

**COUNCIL ON DOMESTIC VIOLENCE
AND SEXUAL ASSAULT
(CDVSA)**

**Quarterly Meeting
DEC Building, Room 108
Juneau, Alaska
February 26 – 27, 2014**

Committee Members Present

Susan Cushing – Chair
Richard Irwin – Vice Chair
Rachel Gernat
Kelly Howell
Patricia Owen
Barbara Henjum
Rick Svobodny
Ronald Taylor

Guests

Peggy Brown
Paul Sugar
Lisa Kinsel
Katie TePas
Andre Rosay

Staff

Lauree Morton – Executive Director
Freda Westman
Angela Wells
Linda Hoven

Minutes Prepared by: Sheila Garrant, Peninsula Reporting

Wednesday, February 26, 2014

CALL TO ORDER

ROLL CALL

Susan Cushing, the chair, called the meeting to order at 9:22 a.m., and roll call was taken.

AGENDA REVIEW

After a short discussion of scheduling conflicts during the meeting for Rachel Gernat, Kelly Howell, and Barbara Henjum, Rachel Gernat **MOVED** to approve the agenda with the potential absences noted, **SECONDED** by Kelly Howell. Hearing no objections, the motion **PASSED. (6/0)**

CONFLICTS OF INTEREST INQUIRY

Susan Cushing called for any conflicts of interest of Council members related to the agenda items. No conflicts of interest were reported.

CHAIR COMMENTS

Susan Cushing expressed her gratitude to Haven House for hosting the Council at the last meeting, and asked Council members to sign a thank-you card.

MINUTES REVIEW

After a discussion regarding corrections to the minutes, Richard Irwin **MOVED** to accept the November 21 – 22, 2013 meeting minutes as amended. The motion was **SECONDED** by Patricia Owen. Hearing no objections, the motion **PASSED. (6/0)**

Rachel Gernat commented that Ron Taylor had asked that Johnnie Wallace attend the next CDVSA meeting to speak more about the Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA). It was not on the agenda for this meeting, and she asked for a follow up on that.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT

Lauree Morton reported that Larry Johnson is their new office assistant, and they are now fully staffed. Lauree announced that Annie will be retiring in mid-March. Lauree expressed her gratitude for the great work Annie has done since she's been with their staff and stated that she will be missed.

Lauree Morton directed the Council members' attention to the Victim's Service Program and Batterer Intervention Program reports, which were included in the board packet, to view what the different programs have been doing since the last meeting. She highlighted the following items of the Victim's Service Programs:

- Most of the programs talk about their SARTS and training, and how they are working together in a multi-disciplinary effort, describing their successes and their challenges with that.
- AFS announced that the Mat-Su Regional Hospital opened their facility to do forensic exams, which will reduce the need of victims in the Mat-Su having to travel to Anchorage for exams.
- Cordova has been doing a lot of work with the villages and sending people to trainings to be able to participate in SART.
- AWAIC had 300 of their service evaluations returned, and they received good responses relating to their services.
- AWARE highlighted their rural outreach. They are working with the mayor of Haines to develop a domestic violence taskforce in Haines.
- AWIC in Barrow is having safe home provider webinars and teleconferences on a quarterly basis. Not many of the programs have safe homes in villages, so it is great to see that strengthening effort continue.
- Haven House highlighted their Girls on the Run's first event. They had over 100 participants and had a youth running club from an Old Believer Village that participated.

- SAVE in Sitka highlighted an increase in services:

	First Quarter	Second Quarter
• Shelter nights	656	1,001
• Crisis calls	59	112
• Residents in shelter	36	63

Lauree Morton noted that USAFV has already had more shelter nights in the first six months of FY14 than they did in the all of FY13.

Lauree Morton highlighted the following related to the Batterer Intervention Program:

- AWARE started a second group because of their volume.
- IAC keeps 26 slots for sliding fee scale participants and that wait list is full on an ongoing basis.
- AFS opened their program at Goose Creek.

Statistically, there were 270 people that came into a program last fiscal year, and this year there are less than half of that halfway through the year. This statistic is relevant to the regulations discussion relating to broadening the scope of batterer intervention programming, what can be done in the state that's counted as batterer intervention programming, and how, with this effort to expand that definition, they might be able to engage more people in that effort.

Rachel Gernat commented that she appreciated the form of the reports, but she noticed that AFS used the same report on their prison-based program and their community-based program, and she found that to be unacceptable for reporting. She noted that those programs do not have the same issues and successes.

Lauree Morton reported that the Alaska Institute of Justice, with their grant through the Office of Victims of Crime, is looking across the state at the numbers of crime victims and their ability to access legal representation. The survey has been developed and has gone out. They have received approximately 600 responses and are awaiting more responses in order to be statistically significant with the results. They are looking at language access and giving people the ability to be able to take the written survey in languages other than English. They have extended the survey time in order to facilitate a better response rate in order to get a picture of what the civil/legal representation for crime victims looks like in Alaska.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Lauree Morton stated that the Sunset Extension Bill is presently on the Senate floor. It was heard in Senate State Affairs and passed. It was heard in Senate Finance and passed. There were some questions about increases in the budget in Senate Finance, and most of those increases related to the work being done in prevention activities and through the initiatives. The Sunset Extension Bill in the House has been heard and moved from House State Affairs and is in House Finance ready for the Senate bill to come over. When the Senate bill is passed and goes over to the House, it is anticipated that it will be referred to House Finance, and it will have a hearing and hopefully pass. It

will then go to the House floor and be voted on, and if it is passed, it will go on its way to the Governor for his signature. Lauree noted that the auditor has made sure to mention at each hearing that they've recommended the full amount of time allowed for a council to be extended, which is eight years, and that's very different for the Council and speaks to the strength in confidence people have in the Council's ability to move forward.

With regards to the budget, they had a subcommittee hearing in the House. The House Finance Subcommittee hearing was shared with the VPSO program, and it went very well. CDVSA had their own hearing in the Senate Finance Subcommittee, and Lauree spoke not only to the intervention programs, but also focused on the prevention strategies. Lauree Morton stated that they did do a combined report to the House Finance Committee on the Governor's Choose Respect Initiative, going through the different elements of the initiative. Lauree noted that she believes there are a couple of members of the House Finance Committee who are concerned with the high rates of violence in the state in terms of sexual assault and sexual abuse of children, and that's why this collaborative effort is being made to try and reduce those numbers long term.

Lauree Morton stated that there is a minority bill in the House sponsored by Representative Tarr, and she is scheduled to meet with the Council members to talk about the bill. The bill essentially is requiring all school districts to provide education from K through 12 on sexual assault, sexual abuse training for teachers, and instruction for the children. In addition, there will also be staff from the Council's funded programs scheduled to attend the meeting to speak about the particular programming they do in schools.

Lauree Morton mentioned that there is a crime bill that was introduced last year that is moving through the process. Senate Bill 64 is an omnibus crime bill that has to do with changing penalties for certain crimes and procedural issues. Rick Svobodny reported that the bill started last year and had two major controversial issues, one that dealt with licensing, which was removed from the bill before the vote in the Senate Judiciary Committee; and then there were two amendments in the Senate Judiciary Committee relating to when juveniles are waived to adult court, which was removed with the idea that it be a separate bill, and one that dealt with procedural posturing. The bill essentially addressed a change in the threshold amounts for property crimes, child enticement situations, and sentencing issues. Peggy Brown noted that there was a victim advocate on the panel originally, and they were removed along with a public defender. They have since put a public defender person back on the panel, and they are hoping to get a victim advocate put back in when the bill reaches Senate Finance.

Rick Svobodny reported that Senate Bill 108, sponsored by Senator Dyson, has been introduced and has been described, but it hasn't had a hearing. This bill may be something the Council want to be aware of is because essentially the bill addresses removing cases from CourtView that are criminal cases where there's been complete dismissal of the case by the prosecuting authorities or there's been an acquittal at trial. Taylor Winston from the Office of Victim's Rights has written a strong letter in opposition to it, because she believes that CourtView is a valuable tool that people use to screen people. There has also been discussion about whether petitions for protective orders

would be added to this bill, but the sponsor of the bill indicates that those additions would be better made by court rules, not through statute.

PREVENTION SUMMIT VIDEO REVIEW

The Council members viewed the short video presentation that was created at the Prevention Summit Conference held December 3 – 5, 2013. They are gathering results from the surveys that were sent out to communities in Juneau after the summit to get feedback about how they are using the information, what they gained from the summit, and do they believe it would be helpful to have another summit next year.

FINANCIALS

Financial reports were included in the Council packets.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Susan Cushing commented that Green Dot launched in Homer with their first public presentation at the Rotary meeting that she attended last week. She noted that it was a fantastic presentation by three people, and a pin drop could have been heard in the room because of the mystery around Green Dot. The presentation was well received, with a number of attendee requesting trainings for a variety of venues. Susan mentioned that AUTI was in Homer also presenting a Girls on the Run training.

Richard Irwin reported that May 18th in Anchorage and then May 19th in Juneau a representative from the Faith Trust Institute will be in Alaska meeting with selected clergy and people from the faith community in Anchorage and Juneau for a time of conversation to address issues related to DVSA in the context of the faith community. The initial goal is that they begin with the training of strategic people and then expand the sphere of influence. Richard commented as a side note that there are significant conversations taking place around the faith community coming together to collaborate with OCS as it relates to training, parenting, adoption, foster care, and such to the extent that in Anchorage they will soon have a facility where the public is able to come and learn more about the whole process of coming and providing care and the OCS side of things.

Kelly Howell reported that Public Safety hosted a Child First Forensic Interview training session at the new crime lab that was wonderful. She noted within Public Safety there has been another change in their leadership. They currently have a new commissioner designee, Gary Folger, who has retired from the Alaska Wildlife troopers, who was asked by the Governor to return to the Department as the commissioner. His House confirmation is scheduled for tomorrow and the Senate confirmation is scheduled for next Tuesday. He admittedly reports that he has much to learn in terms of domestic violence and sexual assault awareness on the public safety side but is very eager to learn more about it and is committed to the cause.

Barbara Henjum, representing the Division of Behavioral Health, highlighted the ongoing training that continues to be provided with the funds that come to Behavioral Health with trauma-informed care. In the last 18 months, there have been more than

1,500 people trained across the state in the whole aspect of understanding trauma and the role of trauma-informed care.

Rachel Gernat commented that she met with a board member from their local shelter service program to talk about what kind of information they were given when they made the decision to leave the Network, and also discussed perhaps reconsidering returning to the Network to improve community involvement with regards to prevention. Rachel noted that she continues to be a part of the local Community Justice Coalition, which will meet once a month to discuss issues related to youth. She and a couple of her friends did their own One Billion Rising, vowing to get 30 people next year. She was also asked to sit on a Prevention Steering Committee run by Mat-Su Health Foundation, and the first meeting is scheduled for next week and will hopefully provide prevention efforts that other agencies are not providing.

Rachel Gernat stated that she was cc'ed on a communication from Patty Owen to the Mat-Su School District regarding the school district adopting the Fourth R, but the school district vote on health curriculum will not be discussed until the fall. Rachel noted that she met with Representative Tarr about "Erin's Bill," and Representative Tarr expressed that there may be some problems in the House with conservative-minded representatives as it relates to sex education in public schools. Rachel commented that she is interested in seeing if there is any interest in expanding Girls on the Run to women's groups. She had also asked for some guidance relating to when it is inappropriate/appropriate to represent herself as a public member of the CDVSA, and noted that she does not have CDVSA business cards.

Patty Owens reported that the Fourth R continues to do well, and she continues to see it being promoted as an evidence-based program nationally. Patty stated that regarding Coaching Boys into Men, she has been working with a group on scheduling the next training for April 22nd – 23rd, 2014 in Juneau. Patty noted that she and Lauree were interviewed by CNN's John Sutter who is doing an online documentary about domestic violence and sexual assault in Alaska. The focus of that was to balance the problem with the prevention efforts going on in the state. She also noted that ACES has brought a lot of programs together, and there were questions on the Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance Systems, and they will be seeing Alaska's data this summer. Patty commented that she believes the Department of Education is beginning to see the correlation between school improvement processes and dropout prevention and ACES and trauma-informed schools. Ann Rausch and Patty had a meeting with the education and outreach workers of the service agencies in terms of what they are doing in connection with their schools, and Patty and Ann are working towards not only learning what they are doing, but what are their needs in terms of curriculum, guidelines, training, and networking and collaboration.

Rick Svobodny referred to SB 64 noting that it has in a requirement that the Department of Corrections run a 24/7 program, which is a plan that allows release of people on bail from incarceration where they are involved in a program that requires two breath tests a day, seven days a week, and that will become a big project for Corrections if that part passes. The other part that may be of interest to the Council is less people in jail pending trial on DV cases, and it requires Corrections to do a risk assessment of the

person prior to release to the specialized program. Rick also spoke about PREA and dealing with the federal law that requires a certain percentage of grant money from the federal government be used for an audit to be done by a private entity and how those audits may cost sustainably more than the percentage of STOP funds. Corrections has made decisions about staffing that has put more correctional officers in the facilities, and so there are fewer people who can monitor these programs and supply answers, which is a concern because the compliance deadline is July 1st. He encouraged the Council to request an update at the next Council meeting regarding the audit.

HEAD START/PRESCHOOL/PARENTS AS TEACHERS

Paul Sugar, from the Department of Early Education Development (DEED), presented to the Council members regarding the programs their unit oversees; Head Start, the state pre-K grants, and also the state pre-elementary approval process, which they oversee as well. He noted that the Parents as Teachers grant funds flow through their unit. Their unit is also the Department's connectivity with Best Beginnings, the state's public/private early childhood initiative.

Paul Sugar stated that Head Start typically receives approximately \$7 million in state grant funding each year. He stated that Head Start is a federal program and the funding does not flow through the states. The funding goes directly to the local entity that's providing the services. It was purposely set up that way in 1965 because at that time they recognized that when it comes to supports for young children, it takes the community, so the funding going directly to the community level may improve the structures and the capabilities within the communities. Paul described 11 Head Start regional offices. Alaska belongs to Region 10 along with Washington, Oregon, and Idaho. Alaska has five grantees who receive their funding through the Region 10 office. Alaska has 11 grantees who receive funding through Region 11, which is the American Indian Alaska Native branch of Head Start, and they send funds directly to the tribal entities. Paul stated that the State then has competitive supplemental grants available to federally recognized Head Starts to help them ensure that they are meeting the match to maintain the federal funding and to make sure that they have funding that they can use for quality improvement, professional development, and to support serving additional children and families.

In terms of numbers, Alaska's Head Starts are presently serving 2,954 children at 102 sites, and those numbers are expected to rise. He stated that on average they are serving 50 percent of the eligible Head Start-aged children, 3, 4, and 5 year olds. He also mentioned the Head Start Collaboration Office Grant, which Alaska receives \$125,000 (\$117,000 during sequestration) for a staff person to work ensuring that Head Start is represented at the table whenever there are discussions around children and families in poverty and to help to guide and assist in any collaborative efforts at state, regional, or local levels.

Regarding Head Start expansion at the state level, the last two years of expansion that they had were the first year of Governor Parnell's administration, and there was \$600,000 of state monies added into the base for a total of \$1.2 million. At this point, it looks unlikely that the state budget will allow for expansion, but the beginning of the discussion regarding negotiations will begin this week. Federally, aside from the

restoration of the sequestered funds, Head Start is getting the opportunity to apply for a 1.9 percent COLA, and hopefully that will assist to restore staff and services. There will also be federal funding available to develop partnerships between early Head Start and childcare.

Paul Sugar gave an update on President Obama's Pre-K Initiative, which is not presently in the budget. This is a large amount of money that would be leveraged by states that are providing state pre-K programs and who have set standards that meet levels of approval by the federal government. The unique thing about it is that while it would flow through states, it opens the door to any providers who want to serve 4 year olds in a pre-K setting to eligibility.

Paul Sugar described the Pre-K structure as being set up along the similar lines of Head Start. Alaska is one of five states in the nation to meet all ten of the benchmarks for Pre-K programs set by the National Institute for Early Education Research (NIEER). The program in Alaska was developed as a partnership effort, because it was felt that school districts are a new entity to the preschool arena, and since there are private and faith-based high-quality childcare programs and also Head Start, the school districts would benefit from the assistance of the expertise and experience of those entities. After surveying both the school districts and the preschool entities, the question of how can they use the districts' entry into preschool to bring these groups together to leverage not only dollars, but knowledge and experience; what does it mean to bring new requirements of certified teachers into the system and to bring close to 50 years of community outreach, parent involvement, parent engagement, parent commitment together from both sides. This year they are in 23 sites working with 8 school districts. They have seen great successes and have been able to gather data to be used to further the programs.

Paul Sugar explained that the Parents as Teachers (PAT) program took a cut of over 30 percent, a 17 percent cut at the program level with the remainder absorbed at the Department level, which unfortunately meant that there is a deficit in data and data analysis of PAT. They have four grantees receiving the \$681,000 in grant funding for PAT, serving approximately 187 children in the first quarter and completing 511 home visits.

Paul Sugar reported that the funding that is provided to Best Beginnings is \$937,500, and is applied to two main purposes: Imagination Library and particular efforts, for instance providing PSAs around early childhood and programs relating to the engagement of families and children; and secondly there is funding that goes to help with infrastructure.

The state budget for these programs is status quo: \$7 million for Head Start; \$2 million for Pre-K; \$681,000 for PAT, and \$937,500 for Best Beginnings.

Paul Sugar finalized his presentation by stating that collaboration is a key in all of the programs and trying to find the best ways to improve communications between all of the stakeholder groups.

SERVICES TRAINING OFFICERS PROSECUTORS (STOP) COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

Kelly Howell gave a summary of the STOP Grant Planning Committee and the progress that the committee has made to date. She began with an overview of the grant explaining that the purpose of the planning committee was to develop the next three-year plan that would be submitted with the STOP grant application, which is due March 20th. The committee has a good representation of stakeholders with over 20 participants. They first met on Dec 19th via teleconference and had a second meeting face-to-face on January 24th. The focus at those meetings was the plan, priorities, and approaches for each of the purpose areas under the STOP grant, building on the goals from the previous plan and identifying the new statutory purpose areas. A draft Alaska STOP Three-Year Implementation Plan, Priorities, and Approaches was included in the board packet.

Lauree Morton reported that different partners who were involved in the development of the plan met and decided that their preference, and what is in the best interest of the state, was to continue the thrust of the previous plan, which has been training first responders. She highlighted areas of training by law enforcement, the Department of Law, prosecutors, state and municipal prosecutors, the court system, and Victim's Services.

The Council asked for some clarification on the timing of the submittal of the application and the timeliness of the disbursement of the grant funds. There were also some inquiries and discussion related to PREA's compliance issues not only statewide, but also nationwide.

Lauree Morton noted that there has been a change in the requirement that tribes be consulted in developing the STOP plan. Alaska is planning to have a teleconference with the supervising attorney to talk to them about the impracticality of that for Alaska and to talk some more about the different kinds of consortia they did have come together, which was the Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium; a representative from the Association of Village Council Presidents, which included the 56 communities of the Delta Region; a representative from the Yupik's Women's Coalition; and the Southeast Regional Health Corporation. They believe they have met the intention and spirit by having those stakeholders and will meet with the attorney to gain some clarification and guidance related to the changes.

Kelly Howell **MOVED** to accept the draft STOP Three-Year Implementation Plan and Priorities as included in the board packet and approved submission of the application, **SECONDED** by Rick Svobodny. Hearing no objections, the motion **PASSED. (7/0)**

PROGRAM OF THE QUARTER – MANILAQ FAMILY CRISIS CENTER

Jackie Hill, available via teleconference, introduced Lisa Kinsel, the supervisor of the Maniilaq Family Crisis Center, who showed a PowerPoint presentation highlighting the outreach and activities of the shelter. Lisa Kinsel reported that their staff includes three full-time advocates including one SART advocate, and three relief advocates. The Center serves Kotzebue and the surrounding villages. Lisa described the challenges of staffing the shelter at times. The problems come when there is no one in residence,

noting that keeping a staff person on call and available becomes challenging. Lisa related several stories of clients who have been supported through the Center's activities and have been successful in beginning to rebuild their lives. Lisa described the changes their agency is making after their evaluation to improve their services and receive the funding they need to provide quality services to more clients.

Lisa Kinsel reported that the Center has been working on building a relationship with Barrow AWIC to become partners and work towards a collaboration in outreach efforts. Other outreach efforts included a silent auction to benefit domestic violence, sexual abuse awareness outreach in November, attending a school carnival, working on the Choose Respect March, promoting PSA announcements about the shelter services, teen violence awareness and other programs, developed a Facebook page, supported a self-defense class, and building a partnership with local law enforcement. They have also been working with members of the community regarding Talk Now, Talk Often, interviewing parents about being able to talk to their teenagers about healthy relationships.

Jackie Hill reported meeting with Maniilaq's board of directors and an advisory board for MFCC was discussed. It was decided to have a line item on the standing agenda of the board's Tribal Services Committee (TSC) that specifically talks about the women's shelter. MFCC presents the same information to the TSC as they present to the Council. TSC also looks at strategic plans of the shelter and advises MFCC.

Lisa Kinsel reported that the last staff training they had was in December and it was for legal advocacy. The next training they will be looking for is the SART training for advocates. Since most SART training requires a team, it has been challenging to find training for advocates. Lisa noted that she is looking to reorganizing their policy and procedure manuals and will be looking to the Network for assistance on that.

Jackie Hill reported that their multi-disciplinary team meets once a month to review the SART program and Child Advocacy Center programs, and review new cases and follow up on clients. The team consists of the State Troopers, the DAs, the nurses, the therapists, the advocates, the local police, and OCS.

Council members had questions related to clarifying the Center staffing and frequency of residents, clarification on the advisory board makeup, the OVW outreach grant and other sources of income for the Center, and client transportation specifics and costs.

Council member Richard Irwin expressed the Council's appreciation to the Maniilaq Center's staff for the hard work and effort they have put in to make adjustments and addressing areas of concern to the Council.

BATTERER INTERVENTION PROGRAMMING

Mandy O'Neal Cole spoke to the Council members regarding the Batterer Intervention Program and the revisions of the batterer intervention regulations. She began with a history, overview, and evolution of the program. She stated that the most significant thing about the Batterers Intervention Program and why it's being talked about is it is a response to the evolving understanding of domestic violence, and it is the other side of

the equation, which is understanding batterers in order to change their behavior and how is that done. The major efforts for batterer intervention grew from the battered women's movement.

Mandy O'Neal Cole reviewed the evaluation of programs. The main objective is to determine what is working, and a better definition of "working" evolved, which has more to do with the Batterers Intervention Program being part of the community coordinated response. If having a Batterers Intervention Program makes the rest of the responses work better, the system is tighter. The goal is to define what "effective" means and not simply look at recidivism as a measure of effectiveness. In terms of regulatory review, it was important to define the goal of trying to have an individual not assault again and give them the opportunity to change their behavior in a humane, fair, dignified way while keeping the victim safe by offering them additional services. They also want to make sure that the program is supporting accountability and a decreasing tolerance for domestic violence at a community level. The collaborative effort involves law enforcement, court systems, prosecutors, and other stakeholders and making that part of their primary commitment as well, and working with the partners to ensure accountability for the behaviors and creating a system of accountability that is not just narrowly described by the Batterer Intervention Program.

Mandy O'Neal Cole encouraged Council members to keep in mind the five ideals that were key when the regulation revisions were being developed:

- BIPs are one community partner within a larger system of accountability for abusers.
- BIPs recognize that domestic violence is a choice, and abusers are solely responsible for their abuse.
- BIPs increase opportunities for victims and their children to access services and support and to plan for their safety.
- BIPs deliver education intended to promote behavioral changes in abusers that will increase victim safety and offender well-being, while recognizing the program cannot guarantee safety or nonviolent behavior.
- BIPs engage the community in order to decrease tolerance for domestic violence.

Mandy O'Neal Cole briefly described each of the current challenges the program is facing as follows:

- Debate between batterers intervention programs and anger management programs.
- Differentiating services according to who is most likely to benefit from the program.
- Redefine "effectiveness", moving away from recidivism and toward collaboration.
- Retain the integrity of the goals of BIP while allowing for new ideas and innovation.
- Rural delivery.
- Woman who use violence.

The Council members posed questions relating to client referrals, client behavioral and mental health issues, the use of assessment tools upon intake, and questions regarding the holistic approach to Batterer Intervention Programs and best practices.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

The Council members made the decision to go into executive session to discuss financial matters regarding Maniilaq Family Crisis Center that may have an impact of the organization.

RECESS

Thursday, February 27th, 2014

CALL TO ORDER

ROLL CALL

Susan Cushing called the meeting to order and a roll call was taken. Susan Cushing called for any changes to the agenda:

- Continue funding discussion regarding Maniilaq Family Crisis Center to the first item on the agenda.
- 10:00 a.m. - insert Prevention Strategies Evaluation presentation by Wendi Siebold, move Research and Evaluation presentation by Andre Rosay to 10:30 a.m.

PROGRAM OF THE QUARTER – MANIILAQ FAMILY CRISIS CENTER-Continued

Susan Cushing announced that the Council came out of executive session regarding the discussion of financial matters that may impact the organization with regard to Maniilaq Family Crisis Center. No action was taken during executive session.

Staff provided documents as requested from the prior day:

- The number of forensic exams conducted during this fiscal year, not including the AST numbers: 1 pediatric exam, 3 suspect exams, and 6 victim exams.
- The total amount the Maniilaq award would have been if they had been funded for a full year, \$345,454. They were given a payment of \$86,364 in August, \$115,151 in October. The remainder of the award would be \$144,000. A 15 percent match of their award would be \$51,818.

Patty Owen **MOVED** to uphold the Council's previous decision to fund Maniilaq Family Crisis Center through March 31st, 2014, and directed Lauree Morton and another Council member to request a meeting with the Maniilaq Board of Directors to discuss future funding. The motion was **SECONDED** by Ron Taylor.

Discussion:

- Patty Owen appreciated Lisa Kinsel's presentation and her efforts to get the Crisis Center on track.
Rachel Gernat asked at what point they will decide what to do with the remaining \$144,000.

A roll call vote was taken. The motion **PASSED. (6/0)**

BATTERER INTERVENTION PROGRAM REGULATIONS

The Council members were directed to the draft Batterer Intervention Regulations Revisions contained in the board packet. They reviewed the process the Regulations Committee followed, the stakeholders involved, the meetings conducted, the goals of the committees, the topics covered by the revised regulations, and the next steps of the draft regulations. The goal of this conversation is to have some discussion about whether or not this is the right direction, if it incorporates enough of the elements to be able to allow a broader array of batterer intervention programming into the state to maintain core principals and integrity of what programs would look like, and a way in which would allow, through regulation, some best standards where programs could look to and choose from a menu of items to complement their ideals. Lauree Morton noted that this draft is not an official regulation draft format or language, but it is the concepts and principles and organization that the stakeholder groups thought were important to have encapsulated into formal regulations.

Rick Svobodny commented on the best practices document that would be adopted, and the process that would need to be followed to change that document as changes of best practices are developed, in particular with regards to public comment. The Council members had a brief discussion regarding the document and recommended looking for specificity regarding that portion of the draft.

Ron Taylor commented that he approved of the process and was able to see what is being attempted by building in the flexibility. He noted that there will be changes in terms of this field in the next few years, and making the regulations broad enough so that programmatic changes can be accomplished under the regulations is key. Ron Taylor spoke to referral issues and the screening process for the programs.

Rachel Gernat agreed with Ron Taylor and expressed her experience with the BIP. She also referred to page 4, asking for items to be added to the intake, including criminal activity and civil issues.

Richard Irwin had questions relating to gender-specific programs and asked about adding a section with reference to women.

Lauree Morton expressed the next steps were to finish the definitions and essentially define gray areas, look at the comments from the Council members, and by the May meeting have something they can move forward with in a formal way. She encouraged Council members to continue to review the draft, and if they want to make further comment, to contact her with their concerns.

PREVENTION STRATEGIES EVALUATION

Wendi Siebold presented on the criteria used in evaluating the following programs: Fourth R, Green Dot, Coaching Boys into Men, Girls on the Run, Prevention Summit, and possible community efforts. The Council members viewed a Prezi presentation highlighting that prevention needs to be comprehensive and community-driven with the appropriate capacities in place. The presentation highlighted the following measures for prevention:

- Effective prevention is comprehensive.
- Intentional and showing impact.
- Specific risk and protective factors.
- Improving awareness about abusive behaviors.
- Increases in help seeking.

Risks factors that are common and measurable within the first year:

- Decreased acceptance of violence.
- Improve community sanctions against DV/SA.

Risks factors that are common and measureable within two years:

- Enhanced comprehensiveness of community-based programming.
- Two prevention programs are implemented that impact local risk and protective factors.

Long-term impact of programming in three to five years:

- Comprehensive.
- Community wide.
- Reduced rates of perpetration and victimization.

Wendi Siebold commented that she has seen over the years of working in Alaska how well people within state agencies are able to leverage resources and work in a complimentary way to one another.

RESEARCH AND EVALUATION

Dr. Andre Rosay presented to the Council an update on the Alaska Victimization Survey. The survey is funded by the CDVSA and is modeled after the National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey, and responses are limited to English speaking adult women. The statewide survey was done in 2010, and in 2011 through 2013, the surveys were taken regionally. Overall, 7,260 women were surveyed regarding lifetime and past year intimate partner violence and sexual violence. He noted that it is important to keep in mind the limitations of the survey in comparisons across the locations, and he noted that the estimates are conservative.

The survey showed the following information statewide:

- Adult women in Alaska who have experienced intimate partner violence in their lifetime: 117,685 (23,240 in the past year).
- Adult women in Alaska who have experienced sexual violence in their lifetime: 91,725 (10,631 in the past year).
- Adult women in Alaska who have experienced intimate partner violence and/or sexual violence in their lifetime: 144,881 (29,174 in the past year).

Dr. Andre Rosay stated that the next steps include a survey in the North Slope Borough, the Nome census area, and in the Aleutian's west census area. The IRB packet has been reviewed and approved by one of the two institutional review boards. The survey is slated to start in two to three weeks, and the results will be available in early October.

Marny Rivera gave a PowerPoint presentation relating to health correlates of female victimization using the ABS 2010 data. She gave a brief background and described other researchers in that area, and then how they approached the study and their findings, and policy recommendations to consider.

Marny identified some of the conditions and health problems researchers have found as significant associations with violence and victimization:

Symptoms:

- Sleep disorders Breathing disorders Anxiety
- Chronic pain Headaches Fatigue

General physical conditions:

- Cardiovascular problems
- Diabetes
- IBS
- Gynecological problems
- Asthma
- High blood pressure

General measures:

- Poor overall general health
- More sick days or increased use of medical care
- Difficulty accessing care

Mental health:

- Depression
- PTSD

Marny Rivera reviewed the odds of health issues reported given a lifetime of violence relative to not experiencing lifetime violence, and broke down the race to violence statistics. In summary, they found that the women who had reported victimization had increased odds of having poor health outcomes, and it was significantly more so for minority women, likely an extension of the impact of stress.

With regards to policy recommendations, Marny Rivera highlighted the following:

- Universal prevention and reduction of violence against women.
- Reducing stress and anxiety in known victims of violence.
- Screening by trained medical professionals to detect victimization of women and related physical and mental health problems.
- Interdisciplinary teams and comprehensive trauma-informed response to violence.

With regards to research recommendations, Marny Rivera highlighted the following:

- Gather data on indicators of stress, unique stressors for minorities, and consider other health measures.
- Study inter and intra-race/ethnic differences in violence and health outcomes.
- Quantify level and frequency of violence.

- Qualitative research.

Marny Rivera reminded the Council members about the NO MORE event that is scheduled for March 19th, 2014 in Anchorage at the UAA campus.

Brad Myrstol, an associate professor at the Justice Center and the director of the Alaska Justice Statistical Analysis Center, presented on the studies of the criminal justice response to domestic violence and sexual assault and ongoing research project activities. He highlighted a study they will be conducting titled: *An Innovative Response to an Intractable Problem: Using Village Public Safety Officer to Enhance the Criminal Justice Response to Violence Committed Against Indian Women in Alaska's Tribal Communities*. The study's objective is to build on and expand prior research that when VPSOs, TPOs, and VPOs are first responders in cases of sexual assault, the likelihood that cases will be accepted for prosecution significantly improves.

The study will focus on the effect of VPSO involvement incidents. The methodology will take place in two stages over the course of two years. The first phase is to study police case records for DV, SA, SAM, and DVH incidents that occurred in western Alaska from 2008 through 2011 and link that data to prosecution outcomes. The second phase will be to qualify the data collected. At the conclusion of the study, the data from both phases of the study will combine to provide a comprehensive examination and assessment of the impact Alaska's VPSO program is having on the criminal justice response to violence committed against Alaska Native women in Alaska's tribal communities. Brad noted that the study is funded by the National Institute of Justice, and he expressed his appreciation for their support to be able to execute the study.

Brad Myrstol gave a brief overview of the study that they are presently conducting, which is very similar to the VSPO study, but in a broader sense, collecting data for a statewide picture of the criminal justice response to domestic violence and sexual assault from 2008 through 2011.

PUBLIC COMMENT

The Council opened the floor for public comment from 11:30 to 11:40.

ANDVSA REPORT

Peggy Brown from the Alaska Network on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault distributed handouts to the Council members that included a letter of support for the Council Sunset Bill, a condensed version of a legislative watch list from their Legislative Committee, their annual report, and some interesting statistics from the National Network to End Domestic Violence.

Peggy Brown highlighted the following news:

- They have officially launched the Talk Now, Talk Often Alaska website. This is a campaign that talks about parenting engagement.
- Since mid-January, they had approximately 25 new applications for the pro bono legal services program.

- They launched an online training course on domestic violence and sexual assault that started in November/December, and they have gotten a lot of positive feedback, particularly in rural areas that are using it.
- They are participating in the planning of the Child Maltreatment Conference.
- They are working with the Full Lives Conference April 17th-18th, 2014 at the Sheraton Hotel in Anchorage.
- The Continuing Legal Education is scheduled for late March/early April where they are slated to have Chief Justice Dana Fabe and other national legal experts coming to talk about Internet safety and prosecuting cases involving e-mail, text, and electronic media and cybercrimes related to stalking and domestic and sexual violence.
- The web conference series called “Addressing Barriers to Health and Safety in Alaska” is completed, and it had more than 400 participants, 700 video views. 90 or more percent of the participants indicated that it had improved their understanding of health and safety issues around domestic violence and sexual assault.
- The Pathways update is completed, as well as the community snapshots, which have been provided to the Council members.

Peggy Brown reported that they have been very involved in the legislative session this year working on trying to keep the increments in the budget, specifically the victim’s services increment and the children exposed increment. Peggy Brown reported that the Empowering Choices Housing Program has support to put funding in the base, and she reported that 250 families received housing this past year through the voucher system.

Peggy Brown reported that some of the funds the Council receives through the Governor’s Initiative go to public awareness and media campaigns that they develop for the Council. The Alaska Men Choose Respect television spots aired about 3,226 times last year, and they were viewed online at YouTube more than 500 times by 30 communities across Alaska; 42 percent of which were returning visitors. They also built upon the existing Sexual Assault Awareness and Consent Campaigns, and those television spots aired over 3,500 times statewide from March through June, and they have distributed over 10,000 pieces of materials.

Peggy Brown reported that with regards to the legislative watch list, one of the things they are looking at is the Landlord Tenant Act, which is being heard this Friday. Through that act, they are hoping to get some confidentiality provisions for victims in place. She noted that some of the bills on the watch list are from last year, and they are just monitoring those bills for movement.

Peggy Brown stated that at the Governor’s Initiative presentation last week, Lauree Morton and John Skidmore did a fabulous job presenting. Unfortunately, the attorney general made some comments that ANDVSA viewed as harsh. The attorney general eluded to the term “vindictive victims recanting”, therefore the Network is going to write a letter to the attorney general essentially providing him with an education of why victims may recant, and also cc the committee chair of House Finance, the Council, and the Governor.

OFFICERS ELECTIONS

Susan Cushing opened the floor for nominations for the positions of chair and vice chair.

Rachel Gernat **NOMINATED** Richard Irwin for Council chair, **SECONDED** by Rick Svobodny. Hearing no other nominations, a roll call vote was taken. The decision was unanimous and **Richard Irwin was elected as chair. (7/0)**

Patty Owen **NOMINATED** Rachel Gernat for Council vice chair, **SECONDED** by Kelly Howell. Hearing no other nominations, a roll call vote was taken. The decision was unanimous and **Rachel Gernat was elected as vice chair. (7/0)**

DATES FOR FY 2015 MEETINGS

The next meeting of CDVSA is May 7th- 8th, 2014 in Valdez, Alaska.

- July 23rd – 24th, 2014 - Anchorage
- August 15th, 2014 (and possibly August 14th retreat) - Anchorage
- November 20th – 21st, 2014 – rural invitational
- March 17th – 18th, 2015 - Juneau
- May 13th – 14th, 2015 - invitational

Lauree Morton stated that the dates are chosen and sent out to programs to see if anyone would like to host the Council meeting in their region. At the May meeting, the Council reviews the regional invitations and chooses locations to have the meetings.

COUNCIL COMMENT WRAP UP

Susan Cushing expressed her appreciation to the Council members for being a part of the team. Five years ago when she came on the Council, it was not as high functioning as it is now. With the Governor's support, Katy TePas' support, and a great team of Council people, they looked at the statutory mandates and the mission statement and took on the legislative task force recommendations of 2005 that they needed to address, made an organized plan, and pulled together a very responsive and cohesive five years. She noted that one of the best things she was part of was hiring Lauree Morton as the executive director, because with her historical institutional memory and all the very strong yet unobtrusive work she did for the programs, it was obvious that she was going to carry the work forward. She also spoke on behalf of the shelter programs and how great it is that they do have public members, because they are the voice of the public and citizens of Alaska that come from communities, and they see all the difficult work that's being done. She expressed that she has nothing but good will towards all the people that she's worked with on the Council. She highlighted working with Melissa Stone who integrated behavioral health services into the shelter programs as well as trauma-informed care and helped the Council get their requirements organized for success.

Richard Irwin expressed his appreciation to Susan Cushing for her leadership and service to the Council.

Rachel Gernat made recommendations for future agenda items, which included an update on housing, sex offenders' treatment in jail, and pregnancy as a result of rape.

DASHBOARD

REPORTS TO LAW ENFORCEMENT

Kelly Howell reviewed the 2014 Dashboard information included in the board packet. She gave an overview of the reports to law enforcement, Nos. 16 – 20. She noted the following:

#16 – 8 percent translates to 583 victims.

#17 – Needs improvement.

#18 – An increase in reporting.

#19, #20 – New indicators based on a desire to get a picture of sexual assault and sexual abuse of minors in Alaska based on Alaska law.

OFFENDER ACCOUNTABILITY

John Skidmore addressed offender accountability as they relate to the Department of Law, Nos. 30 - 35, and they represent the time frame of 2008 through 2011. He highlighted the following:

#30 – It was an expected increase in reporting of that crime.

#31 – Trending in the right direction.

#32 – It was an expected increase in reporting of that crime.

#33 – Flexibility of aggressiveness of accepted cases.

#34 – Reflection of the inclusion of misdemeanor prosecutions in state and increased reporting.

#35 – Improved conviction rate.

Patty Owens recommended a footnote on the data that excludes regions.

REVIEW OF 2014 DOCUMENT

Bahiyih Parish noted that some of the numbers have changed because data extraction techniques have improved, but otherwise it is very much as expected with progress in some areas and not as much in others. Council members asked for clarification on the colored indicators on the Dashboard.

PUBLIC HEARING

Susan Cushing introduced Representative Tarr, who was in attendance to speak to a bill that she is introducing on K-12 training for schools and education for students in the curriculum. Representative Tarr expressed her appreciation to the Council for the dedicated work they do.

Representative Tarr stated that prevention efforts are where the most impact is made because the evidence shows a high number of repeat offenders and offenses. She gave an overview of House Bill 233, "Erin's Law", which supports prevention education. This law envisions requiring that child sexual abuse prevention curriculum be taught through the 53 public school districts in Alaska, and it approaches it in two ways. For the students, it's empowering students and giving them information to know when

something wrong is happening and giving them the language and confidence to speak out to an adult. For the school administrators and staff, it's how to recognize the signs and how to appropriately deal with events. The bill has received letters of support from the Network, the All Alaska Pediatric Partnership, and NEA and other education groups. She noted that the only push back they have experienced is that some parents would like to have an opt-out option, which is typical in this arena. She stated that she is looking for support from CDVSA regarding House Bill 233, either as a Council or as individuals.

Susan Cushing introduced Mike Lesmann, who is the special assistant to the Governor for the Department of Health and Human Services and welcomed him to the meeting.

Cheri Smith, the director of the Lee Shore Center, and Dawn Musgrove, the youth outreach advocate at the Lee Shore Center in Kenai reported on the history of the prevention education in the Kenai area. Cheri noted that in 2001 the Lee Shore director was asked by the Kenai Peninsula School District to be on the steering committee to look at revising the health curriculum to include the dating violence, domestic violence, sexual assault, sexual harassment, and healthy relationships and other interpersonal violence-related issues education piece. The school district approved the curriculum in 2002. Cheri noted that they average 148 presentations in school each year reaching about 3,000 students. Dawn Musgrove gave an overview of the curriculum she uses in school settings. She explained that the presentations last 45-50 minutes per classroom using multiple types of activities to get students involved.

STAR representative Jenna Unger joined the meeting telephonically and reported on the activities relating to prevention education in the Anchorage area, which reaches approximately 15,000 students in the school districts they are teaching in. At the elementary level, they provide child sexual abuse prevention specifically, but they do highlight healthy relationships and domestic violence as well. Jenna highlighted that when they present in the schools, prevention is has a three-fold focus: stopping abuse that's currently happening, equipping potential victims with skills they need to protect themselves, and ending the silence of abuse.

OTHER COUNCIL BUSINESS

Susan Cushing reported that there is a formal request from Representative Tarr to support HB 233 and gave time to the Council members to discuss their position on the bill. Patty Owen asked for clarification of the protocol related to supporting pending legislation. Lauree Morton noted that there aren't any statutory restrictions or guidance on that issue. The Council members discussed issues around public member and department member limitations on supporting legislation and also different scenarios that may arise for future legislation. Council members asked for a future agenda item to discuss this issue.

ADJOURNMENT

Susan Cushing passed the gavel to Richard Irwin. Richard Irwin adjourned the February 26th - 27th, 2014 meeting at 4:10 p.m.

Minutes Approved 5/7/14 – P.D. – Peninsula Reporting