

**STATE OF ALASKA
COUNCIL ON DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AND SEXUAL ASSAULT**

**MINUTES OF SECOND QUARTER FY09 MEETING
December 11, 2008**

**Department of Health and Social Services
Frontier Building, 3601 C Street, Suite 896
Anchorage, Alaska**

CALL TO ORDER & ROLL CALL

Chair Ann House called the Council on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault meeting to order at 8:35 a.m. on Thursday, December 11, 2008. Five Council members were present at roll call to form a quorum; Stephanie McFadden joined the meeting at 10:00 a.m.

Council members present: **Ann House** (chair), public member; **Colonel Audie Holloway** (Department of Public Safety, AST); **Yvonne Sarren** (public member); **Beverly Wooley** (Department of Health & Social Services), **Cynthia Curran** (Department of Education and Early Development) by teleconference, and **Stephanie McFadden** (public member)

Council member absent: Richard Svobodny (Department of Law)

Council staff present: **Jo Griggs**, Administrative Officer; **Lauree Morton**, Program Specialist; **Ella Nierra**, Administrative Assistant

Others present (in person or by telephone): **Peggy Brown**, Alaska Network on Domestic Violence & Sexual Assault; **Michelle DeWitt**, Tundra Women's Coalition (Bethel); **Ginger Baim**, Safe and Fear-Free Environment (Dillingham); **Lynn Crane**, Unalaskans Against Sexual Assault & Family Violence (Unalaska); **Cheri Smith**, The LeeShore Center (Kenai); **Nancy Haag**, Standing Together Against Rape (Anchorage); **Katie TePas**, Department of Public Safety - AST; **Susan McLean**, Department of Law

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

COLONEL HOLLOWAY MOVED THAT THE MEETING BE CLOSED FOLLOWING PRESENTATION OF THE FINANCIAL REPORT SO THE COUNCIL COULD MEET IN A WORK SESSION TO DISCUSS STRATEGIC PLANNING. YVONNE SARREN SECONDED. The motion passed without objection.

INTRODUCTION AND WELCOME TO NEW MEMBER

Chair Ann House welcomed Cynthia Curran as the newest member of the CDVSA Council. Ms.

Curran is the Director of the Division of Teaching and Learning Support in the Alaska Department of Education and Early Development.

COUNCIL CONFLICT INQUIRY

Chair House asked if Council members had a potential conflict of interest with any items on this meeting's agenda.

There were no conflict of interest disclosures.

APPROVE MINUTES

COLONEL HOLLOWAY MOVED THAT THE COUNCIL APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE SEPTEMBER 5, 2008 MEETING, AS WRITTEN. YVONNE SARREN SECONDED. The motion passed unanimously.

ETHICS TRAINING FOR BOARD MEMBERS

Judy Bockmon, Assistant Attorney General in the Alaska Department of Law, introduced herself as the State Ethics Attorney. She had earlier provided a handout entitled "Alaska's Executive Branch Ethics Act - Training Manual, December 2008" as a reference for Council members to keep and review. At the meeting she distributed another handout, "Ethics for Alaska's Executive Branch - Boards and Commissions," which was a copy of her PowerPoint presentation (*both documents on file at the CDVSA offices*).

Ms. Bockmon said everyone has their own idea of what it takes to be ethical, but she was here to talk about the Executive Branch Ethics Act, which is a statute that governs the conduct of all state employees and all board and commission members. The Legislature recognized that although Alaska is a large state in mass it is a small state in population and that people come to state service with their own interests, experiences, opinions, and biases. It is important for state government to have the experienced input from people who volunteer on the many boards, but the goal should always be to recognize the need to protect the integrity of state action. The presumption is that state employees and board members are going to act appropriately and properly and fairly exercise their judgment.

Ms. Bockmon said the Ethics Act is principally concerned with actions where a board member might benefit their own personal interest. But there is an element of the Act that prohibits taking actions to provide an unwarranted benefit to somebody else. The Act contains important definitions, one being "personal interest and financial interest", and another being "immediate family member." It does not mean that a Council member has to keep track of their family members' businesses and investments, but if someone a Council member is related has business before the Council, the member has to stop and think about that family member's interest and should the member be participating.

Ms. Bockmon explained that a Council member's action to be ethical is to disclose their own conflicts and interests and have the chair tell them if they should participate or not. The Council chair serves as the ethics supervisor. It is important for the chair to understand that she has the authority to make a determination as to whether a member can participate. And if the chair needs guidance, she may go to the State Ethics Attorney to discuss how the issue should be resolved. With respect to councils and boards that hold public meetings, many things come up at the moment when there is not time to consult with the Attorney General's Office. The chair's ruling governs the situation and protects people from later being charged with violating the Ethics Act.

Ms. Bockmon briefly reviewed highlights of the Ethics Act rules and encouraged Council members to look at the materials she provided and to think about the rules in more detail. She covered the following:

- Misuse of official position. The remedy for these problems is to declare a conflict and step away from participating in Council business. "Official action" has a very broad definition in the Ethics Act and was amended in 2007 to make it arguably even broader than it was. It really means participation - like voting on a matter or signing a contract - but it is broader than that, encompassing advice and assistance in the context of Council business.
- Improper gifts - intended to influence a Council member's action or judgment. The Act recognized that Alaska is a small state and that it is good for its officers to interact with people outside state service. So gifts of small value are not presumed to be intended to influence and are presumed to be okay. The Act permits people to have coffee or a drink or an inexpensive lunch to talk about state business. People from outside repeatedly doing those things or giving large gifts is different. There is a disclosure provision for gifts valued in excess of \$150, if given to a Council member in connection to their state position. The Ethics Act revision of 2007 included a provision that all gifts from lobbyists are presumed to be improper, unless the lobbyist is a family member.
- Improper use of information that has not been publicly disseminated.
- Improper influence in grants, contracts, etc. Council members may not have authority over or interests in organizations that have business before the Council in the form of a grant or a contract. Any conflict should be reviewed by the Council's ethics supervisor.
- Improper representation. The Act precludes state officers from representing others for compensation before their agency or boards, except for non-salary board or council members. In the Council's case, a member could present their business but they would have to not participate in the matter.
- Post-service prohibition. For two years after leaving a board or council, a former member cannot be involved in a matter that they were involved in while in state service.

Ms. Bockmon stated that everybody uses the word "conflict" and has a different idea of what it means. A conflict is a situation where your regard for one duty would lead you to disregard another duty. A conflict is a situation where it requires you to serve two masters in a way that would potentially cause a wrong or a disservice to one of them. A conflict is a situation where by your action you would promote your own private interest to the detriment of the public interest. The last situation is usually the context of most Ethics Act issues. Under the Ethics Act, not

every conflict requires a board or council member to refrain from participation. But members are encouraged to refrain, if they feel they have a conflict and wish to refrain because they are uncomfortable with participating - regardless of whether the ethics supervisor says it is okay.

Ms. Bockmon explained that the Ethics Act does not judge violations on the appearance of impropriety. The State Ethics Attorney looks at all the circumstances and what actually happened. But the world judges conflicts on appearances, so Council members are encouraged to think about the appearance of an action. So even if the State Ethics Attorney were to conclude that an action would not be a violation to participate, a member might be concerned enough about the appearance related to an action that they decide to refrain. Appearances are what usually get people into trouble because somebody flags something that seems wrong and starts the media churning, etc.

Ms. Bockmon stated that procedures for a conflict disclosure are laid out in the Ethics Act, as well as procedures for disclosing potential violations. The procedure for the Council is to have a member announce the conflict orally on the record. Then the chair decides whether a Council member may participate. If another Council member were to object to the chair's decision, the entire Council should vote on the member's participation and that vote would control. Following the procedures protects the individual member from later being charged with a violation of the Ethics Act if somebody looks at it and complains about a member's participation. The Act also says that a member has to make disclosures in writing, and that is accomplished under regulation if meetings are recorded and become a written record. The member is not required to disclose in writing independent of that process. If a Council member has a complicated conflict matter and they know there is business coming up, they are encouraged to raise it with the Council chair ahead of time so she can ask the State Ethics Attorney, if need be. The conflict would still have to be disclosed on the public record, but if it involved financial information that a member would not want to disclose on the record, some of that information could probably be protected through early disclosure.

Ms. Bockmon also briefly reviewed Ethics Act procedures involving complaints. In closing, she encouraged Chair House to call her with any questions about situations that might arise in the future.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

CDVSA Administrative Officer Jo Griggs distributed a two-page written report from Executive Director Chris Ashenbrenner, who was unable to attend this meeting (*on file at the CDVSA offices*).

FY2010-2011 VICTIM SERVICES & BATTERERS INTERVENTION PROGRAM FUNDING

Lauree Morton, CDVSA's Grantwriter/Program Specialist, reported she has been working on the request for proposals (RFPs) for the FY2010-2011 grant cycle for both the victim services

programs and the batterers intervention programs (BIP). The community based BIP request for proposal will be quite similar to the previous cycle's RFP. The victim services RFP will be streamlined, with a separate new-applicant information section for items like articles of incorporation, bylaws, proof of nonprofit status, etc. Continuing programs will not have to provide the one-time information that is on file at the CDVSA offices.

Ms. Morton stated that over the summer the U.S. Department of Justice Office of Civil Rights came to the Alaska Department of Public Safety and reviewed both the department's and the CDVSA's grant procedures and documents. DOJ had some recommendations for strengthening the documents by making clear what programs' civil rights obligations are, so staff has changed the insurance and grant award condition forms to list the civil rights laws that grantees must comply with and to make the forms uniform throughout the department. Staff also added some faith-based language so it is clear that faith-based organizations can apply for funding and what the parameters are. Also, the ways a program can prove nonprofit status have been expanded beyond just the IRS 501(c)(3) certification papers.

Ms. Morton said that after the last round of grants staff reviewed Council member and Network comments about what changes they would like to see and included as many suggestions as possible in the revised RFP. Two significant changes are providing standardized goals and objectives that applicants must quantify and list activities they want to do, and revising the match requirement formula (25% overall match of award request, and within that, the match for specific federal funding streams will be included). This will help make match requirements equitable and known at the beginning of the process. Finally, the scoring was revised to allow for a "0" if an answer is not responsive to the proposal.

Ms. Morton said that with the shortened legislative session of 90 days CDVSA staff is proposing that the Council's funding meeting take place in the first half of May when lodging is less expensive in Anchorage. This will also allow staff to get all the necessary paperwork done before the July 1 start date for grants. That means letting the proposals in January with a return date of March 9. Staff would review the proposals and forward them to Council members in the first week of April, allowing 4-6 weeks to evaluate the proposals before the funding meeting in May.

Ms. Griggs added that the RFP also asks the programs to leave out their history with domestic violence and sexual assault because the Council is completely aware of that history. Council members can then focus on reading what is currently happening at the programs and in their areas, and what they are requesting funding for.

Regarding the proposed changes for the prison batterers intervention program RFP, Ms. Morton said that CDVSA staff met with Rose Munafo and Sam Edwards of the Department of Corrections (DOC). They reviewed the memorandum of agreement between CDVSA and DOC to provide the prison BIP services and discussed the department's concerns about the program lengths and locations and where prisoners are actually spending most of their time and could benefit from these programs. DOC recommends that CDVSA go into FY10 with a one-year

contract with the three current prison BIP providers and use that year to survey where DOC houses prisoners and determine where the programs would be best suited to meet the prisoners' needs so they have the best opportunity to complete a program. So there will not be a request for proposals for prison batterers intervention programs for fiscal year 2010.

FEDERAL GRANT ANNOUNCEMENTS AND AWARDS

Ms. Griggs reported the award of a Safe Havens grant to provide supervised visitation and exchange services for families with children that have experienced domestic violence. Interior Alaska Center for Non-Violent Living (IAC) in Fairbanks wrote the grant, and CDVSA partnered with them because the grant application had to come from a state or federal entity. A previous Safe Havens project operated in Anchorage with good success but it was not continued. CDVSA staff are interested in the outcome of the new IAC program.

Ms. Griggs stated that a federal Sexual Assault Special Programs (SASP) grant was awarded to CDVSA. The Office of Violence Against Women suggested that the money be passed through the state into the state coalitions, but, in Alaska's case, the Alaska Network on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault (Network) requested that CDVSA take the funding. The first two years of the SASP grant will be combined because it was so late in coming out (\$90,000). The Council will begin discussing how to spend that grant.

Ms. Griggs said another earmark of \$2.8 million is coming through VAWA (the Violence Against Women Act). There are four entities identified to receive that funding in Alaska: CDVSA, the Network, the Alaska Tribal Government, and the Alaska Tribal Coalition. Each entity is to get \$500,000 initially, and allocation of the other \$1.8 million has not been designated. The vehicle for providing the funding is Grants To Encourage Mandatory Arrest (GTEA), a component of VAWA. Staff would have preferred that it come through the Rural Domestic Violence & Child Victimization Grant because there would have been more spending latitude.

Ms. Griggs reported that CDVSA is currently competing for Grants To Encourage Arrest, and if successful in getting this funding, staff would like to continue with a forum for sexual assault similar to the previous forums that focused on domestic violence. Another grant application is for S*T*O*P, which is also VAWA funding that gets distributed to state entities related to the criminal justice system.

Ms. Griggs indicated that staff completed a list of acronyms and would be forwarding it to Council members forthwith.

Regarding the Grants To Encourage Mandatory Arrest earmark, Ms. Morton said staff sent a survey to the programs informing them that the GTEA competitive application was open. Individual programs are not allowed to apply directly for that federal funding. Previous Tribal State Forums were accomplished with GTEA funding, and the money also paid for court-based legal advocates in seven programs around the state. CDVSA did not get refunded last year

through the competitive process to continue the court-based advocates, so it ends this year. The statutory purpose for victim services is to "strengthen legal advocacy service programs for victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault and stalking, including strengthening assistance to such victims in immigration matters." The program survey responses indicate that programs need some latitude in where legal advocates perform their duties and not limit it to just in the courts. CDVSA staff intend to apply for a grant for the legal advocates through the earmark dollars and then apply for the Tribal State Forums through the competitive application process.

Ms. Morton stated that the application for the S*T*O*P Services Training Officers and Prosecution funding is due by January 9. It is formula funding that each state receives, and it has specific purpose areas to strengthen the criminal justice response to violence against women: law enforcement, prosecution, the court system, and victim advocacy. CDVSA is in the third year of a three-year plan with those funds, so the grant application will be a continuation of that plan.

COMMENTS RE: PROGRAM QUARTERLY PERFORMANCE REPORTS

Colonel Holloway said that in reviewing the performance report summaries in the meeting packet he noticed several trends. He noticed that many shelters are seeing more people needing assistance, a continuing trend. Another trend is that many program executives are reporting significant personnel turnover. This is a concern because of the learning curve for new people, but on the other hand it can bring in new and good ideas. Almost all the performance reports described good cooperation between the programs and the different local government agencies - law enforcement, courts, etc.

Colonel Holloway noted that the reporting format tallies the number of assistance for filling out protective orders, which only informs the Council about what the programs did during that quarter. He said it would be helpful if that were put in a table format that included previous protective order numbers so the Council could see if there was a trend up or down.

Ms. Morton replied that staff revised the quarterly reports starting in October so that several items are in table format.

Colonel Holloway mentioned that Bering Sea Women's Group (BSWG - Nome) reported on the number of problems the program is seeing with alcohol, which they attributed to permanent fund dividend checks and other extra money. He said the Department of Public Safety also noticed that people were using the money for bootlegging and other detrimental things. His concern about BSWG was their reporting of the extra work the problem was causing, as well as their staff turnover. However, the number of assists to fill out protective orders was very low (2), while other programs reported level numbers or slight increases. He wondered if another entity was assisting with protective orders - thus freeing up BSWG, or if the Nome program did not have the time to assist, or if the program was ignoring the need to help with protective orders because they were having so many other problems. He asked CDVSA staff to check on this.

Referring to page 30 (Alaska Family Services - Palmer), Chair House said she had asked Michael Hildebrand to check on the number of domestic violence protective orders filed last year so she could make a comparison. On another note, she hoped that program shelter costs would start to decline with the cheaper price of oil lately.

Ms. Sarren stated that heating oil is still close to \$8 a gallon in rural Alaska, and while the price of gasoline has gone down, it is still over \$6 a gallon. Communities do not expect prices to change until the next fuel barges arrive. She added that prices will probably even increase in the spring when a shortage is expected.

[Hard to hear her...] Chair House commenting on changing demographics in a lot of the program reports - population changes, one almost a total reverse of...neighborhood...last year. So that will have a huge impact on the programs that the Council is making judgments on for grants because no one knows what is coming.

ALASKA NETWORK ON DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AND SEXUAL ASSAULT REPORT

Network Executive Director Peggy Brown stated that she was providing the CDVSA with a copy of a new study that shows the direct relationship between economic conditions that arise in domestic/sexual violence. The study, put out by the National Institute of Justice, is called "Economic Distress in Intimate Partner Violence."

Ms. Brown reported that the Network has been hearing from the programs about a severe problem with housing, as well as stress in some communities attributed to the decline of the legal advocates. Also, rural shelters, even AWAIC (Abused Women's Aid In Crisis) in Anchorage, are seeing an increase from the outward migration from villages and the Bush communities. There are communities that are going under, and people are moving into more hub communities -- Bethel, Dillingham, even Anchorage -- to live with relatives. As the economy worsens, shelter programs anticipate their load to increase. The good news is that as stresses happen people have to work together more, so the collaborations are increasing.

Ms. Brown said she is pleased the Council will be using the GTEA funding to help with legal advocates. A couple of programs have lost their legal advocates with the loss in grant funding and are happy to hear of the expected assistance.

Ms. Brown also reported the following items:

- The Network held its biennial conference at Alyeska Resort, as well as the lead-on prevention youth summit. The Network appreciated the \$25,000 contribution from CDVSA for those events. There were stipends available for youth to attend the summit, and parents were calling begging for their kids to be able to attend what they saw as a positive event. The Network was able to get an additional \$10,000 donation from Allstate for that effort. There were about 50 participants at the prevention summit, and follow-up reports have been positive. Plans are to do it again. The biennial conference was primarily for advocates, providing skill-building training and time to network. The

Alaska Native Women's Coalition made a presentation, helping the Network to build a relationship with that group. Some Council members and staff attended, and the CDVSA logo was visible on conference materials.

- The Network is talking to the Alaska Housing Finance Corporation about a 2004 agreement that documented domestic violence within the last six months qualifies victims for a 20-point preference for housing. At that time people were getting housing within six months, and now it is a moot point. There have been two or three cases where a victim with the 20-point preference gets dropped from the housing waiting list after six months transpire, so the Network is working to change that.
- The Network has been working with the Violent Crimes Compensation Board (VCCB), where the director will be leaving soon. VCCB received a special designated fund from VOCA (Victims Of Crime Act), but there is some bureaucratic red tape around them accessing it. The funding will allow shelter programs to charge for advocacy and victim counseling if that victim is applying for violent crimes compensation.
- On the legislative front, the Network met and decided not to push any hardcore legislation, that it would be more about funding strategies, looking at various revenue streams and making the current funding more efficient to address the actual needs of the programs.
- An analysis of the programs focused on facility costs, personnel costs, and supplies. From last year to this year there is a definite urban/rural split, with rural programs having a higher cost of doing business. The analysis showed facility costs increase \$189,000, personnel costs rise by \$964,000, and supplies go up by \$14,000. Facility costs had the greatest variance among shelters, 10% to 37%. The total increase for the three budget line items came to \$1.1 million above last year. Many programs will be holding open houses and meetings with their various legislators to talk about how the economic situation is affecting them.
- The Network continues to work with the Governor's Council on Disabilities, a three-year project that is still in the planning phase. The plan down the road is to do some training and some co-training between advocacy people and disability service providers.
- The Delta Statewide Steering Committee has been very active and is on the cusp of having a statewide plan completed. The plan is to give an educational presentation about preventing intimate partner violence to the Health Caucus at the Capitol in the early part of February 2009.
- On December 12 advocacy is speaking with the forensic nurses in Alaska at a meeting moderated by the International Association of Forensic Nurses and the Maryland Coalition Against Domestic Violence, which has a federal technical assistance project to help states become VAWA compliant. Part of the conversation will include anonymous reporting.

Chair House asked a question of Ms. Brown that was mostly inaudible - something about a request for funding for prevention. *[Could you make sure that Ms. House has a microphone directly in front of her?]* Ms. Brown replied not from the state, but the Network has requested some federal funding from a new source called the Sexual Assault Services Prevention Act. The Network is trying with seed monies to focus on sexual assault and prevention efforts, while

maintaining that crisis intervention and the actual core operations need to be funded as well.

Chair House said that with all the extreme issues that Ms. Brown was mentioning...seeing this actually increasing in Alaska, you would think we would start funding prevention initiatives...
[Transcriber cannot hear full comments] Ms. Brown replied that the idea of educating the Legislature this year and forward is to start the conversation about funding prevention, at the same time maintaining that funding needs to increase for the current services.

Colonel Holloway asked if the violence prevention presentation that Ms. Brown talked about would have a component that explains that if prevention work does not start the cost for public safety response and what violence does to communities is going to continue to go up. He asked further if the Network needed numbers to show what it would cost to investigate the sexual assaults and domestic violence cases as the numbers increase year after year.

Ms. Brown said the short answer was yes. Colonel Holloway said he would be glad to show how much law enforcement investigations cost, and the cost of compounding victims. If one perpetrator can be taken off the street, it costs money, but it prevents all kinds of victims down the road. That is part of prevention as well. But the best prevention option is not having to do that in the first place.

Chair House said she would like to see the Council spending more money on prevention...*[faded off]* when Alaska is such a rich state.

Ms. Brown stated that a lot of communities are doing amazing things with wellness, primary prevention, and healthy relationships. A lot of it is focused at teens and younger people, which is where prevention efforts have to be at some point. She added that they are starting to see some changes in the four sites that have been funded over the years.

Chair House commented something about a pilot program on how to prevent *[inaudible]*, similar to *[inaudible]*....state of Alaska would be really helpful. Struggle...*[inaudible]*

Chair House called a scheduled break from 10:15 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.

PUBLIC COMMENT

At 10:30 a.m. Chair House opened the floor to anyone at the meeting site in Anchorage or listening by teleconference who wished to address the Council.

Michelle DeWitt, executive director of Tundra Women's Coalition (TWC) in Bethel and current chair of the Network, appeared in person. She described a program she heard about based in Harlem to bring people out of poverty, increase resources, and stop cycles of incarceration, etc. The program focused on prenatal intervention with pregnant moms and on very young children, redirecting the funding away from helping teens. The first standardized testing of these children who are now school-aged showed that they are competitive with children in the most elite

private school in the city - because of the early intervention work that had been done. A book has been written about the program, and Ms. DeWitt offered to send staff the email link to the National Public Radio report.

Ms. DeWitt gave a report on the capital project to build a new TWC shelter in Bethel, saying they have made a lot of concessions in the design. They have secured over \$8 million in actual funding over three years, but cost estimates continue to rise. The current estimate is that the 12,000-square-foot project will cost \$10.9 million. TWC hopes the cost may decline a bit as falling energy prices may impact material costs. They are going out for early bid because they hope the contractor will do the project for less than \$10.9 million. TWC has almost \$1 million out in requests for funding right now, including a request to a foundation. The housing authority of the Association of Village Council Presidents has put in a request for TWC through the Indian Community Development block grant funding stream. TWC has requested a couple of million dollars from Senator Lisa Murkowski's office that will be reviewed as part of the next economic stimulus package in January. It has been the challenge of her career to come up with so much money for a relatively small building. Through business planning, TWC knew it could afford to operate about 15,000 square feet: they need 18,000 square feet, and they will end up with less than 12,000. The current building is 10,000 square feet. Concessions have included removing the children's advocacy center, which will eventually be relocated to a different building on the property.

Ms. DeWitt invited the new Council members to visit the TWC shelter in Bethel and get acquainted. The invitation extends to any community in which the Council members may find themselves while on other business. Regarding TWC services, she said the transitional housing is at 150% capacity, the shelter is at 100% capacity, and they recently had to fly victims of violence to other villages that had safe places to stay. More injuries are being seen, and the shelter is getting more people with very complicated safety issues and seeing an increase in services to immigrant victims of violence. The last is mostly new to the Bethel region, and TWC is uncovering a very underserved population in the community.

Ms. DeWitt stated that TWC administers homeless prevention funds, usually through an Alaska Housing Finance Corporation grant. Normally that lasts through the winter, however, it was spent by the beginning of November this year. This shows the current economic stressors on families, that they are unable to pay their utilities and their rent.

Referring to Colonel Holloway's comment about BSWG in Nome reporting fewer assists to fill out protective orders, Ms. DeWitt said she could not speak for Nome but TWC discovered that they served far fewer people in a year when they had no funding for a legal advocate. People did not come for the services because the resources were not available, not because the need was not there. Currently, TWC has what should be a two full-time legal advocacy program that is operating with one designated person.

Ms. DeWitt said TWC has a new position serving part time in Kipnuk and part time in Bethel. The regional tribal nonprofit, the Association of Village Council Presidents, is asking for some

earmark dollars from the federal government to hire personnel in several villages to try and prevent sexual assault. That is a new potential project for the region.

As chair of the Network, Ms. DeWitt said she has been busy keeping up to speed on issues related to anonymous reporting. A meeting of all the executive directors took place in Kodiak in early November. They worked on suggestions for the Council's proposed strategic plan that were provided in the spirit of being helpful and not to be critical.

There was a brief discussion about the shelter's capacity. Ms. DeWitt said the fire code capacity is 24 people, and right now they have seven families in the shelter's six bedrooms.

Ms. Sarren inquired about the region's population that TWC serves. Ms. DeWitt replied that the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta hovers around 25,000-26,000 people, and TWC co-serves some of that area with the Emmonak Women's Shelter. Bethel's population is about 6,000.

Ms. McFadden noted that several programs seem to have a lot of staff turnover, and she asked about TWC's experience. Ms. DeWitt said TWC fortunately has a fairly long-term staff, but certain positions tend to turn over. She added that there is a lot of turnover in this field because programs cannot pay people what they need to live on. In the Bethel region people need to earn \$20 an hour to pay their rent and bills. TWC's starting advocate position earns \$14.50 an hour. So while TWC may be among the higher paying salaries of Council-funded programs, they are \$10 or more away from being truly competitive and paying people what they need to live.

Ms. McFadden asked what the fix was for that. Ms. DeWitt replied that it is a dollars fix. Every increase that a program like TWC gets goes into fuel and electricity and higher energy costs. The electricity bill was almost \$4,000 for a month. Any funding increases need to be big enough to pay the bills and pay the people. Some of the victims are coming from complicated situations that require a high level of advocacy, and TWC is paying \$14.50 an hour for that skill.

Ms. McFadden inquired if an affordable housing shortage for transitioning people out of the shelter was a problem in Bethel. Ms. DeWitt said absolutely, but added that it is easier for people to get into subsidized housing in Bethel now than it was a decade ago. The reason is that people in subsidized housing cannot afford to pay the fuel bill on those big houses, so there are more evictions. That means the people transitioning from the shelter get in a bit faster than a decade ago, but it is because another family could not pay its bills.

Chair House asked about plans for the 12,000 square feet of new shelter space. Ms. DeWitt explained that there will be one suite with a kitchenette and private bathroom and bedroom, while other rooms will range as small as 100 square feet for a single individual or two people. Chair House asked if TWC would consider providing housing for its employees. Ms. DeWitt said she was not a big proponent of people in this particular field living where they work, and she thought it might have been tried before somewhere.

Nancy Haug, executive director of Standing Together Against Rape (STAR) in Anchorage,

thanked the Council for their support. [First part her comments too faint to hear] In Anchorage, STAR's services are not limited to women and children: over 10% of the program's participants are adult males, and adult males make up a significant percentage of the callers to the crisis line. This appears to be consistent with information around the nation. Last year STAR's call-outs in Anchorage were 30% for adults, 30% for children, and call-outs to hospitals where the client did not want to speak to law enforcement were up over 300%. In the first quarter of fiscal year 2009, STAR has seen an increase of 20%. Alarming as these figures may seem, it is actually good news because it means more individuals are finding the courage to seek help. In the last few months, STAR has seen perpetrators of these clients sentenced, and these sentences send a strong message to the community that crimes of sexual assault and sexual violence are taken seriously. More importantly, it tells sexual assault survivors that they matter, not only as individuals but as indicators of the health of the community.

Ms. Haug stated that STAR is facing financial challenges: they need to offer competitive wages to recruit and train staff; they need to deal with the rising cost of providing health care for employees; consumable products and items have to be provided for the victims and clients; and operating costs are increasing. Not to mention the increase in requests for services. She said she was confident that everyone could work together in requesting increased funding. In closing, she thanked the Council for their ongoing work and commitment to victim services in Alaska.

Ms. Wooley asked if the rise in requests for services was related to increased outreach or better referrals, or if STAR knew what was working. Ms. Haug said that, specific to Anchorage, the educators are in the schools and communities providing a common language for people to talk about sexual assault and realize that they are not alone and that STAR exists. Also, the opening of the multi-disciplinary center serving adults and children has had a big impact on the community. Law enforcement has been vigorous in creating an open environment for victims.

Ms. Wooley inquired if STAR has noticed any demographics that stand out in the big increase in requests for services, in particular age. Ms. Haug replied that demographics have not changed significantly in terms of both adults and children. She added that it is hard to know how prevention works because they do not get the numbers. She said there has been increased reporting at the Carriage(??) Center: some of the children coming through there are saying that they saw the STAR presentation and that they were told they could tell a Native(??).

Cheri Smith, executive director of LeeShore Center in Kenai, spoke by teleconference and thanked the Council for its support. She stressed the need for increased funding this year. LeeShore, like other victim services programs in the state, has seen great increases in utility costs (17%), insurance (14-20%), heating (22%), and gas. LeeShore also saw about a 16% increase in residents staying at the center and a 27% increase in bed nights. Prevention is such an important piece. Last year, because of teacher demands, LeeShore did 138 presentations in the schools to over 2,700 students. They are also talking with area professionals and community members and providing training and education. But LeeShore also has to have enough funding to provide the crisis intervention services that are needed. LeeShore has a legal advocate through the Grants to Encourage Mandatory Arrests, but once that grant goes away they not only lose the

advocate position, they lose that person because there is no money to keep them on. Having a legal advocate in the court house has increased the number of people helped with protection orders by about 33%. LeeShore lost an advocate position about five years ago and has not been able to reinstate that person. They appreciate all the help the Council can give to the program.

Lynn Crane, executive director of Unalaskans Against Sexual Assault & Family Violence (USAFV), also offered comment by telephone. She said she echoed the testimony of others about the increased costs to operate a program. USAFV is a very small program with three full-time staff members. She has had a hard time keeping the third position filled because the pay is not competitive compared to the city, which offers excellent benefits and retirement, and local seafood companies that provide housing and food. Fortunately, USAFV has had a person with passion for the issues in the second position for nearly nine years, but she just retired. USAFV managed to fill that position, but the third spot is still open. There are plenty of applicants, but they lose interest once they find out the pay and benefits. It is expecting people to do a difficult job, and programs need to be able to pay people and keep them around so they can do the job well. She also thanked the Network for all it does for the member programs.

Ginger Baim, executive director of Safe and Fear-Free Environment (SAFE) in Dillingham, said that SAFE's biggest issue they are having trouble coping with is recruitment and retention of qualified staff. Wages and benefits are a major consideration, but she is not sure what the other reasons are. Last quarter SAFE had 18 positions change hands. This quarter she estimated there would be about 22. Not only are wages not competitive, but it is astounding what advocates are expected to do after two weeks of training -- provide direct services to 10-20 adults and children who are in various states of crisis and need; answer the crisis line; provide building security; and respond to requests from police officers and others in the community for information and assistance. SAFE invests about \$3,000 to \$5,000 in an advocate's training in the first three months on the job, in order for them to work a basic shift. SAFE is struggling with this but is not alone: the police department that normally has seven officers now has three, including the police chief, to maintain 24-hour coverage for a city of 2,500 people. Last quarter SAFE had three management job available and had advertised for over four months -- there was not a single applicant for two of the positions. She is not sure what to attribute the problem to, but the turnover of staff remains the major critical factor affecting SAFE's ability to provide services - and frankly their ability to stay open. There have been times in the last quarter when she was looking to close the place down except for emergency services because there were not enough staff to cover. While unsure what to do about it, non-competitive wages, lack of benefits, and the incredible amount of responsibility people are expected to take on are major contributing factors.

Ms. Brown stated that the Network is drafting some talking points about funding, which she would provide to CDVSA. The staff turnover problem is not just happening now because of a bad economy. Her preliminary review of data from 1996 to 2007 shows that the cost of living has increased about 47%. The CDVSA funding over those years has risen about 26%. So the programs have been underfunded by about 21%. Programs were encouraged to find grants and other funding sources and draw on community resources to help support their agencies - and not just rely on CDVSA funding. Programs have done that to the saturation point. Now with an

economic downturn, and more people accessing services and putting a strain on staff, the Network is seeing critical mass happening over the past two to three years. Programs all over the state have been training people very well who go and get a better job with the state or a municipality. Now programs are having trouble filling positions as federal grants are decreasing and the client load is increasing.

There were no other comments, and the chair thanked those people on line for listening and closed the public comment period.

WORKING LUNCH

Ms. Sarren said she felt like a mother bird with not enough to feed all the birds in the nest.

Ms. Brown said that Alaska is the wealthiest "poor" state, and in terms of the statistics for domestic violence and sexual assault, the state has not prioritized it as an issue to really address and fund. So other states get more dollars per capita than Alaska for victim services. But there are some states and territories that get less. If Alaska were to get graded on that, it would probably be a D. On the national level, grants are population-based, and she has been pushing to get the rural states together to try and change those grant structures. However, that is just a small piece.

Ms. Wooley mentioned that the workforce issue is the broken record that she has been hearing across the state for anyone involved in health care at any level. She thought it was a problem that will be part of what takes things down if the state does not address it head on. The finances will always be an issue, but DHSS is finding that it is also a workforce issue. The question is, even if agencies had a lot more money, would they be able to find the people to take the positions. When DHSS can offer even up to 50% more pay for non-union positions, they still cannot fill the positions because of a shortage.

Ms. Brown recalled that even though advocates have probably never been paid the market pay rate, in the past they received fully paid health benefits for themselves and their families as a way to compensate for lesser pay, along with access to ample training. Then the health care coverage started getting eaten away. Now the training and knowledge have increased because the requirement to know so many things has increased, and the "carrot" of health care coverage for the family is not there.

Chair House stated that maybe all the health care workers in the field should be part of the state system.

[Recorder turned off and back on?]

...Ms. Brown talking about coming up with a joint statement of shelter programs and domestic violence/sexual assault services in Alaska - what are some of those issues that we just talked about. For education purposes and to let people know what the Council and the Network are

hearing.

Chair House suggested working with Chris Ashenbrenner on that...and the [inaudible]. There was a chorus of "I agree" from Council members.

Colonel Holloway asked if it would include the shelter directors. Ms. Brown said yes - the Network, the shelter directors, and the Council.

Chair House said no motion was required. *[cell phone or Blackberry buzzing on and off]* She indicated the Council would take a break for a working lunch. Ms. Morton suggested handing out the materials for the strategic planning work session to follow the regular meeting so people could review them during lunch.

SEXUAL ASSAULT FORENSIC EXAMS - UPDATE AND DISCUSSION ON ANONYMOUS REPORTING

[Recorder turned off and back on - meeting already started]

...Colonel Holloway talking about the Department of Public Safety having a system in place that protects that identify. Law enforcement is trying to open up the lines of communication to victims who are afraid to report to the authorities, don't want their name known, but still want to keep that evidence available in case they change their mind in the future. How many of those victims there might be is unknown. VAWA is very interested in this program. The state does not have to do this, so DPS is going above and beyond what is required to make sure it is serving all the sexual assault victims.

Colonel Holloway said there are two major issues that anonymous reporting brought to light regarding the photos they were taking being recognized as evidence and the questionnaire that the SART (sexual assault response team) nurse asks the victim.

Katie TePas, Program Coordinator with Department of Public Safety -Alaska State Troopers, addressed the Council. She was accompanied by Susan McLean, Chief Assistant Attorney General in the Alaska Department of Law. Ms. TePas said the original plan for anonymous reporting was to roll it out at the beginning of January 2009 based on what the VAWA Office requires DPS to certify to in order to continue receiving VAWA funding - that the state offers examinations to sexual assault victims regardless of their cooperation. January 1, 2009 is the certification date for the lesser standard: the higher standard is the anonymous victim reporting. Because of ongoing discussion and some conflict with the SART programs regarding photographic evidence, DPS decided to delay anonymous reporting. The state will roll it out when each of the forensic nursing programs in the state that provide examinations for law enforcement agrees to give DPS the photographs in all cases, both the normal cases and the anonymous victim cases.

Ms. TePas reported that she has traveled to meet with the Bethel SART team and the Fairbanks

program, and will be in Kotzebue next week. DPS is stating its position on anonymous photographs. What she is hearing often from the SART programs is that they do not have the ability to authorize who gets the evidence selected to include the photographs. DPS had told them that victims have many choices, but once forensic evidence is collected they do not have a choice to where that evidence is stored. DPS has worked with the Department of Law on new consent forms for sexual assault victims to make it clear that victims have a choice of whether evidence is collected or not during any stage in the exam. They have a choice of whether photographs are taken or not and a choice of whether samples are taken or not. But once they decide to have that evidence collected, they do not have a choice as to where that evidence goes. One, because it is evidence. But the big reason is that the burden and responsibility for that evidence is the state's. The kit and the exam are the responsibility of the State of Alaska. So DPS is going to delay anonymous reporting.

Ms. TePas stated that DPS sent the state's draft policy of anonymous reporting to the Maryland Coalition, which is doing technical assistance on anonymous reporting nationwide. The Maryland Coalition gave DPS approval of that, to include discussion regarding photographs. Ms. McLean also had a discussion with a VAWA attorney who indicated they were fine on the photograph issue. So even though the state does not have certify that, the feds have indicated the state is okay on that.

Ms. Wooley inquired what happened in Anchorage if all the evidence goes to the Alaska State Troopers, or what happens if it is a local police department versus a Trooper case. Colonel Holloway replied that whichever agency does the investigation, the evidence has to go with the law enforcement agency. He explained that the investigation of sexual assault/abuse has been evolving over the years. The state has made great strides in the last two decades to bring this issue to the forefront, to say that it is against the law to commit a sexual assault. Once the state has done that, it cannot go back and say it wants to pick and choose what evidence goes where. It is good to make this change, but that understanding lagged behind. As DPS got into this, they found that across the board there were different ways that SART programs and law enforcement agencies had worked out arrangements for taking and storing evidence - and who was taking it. If DPS does not fix that, and because the department has to rely on the law that is clear, then the department runs the huge risk of losing cases for victims. Now there is a disagreement, and some education is still needed. It is not that law enforcement and the Department of Law have decided they are going to start doing things this way: it was the realization that they were not doing things right that caused them to say that if they did not fix this, victims are going to be revictimized. It just happened to occur at the same time as the state was trying to do the anonymous victim reporting. Once uncovered, DPS had to try and fix it. It is disconcerting to some of the SART nurses because it is a change in the way they have been doing business. They are wonderful people, but they do not seem to understand that DPS does not have a choice in this matter. DPS cannot break the law and cannot set up a system that allows the state to break the law. If the department continues to do things the way they have been done, that is exactly what they would be doing -- defeating and damaging some of the rape shield laws that are there to protect victims. The concern that the SART nurses have over storage of the evidence and photographs is basically not valid.

Ms. McFadden asked if Ms. TePas, in her travels around the state, had a feel for what people think about anonymous reporting. Ms. TePas replied that most people, but not all, would like to try anonymous reporting. There are some concerns about it. One of law enforcement's concerns is what if there is a serial rapist. In anonymous cases the kit will be transferred to law enforcement when the examination is complete. Law enforcement will not know who the victim is or who the suspect is, so they are choosing not to do part of the investigation. They are doing the evidence collection but not the victim and suspect interviews. In the case of a serial rapist, law enforcement will have the evidence stored according to law but will not be processing that evidence. So law enforcement will not be able to investigate or work those cases.

Ms. TePas stated that DPS, through the CDVSA to Alaska State Troopers, has some existing grant funding to help municipal police departments pay for the cost of anonymous examinations. It is not state funding. She said that the Office on Violence Against Women (OVW) is absolutely clear that DPS does not have to offer anonymous reporting; law enforcement does have to provide examinations for uncooperative victims, but they do not get to be anonymous. That is a big distinction.

Ms. McFadden asked who would pay for the PR to get this information out to the public. Ms. TePas said the State Troopers are not going to do any massive amount of education because the agency is not in the business of telling the public not to report crimes. However, the education has to happen with health care practitioners and mental health practitioners - people whom the sexual assault victims would present to. That education will ultimately be done by the advocacy programs and medical programs. AST is willing to help with that upon request.

Ms. McLean stated that the Office on Violence Against Women (OVW) is trying to get to a narrow class of people who would not ask for a forensic examination or that evidence be gathered if the end result was that they had to decide to reveal that a rape had occurred. These victims may be seeking treatment because they are worried about injury or disease. The law that allows an uncooperative victim to get a forensic examination puts the concern for the victim over the concern for another goal, which is public safety. So DPS has to assume that the law is addressing a small group of people who would not show up at all to ask that evidence be gathered. The state will be tracking to see if there is any decrease in reported rapes. This is part of a mandate with federal funding, that no state shall deny payment for a forensic examination just because the victim does not want to cooperate with law enforcement.

Ms. TePas said that a drawback is no victim interview, no suspect interview, no crime scene evidence - basically no immediate investigation. That can make a prosecution significantly difficult. Victims will be informed of all the pros and cons. But there is a fine line between informing victims about their rights and coercing them, so there are some training issues to make certain that victims are not coerced and really understand their options.

Ms. Wooley said she assumed that this did not apply to minors. Ms. TePas confirmed that. Colonel Holloway said vulnerable adults also. Ms. TePas said it also applied to Title 8 injuries,

and all the SART nurses understand that.

Colonel Holloway stated that currently DPS does not know if this will be a good move or a bad move. It may send a bad message to victims and perpetrators to where it may backfire. The current thinking is that at least the state will learn how many people are being victimized who are not reporting.

Responding to Ms. Sarren, Ms. TePas said the cases in villages will be the most difficult because there are no shelter advocates there. Health aides and behavioral health aides will have to be educated about contacting the SART nurse, who will talk to the victim directly and work with law enforcement. Advocacy and medical will have to arrange for transportation for the victim to get an examination, and advocacy or medical can bill law enforcement for that transportation without revealing the victim's name.

Michelle DeWitt (TWC - Bethel) mentioned that some medical providers in her region believe that calling in an advocate is a violation of federal HIPAA (Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act) and refuse to activate advocacy unless they have told the patient about advocacy and the patient has consented. So care must be taken when relying on victim advocates to respond to this: she would be shocked if advocates get activated for many of these cases. It is an obstacle in some of the communities. She has spoken with Kari Robinson, legal advocacy attorney at the Network, about this, and Ms. Robinson will be communicating with the Department of Law about the potential violation of HIPAA.

Ms. TePas stated that when the call-out happens and the advocate shows up at the hospital or other health facility, they present to the victim and ask if they would like them to stay. The majority of times the victim wants the advocate to stay with them. However, when the victim is prescreened about whether they want an advocate, they often do not want to bother anybody at an inconvenient hour.

Ms. TePas reported that in addition to the issue with the forensic evidence in terms of the photographs connected with anonymous reporting, there is also an issue with the forms. DPS is developing a sexual assault evidence collection kit that includes new forms. The State Crime Lab will only accept a state form with that kit in order to process the forensic evidence. The state is working on a second part of the form that would still contain information that is needed for the criminal case that the Crime Lab does not specifically need. Ms. McLean added that a hospital usually has an assessment form of its own. Because that assessment form is being created at the same time as the victim is there for a forensic examination, the Department of Law has been discussing that in the context of the rape shield laws.

Colonel Holloway stated that the nurses were asking questions that they thought were relevant without any type of legal background or training. They wanted the information to help them do a better diagnosis and to do research. So that person's very private information was likely to end up in a research project but also in public open court -- because those nurses wanted to know that information. It was not on behalf of the victim but on behalf of some other people.

Ms. Wooley noted that research information would be anonymous, and the information was gathered in an effort to benefit victims in the end. However, she agreed there has to be a clear break for information that is legally discoverable.

Ms. Brown stated that the Network's main issue initially is the 36-page assessment form because it is potentially harmful. Some of the information could be between the advocate and the victim and is privileged and could not be subpoenaed. That option is removed from the victim by it being on the assessment form. Other questions seem way beyond nursing and more in the area of law enforcement. The Network is meeting with the forensic nurses tomorrow, as she mentioned earlier in her report, but not to discuss the form.

Ms. Sarren mentioned that there is real shortage of forensic nurses, and she wondered if an effort was underway to find more. Ms. TePas replied that she could not say that DPS would find more forensic nurses, but there is funding set aside under grants that the State Troopers get to do second tier training with the nurses. Often nurses start on a sexual assault response team and change their minds, not because of treating the victims, but because of giving courtroom testimony. So AST is trying to bolster the forensic nurses through training to help with that part.

There was a brief discussion about the anonymous victim's identifier number and how to deal with a lost number if the victim decided to proceed with charges in the future.

Colonel Holloway stated that Anchorage will be starting its anonymous reporting because the city has nearly half the sexual assaults in the state. The Anchorage Police Department is working well with Providence Medical Center, so their part of it seems to be working okay. But there is too much confusion yet among the SART programs in the rest of the state to set up the anonymous reporting option everywhere.

Another discussion ensued about whether it was a good idea to broadly "advertise" that anonymous reporting can be an option. Ms. McFadden and Ms. Sarren thought that some victims would never even seek medical treatment after a sexual assault because they believe that law enforcement is required to get involved. These people need to know that the anonymous reporting option is now available. Ms. Brown said that the people who need to know how the system will work, such as advocates, nurses and law enforcement, will be educated on their respective roles. Colonel Holloway said the state could be creating a worse situation by letting the general public know that there is a way to get around reporting a sexual assault to law enforcement. The numbers could get so large that it would be circumventing the intent to assist sexual assault victims, and at that point the state would stop anonymous victim reporting.

Ms. TePas mentioned that VAWA funding to pay for anonymous reporting goes until October 2011, so the Council should be thinking about long-term plans for funding.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Ms. Griggs reported that programs are at 50% of their grant advance requests, which is exactly where they should be at this point in the fiscal year. Grants to Encourage Arrests funding is wrapping up. Several victim service programs are taking advantage of the technical assistance training funds that come with the federal grant. About eight programs have requested funding for their staffs to travel to various training sessions outside Alaska.

Ms. Griggs stated that staff is doing very well with funding projections, and there are very few adjustments to make between line items.

Chair House inquired what the alcohol tax fund could be used for. Ms. Griggs said it was strictly for programs, which can use it almost the same as general funding. Every year CDVSA gets \$367,200 of alcohol tax revenues as part of its base funding. That money generally goes to the smaller programs that have a hard time with match for federal grant funds.

Ms. McFadden remarked that all the programs are saying their staffs are not getting enough money. She asked if the Council has considered giving any excess money to the program staffs as a bonus. Ms. Griggs replied that she has requested Council permission to allow her to use excess administrative funds at the end of a fiscal year to increase the money available to the programs. CDVSA was able to do that for three or four years, and programs used the extra funding for whatever their needs were.

Ms. McFadden said the Council could specify the extra funding was for staff bonuses.

Ms. Griggs said it would be better to work toward obtaining increased funding for sustained salaries every year, rather than programs hoping to get a bonus at year end.

Ms. McFadden clarified that she did not mean giving incentive bonuses every year but that programs are saying they are dropping staff particularly this year.

Ms. Griggs stated that this year's administrative funds are about even with expenditures, so there is no excess to direct toward programs. Ms. McFadden said she advocated for any future excess money going toward salary bonuses to retain program staffing.

Ms. Wooley recalled prior funding sources that required paying program staff at a certain level to discourage turnover. Programs might have been limited in how many staff they could hire, but at least the programs were keeping their staff. She said staff retention is a difficult and ongoing issue that goes beyond the CDVSA. She mentioned reaching out to the university to help with training and that there is discussion by some groups about a loan repayment program for health care providers. If some of these people need some schooling to get in, then the CDVSA should try to get it so they would be eligible for it. So the CDVSA may not be able to pay the direct wages but may be able to help with student loans.

As follow-up to last meeting, Ms. Sarren asked about a program (what program?) that had not spent all of its grant because it was not in compliance. Ms. Griggs replied that the program worked through its problems with the CDVSA program coordinator, the issues were resolved, and the program paid the funds back. Those funds were put back into the general pot for the other programs.

Ms. Sarren inquired if Maniilaq Family Crisis Center in Kotzebue received the one-year extension of the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) discretionary grant. Ms. Griggs confirmed that Maniilaq received an extension on both their VAWA projects. Ms. Sarren asked how Maniilaq was doing now. Ms. Griggs said she thought Maniilaq has used some of the VAWA discretionary funds but not the victim services funds. Maniilaq's program coordinator at CDVSA is Linda Hoven, who is working extensively with the program to get their projects on line. She added that Maniilaq is having an employee turnover problem, plus one employee had a heart attack.

MOTION BY MS. MCFADDEN THAT THE NEXT TIME THE COUNCIL MEETS TO LOOK AT A WAY TO PROVIDE INCENTIVES TO BETTER RETAIN AND GET QUALIFIED, WELL-EQUIPPED STAFF TO OPERATE THE SHELTER PROGRAMS. COLONEL HOLLOWAY SECONDED.

The motion carried unanimously.

Chair House asked if staff was looking at other areas for grant money. Ms. Griggs responded that Ms. Morton, Ms. Hoven, and Ann _____? are all looking at various grant programs. She added that sometimes the grants are too exclusive to fit the CVDSA needs. Staff is also helping individual programs with their separate grant applications.

Ms. Wooley stated that it is important for the Council to also realize that the Anchorage municipal program has been operating with an earmark that will get them through the next year, after which they will be short \$300,000 or \$400,000 in order to keep the program going. While it is called the Anchorage program, people literally come in from all over the state and receive services there. She added that the Division of Public Health does not have any solid funding for doing domestic violence work (Linda Chamberlain and Jo Gottschalk). The division has been successful in the last few years by "robbing Peter to pay Paul" in order to support those positions, but that is getting harder every year.

Ms. Griggs said the CDVSA is aware of that and has explored options without success. She added that both those individuals are doing incredible work and are a valuable resource.

Chair House indicated that the Council would do the wrap-up next, then meet in a work session to discuss Strategic Planning following adjournment of the regular meeting.

NEXT MEETING DATE

The Council tentatively set the next quarterly meeting for Friday, March 6, 2009, in Juneau. They also discussed holding the funding meeting in Anchorage during the first half of May to avoid higher lodging expenses after May 15 -- staff agreed to e-mail Council members to determine an exact date.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no other business, the chair adjourned the meeting at 2:00 p.m.

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

Confidential Office Services
Karen Pearce Brown
Juneau, Alaska