Risk Factors were explored.
- IVA typically occurs as a “cycle of violence”. Honeymoon -> Tension Builds -> Violence, which gets repeated on average 7 times before the victim leaves entirely.
- An alarming 70% of those leaving result in homicides after the victim has left.
- A myriad of reasons was discussed as to why victims do not leave. Most revolve around a particular type of dependency. But also include blame, religion, social norms, and guilt.
- Change occurs when a triangulation of occurrences is present: Willingness, Ability, and Readiness.
- Various treatment methods were discussed such as a Prevention Program and Family Rebuilding. Intervention plays a big role as well – particularly in saving lives.

- STAND! partners with many other elder care programs (i.e., meals on wheels).
- They have licensed clinicians who can address specific areas of violence and can offer housing transition accommodations when necessary.
- We thank Gretchen for this invaluable information. The Elder Abuse Prevention workgroup will work with STAND! as we see cases of IPV arising in our sphere of work.
- Gretchen will make her slides available to the group, the final page of which contains her contact details, which she was quick to add can be used as a 24/7 hotline.

Terri mentioned that numerous presentations are lined up in the months to come.

Set Topics for next meeting, April 27, 2021: Abran A. Aviles-Scott from Senior Peer Counseling will present on their program and Margueriette Walker from Adult Protective Services will present the final version of the PPT presentation.

Public Comment: None

Adjournment: 11:05am