

## MINUTES OF RELGION AND DV COMMITTEE

September 22, 2020

Meeting was called to order by co-chair Bernita Walker. Each person was given 10 sec. for private offerings. Those present introduced themselves. Co-chair Cecelia Walker, co-chair Varsha V., Keisha Dixon, Stacie Vargas, Rabia Keeble, Geneviève Clavreul, Kavisha Prajapati, Sheetal Ayyatan and Jolene Cooper.

The agenda was followed as presented:

Discussion on the current collaborative activities of Faith based practices. The committee has been working on gathering information on the Faith based leaders getting them acquainted with our understanding of DV as it relates to the Faith community as well as them recognizing their responsibility as a safe house for victims in their congregations and the community that they serve, a clear understanding of mandated reports and the concern about couple therapy.

Varsha shared our desire to host a panel discussion to better inform public about the concern that faith plays on DV situations. Due to Covid-19 our plans are delayed. The panel would consist of representatives from the Muslim, Hindu, Catholic, Christian, Jewish Faiths as well as those which we are less familiar.

Cecelia shared her involvement with the Community Clergy Coalition, located in the East section of the county near Whittier. Also, the Clergy Coalition in the Pasadena area which presently holds meetings virtually. She shared her desire for the committee to update our brochure as a referral for those within our catchment areas.

Bernita shared the involvement with the Clergy Council of 77<sup>th</sup> Division LAPD and the United Faith Network through Jenesse Center with activities in hand on hold due to Covid-19.

Rabia shared the lack of the knowledge of law of the land among many Imams. She explained about the Quran and use of its words to control the wives and women. She shared that more women Imams are needed. She enlightened us to the reality that the law of the land is the ruling measure regardless of the faith and printed directions in books of faith. Rabia continued to share with us the ideas of progressive Islam and the fight for equality as it pertains to the law of the land.

Kavisha, who is a practicing Hindu, voiced her concern about arranged marriages and how the women are held to certain roles and expectations. Sheetal, who also of the Hindu religion, suggested that our panel or conversation might focus on the importance of building a social network w/in smaller communities in order of creating reaching out to members of different faiths for capacity building of the committee.

Kavisha or Sheetal referred to the fact that DV is a public health issue as a better aspect to address the issue.

Rabia, suggested the use of local politicians to get the information about these issues out to constituents.

Varsha, remembering “one size doesn’t fit all”. We need to consider law enforcement as well . Because of the virtual aspect the possibility of other offices attending is very high. Such as Adam Schiff, in her particular area, at the appropriate time she believes that he would consider assisting the committee in moving forward with the information.

Sand(?) and Sahara agencies also to work in this area. Especially the issue of elder abuse.

There being no more comments or concerns, Varsha thanked everyone for being present and sharing their information/ideas. We adjourned with a moment of silence.

Next meeting October 27, 2020. 1 pm.

Prepared by Bernita Walker, PPMI