

**STATE OF ALASKA
COUNCIL ON DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AND SEXUAL ASSAULT
MINUTES OF SPECIAL MEETING ON STRATEGIC PLANNING
January 9, 2009**

**Department of Public Safety
Commissioner's Conference Room
450 Whittier Avenue
Juneau, Alaska**

CALL TO ORDER & ROLL CALL

Chair Ann House called the meeting of the Council on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault to order at 3:00 p.m. on Friday, January 9, 2009. Four Council members were present at roll call to form a quorum.

Council members present: **Ann House** (chair), public member; **Colonel Audie Holloway** (Department of Public Safety, AST) on teleconference; **Yvonne Sarren** (public member) on teleconference; **Rick Svobodny** (Department of Law) on teleconference

Council members absent: Beverly Wooley (DHSS); Cynthia Curran (DEED); and Stephanie McFadden (public member)

Council staff present: **Chris Ashenbrenner**, Executive Director; **Lauree Morton**, Program Specialist; **Linda Hoven**, Associate Coordinator; **Ella Nierra**, Administrative Assistant

Others present (in person or by telephone): none

COUNCIL CONFLICT INQUIRY

Chair House asked if Council members had a potential conflict of interest with the strategic planning discussion on this meeting's agenda.

There were no conflict of interest disclosures.

AGENDA

CDVSA Executive Director Chris Ashenbrenner asked if anyone wanted to add anything to the agenda. There was nothing.

Ms. Ashenbrenner said she had been asked to do a prioritization list but had been too busy to get to that yet. She suggested holding that discussion at the March meeting.

CDVSA STRATEGIC PLAN REVIEW

Ms. Ashenbrenner had sent an email to Council members January 6, 2009 listing five points to discuss in the draft 2009-2019 strategic plan (*on file at the CDVSA offices*).

In the mission statement, Anna Fairclough had suggested replacing "...Alaskans impacted by domestic violence and sexual assault..." with "Alaskans victimized by domestic violence and sexual assault..."

Chair House said she thought "victimized" brought more awareness to people reading the mission statement than the word "impacted."

Col. Holloway said the word "victimized" makes him think only of the particular victim, the person who received the blow or who had to get the restraining order, etc. People may not understand that there are a lot more victims who were not actually the one who received the brunt of the domestic violence — the rest of the family, for example.

Yvonne Sarren agreed with Col. Holloway, saying the statement should stick with the word "impacted." Regarding other suggested changes from Rep. Anna Fairclough's office, the CDVSA Legislative Task Force asked the Council to come up with a strategic plan, and it is the Council that decided on the wording.

Mr. Svobodny said he was personally neutral. However, it does not hurt to use the word "victimized" so that someone who had a lot of connection with things that the CDVSA does feels that she has some buy into the strategic plan.

Col. Holloway indicated that he would not care as long as there was some way that the Council could make it understood that the mission statement is not just referring to a particular victim but to the whole family that is victimized.

Ms. Ashenbrenner related that she told Rep. Fairclough's staffer that she thought the Council had put the word "impacted" in the mission statement because it acknowledges the broader reach of people who are victims. Most people do not think about family

members and loved ones who receive services from the shelter programs all the time.

Col. Holloway suggested using the wording "The Council provides safety for Alaskans victimized and impacted by domestic violence..."

Chair House said that in light of Col. Holloway's earlier explanation she understood and supported his concern and favored combining the two words.

Col. Holloway said it may make people think that domestic violence and sexual assault impact others besides the immediate victim.

Mr. Svobodny suggested using "victimized or impacted" to denote victims - and people who are not victims who are impacted. Col. Holloway said he could accept that wording. Ms. Sarren indicated she was okay with it: her preference was to stick with the word "impacted," but if the Council cannot get away from Rep. Fairclough's dealings than she guessed they would have to add "victimized." Col. Holloway and Mr. Svobodny thought it actually helped to use both words connected by or. Chair House said it looked like everyone agreed on that change to the mission statement.

Ms. Ashenbrenner stated that there was some discussion in December that the mission statement made it sound like the CDVSA provides services directly, and some alternative verbiage was proposed. She said she did not immediately see the difference in the versions but she was open to being enlightened.

Col. Holloway felt there was a slight difference but that the first version sounds more straightforward.

Mr. Svobodny said the first version has more impact and is less ambiguous. Other Council members agreed.

Moving on to the second discussion point, Ms. Ashenbrenner explained that Barbara Sheinberg pointed out that the strategic plan does not use the word shelter in the definition of crisis management and intervention services. Ms. Ashenbrenner said she agreed that the definition of crisis management should be clear that the shelters and programs are actually providing the services, so she added the yellow highlighted language on page 5 of the plan.

All the Council members present agreed that the proposed change adds clarity to the definition.

Chair House mentioned that the Council's primary duty is to allocate funding, and it is

only referred to in one paragraph. Ms. Ashenbrenner said she could add that to the definition section under discussion.

On the third point related to goal 5 (crisis management and intervention - page 6), Ms. Ashenbrenner said there were a lot of negative comments about the words "shift the paradigm" at the work session. Ms. Sheinberg rewrote the concept to avoid the trigger words "paradigm shift."

Mr. Svobodny and Col. Holloway indicated they were fine with Ms. Sheinberg's revision. Ms. Sarren had no objection.

Ms. Ashenbrenner said there was an objective under goal 5: enhance the ability of the justice system to keep perpetrators away from victims. She thought, and Ms. Sheinberg agreed, that it really fits under crisis response, intervention and shelter — because it is all part of the community response put together for those services. So that objective was moved to 3E.

Mr. Svobodny said he did not object to it being moved.

Ms. Sarren said she thought the Council wanted the justice system to be more aware of keeping perpetrators away from victims. If it is not written down as a reminder, it will be forgotten. Ms. Ashenbrenner said it is a good point, but the point is moved to crisis management and intervention, not taken away.

On the fourth point related to goal 7 (page 6 of the draft plan), Ms. Ashenbrenner said Rep. Fairclough suggested replacing "provide continuous improvement" with "implement and maintain best practices...".

Col. Holloway indicated he liked the change. Ms. Sarren and Mr. Svobodny were also fine with it, as was Chair House.

Ms. Ashenbrenner described the last point, saying she reviewed the CDVSA Task Force recommendations to make sure the strategic plan was addressing them all. The Task Force had a recommendation about improving coordination of services between state agencies, especially those represented on the Council, in order to improve services at the local level. Former Council member Bill Hogan had suggested doing some memorandums of agreement to be clear on how to coordinate services. Ms. Ashenbrenner said she was unsure under which goal and objective in the strategic plan to address coordination of services.

Col. Holloway suggested placing it under Council effectiveness. Ms. Ashenbrenner said

it could be 9E. Everyone agreed with that.

Col. Holloway said that under the definition of perpetrator accountability the first sentence makes it sound like the CDVSA holds them accountable through rehabilitative programs. He is all for rehabilitative programs, but there is also a corrective component to the accountability to punish them for what they did. He suggested saying "...through corrective and rehabilitative programs." It makes it clear that it is not just to make perpetrators better but that the state is not putting up with these kinds of actions.

Mr. Svobodny agreed, adding that not everyone outside the Council will understand that unless it is in there, so it should be spelled out clearly. Everyone agreed.

Referring to the introduction to the strategic plan, Chair House recalled that the Council was going to list other agencies that the CDVSA interacted with rather than just the Network on Domestic Violence & Sexual Assault. Chair House asked Ms. Ashenbrenner to add a list of the other partners (that are not already represented on the Council). She said the information would be helpful to people reading it who do not work in this field.

Mr. Svobodny said his only concern was in leaving an organization off the list or that in the future there might be new partners. He did not feel strongly about it but thought the strategic plan was not the place to list the CDVSA's partners.

To address that concern, Ms. Ashenbrenner suggested being generic about the list — i.e., saying tribal organizations, local law enforcement, community groups, etc.

Chair House and the others were fine with that solution.

COLONEL HOLLOWAY MOVED THAT THE COUNCIL ON DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AND SEXUAL ASSAULT MOVE FORWARD WITH THE CHANGES TO THE 2009-2019 STRATEGIC PLAN THAT WERE JUST WORKED ON AND TO FINALIZE THE PLAN. MR. SVOBODNY SECONDED.

The motion carried unanimously, 4-0.

FUTURE MEETING DATES

Ms. Ashenbrenner said the next Council meeting is Friday, March 6, 2009 in Juneau. The funding meeting will be May 4, 5 and 6, 2009 in Anchorage. The requests for proposal are ready for release no later than Monday, January 12.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Chair House raised the issue of a suicide problem in the northern part of Alaska. She wondered if Lauree Morton should visit the Maniilaq Family Crisis Center in Kotzebue to see if there is anything the CDVSA can do to assist in that area.

Ms. Ashenbrenner stated that Linda Hoven has been to Maniilaq twice in the last six months.

CDVSA associate coordinator Linda Hoven said she did not have any specific comment about the number of suicides. The area has a lot of problems in general, and suicide is a part of dysfunction and violence related to alcohol and drugs.

Col. Holloway indicated that he knew about every one of the suicides. There are some common themes, but most of the suicides are younger people who are involved in alcohol and substance abuse. He could not think of anything in particular that the Council could do for those specific cases, other than responding in general to do as much as possible to provide different support services. This support is not necessarily through CDVSA and State Troopers so much as it is through the Department of Health and Social Services and others that are working on a lot of those issues. But the problems can probably never be totally wiped out.

Ms. Ashenbrenner stated that the Suicide Prevention Council has done some studies about the correlation between child sexual assault and/or domestic violence in the home and individuals who later commit suicide. She is keeping a list of research she would like to see taking place to identify if there is a connection. If that research has not been done, it would be very informative. If there is a correlation, it makes a case for how important it is to have wellness and prevention initiatives funded. Five hundred and ten thousand dollars of the budget increment the CDVSA is requesting is for research data and prevention.

Ms. Sarren asked if there would be any follow-up if Rep. Fairclough did not agree with the final changes the Council made to the draft strategic plan today. Ms. Ashenbrenner replied that she sent Rep. Fairclough a copy of the draft plan as a courtesy at the same time she distributed it to everybody else. Rep. Fairclough just did not respond within that initial time frame for comments. She said she doubted the lawmaker would hold anything over the Council related to the strategic plan, although Rep. Fairclough is a member of the House Finance Committee, which is an important position.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no other business, the chair adjourned the meeting at 3:45 p.m.

Note: The summary minutes are extracted from staff's tape recording of the meeting and are prepared by an outside contractor. For in-depth discussion and presentation details, please refer to tapes of the meeting and staff reports on file at the CDVSA office.

Confidential Office Services
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