

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

**Quarterly Meeting
Valdez Civic Center
110 Clifton Drive
Valdez, Alaska
May 7 – 8, 2014**

Committee Members Present

Richard Irwin – Chair
Rachel Gernat
Susan Cushing
Donna Erickson
Commissioner Folger
Patricia Owen
Freda Westman – telephonic
Rick Svobodny

Guests

Peggy Brown - telephonic
Sandra Berman - telephonic
Rowena Palomar
Ed Webster – telephonic
Patty Folger
Jackie Hill
Lisa Kinsel
Cheri Smith
Cathy Stone
Margaret Young
Kathy Perham-Hester

Staff

Laurie Morton – Executive Director
Angela Wells
Mary Beth Gagnon – telephonic
Freda Westman - telephonic

Minutes Prepared by: Sheila Garrant, Peninsula Reporting

Wednesday, May 7, 2014

CALL TO ORDER

ROLL CALL

Richard Irwin, the chair, called the meeting to order at 9:05 a.m., and roll call was taken.

AGENDA REVIEW

There were no issues brought forward regarding the agenda.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST INQUIRY

Richard Irwin called for any conflicts of interest of Council members present related to the agenda items. No conflicts of interest were reported.

CHAIR COMMENTS

Richard Irwin welcomed Commissioner Folger to the meeting. Richard asked for a moment of silence for personal reflection to think about troopers and families of the Department of Safety, about the impact that violence has on the residents of the state of Alaska, and to remember the motorcyclists who lost their lives and the communities that event affected.

Richard Irwin presented a letter to the Council members expressing his gratitude to be part of the CDVSA team and his desire to further the efforts of Susan Cushing, the former chair, to fulfill the CDVSA assignments that have been entrusted to the Council. He asked the Council members to submit answers to the five questions he posed in the letter related to their relationship to the CDVSA.

MINUTE REVIEW – FEBRUARY 26-27, 2014

After a discussion regarding corrections to the minutes, Rachel Gernat **MOVED** to accept the minutes as amended. Susan Cushing **SECONDED** the motion. Hearing no objection, the motion **PASSED. (6/0)**

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT

Lauree Morton submitted a written report, which could be found in the board packet. She reported with regards to staffing, they hired Mary Beth Gagnon as the new program coordinator. Linda Hoven retired May 30th, and they had advertised for that vacancy. Lauree reported the good news that their administrative officer position is coming back to the Council starting July 1st, and also Diane, who has been on family leave, is returning and will be housed in their office.

FINANCIALS

A financial report was included in the board packet. Lauree Morton reported that they are fairly close to target at the two-month point for expending funds. She explained that the first page is a general overview of the authorizations. The second page is the federal funding, and Lauree noted that they have applied for an extension for the federal FY12 Stop Violence Against Women Act. They have also asked for an extension for federal FY11, although it looks like that will be expended appropriately. Lauree reported that regarding the Grant to Encourage Arrest, they will be asking for a six-month

extension, which is usual for the first year of those grants. The grant is shared with the Alaska Network on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault (ANDVSA) and the Alaska Justice Project (AJP).

Lauree Morton noted that there would be a more in-depth discussion on the budget at the July quarterly meeting.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Lauree Morton reported that the Council was extended for eight years, which is the maximum extension period. There was a lot of support in the legislature as all 20 senators signed on as co-sponsors of the bill. After the Governor signs the legislation, Lauree Morton will provide a formal written report for the Council members regarding the legislation.

Lauree Morton reported that the Network and the Rasmussen Foundation worked diligently on an effort to secure funding for renovations and repairs for the shelter programs, which is a project that is going to go through the Alaska Community Foundation. They are looking forward to the programs being able to experience the ability to get repairs and updates, work on their security, and address other necessary operating needs.

Lauree Morton reported that there are communities that are ready to choose trainings to participate in. In Juneau, they had 50 people at the SART training, and there were 40 coaches at the Coaching Boys into Men (CBIM) training. There were also two faith-based trainings, one in Anchorage and one in Juneau.

Lauree Morton directed the Council members to the Victim's Services report and the Batterers Intervention Programs (BIP) report, which were included in the board packet. She highlighted the following:

- Advocates for Victims of Violence (AVV) in Valdez talked about needing statewide media training.
- Aiding Women in Abuse and Rape Emergencies (AWARE) in Juneau and Sitkans Against Family Violence (SAFV) in Sitka report an increase in the number of groups of girls who want to participate in the Girls on the Run program.
- The programs in Barrow and Fairbanks did Art as Healing projects.
- Kodiak Women's Resource & Crisis Center (KWRCC) has instituted day services as a way to manage the difficulty of finding housing.
- Safe and Fear Free Environment (SAFE) in Dillingham has a new director, Marilyn Casteel.
- Seaview Community Services (SCS) in Seward has supplied 34 nights of shelter, which is a significant increase, and they are also dealing with several teen suicides.

Lauree Morton highlighted the South Peninsula Haven House (SPHH) and Lee Shore Center (LSC) successes. She also highlighted the Unalaskans Against Sexual Assault

and Family Violence (USAFV) report and noted that they are a small program in Unalaska that did some mighty work this past quarter.

Lauree Morton called attention to the Batterer Intervention statistics on the programs that currently receive funding to provide an opportunity for participants to measure their interaction with programs and rate the program performance. The results of the survey could be found in the Victim's Service Outcome Measures and Behavioral Health Outcome Measures document in the board packet.

Rachel Gernat expressed her ongoing concern related to Alaska Family Services (AFS) reporting. Lauree Morton noted that AFS submitted the same report as before, and AFS was contacted and asked to revise their report, and they sent essentially the same information. Rachel Gernat commented that the AFS report contains no detail and, in essence, says nothing specific. Rachel recommended that it might be time for the Council to take AFS under serious review. Lauree Morton reminded the Council members that AFS is under a more watchful eye as they are a month-to-month reimbursement, but will note the recommendation. Rachel Gernat also asked for more information relating to Maniilaq's reporting.

Lauree Morton highlighted the Talk Now Talk Often materials, noting that they were the first in a series of materials that will be coming out. The materials will address the recommendations that came out of the focus groups that were held to gauge what would be helpful to parents when engaging in conversations with their children about domestic violence, sexual assault, and other difficult topics. Talk Now Talk Often launched a website where parents can download information on a variety of topics.

Lauree Morton highlighted the Green Dot's press release regarding the five pilot communities that launched their Green Dot efforts April 1st. The communities challenged each other to look at the number of women who had suffered intimate partner violence/sexual violence in the year prior and replace those red dots with green dots indicating acts of safety. The results were very positive.

<u>Area</u>	<u>Red Dot</u>	<u>Green Dot</u>
• Anchorage	9,070	14,312
• Homer	1,095	1,104
• Bethel	1,209	4,984
• Kenai	1,095	1,860
• Prince of Wales	300	4,822

In the prior year, over 12,000 women suffered these crimes, and in the month of April, those five communities gathered 27,082 green dots, which was an amazing effort.

Lauree Morton reported that the First Lady's Volunteer of the Year Award luncheon is being held in Juneau this year, and two people from their programs are being honored as volunteers of the year; Donene Amodo from the Village of Akhiok for her volunteer work with Green Dot, and Bellanira Deya Imdieke from Dillingham, who had served on

the board of directors of SAFE for 18 years. Patricia Owen recommended that Richard Irwin write a letter of congratulations to the winners.

VICTIM SERVICE REGULATIONS REVIEW

Lauree Morton directed the Council members to the Victim Service Regulations Review in the board packet. Lauree reported that they have periodically reviewed the regulations and acknowledged that they were written in the '80s and needed updating. The Governor executed Administrative Order 266, which requires all state departments and divisions to review regulations annually with a view toward making them more accessible to the public. The plan is to set up a committee of stakeholders, service providers, a Council member, and staff to review the current regulations this fiscal year, and have a draft ready for review by the Council at the November meeting.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORT

Richard Irwin read the Executive Committee report that was included in the board packet.

LETTERS OF INTEREST

Richard Irwin reported action taken by the Executive Committee to award one time project funds to current victim service providers. Approximately \$100.0 became available for expenditure from April - June 2014 when one of the programs lapsed funds. Eight programs responded to the Letter of Interest and after reviewing the proposals each of the projects were funded. Successful applicants were: AWAIC, AVV, AWARE, CFRC, SPHH, STAR, VFJ, and IAC.

NETWORK REPORT

Peggy Brown reported on highlights of the Network. She stated that she would e-mail a detailed report to the Council. She stated that it was a difficult, albeit successful legislative session. One of the successes is being called The Domestic Violence Deferred Maintenance Funding, which is capital funding, and the oversight committee is starting to form. Peggy reported that there was a pilot survey done in Sitka to look at the scope of the repairs, renovations, and deferred maintenance. She noted that using that pilot process would be helpful with the larger projects, which may start as soon as July.

Peggy Brown announced the unfortunate news that Brittany Luddington is leaving in May.

Peggy Brown reported that the Pro-Bono Program did its Continuing Legal Education training March 31st and April 1st. The focus of the training was on improving the understanding of how to best represent a client who has been a victim of domestic violence, sexual assault, or stalking. The training was geared towards technology and the abuses of technology. Peggy noted that 96 percent of the attendees rated the meeting as excellent.

Peggy Brown reported that they are planning a rigorous training schedule. In order to facilitate some of the training, they started a webinar series targeting both legal and outreach advocates. She noted that they are moving their university online course from quarterly to every other month. The course is designed to not only meet the Council's 40-hour requirement, but to also provide more in-depth information to advocates.

Peggy Brown reported that their Facebook page exploded in March. They now have 400 people who follow it regularly. She noted that the Choose Respect March and the release of the National Network to End Violence, which focuses on ending technology abuse, helped to draw people to their Facebook page.

Peggy Brown mentioned that the 12-month webinar series they are doing starting late summer would cover topics such as trauma-informed care, trafficking, advocacy beyond leaving, and safety planning. She noted that they sent approximately 30 people to the Full Lives Conference in April where advocates learned about promoting healthy relationships, cultural diversities, stress management, working with people with disabilities, and community inclusion strategies.

Peggy Brown reported that they had a Compass Training in Ketchikan in April, and there is a statewide Compass Training scheduled for May 20th – 22nd, 2014 in Anchorage for Compass pilot participants. The training will focus on male mentors and outdoor leaders participating in mentoring youth. Peggy reported that the Stand Up Speak Up activities include developing more printed materials and doing public service announcements. With regards to the Lead On program, they have an in-person planning meeting scheduled, and she noted that there has been good follow up with the youth working on their community projects.

Peggy Brown reported that the Fourth R evaluation had some preliminary findings and some very positive indicators for gender norms, bystander intentions, and help seeking. The data will be released in a full report at the end of summer. Peggy Brown indicated that they have identified contractors who will develop a story line for the Fourth R that follows the lives of a few students communicating via Facetime exploring the concepts that are imbedded in the Fourth R. A script and a screenplay will be developed and turned into videos for classroom application.

Peggy Brown expressed her appreciation to the Council board members and the Council staff for their support in moving as a coordinated, cohesive entity to address the issues in the state, and encouraged the Council members to celebrate their successes.

COMMENTS

Susan Cushing commented that she used the materials supplied by Haven House in a presentation she made to a class at the Homer Flex High School, and the Talk Now Talk Often cards were part of the materials she used to converse with the students. There were two of the comments from the students that impressed her, "We need to know about this when we are little kids, what to do when something is not good," and "There are kids who trick adults into getting into trouble."

Susan Cushing shared her experience with the Choose Respect March in Homer, and Donna Erikson shared her experience with the Choose Respect March in Palmer. Donna noted that the Palmer event had the biggest turnout in the history of the march in that area with approximately 400 people in attendance.

Rachel Gernat shared her experience with her visit to the Petersburg program. They did not do a march, but chose to focus on bullying and how to respect each other. They had a showing of the movie "Bully," which was used to begin a dialogue about choosing respect.

KIDS' CLUB/MOMS' EMPOWERMENT

Dr. Sandra Graham-Bermann, who is the developer of the Kids' Club/Moms' Empowerment program, presented an overview of the program that Alaska is looking at as an option to support moms and children who come into shelters. Dr. Graham-Bermann presented a hard copy of the webinar, which could be found in the board packet.

Dr. Graham-Bermann highlighted the history of the Kids' Club & Moms' Empowerment programs and the issues that the programs are designed to address, and gave a description of each program.

Dr. Graham-Bermann noted that there is evidence to demonstrate that these are programs that are based on research of children and families with violence. She explained that the children's program is set up in a group environment and is designed with action and activities so children are engaged. The programs are designed to reduce their anxiety, depression, and aggression.

Dr. Graham-Bermann noted that the Kids' Club program is about one hour, and the Moms' Empowerment program meets at the same time. The moms' program is set up in groups also so it creates a free-flowing environment. The moms' program is about helping moms, empowering them as women and as parents. By helping the mothers around parenting and their mental health and then connecting them to resources and to each other, they are able to further help their children.

Dr. Graham-Bermann noted that the programs are effective for the moms and the children, but when provided together, the effects are even greater for the children. Dr. Graham-Bermann answered questions from the Council regarding specific data in the board packet and wrapped up with an explanation of the evaluation piece.

The Council members had a discussion related to the presentation and the following questions were posed to Council staff:

- Q: Is it a Council decision of whether or not to accept the proposed program?
- A: A combination of the Governor's office and the Council. The staff is recommending that we go with this program for the first couple of years to try it out.
- Q: What other programs are available to compare to this program?

- A: There are not a lot of programs available.
- Q: Have you exhausted all of the known resources of available programs and this is the staff recommendation?
- A: Yes, there are other programs, but not specifically for use in shelters that have the evidence-based backing that this program has, and there are no other programs that allows advocates to carry the work forward.
- Q: Would updating the material for Alaska involve staff in conjunction with the program developers?
- A: There is a cadre of people who are skilled in adaptations for Alaska, and they would be called upon to work with the developer.
- Q: What is the availability of behavioral/mental, trauma-informed health services in conjunction with this program in communities?
- A: We would start with a pilot program of four communities that already have a connection between the program and the trauma-informed behavioral health piece, and paying particular attention to what supports are available is recommended.

Susan Cushing recommended the Council get a better look at the training and program materials and try to project the real cost of implementing the pilot program for the first year. Lauree Morton noted that it would be difficult to project real costs due to the variables, but a rough estimate could be done.

Richard Irwin recommended forming a committee to focus on a detailed look at the program and program materials, and to look at the feasibility of adapting the program for the implementation of a pilot project in Alaska. Richard recommended using an increment step for that goal. Patricia Owen commented that she would prefer not to hesitate too long since the program is an evidence-based project and she sees it as an opportunity to move forward to benefit exposed children.

Lauree Morton noted that there is \$250,000 in general funds that go in the CDVSA base to work with kids in shelters. She asked that if a committee is formed, that they would be able to meet before the July meeting and have a recommendation for the Council at the July meeting.

Richard Irwin finalized the discussion by asking the Council members to think about who would be part of the team to do the assessment and make a recommendation by the July meeting.

TOUR OF AVV

Richard Irwin expressed his appreciation for the tour of the shelter and stated that the Council members enjoyed the wonderful hospitality of the staff.

ADVOCATES FOR VICTIMS OF VIOLENCE

Rowena Palomar, from the Advocates for the Victims of Violence (AVV), gave a PowerPoint presentation of the history of AVV and their current activities. A Women's Resource Group was formed in 1979, and they organized an emergency safe home for

battered woman. In the spring of 1981, members separated the Woman's Resource Group to have a better place for battered women, and the Advocates for Victims of Violence was formed. In January of 1981, they applied for funds from the State of Alaska and committed to continue to do community education, to explore other funding resources, and to work closely with other service providers. In November of 1981, they began to receive state funds. They occupied the office next to the counseling center, and the shelter was housed in the Episcopal rectory. In 1983, they dedicated the shelter. In 1995, the board recognized that the shelter was too small to accommodate the women and looked for a bigger location, which is the current location. The current shelter officially opened in November of 1999. AVV is on their 33rd year of operation in Valdez. They provide services to other communities throughout Prince William Sound.

Rowena Palomar reported that AVV provides crisis management and intervention services for adults, children, and non-offending family members including emergency shelter, transportation to safe homes, safety planning, a crisis line, and advocacy with legal, medical, social, and law enforcement. They also provide accompaniment for victims during forensic and medical examination, information, and referrals to ensure the effective utilization of community resources. They provide individual and group counseling to offer emotional support and guidance to help cope with a given situation and determine future goals and actions. The shelter in Valdez partners with stakeholders in other communities, including the tribal organizations, and travels to outlying areas to provide resources and develop a network of support for victims and their families in those communities.

Rowena Palomar noted that they have two staff members who are bilingual, which is valuable in their advocacy work with women. Rowena stated that the reputation of AVV in the community has changed over the years from a "man-hater's club" to become one of the most respected resource agencies in town. AVV has a good working relationship with the Office of Children's Services, and they work together on child visitation appointments. AVV, OCS and the counseling center have shared clients, and they work as a team to achieve the goal of reunification based on the situation. Each agency has outlined their role to best help the clients. They also have a very good working relationship with Valdez Police Department (VPD). There is no formal SART team in Valdez. In a case of sexual assault, VPD will immediately inform AVV and request that an advocate accompany a victim from the time they do the investigation to the time they do the forensic examination in Anchorage.

Rowena Palomar summarized her presentation by outlining the outreach AVV does, the community inclusion piece, and the agency awareness events and activities.

PLAN FOR \$1.4 PREVENTION FUNDS

Lauree Morton directed the Council members to the document in the board packet under Prevention Funds. This funding had previously gone to the rural pilot projects, and they anticipate doing three things with the funds:

- Wind down current projects allowing for a six-month wind down. Evaluate current projects and develop a report to make available to the Council at the November meeting, to the Governor's office, and to the legislature next session.
- Advance community-based primary prevention efforts by developing RFPs for communities that are at a readiness stage and doing prevention work to help further their efforts. The potential grantees will be communities that have sent prevention teams to the prevention summit, and they would be required to demonstrate their readiness and capacity to carry forward the effort. There will be funds set aside to provide technical assistance and to contract with project evaluators.
- Fund ongoing prevention initiatives and integrate the state prevention plans. There will also be funds set aside for start-up funds for communities as they spread Coaching Boys into Men, Green Dot, and Girls on the Run statewide.

At this point, the Governor has not signed the FY15 budget, and they will be working with the Governor's office to get the \$1.4 million to their office in a timely manner so they can start on this work.

PRISON RAPE ELIMINATION ACT (PREA) UPDATE

Ed Webster briefly reported that PREA is a federally mandated reporting law regarding prison rape that purports that if you are aware or have received a report of prison rape, you must take action and you must help protect the victim. The Department of Corrections (DOC) keeps statistics on allegations and investigations.

Lauree Morton will contact Johnny Wallace and ask for a written update, and she will forward that to Council members.

SEX OFFENDER TREATMENT IN DOC FACILITIES

Ed Webster reported on the DOC activities related to the Sex Offender Treatment in DOC facilities. He stated that there are an overwhelming number of sex offenders in prison. In 2010, they opened the Lemon Creek Correctional Complex Sex Offender Program in Juneau, and that facility currently serves 24 maximum-level sex offenders in an 18 to 24-month therapeutic community that is housed in one mod, and there is one full-time mental health therapist that works with those offenders and one case manager. They hope to expand to another 24-unit mod, but that is contingent on locating a therapist. In May of 2013, they opened the Palmer Correctional Complex program, which serves 29 men in an outpatient program for medium/minimum offenders. There is also the Highland Mountain Correctional Complex Program, which is only open to female sex offenders. The capacity is 15, the most they have had is five, and they currently have two. That program is a 24-month program.

Each sex offender that is released submits a release plan to the institutional probation officer and the officer reviews it to see if it is an adequate and appropriate plan before they release the sex offender. There are also two Ph.D. level treatment providers that go to most of the facilities to do psychosexual in-depth treatment assessments on sex offenders. Those assessments are helpful upon release, because the treatment

provider and the probation officer can use them to provide a better treatment plan for release.

Ed Webster reported that their community program activities include seven contracted sex offender therapists in Anchorage that serve approximately 165 offenders per year in a 24-month, outpatient-based cognitive behavioral program. They also have one in Anchorage that offers treatment for men that suffer from major mental illness, mental disability, or FAS spectrum disorders. There is a wait list of 60 to 90 days for entry into the sex offender treatment program in Anchorage. The probation officers who supervise offenders are trained on how to be a sex offender probation officer, which is quite different from the generic caseload. They have one contracted sex offender therapist that travels to Palmer once a week and serves approximately 20 offenders a year. The wait list in Palmer is approximately 90 days. Fairbanks has one contracted sex offender therapist, and she serves approximately 15 offenders. The wait list in Fairbanks is approximately 60 days. Juneau has one part-time Mental Health Clinician III who works at the jail, and she does treatment in the community. She serves approximately 20 offenders. The waitlist in Juneau is over 90 days. The Bethel program has partnered with the Tundra Center, where they can hold 18 persons in the halfway house, and the treatment providers are one full-time DOC employee and one contracted person. The wait list for the Bethel program is in excess of 90 days.

Ed Webster reported that the prison program success rate at Lemon Creek is 75 percent. The community programs success rate is reported to average 55 percent. Ed noted that they have set up a database to follow people for up to five years from release to track recidivism.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no members from the public present for public comment.

The Council members had a discussion on sustaining prevention efforts and retaining funding for prevention. They also discussed the notion of meeting with legislators as Council members with talking points regarding issues of importance to CDVSA.

Lauree Morton gave a brief description of the Interagency Prevention Coordinating Committee meetings with prevention coordinators from the different categorical programs: Suicide prevention, mental health, behavioral health coordinators, adolescent health prevention coordinators, public health improvement coordinators, Dr. Linda Chamberlain and Lauree, and the Office of Children's Services. They are looking at state prevention plans to try to identify crossover in terms of strategies and risk factors, prevention strategies and building protective factors for reducing risk behaviors. They are working towards a white paper on what primary prevention strategy is and why it is important. They are looking at information on the economic and social costs of these problems, and they hope to come up with a consensus of points of priority in the prevention programs that all can benefit from with an emphasis on the adverse childhood experiences as one of the root causes of many of these things.

RECESS

The meeting recessed at 5:13 p.m.

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Minutes Prepared by: Sheila Garrant, Peninsula Reporting

Thursday, May 8th, 2014

CALL TO ORDER

ROLL CALL

Richard Irwin called the meeting to order at 9:08 a.m., and roll call was taken.

Council members returned the questionnaires from Richard, and the floor was opened for comments related to Wednesday’s meeting. Donna Erikson talked about being bothered by the lack of sex offender therapy and counseling in rural Alaska. Rachel Gernat recommended researching the possibility of contracting a roving therapist for rural sites, and Lauree Morton will pass the recommendation to Ron Taylor for consideration.

MEETING LOCATIONS

The Council members discussed the FY 2015 meeting locations document, which could be found in the board packet. The Council agreed on the following meeting schedule:

July 23 rd – 24 th , 2015	Anchorage (hosted by AWAIC)
August 15 th , 2015	Anchorage (hosted by VFJ)
November 20 th – 21 st , 2015	Sitka (hosted by SAFV)
February 18 th – 19 th , 2016	Juneau
May 13 th – 14 th , 2016	Cordova

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Rachel Gernat commented that she was asked to speak at a Sunrise Rotary Club event in Wasilla. AFS has been doing a four-part presentation on the trends of domestic violence and sexual assault in the Valley and they are looking to implement Green Dot in the Valley. Rachel spoke about the other programs, Coaching Boys into Men and Girls on the Run. Rachel commented that she was invited to be at the Rotary Club meeting on March 27th where the Governor will be present to talk about his Choose Respect campaign.

DASHBOARD INDICATORS

PREGNANCY RISK ASSESSMENT MONITORING SYSTEM (PRAMS)

Kathy Perham-Hester, from the Division of Public Health, gave a general overview and methodology of PRAMS. PRAMS is an ongoing population-based survey that currently runs in approximately 40 states, and has been ongoing in the state of Alaska since 1990. The survey includes mothers of newborns with specific criteria, which results in a survey of about one of six mothers who have delivered in Alaska. Included in the variety of survey questions is the question, “During your most recent pregnancy, did your husband or partner push, hit, slap, kick, choke, or physically hurt you in any way?” The data shown in the document in the board packet is data from 2009 to 2011. The progress indicated a 25 percent decrease, which translates to satisfactory progress.

CHILDHOOD UNDERSTANDING BEHAVIORS STUDY (CUBS)

Margaret Young, from the Division of Public Health, gave a general overview and methodology of CUBS. CUBS started in Alaska as an ongoing survey in 2008. CUBS is funded through the Title V Maternal Child Health Grant and is under Alaska control. CUBS follows up three years later with the mothers who responded to PRAMS, and they ask questions mostly about the child, but also some questions about the mother. Included in the variety of survey questions is the question, “Has your child ever

experienced seeing violence or physical abuse in person?” The data shown in the document in the board packet is data from 2009 through 2012. Although the data shows a decline in the previous two years, the violence exposure level is greater than what was reported in 2009; therefore, the progress indicates that improvement is needed.

There was a discussion related to Dashboard Indicator 12, women whose health provider talked to them about physical abuse. The progress has not changed significantly. Kathy Perham-Hester asked the Council how they use the Dashboard, and Lauree Morton explained history and methodology of the Dashboard and noted that the Council uses the Dashboard to monitor the indicators and track the effectiveness of the initiative over time. Susan Cushing commented that as a member of the Council, she looks at the Dashboard as a guide for what programs or sectors of DV/SA they need to focus on and/or search out programs that would positively affect some of the statistics or trends.

UPDATE ON EDUCATION

Patricia Owen began her report by stating that the Fourth R, the 7th – 9th grade curriculum, has had its three-year evaluation, and they are expecting some promising results to come out this summer on the evaluation. The weakness of the Fourth R is that it is just for secondary education students, and they have not identified a similar curriculum for elementary grade students. What has shown to be the best fit for elementary and preschool students is a social and emotional learning curriculum that teaches kids pro-social skills, respect, and character education. A committee has been formed to review social and emotional learning curriculums. There are 13 programs that have been reviewed at the national level and are listed as evidence-based. The committee is an interagency committee with the Network, the Council, Health and Social Services, and the Association of Alaska School Boards. There is the desire to review those 13 curriculums and narrow it down to a recommendation of one to three for Alaska. Currently, there is no funding for that, so they will be starting a white paper on why social and emotional learning is important and how it also improves academic achievement, and how it can provide protective factors for children who have already experienced the trauma of witnessed violence.

With regards to Erin’s Law, Patricia Owen reported that Representative Tarr introduced the bill in the House, and it went through the committee process. Senator McGuire introduced a companion bill in the Senate that passed unanimously, and it went back to the House and fell through the cracks. In preparation for reintroducing Erin’s Law, Patricia and Ann Rausch will begin to work on a document relating to personal safety guidelines for the school districts, and will prepare to work with victim agencies with training on policy at the local level. The other concerns they will address are related to mandating health education in Alaska school districts and other unintended consequences.

Patricia Owen stated that a comprehensive school health education curriculum is a K-12 curriculum with age-appropriate scope and sequence, and what they currently see in

Alaska is varying degrees of health education. Richard Irwin asked how that could be changed. Patricia responded that there is a model that could be promoted called “Whole School, Whole Community, Whole Child” for schools, and then try to link prevention programs, education programs, intervention programs with learning. The Department of Education is looking at two grant opportunities, one is a school climate transformation grant, which has an anti-bullying, social emotional learning, healthy relationships, safe and supportive environment focus, and the other one is for mental health services in the schools. Another strategy for children exposed to trauma is school-based health centers.

Lauree Morton recommended inviting the stakeholders of Erin’s Law to speak at the November Council meeting.

MANIILAQ FAMILY CRISIS CENTER

Lauree Morton updated the Council members on the status of Maniilaq Family Crisis Center (MFCC). At the February meeting, the Council requested that staff meet with the board chair and CEO of Maniilaq Family Crisis Center to talk about forward progress in being able to provide services to victims in the Kotzebue area. Richard and Lauree met with Guy Adams, the chair of MFCC, Barbara Janitscheck, the interim CEO, Jackie Hill, Linda Hoven, and Anthony Cravalho, the grants manager/planner in Juneau. Lauree noted that it was a very positive meeting with an acknowledgment of the concerns, and then brainstorming about how to move forward. Lauree asked for an outreach plan, which has been included in the board packet, and a description of the ways in which MFCC wants to move forward to increase the visibility of the crisis center. Lauree stated that the decision point for the Council is whether to fund the MCFF in FY15, and if so, how to structure the funding.

Jackie Hill reported that the Juneau meeting was productive and they came to a consensus about what they needed to be doing as a program. Jackie expressed that they are considering a name change, but she believes that it is more a matter of an increased outreach efforts in Kotzebue and in the villages to make people aware of the center. She referred Council members to the handout Outreach Work Plan for Maniilaq Family Crisis Center. She noted that the outreach staff position and some of the outreach activities are funded through a separate federal grant they receive. Lisa Kinsel reported that their focus in the outreach plan is the Kotzebue area. They have been gathering information for the posters, flyers, and doing PSAs on the radio. They are currently working on village visits and working with the school district. The school district would like MFCC to become more familiar with the Fourth R program the schools currently have in place before they do any presentations to the students. They have been ordering supplies for their informational tables to give away, such as bracelets, pencils, and cards. They have found that giveaways are a good tool to attract people to their informational presentations. Their last major outreach was in the Kotzebue school spring carnival, and they had an information table set up. She noted that they would be working on the outreach work plan and working on collaboration efforts with law enforcement, schools, and other agencies with common interests.

Richard Irwin asked for MFCC's perspective as to what their thoughts were on why there has not been interest shown or people coming to their center or requesting services. Lisa Kinsel explained that in Kotzebue, in events of violence, arrests are made immediately and victims are able to stay home. Most of their clients come from the villages where there is not law enforcement present to intervene. Some victims say that they have reported and nothing has happened, so they would rather just leave the home for a few days and then go back.

Rachel Gernat questioned the timeline of the goals asking if there was a specific timeline or a manner in which they will work through the goals. Lisa responded that the timeline is generally for the rest of the year because of staffing, and they will work on a specific timeline once they figure out staffing. Rachel asked for a description of a day in the life of an MFCC staff person, and Lisa replied that the mornings are spent checking the court calendar and often times appearing in court, and they take calls from clients who need help with protective orders, which sometimes involves going to meet with clients offsite. The outreach coordinator works on coordinating and scheduling village visits. They also have been putting together their outreach products, printing brochures, and making packets for community members. The night shift advocate has been working on the after-hours duties and helping with the outreach packets, and then the daily upkeep of the shelter.

Rachel Gernat asked for data related to how many people they are in court with and are helping with protective orders and SART calls. Lisa reported that in the month of April, they had approximately two court sessions a week, and they had no SART calls. They have had four crisis line calls, and one onsite informational visit to the shelter. Rachel questioned why there has not been a call to law enforcement agencies to set up a meeting. Jackie Hill responded that the Public Safety Commission's public service representative is trying to set up a meeting that consists of the VPSOs, village representatives, the state troopers, and the local KPV, and they are currently trying to coordinate a time for that meeting to happen. Council members continued to question the MFCC staff about their activities trying to assess the low numbers of clients when the need is so high in all of the other shelters. Jackie Hill responded that the outreach piece of their program is lacking, and that it is an area that they will be working on in the immediate future.

Richard Irwin assured the MFCC staff that they are keenly aware of the difficulty of the people that are being served, and they are looking for the best results for what they can do to make a difference for the people in the state of Alaska. The Council recognizes the difficult job they have before them, and the fact that MFCC is willing to step up and be involved is deeply appreciated. He also spoke about the realities of evaluation as part of their responsibilities, and they have to manage the funds from the State of Alaska and make best determinations for those utilizing those funds.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Rachel Gernat **MOVED** to go into executive session to discuss matters that affect the financial integrity of the organization, **SECONDED** by Patricia Owen. Hearing no objections, the motion **PASSED. (6/0)**

UPDATE ON HOUSING

Cathy Stone, the director of the Public Housing Division for Alaska Housing Finance Corporation, presented an update on the Empowering Choice Housing Program, which is a unique collaboration that they have with the CDVSA and the Alaska Network on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault (ANDVSA). She reported that the program is a tremendous success, and when they look at other high-risk, at-need populations with respect to housing, they think about collaborating in the same way they collaborate with this program.

Cathy Stone reported that they had a little bit of a slowdown at the end 2013 because of sequestration. The good news was that Congress got past the sequestration cuts and was able to fund the programs. The current utilization of the 254 units is at approximately 69 percent, because after sequestration it takes some time to get referrals, and finding housing, even with a voucher, can be difficult.

Cathy Stone reported that an interesting characteristic of the program is people still come in at extremely low incomes. In fact, 84 percent of people are at extremely low income, which is at or below 30 percent of the average median income in their community, with the average annual income being approximately \$13,800 per year. Cathy reported that 30 percent of the people come in with some wages, and the rest are coming in with no wages or have other income from either welfare, Social Security, or some other income.

Cathy Stone reported that the average monthly total tenant payment in the program is around \$332 per month, which is not too far off from the statewide voucher program. It is a little lower than the typical voucher program, which is \$395. The average family size is two persons. As part of a legislative request, they have begun to implement a survey that is basically tracking demographic data of new participants coming into the program focusing on how they were doing when they came in, and then how they were doing 1, 2, and 3 years in the program. This anonymous data will be helpful in analyzing the program and enhance pieces of the program that have gaps in either services or training.

The other good news is they requested \$2 million from the legislature to continue the programs, and they were awarded the full allotment. Council members asked the following questions:

Q: Will there be a point at which there will be a re-analysis of which communities have how many vouchers and possibly make changes?

A: It is anticipated that the program regions will be at 80 to 90 percent utilization in a few months. The lull in utilization is in direct response to the sequestration.

Q: Did Kotzebue receive vouchers?

A: No, there is not a program in Kotzebue

Q: Did you run into any situations where there are vouchers, but the issue is there is not housing available?

A: Yes, but not a large number of those cases.

Q: Does Barrow have a program?

A: No, because Alaska Housing does not have vouchers in Barrow.

Q: Does Nome have a program?

A: There are no vouchers in Nome, but there is public housing, so they have given the Empowerment Choice Housing program a preference in Nome.

EXECUTIVE SESSION, CONTINUED

Rachel Gernat **MOVED** to return to executive session to discuss issues that affect the financial well being of the institution, **SECONDED** by Patricia Owen.

Richard Owen reported that no action was taken in Executive Session regarding their relationship with Maniilaq regarding funds with Maniilaq Family Crisis Center.

Rachel Gernat **MOVED** for MFCC, Maniilaq Family Crisis Center, funding for FY15 as follows:

The funding in regards to MFCC is for FY15 first quarter funding only and will be on a monthly reimbursement basis. In regards to MFCC, we are continuing quarterly funding but only as a domestic violence, sexual assault resource center and crisis line, not as a shelter program. The Council will allow reimbursement up to \$1,250 for monies spent for emergency housing to ensure victims and their children's immediate safety. There must be a change of leadership or restructuring for optimal operation. The leadership must identify the community needs surrounding DV and sexual assault and implement methods to address the needs and serve these community members. The Council supports the MFCC name change. The Council requires MFCC to form an advisory committee with a minimum of three individuals, partnership agencies, or program participants, and to advise CDVSA staff of this committee and its members. Priority shall be given to members of the City of Kotzebue residents, since outreach funding for rural communities is being provided by other sources. Continued funding shall be contingent on all of the above conditions being met.

Susan Cushing **SECONDED** the motion. A roll call vote was taken and the motion **PASSED. (6/0)**

STRATEGIC PLAN REVIEW

Richard Irwin tabled the strategic plan review until next meeting.

FY15 VICTIM SERVICE PROVIDER GRANTS

Richard Irwin tabled the FY15 Victim Service Provider Grant discussion until next meeting.

JULY/AUGUST BUDGET MEETING PREPARATION

Richard Irwin tabled the July/August budget meeting preparation discussion until next meeting.

CLOSING COUNCIL COMMENTS

Richard Irwin tabled the Council closing comments.

Susan Cushing will send her closing remarks in an email to Council members. See attached addendum.

Rachel Gernat expressed her appreciation to Rowena Palomar and AVV, not just for hosting the meeting, but also for what they continue to do for Valdez and the surrounding area.

Lauree Morton informed the Council members that there is a possibility that an RSA that they entered into with the Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Behavioral Health in the amount of \$367,200 may not be available for FY2015. Lauree recommended proceeding as if they will receive the funding and prepare to make the FY15 grant awards at the FY14 amounts. If they are notified that the funding will not be available then a special meeting will need to be called before June 30th to decide how the Council would like to handle that decrease in funding to victim service providers.

ADJOURN

Richard Irwin thanked the Council members for their contributions and adjourned the May 7th – 8th, 2014 meeting at 4:27 p.m.

Minutes Approved: November 20, 2014 – P.D.

ADDENDUM

Dear Council:

Due to other business at our last meeting, we tabled several issues including final Council Comments. For the record, I would like to mention a couple of things that will be written into the Minutes:

1. I am grateful to be on this team and as prevention programs continue to gain momentum, hope that the Council continues to be assertive. Public awareness is reaching its saturation point around the State: shelter programs are experiencing high demand and political analysis is occurring in the media. As well, Alaska is getting a great deal of national coverage of our DVSA statistics, programs, etc. As a Council, we need to understand the media impact and our response to "hot topic" issues related to DVSA.

What is the Council's response to certain "hot topic" issues, of which we will be queried, either individually or as a Council? When should the Council respond officially? There are many DVSA cases that appear in the media, but some are more critical and reflect our strength as a Council.

Could there be a screening by staff of hot DVSA issues that reflect the Council's position and reputation for the job we are doing? And we are given a "heads up" or briefing, perhaps in Lauree's Weekly Report to Council?

For example, the Alaska Guard sexual abuse issue is heating up. After seeing the movie, *The Invisible War*, over a year ago, the Council has had two presenters from that sector to shed light on the issue. However, this issue is reaching the tipping point and perhaps the Council should address it and state our stance?

Another example is the series of articles by Sutter regarding DVSA in Alaska. My son sent me the link. Otherwise, I wouldn't have known about it. I do follow the news. Perhaps the Council could be given a heads up on such extensive articles as they hit the street?

Another example is the case in Homer of the assault of a young man allegedly by two football stars, and was recorded by bystanders with cell phones. In March, an author from the *New York Times* was in Homer for ten days writing a story on a community's response to this kind of violence. At the CLE, I was asked by retired Judge Niesje Steinkruger to send her the link. When this article is published (if it hasn't been already), perhaps the Council could be given heads up on it. I will check with Haven House to see if they know when it will be published.

My final comment is to bid a fond farewell to Linda Hoven, who has been dedicated to victim safety and recovery, has given assurance and support to programs that help them to be sustained, and has a kind heart. I wish her well in her retirement, and may her garden flourish.

Thank you,

Susan Cushing

Public Member

INDEX OF ACRONYMS

AAVP	Anchorage Alliance for Violence Prevention
AFS	Alaska Family Services – Palmer
AJP	Alaska Justice Project
ANDVSA	Alaska Network on Domestic Violence & Sexual Assault
AST	Alaska State Troopers
AVV	Advocates for Victims of Violence - Valdez
AWAIC	Abused Women's Aid in Crisis - Anchorage
AWARE	Aiding Women in Abuse and Rape Emergencies - Juneau
AWIC	Arctic Women in Crisis - Barrow
BIP	Batterer Intervention Program
BSWG	Bering Sea Women's Group - Nome
CBIM	Coaching Boys Into Men
CDVSA	Council on Domestic Violence & Sexual Assault
CFRC	Cordova Family Resource Center - Cordova
CUBS	Childhood Understanding Behaviors Study
DBH	Division of Behavioral Health
DHSS	Department of Health & Human Services
DOC	Department of Corrections
GOTR	Girls on the Run
IAC	Interior Alaska Center for Non-Violent Living - Fairbanks
KWRCC	Kodiak Women's Resource & Crisis Center - Kodiak
LSC	Lee Shore Center – Kenai
MFCC	Maniilaq Family Crisis Center - Kotzebue
OCS	Office of Children's Services
PRAMS	Pregnancy Risk Assessment Monitoring System
PREA	Prison Rape Elimination Act
SAFE	Safe and Fear Free Environment - Dillingham
SAFV	Sitkans Against Family Violence - Sitka
SART	Sexual Assault Response Training
SCS	Seaview Community Services - Seward
SPHH	South Peninsula Haven House - Homer
STAR	Standing Together Against Rape - Anchorage
TWC	Tundra Women's Coalition - Bethel
USAFV	Unalaskans Against Sexual Assault and Family Violence - Unalaska
VCCB	Violent Crimes Compensation Board
VJF	Victims for Justice – Anchorage
WISH	Women in Safe Homes - Ketchikan