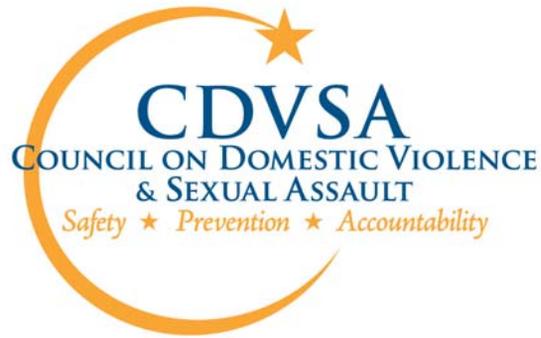


**STATE OF ALASKA
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY**



FY2009-2019 STRATEGIC PLAN



Joseph A. Masters, Commissioner
Department of Public Safety

Ann House, Chair
Council on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault

*Cover picture is a healthy community mural created by Dillingham youth courtesy of
Safe and Fear Free Environment.*



State of Alaska
Department of Public Safety
Council on Domestic Violence & Sexual Assault

Sarah Palin, Governor
Joseph A. Masters, Commissioner

February 5, 2009

Dear Alaskan:

The Council on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault is in its twenty-seventh year of providing domestic violence and sexual assault safety, prevention and accountability services to Alaska. In order to strengthen our capacity to achieve the Council's vision of a Violence Free Alaska, we have crafted a 10-year Strategic Plan. It is our intention that these goals and objectives chart a course for statewide action aimed at eliminating domestic and sexual violence.

Alaska has significant challenges with exceedingly high rates of interpersonal violence. We have the shameful distinction of the highest rates of reported sexual assault in the country. Our rates are 2.5 times the national average with Native women victimized at much higher rates. These are just the reported assaults. National data suggests only 1 in 10 is ever reported. In a 2006 survey, 75% of Alaskans said they have experienced or know someone who has experienced domestic violence or sexual assault. Clearly, we have much work to do to reduce the rates and attain our vision.

In 2008, the Council on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault (CDVSA) Legislative Task Force acknowledged the extent of the problem and the threat it poses to so many Alaskans. Their overarching recommendation to the Council was to develop and implement a strategic plan. The Council wholeheartedly agreed and began the process of developing this plan.

Guided by our vision of an Alaska free from domestic and sexual violence and our mission to provide safety through a system of statewide crisis intervention, perpetrator accountability and prevention services, the plan is built around three program areas: Prevention, Crisis Management and Intervention, and Perpetrator Accountability. A fourth strategic area, Council Effectiveness, is added to ensure solid agency operations. The Council has goals and objectives for each area. We also have a separate action plan to guide Council staff and our partners in accomplishing these objectives. The action plan gives us the tools to keep us on target by monitoring our progress and measuring our performance.

Domestic and sexual violence impacts all of us – victims, children, families, employers, neighbors, abusers, clergy, teachers, and friends. It is going to take a coordinated community response across Alaska to stop it. This plan aims to incorporate best practices for addressing domestic violence and sexual assault and brings our partners to the table in the effort.

We look forward to working with legislators, community and tribal organizations, law enforcement, prosecutors, court personnel, community leaders and Alaskans from all walks of life to focus on prevention of these crimes so that Alaskans will no longer suffer these senseless acts of violence.

Sincerely,

The Council on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault

Ann House, Public Member, Chair
Rick Svobodny, Department of Law, Vice-Chair
Stephanie McFadden, Public Member
Yvonne Sarren, Public Member
Col. Audie Holloway, Department of Public Safety
Beverly Wooley, Department of Health and Social Services
Cynthia Curran, Department of Education and Early Development

"Public Safety through Public Service"

Council on Domestic Violence & Sexual Assault
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PURPOSE



The purpose of the Alaska Council on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault (Council or CDVSA) defined in Alaska Statute 18.66.010.

“There is established in the Department of Public Safety the Council on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault. The purpose of the council is to provide for planning and coordination of services to victims of domestic violence or sexual assault or to their families, and to perpetrators of domestic violence and sexual assault, and to provide for crisis intervention and prevention programs.”

VISION

This is what drives the Council’s work and inspires its service.

Alaska, free from domestic and sexual violence.

MISSION STATEMENT

The Council’s Mission Statement defines its job and is realistic and measurable.

The Council provides safety for Alaskans victimized or impacted by domestic violence and sexual assault through a system of statewide crisis intervention, perpetrator accountability and prevention services.

INTRODUCTION - CDVSA 2009-2019 STRATEGIC PLAN

In January 2009 the Alaska Council on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault adopted this ten year Strategic Plan.

This Strategic Plan values and respects the ongoing work and accomplishments of the Council's many partners and recognizes the need for continued collaboration. Our hope is that the Strategic Plan will be a tool that all who are engaged in addressing domestic violence and sexual assault in Alaska use to align missions, point to common goals, and reinforce one another's work.

The Council acknowledges and highly values the work of its partners that is already underway to accomplish some of this plan's goals and objectives. The Council's statutory mandates cannot be accomplished without the collaboration of many partners, including faith communities, Native organizations and tribes, and health care providers. Neither the Council nor any other single organization "leads" this work or is the single "inspiration" for this hard work. Rather, we must work together and depend on each other to achieve a violence free Alaska.

The Council depends on good coordination and communication. To be effective this must be a statewide effort that reaches all communities and people. The State representatives on the Council* must continue to be two-way conduits of information between the Council and their agencies. Likewise, each public member on the Council must communicate the Council's plans, goals and actions to their communities and organizations. We hope that establishing the 2009-2019 Strategic Plan and corresponding two-year Action Plans strengthens all communication and relationships.

To address the issues of domestic violence and sexual assault in Alaska, this Strategic Plan establishes three program areas for the Council to achieve our vision of a violence free Alaska:

- Prevention
- Crisis Management and Intervention
- Perpetrator Accountability.

The Council, in collaboration with its partners, has identified six goals in these program areas. A fourth strategic area, Council Effectiveness, has three additional goals.

Objectives are also established for each goal. The objectives are more concrete statements that describe how the goals will be achieved. Over the ten year course of this Plan, it is expected that some objectives will be accomplished or will no longer be relevant. New objectives will emerge as the Council and staff stay current with domestic violence and sexual assault research, practices and needs and adjust to the changing needs of new realities.

A Fiscal Year 2009-2010 Action Plan is also available that lists specific actions, linked to priority objectives the Council is working to accomplish.



* State agencies represented on the Council include the Departments of Law, Education, Health and Social Services, and Public Safety.

PREVENTION

What is Prevention? Prevention of interpersonal violence is defined as a systematic process that promotes healthy environments and behaviors and reduces the likelihood or frequency of violence. Prevention activities can focus on stopping violence before it occurs (primary prevention) or to keep violence from reoccurring. Prevention works to modify or entirely eliminate events, conditions, or exposure to risk factors that result in violence. It is critical to recognize a tension inherent in prevention funding. Successful prevention is cost effective in the long term, but it can be difficult to dedicate funds for a long term outcome when the short term needs are so acute and literally affect life and safety.

Goal 1. Coordinate domestic violence and sexual assault prevention efforts in Alaska.

Objective 1A - Promote education and programs to prevent future incidents of domestic violence and sexual assault.

Objective 1B – Identify and adopt evidence-based measures to ensure effective prevention programming.

Objective 1C - Increase community awareness of the need for prevention activities.



Bethel residents march for peace at home.

Objective 1D – Work to shape public policy and attitudes to reduce tolerance for interpersonal violence.

Goal 2. Obtain funding dedicated to prevention programs.

Objective 2A - Develop a plan for prevention programming.

Objective 2B - Determine scope and cost of viable, measurable projects.

CRISIS MANAGEMENT AND INTERVENTION

What is Crisis Management? Crisis management is the immediate response to domestic violence and sexual assault. It may be a response to a threat of violence or an immediate response after the violence has occurred to deal with the consequences in the short-term.

What is Intervention? Intervention is the long-term response after violence has occurred, following the immediate crisis management response. Intervention deals with the lasting consequences of violence.

Goal 3. Provide immediate, appropriate crisis response, intervention and shelter.

Objective 3A - Obtain a realistic picture of the operational costs of domestic violence/sexual assault programs.

Objective 3B - Seek adequate funding for victim service programs to ensure safety and services are available for all in need.

Objective 3C - Increase the knowledge and skills of Alaska's first responders (law enforcement, medical providers, child welfare, etc.)

Objective 3D - Ensure immediate law enforcement response.

Objective 3E - Enhance the ability of the justice system to keep perpetrators away from victims.

Objective 3F - Ensure funded programs' compliance with CDVSA regulations and grant conditions.

Objective 3G - Increase access to resources for victims of domestic violence and sexual assault who are moving through the civil and criminal justice systems.

“Though I may say it often, this is one official “thank you” for being a very amazing group of people I could not formerly imagine existed in such a setting as this especially. Thank You for restoring much of the hope & faith I often times now have. Thank You for helping me imagine strength & safety could be built by these tattered hands of mine.”

- thank you letter written to staff of an Alaska shelter

Goal 4. Build public awareness and support for crisis management and intervention services.

Objective 4A - Enhance understanding of the scope of domestic violence and sexual assault in Alaska.

Goal 5. Develop crisis management options that allow victims, if they choose to do so, to stay safely in their homes while perpetrators are removed.

Objective 5A - Analyze the conditions and factors required to create successful programs that allow victims to stay safely in the home and remove the perpetrator.



Crisis management and intervention services in Alaska are provided locally by community-based shelter and non-residential domestic violence and sexual assault programs with the support of grants provided by the Council.

The shelter pictured above is the Tundra Women’s Coalition located in Bethel.

PERPETRATOR ACCOUNTABILITY

What is Perpetrator Accountability? Within the context of the Council on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault programs, accountability is defined as holding perpetrators accountable for their actions through corrective and rehabilitative programs. Accountability includes all components of the criminal justice system holding perpetrators of domestic or sexual violence responsible.

Goal 6. Perpetrators will be held accountable for their actions.

Objective 6A - Determine effectiveness of batterer intervention programs.

Objective 6B - Ensure perpetrator accountability programs are available.



Men fly messages of love, support, and respect about their partners, daughters, mothers. This project is supported by Alaska Family Services (Palmer) and the Sunshine Clinic (Talkeetna)..

COUNCIL EFFECTIVENESS

Why review Council effectiveness? All agencies and organizations must periodically review internal needs, resources, capacity and processes to ensure operations are efficient, equitable and effective.

Goal 7. Implement and maintain best practices in the operation of programs providing domestic violence and sexual assault services.

Objective 7A - Identify core services of and standards for domestic violence and sexual assault programs.

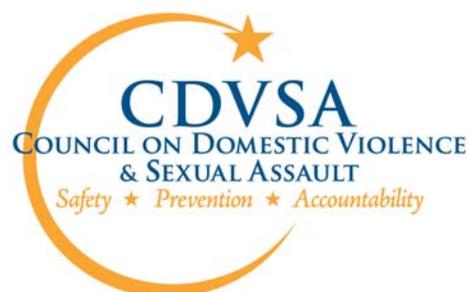
Objective 7B - Assess the effectiveness of domestic violence and sexual assault services.

Goal 8. Define and describe the scope and impact of domestic violence and sexual assault in Alaska.

Objective 8A - Obtain consistent and complete data on domestic violence and sexual assault incidents in Alaska.

Objective 8B – Coordinate with others to compile all relevant existing data on domestic violence and sexual assault

Objective 8C - Support and encourage independent academic research on domestic violence and sexual assault in Alaska.



COUNCIL EFFECTIVENESS - continued

Goal 9. Ensure effective Council administration.

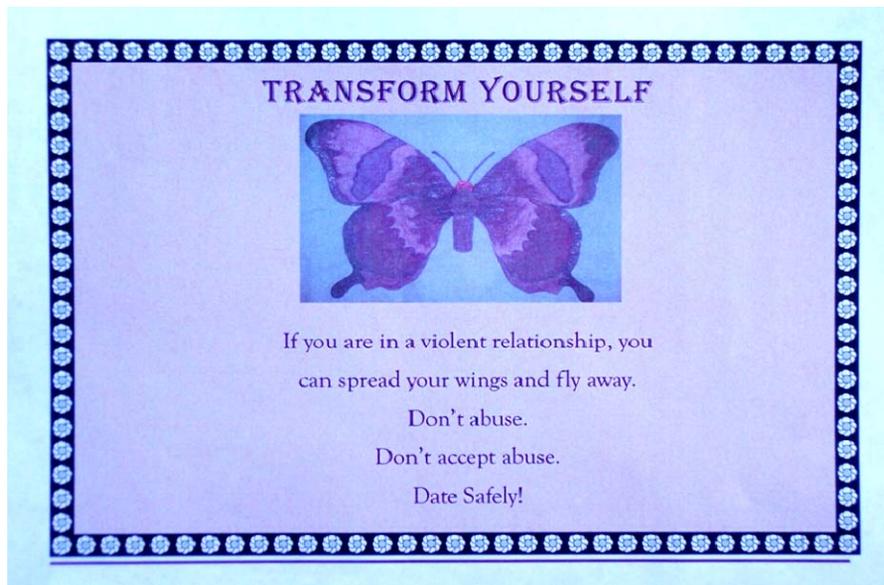
Objective 9A - Council members and staff are knowledgeable and understand current domestic violence and sexual assault issues.

Objective 9B - Distribute funds and grants in an efficient and equitable manner.

Objective 9C - Ensure Council has staff resources and capacity to work effectively.

Objective 9D - Maintain compliance with federal grant requirements.

Objective 9E - Develop Memoranda of Understanding to improve coordination of services between state agencies.



Picture created by program participants at Arctic Women in Crisis, Barrow.