

MINUTES – FALL GATHERING – October 27, 2007

Annual Meeting of AVP/California

In Attendance: see below

1. Welcome and What Do You Want from Today brainstorm. Some of the brainstorm ideas were:
 - Bigger picture of AVP California
 - Getting to know faces/names
 - Share stories about our work
 - Reconnect with people
 - What are the needs of AVP California
 - One new idea for facilitating
 - Hear from inside voices
 - Needs of other areas
 - Have Fun
 - Opportunity for Silence
 - Resources
2. Agenda Preview
3. Gathering: Personal Weather Report
4. Affirmation Exercise focused on my AVP experience.
5. L&L: Stop the Music
6. Statistical Report: George Ramos handed out statistics for last 6 months and explained them.
7. Liaison Reports:
 - Joyce Banzhaf (CMF, SCC): The medical facility has just started up with 3 workshops offered so far. There are already 4 inside facilitators there to support the program. SCC had requested one workshop a week and then changed its policy saying its contact person was overworked. It is hoped that this prison will resume its program in January 2008. Margaret Willits added that many of the facilitators trained here have been transferred to CMC, Centinela, and old Folsom. She passed out an inmate-developed set of bylaws for inside organizational purposes.
 - Diana Couch (CCI): Opened the program in Tehachapi in February 2007. There are 21 trained inside facilitators. Offering 2 workshops a month lately. She can take outsiders in to get trained. Antelope Valley Council often does mini-workshops to various groups in the community.
 - Alice Waco/Ann Boone (HDSP, CCC): CCC has now been open for two years and HDSP for one year. In December, there will be two one-day anniversary parties at HDSP, and anyone who has facilitated at that prison is invited. There has been a Spanish language Basic workshop at each prison. The administration at both prisons has been wonderful, even housing AVP facilitators. Everyone is invited to come with them to Susanville.
 - Gary Wolff (CVSP, HGS, CEN): Gary was not present so Vicki passed out a report he had written. Said CVSP offers terrific support, things are somewhat of a struggle at Centinela but

processes are getting worked out, HGS (Youth Authority) in state of flux as state is redoing the youth program.

- Mimi Edgar (CTF, SVSP): Santa Cruz has developed a local council that supports these institutions. Central (level 2) is easy to get into, North (level 3) is midweek and harder to get into (both of these are areas at CTF). CTF was opened Jan. 2006 and has 8 facilitators in North and 12 facilitators at Central. Salinas Valley opened Jan. 07. It is a level 4 prison. Support groups are going on Central and are to start at North.
 - Stephen Matchett (CCWF, VSPW): CCWF opened last year. Have had 2 T4Fs and lots of Basics. Midweek workshops the 4th week of the month.
400 people on the waiting list. The Long Termers Organization has raised \$2,500 for AVP. VSPW opened this summer for weekend workshops. Lots of good support for this prison.
 - George Ramos (CMC, RJD): RJD is the longest running program in the state. Currently it has only 1 lead facilitator and has a workshop every 2 months. CMC currently has 1 workshop a month on East, West has just opened this year. There is a monthly mini workshop on a specific topic once a month. CMC has decided to call inmate “facilitators” rather than “helpers”. George is looking to set up a 7-year celebration here.
 - Antelope Valley: Is doing mini-workshops with high school students. May do a full workshop. Part of Human Relations Task Force. Diana Couch also said they are doing orientations at the Parole Office. Doug Couch has compiled a pamphlet of quotes taken from AVP workshops.
 - Santa Rosa: AVP group is part of Restorative Justice as alternative for young people.
 - Berkeley: East Bay Council has done a half dozen community workshops at the St. Mary’s Homeless building and some staff have participated. They have been working on outreach for diversity., The Oakland Quaker Group supports AVP in this arena.
 - Quaker Center: Stephen Matchett said AVP had sponsored one oversubscribed Basic but is challenged around an entire series of workshops.
 - Alice Waco/Stephen Matchett did a community youth center training with Eddy Zheng in Chinatown.
 - Santa Barbara: The council has recently trained 11 facilitators. They are looking to work at the Women’s Youth Authority in Ventura and CMC.
8. Theme Song: We listened to a song sent to our AVP P.O. Box by an inmate.
 9. Data Base Instruction: Pat Hardy gave a demonstration on how to best utilize our website’s data base to more easily keep records for your local group.
 10. Lunch
 11. Gathering Song
 12. Break-Out Groups: We discussed four topics and reported back to the main group.
 - a. What would you like AVP CA to do for local groups?
 - Produce flyers about AVP (like Bob Barns yellow one)
 - DVD for presentations
 - Film project – looking for contributions
 - Packet explaining our specific relationship to AVP CA – financially and standards
 - Open an exchange with locals re where we are heading, who’s in charge, should it be local councils only

- Provide workshops to develop lead facilitators
- b. We seem to always be short of time in workshops. What can be done to better manage time in these circumstances?
- Delegate tasks to inmate facilitators
 - People Treasure Hunt as people show up
 - Be flexible with changing the agenda (adaptability/add/change/delete exercises)
 - Clinic (take breaks and brainstorm to rearrange agenda)
 - Model time management
 - Gathering (set time frame or cut it)
- c. If the institution you work at could do one thing for AVP, what would it be?
- SCC; Needs inside coordinator (community resources). Warden-appointed staff person (liaison whose empowered)
 - CTF North: We have above but she's on maternity leave and nothing is happening. (Hard to make it happen)
 - SVSP: Needs to get the work out to inmates re Basic workshops.
 - Chowchilla (CCWF): Staff person needs to be warden appointed. Word needs to get from State level to prisons that if they want AVP, they need to have a warden-appointed person who is empowered to make decisions.
 - Want the correctional system to take responsibility for statistical analysis for positive behavioral change of workshop participants (someone take this on as a master's thesis?).
 - Get CCPOA to realize that we are helping them and making their job easier.
 - Need good support from the prison.
 - How can we offer info about AVP for pre-release?
- d. Given the pressures of time and problems that always occur at the start of a workshop, what do you do to greet people and get them to feel comfortable?
- Have someone at the door to shake hands, exchange names (if possible, the entire team).
 - "Find Some Who" "Cultural Pursuits" "People Treasure Hunt" After using these as greeting mechanisms, after gathering read items and have all stand for which is true or give answers.
 - At various points have group create "Identity Poem" "Bumper Sticker" "My Personal Motto" to occupy time. Then share the results in the next gathering.
 - Have facilitators share something personal during welcome/introductions.
13. L&L: Song
14. AVP Goals for the coming year were presented and additional volunteers were added to the list.
- Outreach Team focusing on San Joaquin Valley (Pat Hardy/Katherine Youngmeister/George Ramos) Volunteers: Tara, Patty Ervin, Ruth Persky
 - Internal Outreach Team:
 - a. Encourage facilitators to facilitate (phone??)
 - b. State "newsletter" for facilitators
 - c. One-day facilitator workshops (quarterly?) around the state
- Facilitator liaison for none-council areas (Pat Hardy contact)

Volunteers: Tara, Gay, Bob

- Set up standards for assessment for prisons where we already exist (Steve Birdlebough, Vicki Rumbaugh)
- Expand the number of prisons according to criteria (Steering Committee)
- Internet data base reporting system team to refine and develop system (George Ramos, Steve Birdlebough, Pat Hardy).
- Hire a grant writer to write grants to hire Outreach Coordinator (up to \$2,000) (Pat Hardy)
- TACT (AVP Staff Training) – Finish Manual and offer a pilot program for a prison (Vicki Rumbaugh, Ann Boone)
- Try “dialogue sessions” with inmates at prisons where we are already established. Outside facilitators NOT required.
- Explore whether TACT should be separated from AVP CA
- Continue operating AVP workshops in CDCR prisons as successfully as we are now doing. (ALL OF US)

All goals were approved by membership.

15. In response to the question “what do we need from a prison when we first open a program,” the following responses were given:

- Priority ducats for participants
- Warden needs to make request for AVP.
- Permission to bring in outside trainees.
- A recognition that lockdowns need not interfere with workshops.
- Inmates may be certified as facilitators.
- Support for confidentiality during workshops.
- A warden appointed staff liaison capable of effective troubleshooting.
- Frequent, regular workshops.
- All three levels of workshops offered.

16. Financial Report: Stephen Matchett presented financial data. New proposed budget was approved.

17. Steering Committee Nominations: The following were nominated and approved as Steering Committee members: Ann Boone, Steve Birdlebough, Luis Frias, Pat Hardy, Stephen Matchett, George Ramos, Vicki Rumbaugh, Alice Waco, Kenya Williams, Gary Wolff, Katherine Youngmeister, Bob Barns, Mark Thomas. Pat Hardy is the Clerk/President and Stephen Matchett is our Financial Officer/Treasurer. Decision made next year to have a nominating committee.

18. Break Out Groups: We had to breakout groups to see demonstrations. Bob Barns did Quizure Hunt and Mimi Edgar did a Needs exercise.

19. Reflections/Evaluation

20. Unanswered Questions

21. Closing: Dear Friends

Submitted by Vicki Rumbaugh

IN attendance: Jim Avera Redwood City
Barbara Babin Redwood City
Joyce Banzhaf Grass Valley
Robert Barns Nevada City
Stephen Birdlebough Santa Rosa
Ann Boone Healdsburg
Helen Bruner Berkeley
Karen Cauble Homer AK
Mike Chattom Compton
Diana Couch Lancaster
Doug Couch Lancaster
Guarionex Delgado Nevada City
Betty Devalcourt Santa Cruz
John Devalcourt Santa Cruz
Mimi Edgar Soquel
Patricia Ervin Soulsbyville
Roger Gies Oakland
Pat Hardy Santa Barbara
Gay Howard Los Osos
Lizette Lim Berkeley
Cheryl Martin Palo Alto
Stephen Matchett San Francisco
Linda McCue Aromas
Eric Moon Oakland
Barbara Moulton Santa Rosa
Tara NcHenry Sunnyvale
Ruth Persky Los Angeles
Maya Radiconcini San Francisco
George Ramos Nipomo
Don Rowe Ukiah
Vicki Rumbaugh Torrance
Jeff Spires Walnut Creek
Mark Thomas Oakland
Nancy Vimla Los Angeles
Alice Waco Santa Rosa
Margaret Willits Sonora
Katherine Youngmeister Berkeley