

PRESENTATION TO THE VENTURA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

VENTURA COUNTY COMMISSION FOR WOMEN

WOMEN'S FORUM: November 3, 2001

•PURPOSE

To identify the needs of women and their families in Ventura County
This input became the basis for the Commission's Goals for 2002 and
was accomplished through a networking, fact-finding forum (Attachment #1).

•PARTICIPANTS

- The Coalition to End Domestic and Sexual Violence (Linda Livingston)
- Planned Parenthood (Xochitl Gomez)
- Ventura County Area on Aging (Katharine Raly)
- El Concilio del Condado de Ventura (Avie Guerra)
- Rainbow Recovery Center (Dolores Adams)
- CAUSE [Central Coast Alliance for a Sustainable Economy] (Maricela Morales)
- Maternal Child Adolescent Health Program/VC Public Health (Diane Visencio)
- Cal Works/Human Services Agency (Lauri Flack)

•MAJOR NEEDS IN VENTURA COUNTY

- Affordable Housing (Attachment #2)
- Affordable Medical Care
 - Prescription Drugs
 - Mental Health
 - Dental Care
- Affordable Child Care
- Transportation
- Resources available for specific needs

•RECOMMENDATIONS

- Create an effective body to act as a link between the community and the Board of Supervisors for information, advocacy and coordination of countywide efforts to address inequities in the status of women, the provision of human services and the enhancement of and respect for individual rights. (Attachment #3)
- Commission Web site: Technical assistance to maintain an effective Web site, with links to available resources and current information to deal with major needs (listed above), and providing networking opportunities between agencies and the communities they serve.
- Publicity resources
 - Newsletter
 - Master calendar
 - Brochures and informational fliers

•CURRENT ACTIONS: The Women's Commission co-sponsors and supports community agencies and other women's organizations in their outreach efforts.

- Ventura County Women's Health Symposium

- California Assemblies of Commissions for Women Quarterly Meetings (Attachment #4)
 - The Coalition to End Domestic & Sexual Violence: The V-Day 2002 Worldwide Campaign (Attachment #5)
 - Creative Options (California Lutheran University)
 - WEJP (Women's Economic Justice Project): Women Working for Economic Justice: Regional Women's Economic Justice Conference of 2002 (Attachment #6)
 - Mervyn's Community Closet Spring 2002 Tour (Mervyn's provides professional attire for a pre-selected group of women re-entering the workforce.)
 - CAUSE Feminization of Poverty project
 - Twelve-year history sponsoring the Family Law Forum in conjunction with the Ventura County Child Support Enforcement Division
- **CONCLUSION:** The Ventura County Commission for Women has been in existence for over 20 years. We have fulfilled our duties as outlined in our Mission Statement:
1. To make recommendations to the Ventura County Board of Supervisors on issues impacting and/or relating to women and families;
 2. To coordinate efforts with federal, state and local community groups to improve the quality of life for women and families;
 3. To conduct additional studies or tasks assigned or approved by the Ventura County Board of Supervisors.

We have performed our duties without receiving funding for the past 10 years. We will continue to work for the women and families of Ventura County; however, we could make a more significant impact on addressing their major needs if our budget requests were met. (Attachment #7)

(Please note that no proposed changes have been incorporated in this document.)