

**FROM THE DESK
OF
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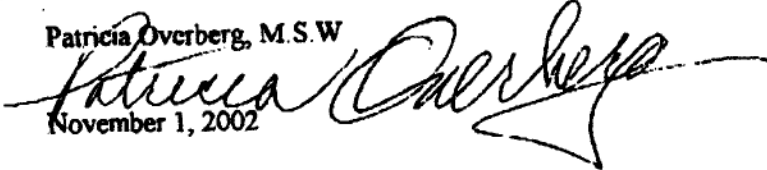
I, Patricia Overberg, declare the following:

- From May 29, 1990 to September 15, 1998 I was the Executive Director of the Antelope Valley Domestic Violence Council/Valley Oasis Shelter.(VOS)
- During that time I saw male victims of domestic violence who would travel very long distances, 100 miles each ways at times, to receive our services. Services that were available to women in their community, but were refused to them based on their gender.
- At the time of my tenure at VOS there were no shelters available to battered men anywhere in the nation other than VOS.
- Although the County of Los Angeles has always been very aware of and sensitive to the needs of battered women, it needs to further that by either setting aside funding for battered men and change the language of their funding allocations to be gender neutral. It also needs to work with the battered men and their representatives to establish a Commission to study the incidences of male battering in Los Angeles County. By doing all of these things, the County can facilitate and enable all the shelters to focus on male, as well as female victims.
- While I was the director of VOS we were able to separate the males from the females due to the layout of the facility. We would mix them in one cottage however, as long as the women in that cottage agreed. This allowed us to utilize our space effectively whenever we needed to make space for male victims within the general population. To my knowledge the female residents never had a problem with this practice.
- During my tenure as director of VOS I was subjected to continuous abuse by other directors for sheltering battered men. In particular, the directors of Rainbow Services, Haven Hills and House of Ruth made a point of being insulting, patronizing and totally unprofessional towards me. It got to the point of being so abusive, I personally lodged a complaint against these three particular Directors with the Board of Supervisors.
- I attended a meeting in San Diego in 1998 that was sponsored by the Dept. of Health, Maternal and Children's Health (MCH). The Director of the Battered Women's Alternative chaired this meeting, which was supposed to be a fact finding meeting. During that meeting I kept pointing out the need to address the issue of battered men. She kept trying to shut me down. When the minutes of that meeting were distributed to the attendee's, not one word was mentioned about the

issue of battered men having been addressed. Every other issue that was brought up was included in the minutes.

I declare under the penalty of perjury under the laws of California that the foregoing statements are to my knowledge, true.

Patricia Overberg, M.S.W

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Patricia Overberg", written in a cursive style. The signature is positioned to the right of the typed name and date.

November 1, 2002