

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

**MINUTES OF 4TH QUARTER FY2010 MEETING  
May 13 & 14, 2010**

**Location  
Aurora Conference Room  
Crowne Plaza Hotel  
109 West International Airport Road  
Anchorage, Alaska**

**CALL TO ORDER & ROLL CALL**

Chair Stephanie McFadden called the Council on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault (CDVSA) meeting to order at 10:05 a.m. on Thursday, May 13, 2010. Eight Council members were present at roll call to form a quorum.

**Council members present: Stephanie McFadden** (public member/chair); **Susan Cushing** (public member/vice chair); **Ann House** (public member); **Colonel Audie Holloway** (Department of Public Safety, Alaska State Troopers); **Richard Svobodny** (Department of Law); **Deputy Commissioner Sam Edwards** (Department of Corrections); **Melissa Stone** (Department of Health & Social Services); **Kristine Norbert** (public member)

**Council members absent:** Cynthia Curran (DEED)

**Council staff present: Sandy Samaniego**, (Executive Director); **Joanne Griggs** (Administrative Officer); **Ella Nierra** (Administrative Assistant); **Lauree Morton** (Program Coordinator); **Forest Kvasnikoff** (Research Analyst) by teleconference

**Others present** (in person or by telephone): **Robin Bronen** Alaska Immigration Justice Project; **Brenda Stanfill** (IAC, Fairbanks); **Lori Grassgreen** (ANDVSA); **Lisa Mariotti** (ANDVSA); **Donn Bennice** (AFS - Palmer); **Suzi Pearson** (AWAIC - Anchorage); **Michelle DeWitt** (TWC - Bethel); **Michelle (Dakai) Iyatunguk** (Maniilaq - Kotzebue); **Linda Hulse** (DHSS); **Violet C\_\_\_\_\_** (BSWG - Nome); **Nancy Haag** (STAR - Anchorage);

**AGENDA ADDITIONS OR CHANGES**

Ms. House requested taking up an item in the minutes that was not addressed about how to form the Council to improve it. She also wanted to add discussion of a S\*T\*O\*P committee, and indicated she had a list of people she could provide later.

Chair McFadden said she would add those two items as time permitted.

Ms. Norbert asked to move taking up the H. Peters Sex Offender Registry Letter to the next meeting because she was still working on that matter.

The agenda was approved.

#### **COUNCIL CONFLICT INQUIRY**

Chair McFadden inquired if any Council members had possible conflicts of interest related to the items on the meeting's agenda.

There were no conflict-of-interest disclosures.

#### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES - March 4, 2010**

COLONEL HOLLOWAY MOVED THAT THE COUNCIL APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE MARCH 4, 2010 MEETING. The motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Morton indicated that the minutes for April 19, 2010 would be on the next meeting's agenda.

#### **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

CDVSA Executive Director Sandy Samaniego distributed a detailed written report (*on file at the CDVSA offices*). She reviewed highlights of the report and how each program or project on the list advanced specific objectives of the CDVSA Strategic Plan:

- Public awareness and social norms media campaigns were produced in partnership with the Alaska Network on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault. One campaign launched in early April was aimed at youth ages 13 to 22, to help them identify their role in having safe and respectful relationships and in preventing violence. Another campaign targeting Alaska men was four public awareness informational ads that were aired between September 2009 and March 2010. The feedback from various sources has been positive.
- Rape Prevention and Education (RPE) Project, a national initiative to promote primary prevention of sexual assault, is funded through the Alaska Department of Health and Social Services, which in turn receives the funding from the Centers for Disease Control (CDC). Nine teachers from around the state attended a two-day training in November to learn more about safe schools and using the Fourth R (relationships) curriculum. A second training for 8th and 9th grade teachers is scheduled for August 2010. The statewide RPE steering committee met earlier this week with

the Delta Project steering committee, which targets domestic violence, to consider combining the two efforts.

- The funding for the Rural Domestic Violence and Child Victimization project concluded on March 31, 2010. A final report to the federal Office on Violence Against Women (OVW) on project outcomes and achievements is due in July.
- The CDVSA staff participates in statewide prevention planning as members of the DELTA and RPE steering committees. As mentioned earlier, the two committees met to discuss the status of both strategic plans and whether the plans could be joined.

Ms. Cushing asked if there was RPE funding for the shelter personnel to go into the schools to train teachers on the Fourth R curriculum. Ms. Griggs said she did not know. Ms. Cushing said she would like to know because she had heard that the school in Nome was getting \$3,000 to host the program, but the person teaching the curriculum does not have funding if it goes through the shelter.

Lori Grassgreen of the Network said that teachers within the school are encouraged to teach the Fourth R curriculum lessons, and within those lessons they can invite people from outside of the schools to participate. In addition to the funds coming from RPE, the Departments of Education & Early Development and Health & Social Services have pooled funds for a Fourth R training coming up August 2-3. There are scholarships for teachers' travel to attend and receive the curriculum. Those are the only funds that are being given to anyone through the Fourth R. Any member program is allowed to come to a training at no cost, but the state is not paying for their travel.

Ms. Cushing asked if the person teaching the Fourth R has to be a certified teacher in the school system. Ms. Grassgreen said for the curriculum being used in Alaska they prefer an 8th or 9th grade health educator, because that has produced the most success in Canada and some states where the program has been used and evaluated.

Ms. Samaniego continued with her report:

- The annual reports for the S\*T\*O\*P (Services, Training, Officers, Prosecutors) Violence Against Women Act grant funds were submitted to OVW. [Her written report included details of how law enforcement, prosecutors, the Court System, and victim services used their funding.] The STOP Recovery Act funds were awarded to 11 programs, and projects started May 1 and have an April 30, 2011 end date. Approximately \$39,000 remains to be distributed, and a second proposal was let. The Council will be deciding awards at this meeting.

Chair McFadden asked Ann House to provide a progress report on forming a committee to work on a three-year plan for the STOP grant.

Ms. House stated that at the last meeting she and the executive director were directed to find at least 10-12 people for a committee. She asked fellow members if the Council had to approve the people selected for the committee, because she had already advised the people that they were on the committee.

Ms. Stone referred to the motion made at the last meeting and said she believed Ms. House was given the authority to do just that. Ms. House indicated that she would distribute a list of committee members *[on file at the CDVSA offices]*.

Mr. Svobodny inquired about what training the Court gave to the clerks of court with the STOP grant. Ms. Morton explained that Beth Adams, the domestic violence coordinator with the Court System, and Patti Bland, the training director at the Network, have been holding one- to two-day training conferences with clerks to go over filing domestic violence protective orders, and civil assistance in legal matters, particularly for protective orders and working with victims coming in.

Ms. Samaniego continued with her report:

- CDVSA continues to wait for the award of the earmark for Grants to Encourage Arrest. The program will provide legal advocacy services to victims throughout the state for one year.
- A committee met on April 8-9 on the collaboration to improve the Office of Children's Services (OCS) and statewide domestic violence and sexual assault programs capacity to work collaboratively in order to better serve Alaskan families directly impacted by domestic violence, sexual violence, and child sexual abuse. This effort is not funded by any source. The group will continue to meet by teleconference over the summer.
- The Victims For Justice, Alaska Victims Assistance Academy is scheduled for May 23-28 in Anchorage.

Ms. Cushing said she had heard from good sources that OCS is very short of funding and so swamped that they are having difficulty addressing any concerns other than "blood at the door," and that the Public Health nurses are not going to be allowed to do home visits anymore. She wondered how those two situations could possibly contribute to improving the services of preventing domestic violence in the home.

Ms. Stone stated that she could check and find out. She added that she was sick and missed the April 8-9 committee meeting in Anchorage. She thought the collaboration between OCS and dv/sa programs was potentially very important, and she wondered if there was any more information about the strategies the committee is working on.

Ms. Samaniego responded that the group is in the very early stages and has not identified the problems or developed an action plan yet. Part of the reason for that is no funding. However, she believed the effort held a lot of promise within the next year.

The Council briefly discussed the cause of OCS being so swamped but had more questions than answers. Ms. Cushing said she is a member of a community health forum in Homer that consists of representatives from all the social services agencies and other community members who would like to build a healthier community through collaboration and coalition. She said the group wanted her to bring up the OCS situation at the CDVSA meeting, as well as the issue about Public Health nurses not doing home visits. Apparently, a new organization that hires registered nurses will eventually do home visits, so there will be a gap in services.

Mr. Svobodny commented that the Council should find out the facts before considering what to do about the situation. Ms. Stone reiterated that she would do the fact-finding.

Ms. Samaniego continued giving her report:

- The Fairbank shelter's Supervised Visitation Supervised Exchange Program is awaiting approval of its policy and procedures and parent handbook from the OVW program manager.
- The Batterers Intervention Program Task Force met for a full day in January for training, to set out goals and timelines, and to form subcommittees. The entire task force met in March via videoconference with a nationally known expert. They met again in April and are moving forward with their objectives. This is a very active and hardworking group. They are studying the effectiveness of BIP programs and plan to make recommendations at the end.

Mr. Edwards commented that the definition of BIP has received a lot of attention by the task force, as well as trying to identify what works program-wise and how to identify the people who should attend a treatment program.

Ms. Stone said she was very interested in knowing specifically what the parameters are going to be for the BIP Task Force's evaluation. Ms. Samaniego said she would be keeping the Council advised as part of her regular reports, and Council members were welcome to call her any time for an update.

Ms. Stone asked if tracking recidivism for batterers was part of Dr. Rosay's work. Ms. Samaniego said it was not.

### NETWORK REPORT

Michelle DeWitt presented the director report for the Alaska Network on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault (Network). She indicated that another Network board member, Brenda Stanfill, was on the teleconference.

- The program directors traveled to Juneau for a quarterly meeting in March, where they were able to meet with Governor Parnell and some of his staff to discuss the Governor's initiative and the coordination that the Network and its member programs have done with that initiative. They also met with Representative Anna Fairclough, who was instrumental in working in the Legislative on some initiative-related items.
- The Legal Advocacy Program (LAP) held its continuing legal education conference this past quarter for attorneys, guardians ad litem, child custody investigators, and some judges.
- Prevention has been a major component of the Network's work in the past few months, with the Stand Up, Speak Up campaign, the Choose Respect campaign, and the marches on March 31.
- The Network has been very involved in serving on the BIP Task Force, the Delta Statewide Steering Group, and the OCS/Domestic Violence Work Group.
- The Network released its strategic plan [*copy on file at the ANDVSA web site*].
- Funding for FY2011 has been on everyone's mind at the Network. Peggy Brown emailed the Council about the increment in state funding that is available for the next fiscal year – \$691,900. That increase in state funds levels out the amount of money available for the Council to put out in the grants line for FY11. With certain federal funds expiring, the Network wanted to be sure that in this next year the victim services programs do not take a step backwards in terms of the amount of money available for them to provide their programs. The Network advocated for enough state money to keep the available grant funding for FY11 at the same level as FY10. Network member programs discussed the Council's discussion at a prior meeting about distributing the increment funding on a percentage basis, and the programs believe that process would be the best-case scenario.

Chair McFadden complimented the Network on its informative newsletter and said it looked like everyone was always busy.

Chair McFadden called a scheduled break at 10:55 a.m. The meeting reconvened at 11:15 a.m. to take up public comment at the scheduled time on the agenda.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

The Chair opened the floor for public comment, starting with those present at the Anchorage meeting location.

Michelle Iyatunguk from Maniilaq Association in Kotzebue addressed the Council first. She said she was the director of the Maniilaq Family Crisis Center, and then about a year ago Maniilaq Association decided to operate a TANF (Temporary Assistance to Needy Families). She had written that plan and was asked to take on that responsibility, so she moved under Tribal Government Services in the Maniilaq organizational chart and left part of her heart in the Family Crisis Center. In March 2010 the Maniilaq board of directors opted to have the Family Crisis Center go back under her direction and under Tribal Government Services. They have not figured out how to get that all in line yet, but they know they are working in the right direction.

Ms. Iyatunguk reported that they have a half-time domestic violence advocate in nine of the 12 village sites, in part funded by a Rural Domestic Violence Sexual Assault Stalking Grant and the Tribal TANF program. More victims are coming forth because they are seeking financial aid first from the TANF program to meet their immediate financial situation and then disclosing to the advocate what their situation is. Maniilaq is working to develop a system of care that streamlines the services between the economic disparity that often occurs when a woman is in a domestic violence situation.

In addition to the Tribal TANF work, Maniilaq is doing ICWA (Indian Child Welfare Act) work, bringing in the ICWA workers from the villages and cross-training them. In 2011 they hope to provide the 40-hour domestic violence advocacy training to all the ICWA workers. They believe cross-training will be the key to bringing the services into the village communities and getting the issues addressed.

Ms. Iyatunguk said she applied for a Ski Alaska grant and got three full backpacks for women and four backpacks for children that included the clothing needed if they are going to flee from home in the middle of the winter in the Northwest Arctic region.

Maniilaq is working with the Network in the "Alaska Men Choose Respect" program and got a small grant. They are starting phase one of what they hope is a three-year project called "Call to Men." This program has proved successful in other areas of the country. By bringing phase one to Alaska, they hope two of their staff members can incorporate a Native perspective and cultural aspect into the curriculum.

Having the Family Crisis Center program under Tribal Government Services, they are working closer with the Alaska State Troopers through the Village Public Safety Officer (VPSO) program, bringing the VPSOs in for the 40-hour domestic violence advocacy program as well. In October 2010 Maniilaq hopes to present the Pathway to Hope child sexual abuse program to their region – because with awareness comes knowledge, and with knowledge comes prevention efforts.

Ms. Iyatunguk said Maniilaq is on a grand roll, and it is a lot of work, but they see the challenge and are ready to face it.

Brenda Stanfill, executive director of Interior Alaska Center for Non-Violent Living (IAC) in Fairbanks, spoke by teleconference. She thanked the Council for being so active, especially the Department of Public Safety, in the two Respect rallies and marches that happened. They made the front page of the Fairbanks News Miner, which is the first time ever that the issue of domestic violence and sexual assault has made the front page that it wasn't the headline of someone's death. It was telling of the backing that all of this had to have the Troopers there in all their gear.

Ms. Stanfill said IAC has been involved in the court clerk training that the CDVSA assisted in arranging, which is having a big impact in the Fairbanks area. Clerks have since come to the shelter for a tour, and the clerks are calling routinely with referrals when people start asking questions. IAC has an agreement to bring people over by cab. She thanked the Council for opening opportunities for the programs in their communities. Having the state backing and having the Governor's backing can make some inroads that sometimes programs have been unable to make on their own.

Ms. Stanfill stated that she has been on numerous committees and been able to interact with people statewide, and she feels that the organizations are making inroads on the issues. She added that she looked forward to the Council doing a percentage for distributing funds in FY2011 and not asking the programs to write grants.

Nancy Haag, executive director of Standing Together Against Rape (STAR) in Anchorage, spoke by telephone and said she looked forward to seeing the Council members when they toured the facility later in the evening.

Suzi Pearson, executive director of Abused Women's Aid In Crisis (AWAIC) in Anchorage, attended in person to make her comments. She said she had been with AWAIC for almost 15 years and was passionate about the cause and AWAIC's mission. The past year has been somewhat tumultuous, but things have evened out. In the first nine months of 2009 they saw unprecedented numbers of people accessing the shelter. This past fall they started to look more at AWAIC's screening process, as well as the back door, and started addressing more of the lethality issues of victims and where they were and identifying who could use additional community resources and other shelters, and combining that with non-residential services. In the process, they also looked at case management services that were happening in shelter assisting women to move on in the community. As part of that, they identified safety and housing plans much earlier in the process, and have been assisting women to get into housing much quicker. The length of shelter stays has decreased some because of that.

Ms. Pearson reported that with guidance from the board the former executive director capped the shelter maximum at 75; they were in the high eighties at one time this past year. Actually, working with the board, and because of staffing levels, AWAIC moved the shelter maximum to 65, with 75 being the emergency level. Besides staffing, it is looking at the lethality and whether they are moving women through the shelter efficiently, effectively and safely so the women can get into housing more quickly.

Ms. Pearson also addressed transitions in management, where most of the vacant positions have been filled from within the agency. So there is a great deal of stability and support in the agency. The incoming deputy director has over seven years with AWAIC, and other management positions have almost ten years.

Ms. Pearson said that AWAIC is a partner in the Supervised Visitation Supervised Exchange Program in conjunction with the Cook Inlet Tribal Council, and they are very hopeful that it will happen. Another OVV grant that AWAIC applied for in conjunction with STAR and Covenant House Alaska is to address advocacy and support for youth experiencing domestic violence, dating violence, stalking, and other related issues. They hope to hear about that grant in the fall. While they have done some prevention work with youth, this project is unique because it would be providing advocacy about domestic violence to youth, and that is not actually happening in the community at all. Currently, youth are not getting the support around the civil and

court process and around domestic violence and protective orders that should be happening.

Ms. Pearson thanked the Council and CDSVA staff, saying Ms. Griggs, Ms. Morton and Ms. Hoven had been extremely helpful with the challenges AWAIC faced with regards to getting advances.

Chair McFadden recalled that AWAIC's previous executive director had reported about two years ago that one problem was not enough affordable housing in the area for people transitioning out of the shelter. She asked if that was still a problem.

Ms. Pearson said yes, that Anchorage has a very low vacancy rate, around 3%. So using vouchers is a real challenge because landlords have multiple people applying; there is a stigma attached to a voucher, and oftentimes landlords do not want to rent to somebody with a voucher. People are getting extensions on their vouchers because they are unable to find housing immediately. She is involved with the Anchorage Coalition on Homelessness, as well as the Alaska Coalition on Housing and Homelessness. AWAIC has been advocating and working actively with the community to deal with these issues.

Ms. Pearson confirmed for the Chair that she became the permanent executive director as of April 1.

Donn Bennice, President and CEO of Alaska Family Services in Palmer, and also President of the Alaska Behavioral Health Association (ABHA), addressed the Council in person. On behalf of the second organization, he said they are very much in favor of the domestic violence initiative and think it is about time, so much so that they put into their annual priorities this year to work with the Council and the Network and anyone who wants to work with them in developing an integrated model between behavioral health and domestic violence. He offered ABHA's support in any way the CDVSA could use them to do that. They are very interested in getting into the data collection and looking at some of the issues around domestic violence in terms of co-occurring disorders and behavioral health issues. He said several months ago he asked the ABHA membership to sit down with the domestic violence agencies in their area to talk about the issues. Some have been doing that all along, but many have not done that for a long time. He has gotten some good feedback from the people pursuing that interaction.

Mr. Bennice made a pitch for Alaska Family Services, as a non-member of the Network, when it comes to the CDVSA funding this year. Their program has grown by leaps and bounds over the last five or six years; they had 3,200 shelter nights six years ago, and they will cap 8,000 shelter nights this year. The Alaska

Housing Finance Corporation report on homelessness came out, and AFS was at an 84% capacity utilization rate, which is one of the highest in the state. It would be higher than that if AFS did not cap it, because there is a huge need in the Matanuska-Susitna Valley. He also hoped the Council would consider AFS for any special projects that come out. One they are very interested in is the model program that the Council has discussed. He understood that Bethel was a choice for that, and he supported that. He has not worked in Bethel for four years, but Bethel has a lot of unique needs. But having a model just at that site might not give the Council a model that can work statewide. AFS in Palmer is one of the few agencies that actually has a full behavioral health substance abuse treatment center in its agency that can lend support to the domestic violence program.

Michelle DeWitt, executive director of Tundra Women's Coalition (TWC) in Bethel, said she has been there almost 13 years this summer. TWC opened its new facility in December 2009, and they knew from watching the Fairbanks program's experience with its new building to expect some changes in operations and use of services. TWC is at almost 7,000 shelter nights at the end of the third quarter, which is a very large number for them and probably more than they provided all last year. In the third quarter alone, they provided 1,676 nights for adults and 1,448 nights for children. In the third quarter they nearly matched the first two quarters, and that is directly related to opening the new facility. She talked to the maintenance person for his perspective, because he was around but not part of the daily work; he said he thought it was a combination of the Governor's initiative and all the media that came out about domestic violence, all the media that came out about the new facility, and then the very nice, comfortable space that people have to occupy. It is a tremendous struggle for TWC, but they were fortunate to get one more shelter position from the Recovery Act grant through CDVSA, because they have definitely made the foray into safe staffing questions. When there are more than 40 people in shelter and one person on staff, during the high volume times of late afternoon and evenings there are some real safety questions coming up when there are about 30 children living in a program. So they are able to address that somewhat through the Recovery Act grant, but the problem won't go away with one year's funding. She will be strategizing about what will happen next with services.

Ms. DeWitt said TWC has some unique partnerships going on in Bethel. One of them is with the sex offender treatment program, which is housed in Corrections. TWC met yesterday with the staff of that program for a couple of hours and discussed ideas on how to work together to improve safety for people in the Delta by working with the sex offender treatment program.

Regarding the additional state funding coming up for FY11, Ms. DeWitt said she has been busy over the last 13 years but never as busy as she is today. There is so much happening related to the programs, services, and partnerships. The responsibilities span outreach and villages, etc. She said it was really important for her, coming from the workload she already has, that she not have to write a last-minute request for proposal before June 30. She hoped the Council would consider doing a percentage-based allocation of funding. Already she has to think about positions for FY11 and figuring out what goes and what stays in the budget. She thanked everyone at CDVSA for their work related to funding and related to partnering. For example, she came into Anchorage a couple of weeks ago to the OCS/Domestic Violence Group meeting and was only able to stay one day. But that one day was key, because she was able to meet the new director of Office of Children's Services, who recently moved to Bethel from Juneau, and already they have met in the community and have plans for change. Those are the kinds of things that can happen without money – because money is an issue for OCS and for TWC – but that relationship building and collaboration is so critical. She thanked the Council for bring the two groups together and for allowing the opportunity for new inroads and partnerships.

Ms. DeWitt reported that TWC is partnering with the Association of Village Council Presidents, a regional tribal non-profit organization. They are sharing a position right now, providing some outreach, prevention, and healing kinds of work related to domestic violence, sexual assault, and child abuse. That person just started a couple of weeks ago, and it will be interesting to see how that evolves. It is an opportunity for TWC to work closer with another regional organization.

Ms. Cushing inquired about the price of heating oil in Bethel. Ms. DeWitt replied that this year's barge has not come in yet, but TWC gets a discount through Crawley Marine Services. She thought they paid \$4.89 or \$5.11 a gallon, and the cost of delivery is on top of that. With the new facility, utility costs will not be quite the concern to her that they were in previous years. This year TWC operated two buildings for a while, and that was very stressful. The old building was shut off recently, and she is pleased to report that the fuel gauge barely moves at the new building. She hopes some savings on utilities will mean she can move money into the personnel budget next year to help meet the staffing ratio.

#### **ALASKA IMMIGRATION JUSTICE PROJECT**

Robin Bronen gave a PowerPoint presentation on the work the Alaska Immigration Justice Project (AIJP) does with immigrant

survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault victims, and human trafficking victims in the state. She is the executive director and has worked on domestic violence and sexual assault issues for 30 years. She said it enrages her that after 30 years of doing this work, the abuse is still happening at the levels that it is. There are two components to AIJP: a legal services project and the language interpreter center.

The legal services program, located in Anchorage and manned by six staff, does not just work with domestic violence and sexual assault survivors. Three attorneys, two legal advocate/paralegals, and an administrative staff person work with approximately 700 people a year. Ms. Bronen said she travels to many communities to provide services. The CDVSA currently funds a part-time legal advocate position and 25% of her time to do training. AIJP has received CDVSA funding since 1998.

Ms. Bronen reported that AIJP works with approximately 250 victims of domestic violence and sexual assault throughout the state in a year. A slide of a map showed where these victims are located in the state, from Ketchikan to Barrow and as far out as Unalaska. While AIJP does not go to the remote villages, it may just be because the people there do not know about the services that AIJP provides. The victims come from countries all over the world. AIJP has been 100% successful in doing the immigration legal services work, meaning that the people they are working with are legally entitled to the immigration documents that AIJP is able to get for them.

Immigration status is one of the most powerful tools that an abuser can use to keep a woman from seeking access to safety and protection. Because of limited English proficiency, the batterer will keep the woman isolated so that if there is an ethnic community where she lives in Alaska, he will not allow her to make those connections. The batterer will not file the immigration paperwork that he is responsible as a U.S. citizen for filing on her behalf. The threat of deportation is real and intense, and if the woman has U.S.-born children, she can be legally and permanently separated from them. Congress has been extraordinarily proactive in insuring that this group of individuals in the country gets access to legal services that they need. It started with the Violence Against Women Act in 1994, when Congress realized that U.S. citizens were the only ones who could file the immigration paperwork on behalf of their immigrant spouses, and they moved to correct that. VAWA has been reauthorized by Congress in 2000 and 2005, and each time Congress has filled the gaps in the law where U.S. citizen spouses have been able to manipulate the system so that more victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, and human trafficking can get access to the services that they need.

Ms. Bronen said something that has been a really significant change was in 2000 Congress created the U visa, specifically for immigrants who were not married to their U.S. citizen abuser, or the person who was abusing them also had no immigration documents. Victims of domestic violence and sexual assault who are cooperating with law enforcement can get a law enforcement certification letter that allows them to get a U visa. Also in 2000, Congress created new legislation to criminalize human trafficking and created the T visa specifically for victims of human trafficking. The first case under that new law was in Alaska. With VAWA 2000, U.S. citizens are required to self-report if they have had criminal convictions. And if they are using an international marriage broker, the broker has to tell the immigrant spouse, and the Department of Homeland Security will also tell the immigrant spouse. Then, for all immigrant spouses coming into the United States, consular offices throughout the world are supposed to give immigrant spouses of a U.S. citizen information about how to receive services if they are a victim of domestic violence or sexual assault.

Ms. Bronen also presented information about the language interpreter center that was started in 2007, with support from the Network, the Alaska Court System, the Anchorage School District, and an award from the Rasmuson Foundation. The money was used to train foreign and Alaska Native interpreters, to train professionals working with interpreters, and to provide a statewide referral system. There are currently two staff working in this program. The center has gone out to Bethel to do an interpreter summit, and they brought a mini training program to Barrow. This fall, they will be bringing a medical interpreter training program to Dillingham and working with Yupik interpreters there. They hope this 44-hour training will be the model of bringing this program to other parts of Alaska. The center has trained 115 interpreters in 36 languages and is working very closely with the Alaska Court System. There are no court-certified interpreters in Alaska, but they are currently working on testing interpreters to get that certification.

Ms. Morton mentioned that the STOP Recovery Act funds that the Court System receives through CDVSA will be partially funding the certification testing that will be going on this next year.

Ms. Bronen stated that the AIJP is doing grassroots prevention domestic violence advocacy using federal Rural Domestic Violence grant funding through the Office on Violence Against Women. This program has been working in Anchorage, and she will be going to Homer to find out what is happening in the Old Believer community in that area next week. They are also doing work in Unalaska and Kodiak.

Ms. Bronen said AIJP does multi-disciplinary training programs that are critical. They have worked with the Network since 1996, and they are regularly included in the Network's training programs for the domestic violence and sexual assault programs. She travels around the state doing trainings in the communities. The last training was on human trafficking, and some communities have been identified as places where human trafficking is happening.

Chair McFadden thanked Ms. Bronen for her informational presentation. She indicated that Ms. Stone had asked if a staff person from the Department of Health and Social Services could give a short talk on grants at 4:15 p.m. on the agenda, instead of the usual departmental update.

Ms. Samaniego stated that the Council had asked her at the last meeting to touch base with the Rasmuson Foundation, and she did that. She and her Rasmuson contact have been trying to make arrangements to get together when both are in Anchorage and available.

#### **LUNCH RECESS**

Chair McFadden called a recess for lunch at 12:15 p.m. The meeting reconvened at 2:00 p.m.

Following lunch, Council members held a brief discussion about the next day's agenda, possibly having a working lunch, and being able to attend the Governor's bill signing at noon on the 14th in Anchorage.

#### **H. PETERS LETTER - SEX OFFENDER REGISTRY**

This item was moved to the next meeting.

#### **FY11 CALENDAR OF MEETINGS**

Ms. Griggs stated that the March Council meeting is normally held in Juneau to accommodate any interaction with legislators and staff. The June funding meeting is generally held in Anchorage because it is easier for program representatives to attend there. Last year the Council followed through on a much-discussed plan to hold one meeting a year at a rural location, but bad weather prevented that from happening in Kodiak last September as planned, and the meeting was held in Anchorage. The December meeting is usually held by teleconference.

Chair McFadden expressed her desire to try for the Kodiak location again for the September 2010 meeting, because everyone had agreed on that destination last year.

After some discussion, the Council tentatively selected the following meeting dates for fiscal year 2011:

September 23-24, 2010 in Kodiak  
December 7, 2010 Teleconference  
March 3-4, 2011 in Juneau (may only need 1 day)  
May 12-13, 2011 in Anchorage (funding meeting)

The Chair asked Ms. Nierra to send the Council members the meeting dates next week.

### **2010 LEGISLATION**

Ms. Samaniego had provided a detailed written report, which is on file at the CDVSA office. She said domestic violence, sexual assault, and sexual abuse of a minor were huge topics for everybody this year. The on-point pieces of legislation in the last session were House Bill 324, an extensive bill on failure to appear; Senate Bill 110, a bill that passed on the preservation of evidence; and Senate Bill 222, relating to sex offenses and offender registration.

### **OVERVIEW: THE COUNCIL AND THE NETWORK**

Ms. Morton reviewed a two-page handout that outlined the differences between the Network on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault, a non-profit membership corporation, and the Council on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault, a state government organization (*handout on file at the CDVSA offices*). She reviewed the governance, who they are responsible to, their purposes, and the duties of each organization. She said she viewed the Network as the professional organization of the service provider programs, and the Council is more the state coordinating body that is able to get the funding out to the programs and to have the departments work together in a systemic way to respond to domestic violence and sexual assault. She has worked in both organizations, as well as at a program.

Ms. Morton next answered several questions about the Network's staff structure and funding sources.

Chair McFadden stated that it seemed the Network was more in the forefront than the CDVSA, that it was touching every level of every issue all over the state. She wondered what the Council was not doing that the Network was doing that makes them run the way they run.

Ms. Morton said the Network has been fortunate in being able to access pots of federal money to do specific statewide efforts that are also national efforts, such as the Centers For Disease Control DELTA money and the Family Violence Prevention Fund, and be part of the 10-State Health Initiative. So there are some financial resources that state coalitions are able to access that government agencies do not qualify for. And on a national basis, there has been an emphasis on increasing the presence and availability of state coalitions. The Network has been assertive in going after those kinds of opportunities, and they are fortunate in the staff they have to implement things. She stated that the CDVSA participates in the Network's efforts by CDVSA staff sitting on committees. The CDVSA name may not be as prominent, coming from the funding perspective or the coordination and facilitation perspective, but the CDVSA is still in there doing those kinds of activities.

Ms. Stone commented that it seemed over time that the Council did not apply for grants. She said Behavioral Health Division has two grant applications in right now for system-changing kinds of funds, and that would be like the CDVSA applying for federal grants that would enable it to change [unintelligible...].

Ms. Morton stated that most often the CDVSA has applied for grants that provide for direct services – the VOCA grant, the FVPSA grant, and some of the formula grants. For some of the competitive grants, the CDVSA has applied for training, such as the state tribal forums; once again, to augment or strength the direct service. The CDVSA has not applied for grants that would expand or do something in addition to providing or strengthening direct services. That is not to say that CDVSA could not do that.

Col. Holloway asked if the Council was doing all that it could do to complement what the Network does, and should the Council be taking the lead on some things that the Network cannot do.

Mr. Edwards posed a further question of whether the Council should be doing anything that the Network is doing, and if the CDVSA should be anything more than an oversight and an audit tool.

Mr. Svobodny said his view is that the CDVSA should not be competing with the Network for the same pots of money. One reason the Council exists is to fairly divvy up the money and not have all the different programs lobbying the legislature each time. The Council has a lot of contacts with state agencies, and each time a Council member goes to a community for business they could, for example, speak at a public radio station about sexual

assault and domestic violence. There are lots of things the CDVSA could be doing that are not competing with the Network.

Ms. Cushing recalled it being raised at the last discussion on this topic that the CDVSA does not have the staffing for aggressive grant writing because the work has grown so much.

Ms. Griggs said she did not know that the CDVSA was not going for grants; however, she was not present for the conversation that Ms. Cushing referenced. CDVSA staff does apply for federal grants that they feel the programs will benefit from, and they are frequently successful in getting the funding.

Ms. Stone said the statute lays out 14 items the Council should be doing, so it seems simple. She read the CDVSA Legislative Task Force report and had lots of questions, despite the Council having followed up on the recommendations in that report. She thought there would be something in the report worth revisiting, because the Task Force did a comprehensive review of the CDVSA. Perhaps the Task Force assessment would give some ideas about the effective operation of the CDVSA. She thought the Council should really understand the 14 items they are tasked to do by statute. Also, the Council should review its regulations to see if those warrant strengthening. For example, consulting with the Department of Health and Social Services in the formulation of procedures for service delivery has a lot of meat to it. And consulting with the Alaska Police Standards Council regarding training programs has probably worked well over the years based on the training that is done.

Ms. Stone commented that the Council has brought this up over two meetings, and she thought they were trying to assess the CDVSA's value and purpose, particularly relevant to the Governor's initiative. She thought there should be a subgroup to study how the pieces fit together.

Col. Holloway stated that the CDVSA has a broad mandate that it is supposed to be doing. The reason for the CDVSA Legislative Task Force was because some people thought the CDVSA was not doing as much as it should be doing, because it had gotten into a maintenance type of programming in the way it did business, and because it did not have the momentum and the wherewithal to go any further with what it was supposed to be doing. The CDVSA Legislative Task Force was not satisfied and was trying to give the Council a push to do more. He thought by the next meeting the chair should give members an assignment to come up with some other ways and things the Council could be doing to break out of the mold it is in. It may not work, but he felt the Council ought to try.

Ms. Cushing asked Ms. Morton, since she has worked in both the Network and the CDVSA, if she had any ideas. Ms. Morton said it is part of the Council's job to do more than just fund programs: it would be great to review the statutes and to look at what the Council sees as do-able and whether or not it is within the context of the strategic plan - or if it would want to amend the strategic plan. Ms. Morton added that the Council would probably need some effort between formal meetings to be able to get that done. Both the CDVSA and the Network need to be strong in order to move forward in reducing domestic violence and sexual assault.

Col. Holloway stressed that the CDVSA had done a lot, including - along with the Department of Public Safety, the Department of Law, and the Court System - to help change the law related to conditions of release and to upgrade the process and technology to be able to react quicker to perpetrators who violate conditions of release. Everyone collectively should be proud of getting that process started; it is a big project that will take several years to fully implement. But it will make a difference because it holds perpetrators accountable immediately. The Council should continue with that project to make it even better. One thing that Mr. Svobodny mentioned is getting the word out so that the public comes to accept it, the politicians accept it, and the judges come to accept that this is what everyone wants to do as a society. After a while it will be ingrained, and people will change the way they are thinking.

Ms. House referred to the minutes of the last meeting and said she thought the Council needed to hold a retreat on goals and the future, and not continue to talk about this subject at every meeting without doing anything.

Mr. Svobodny said he agreed with everything that had been said, but the timing is off because the Council did not get the work done by this meeting, and the Governor is going to have a sexual assault coordinator position in the Department of Education. If the Council were going to hold a retreat, it should be before those two people come on line so the Council could meet with them on day one and say "Here is where we think you should go." Any retreat should be held soon.

Ms. Griggs informed the Council that administrative funds were pretty tight this year and it was getting toward the end of the fiscal year. A retreat is not inexpensive, so holding it in July, after the beginning of the new fiscal year, would be better.

Col. Holloway suggested holding the retreat in one of the state conference rooms in Anchorage to save on costs. It could be done in a day, if members came prepared with ideas.

Ms. Stone said the subject needed attention and she supported the idea of a retreat. Either a small group should work on it and bring the draft results to the full Council, or the full Council should spend some time together - which would require preparatory work, like having staff summarize the follow-up work done on the CDVSA Task Force report. She favored using a facilitator. She did not think the talking would be so much about strategic planning as it would be about the structure. The Council might be clearer about planning within that structure.

Col. Holloway expressed that there is no need to rework the strategic plan because the existing plan is broad enough to encompass anything the Council might decide it needed to do, as long as they are doing it in the interest of reducing domestic violence and sexual assault.

Ms. House urged building the organization up for the citizens and seeing how to really change and formally take charge in the Governor's eyes and everyone's eyes.

The Council discussed whether to split up the 14 statutory duties between two CDVSA subgroups to work on before the retreat, whether to hire a facilitator for the retreat, and a possible date in June. One suggestion was to approach Chris Ashenbrenner to facilitate, because, as former CDVSA executive director, she possesses the institutional memory.

At 3:00 p.m. Chair McFadden called a scheduled break, and the meeting reconvened 15 minutes later.

#### **REVISIONS TO THE AGENDA**

Council members and staff made some adjustments to the agenda to move selected items to the first day and be able to complete business by noon on Friday.

#### **SUMMARY OF ALASKAN DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AND SEXUAL ASSAULT RESEARCH PROJECTS**

CDVSA Research Analyst Forest Kvasnikoff joined the meeting by teleconference for this agenda item. He referenced a bound special report that was distributed to Council members in advance of the meeting (*on file at the CDVSA offices*). This summary had been requested by a Council member in the last quarter of 2009 and was a broad overview of the University of Alaska Justice Center's research and studies on domestic violence and sexual violence, largely within the past decade. The report included the UAA Justice Center's recommendations, along with an extensive annotated bibliography compiled for the Council's use.

Mr. Kvasnikoff reviewed the contents of the special report and noted that it appeared that the least extensively studied topic through the UAA Justice Center was approaches that seek to describe child and minor domestic and sexual violence. He said the most important part of the report was the recommendations that focused primarily on a specific set of issues: (1) increasing law enforcement capabilities for investigative purposes; (2) addressing alcohol abuse through education or prohibitive actions; (3) enhancing access through sexual assault nurse examiners (SANE); (4) statewide victimization survey for which the UAA Justice Center has been working to finalize a proposal and seek funding; and (5) a statewide data collection system that would be under the Department of Public Safety.

Mr. Kvasnikoff also reviewed the suggestions he compiled after reviewing the research: (1) targeted prevention strategies; (2) CDVSA-funded victim services programs; (3) data collection and analysis needs; and (4) municipal and state law enforcement collaboration (page 29).

Regarding prevention, he noted that a lot of sexual assaults take place between younger females and older males, and the encounters are usually between known acquaintances. Prevention strategies historically have focused on adult females being assaulted by strangers, but that typically is not the case – at least not in the Justice Center's data. A focus in Alaska is the Alaska Native populations, which not only display higher rates of victimization, but also have higher rates of being perpetrators of domestic violence and sexual assault. So building coalitions with Alaska Native regional and community bodies is an important aspect of approaching any prevention strategy.

Regarding CDVSA-funded victim services programs, one of the studies indicated that 25% of the women in the study found shelters not to be helpful at all. Mr. Kvasnikoff said when he asked one of the co-authors of the research they basically indicated that in the Copper River Basin where the study was conducted there is not access to a victim shelter. So it has less to do with the shelter not doing its job and more to do with the shelter not existing. Service catchment is a big and complicated issue.

Data collection and analysis concerning children and minor physical and sexual abuse are greatly lacking. What is out there is covered in the special report, but Mr. Kvasnikoff said he was unable to find through the UAA Justice Center or any other source studies or statistics that specifically indicate the scope of the child physical and sexual abuse problem within Alaska. So that is a big need. He also found there has not really been a significant analysis of outcomes on victims that receive services through

victim services programs to find out whether things are worse or the same for victims. That is probably an important research project that needs to be undertaken.

Mr. Kvasnikoff stated that a 2007 analysis of reported cases to the Alaska State Troopers of sexual assault and child sexual abuse indicated that only 2% of the victims were informed of the Victims of Crime Compensation Board, and only 1% were informed of their victim rights. The study checked for documented notification, but it may be that this information was passed on to victims but not documented. One suggestion is to have a process that insures the information about victim services is being passed on to victims and documented by law enforcement personnel.

Ms. Cushing asked if Mr. Kvasnikoff had any information about the availability of SART/SANE nurses in the state. One of the three recommendations is that SART/SANE nurses are needed, but there is a deficit of nurses, period.

Mr. Kvasnikoff said his knowledge of this is through the UAA Justice Center's studies. There are only a few hub communities that have sexual assault nurse examiners (SANEs). Another issue described in the victim services program quarterly performance reports that Council members receive was that there is a SANE examiner in Dillingham but, because of other work that had to be done, a sexual assault victim did not have prompt access to a nurse examiner. That relates more to the fact that there are not enough SANE nurse examiners. A corollary comment is about where the funding is coming from to pay for SANE examiners.

Ms. Cushing asked if nurses are being trained specifically for that type of examination in the University of Alaska system. Mr. Kvasnikoff said he did not know. Ms. Griggs said they are not.

Mr. Kvasnikoff said he thought there was an independent body that does training and certifies SART/SANE nurse examiners.

Col. Holloway added that several different groups teach it, some from hospitals themselves, including Providence. The Forensic Nurses Association of Alaska does some training as well. There is quite an organization of groups that are doing trainings in the state, and a school is going on right now in Fairbanks.

Ms. Morton explained that through the STOP grant there is sexual assault response team training across the state that Katie TePas organizes for the whole group; and that involves law enforcement, advocates, nurse examiners and prosecutors. There are 40 hours of training, and they have separate tracks, so nurses who are interested in being able to perform forensic exams can

participate in that training and get almost the number of required hours to be considered a nurse examiner to provide forensic exams. Even though there is a national organization of forensic nurses and some national guidelines, each state can specify within their own state what it means to be qualified to be a nurse examiner or to provide these exams. What that should look like and who should be responsible for doing it is one of the ongoing debates within Alaska right now. So while the study came out a few years ago and talked about the lack of forensic nurses, the discussion has moved to alternatives to the forensic nurses that are now available.

Ms. Stone commented that the special report was a very valuable report. She thought that relative to the CDVSA's structure and goals, and trying to connect the dots from the discussion earlier with the information that Mr. Kvasnikoff just presented, it seemed that someone on the CDVSA staff with enough expertise should be responsible for keeping track of how many forensic nurse examiners there are in the state over time, the trainings, the number of assaults, the kinds of interventions, how far people have to travel, etc. And the Council should have some goals around this. The package could be brought to the Council to look at what is good with it and what is bad with it and how to focus funding, resources, and efforts to enhance services.

Mr. Kvasnikoff suggested that the Council could bring in a nurse examiner or someone who runs the association to speak about some of the issues.

Col. Holloway indicated he had more information on the SART/SANE topic to report as part of the departmental updates later in the agenda. He praised the people responsible for the wonderful compendium of the efforts that have been done in the last few years. The research and studies are paying off because the state departments are using them.

Mr. Kvasnikoff said he thought it was important for the various state agencies to make a list of the programs, policies or guidelines that are related to the field of domestic violence and sexual assault to see where things overlap and where things are lacking. It would be valuable in directing CDVSA policies and programs, but it also would inform future research projects on effectiveness, etc.

Ms. Cushing said she agreed with that. It brought to mind the Child Advocacy Centers that are housed in some programs, such as Haven House in Homer. She suggested having a Child Advocacy Center professional give a report at a Council meeting.

#### **FINANCIAL REPORT**

CDVSA Administrative Officer Jo Griggs stated that the Council gave direction at the last meeting on how they would likely distribute the next fiscal year's funding to programs, after the legislative session was concluded and the final budget was known. She handed out a draft proposal for FY11 funding distribution to the programs that she wanted Council members to review and make a decision on (*on file at the CDVSA offices*). She noted that the Network's memorandum to the Council included a very similar recommendation for distributing funds.

Chair McFadden advocated for listening to what program directors said in public testimony earlier that they were very busy and that having to write grant proposals for the FY11 funding would be a hardship for them.

Mr. Svobodny inquired if any programs applied in fiscal year 2010 that did not get CDVSA funding at all. Ms. Griggs said Emmonak Women's Shelter applied but did not submit a complete application by the deadline. Emmonak also did not attend the funding meeting, and staff was unable to contact them.

Mr. Svobodny asked if Emmonak Women's Shelter was still in existence. Ms. Griggs replied that staff has tried repeatedly to contact Joanne and Lynn, whom they know at Emmonak, but have not gotten an answer.

Ms. DeWitt stated that Emmonak operates on a limited basis and is not open 24 hours. For that reason, they are difficult to reach, but TWC in Bethel has been able to collaborate with Emmonak on some things.

Col. Holloway mentioned that the community of Emmonak is in need of some assistance, but it needs to be an organized response. Alaska State Troopers is supposed to have two troopers there but there are none now, although they expect to have someone there soon. He said the money might be better spent by waiting until there is a bit more control and organization in Emmonak.

Ms. Griggs suggested that CDVSA staff work with Emmonak Women's Shelter to get them ready to apply for the next two-year funding cycle starting fiscal year 2012.

Ms. House asked why the Council could not hold 10% of the increment money in reserve for Emmonak should they come on board.

Ms. Griggs responded that Emmonak could not come on board unless the Council chose to open the funding for competitive applications.

Ms. House said she had been in favor of funding Emmonak Women's Shelter for a long time, and she wanted to see that program work.

Chair McFadden said she agreed with Col. Holloway, and her concern would be opening up the money for everyone to compete and then EWS not applying; the other programs would have had to do all the work for nothing.

Ms. Stone commented that DHSS encounters the same type of problem when some small communities simply do not have the capacity to do the grant applications, which are not easy to complete. She wondered whether CDVSA staff had the time to work with EWS for the next funding cycle grant application.

Ms. Griggs stated that quite a few staff, including herself and a former executive director, have been out to Emmonak and have worked very hard with that shelter program over the years to get grant applications in and to meet compliance requirements. That is not to say that staff would not be willing to do it again.

Ms. DeWitt said that Emmonak Women's Shelter receives some federal funding.

Ms. Stone said she would put it on her list to see what Behavioral Health is or is not doing in Emmonak. If there is some activity happening there, she could see how that impacts dv/sa relative to the people in the community who are working in social services.

Explaining the handout of proposed FY11 funding, Ms. Griggs said she took the amounts the Council awarded to the programs in FY10 and figured out the percentage that each program received of the total FY10 award. She took that percent and extended it to the additional funds available for FY11.

MR. SVOBODNY MOVED THAT THE COUNCIL ON DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AND SEXUAL ASSAULT FUND THE VICTIM SERVICES PROGRAMS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2011 PER STAFF'S RECOMMENDATION (*spreadsheet on file*). COL. HOLLOWAY SECONDED.

The motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Griggs proposed to the Council that it request the Department of Corrections (DOC) fund the criminal justice technician position itself rather than request funding from CDVSA grant money, as DOC has traditionally done every year. She said that while many of the people who use the automated victim notification system (VINE) operated by DOC are domestic violence and sexual assault victims, it is also widely used by other crime victims in Alaska. She explained that the CDVSA's own

administrative funds are getting very tight, and the CDVSA could use the \$55,000 it has been giving to DOC through a reimbursable services agreement. It has reached the point where the CDVSA will have to include the \$55,000 in its own budget request from the legislature, which would not make sense. The funding for the criminal justice tech position is in the CDVSA's FY11 budget, but staff would like the Council's authorization to leave it out of the FY12 budget. She has been taking half the money from general funds and half from the Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) grant funds, but the sources vary from year to year.

Mr. Edwards stated that he had been prepared for this discussion and had talked to his director of administration today. His understanding is that DOC would be prepared to lobby for FY12 funding, but the department does not have funding for the position in FY11. The full cost of the position has been about \$78,000 a year, and the department gets \$55,000 from CDVSA. He added that DOC used to have a probation officer and a criminal justice tech working in the Victim Services Unit, but they moved the probation officer to another area and placed more responsibility on the tech person.

MOTION BY MR. EDWARDS THAT THE COUNCIL ON DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AND SEXUAL ASSAULT REMOVE FUNDING FOR THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE TECHNICIAN POSITION IN THE DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS FROM THE CDVSA FISCAL YEAR 2012 BUDGET. MR. SVOBODNY SECONDED.

The motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Griggs reported that CDVSA received extensions on all the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) grants: one year on the VAWA earmark funding until April 2011, and the VAWA 2008 money will go until 2011.

Ms. Griggs informed any programs listening on line that the grant awards going out to the programs would be slightly different this year. Initially the award will be less than the total grant award, and as the federal funds come into CDVSA and become a valid grant, the money will be added to the original grant award at that time and a new grant award will be sent out.

Ms. Griggs asked that any programs that had not requested their fourth quarter advance yet to do so as quickly as possible because things were taking longer to process in the DPS Finance Division.

Ms. Griggs stated that at the time she prepared the FY10 financial report included in the meeting binder there were eight programs that had not requested their fourth quarter advance. That resulted in the remaining balances being a bit higher than

Council members would expect for the last quarter. At this time only two or three programs have outstanding requests. Fourth quarter reports are due by August 15, 2010.

Ms. Stone and Ms. Griggs briefly discussed the lack of deadlines for programs having quarterly funding requests in to CDVSA. Ms. Griggs said she would bring this up at a staff meeting and report back to the Council.

Ms. Griggs stated that the VOCA American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) money has all been granted out; two programs received the remaining funds when the Proposal Evaluation Committee met. The VAWA grant has all been distributed, except for the remaining amount that the Council would deal with tomorrow. The VAWA earmark projects are on track and doing very well, and have until April 2011 to finish.

Chair McFadden asked if the financial reports ever showed the travel costs for Council members and staff, or the cost of holding a meeting. Ms. Griggs replied that it is rolled up into the administrative line, but staff has that information available in the office in order to build the budget. She added that this was the first year that administrative funds expended have been so close to what was budgeted, and she expected that situation to continue. This is the second year that the executive director position has been filled the entire year and the coordinator positions have been filled the entire year, so there has been no lapse in personal services funds.

Ms. Griggs reported that the CDVSA budget for FY11 is \$13,999,600 plus an additional \$200,000 for batterers intervention programs.

Ms. Griggs explained that the last request for proposal (RFP) the Council worked with had changed the match formula from 15% to 20% to agree with the federal match requirement. That change was not well received by the programs all around; the smaller programs and some of the larger programs felt it was more difficult to fulfill. Staff was asking the Council for authorization to return the match requirement to 15% for the next RFP for state funds, which it was in the past.

Ms. Stone said she agreed that those are hard matches for small programs.

MS. STONE MOVED THAT THE COUNCIL ON DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AND SEXUAL ASSAULT CHANGE THE MATCH FORMULA BACK TO 15% FOR THE NEXT REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL FOR STATE FUNDS. COL. HOLLOWAY SECONDED.

The motion carried unanimously.

## DEPARTMENTAL UPDATES

### **Department of Health and Social Services - Melissa Stone/Linda Hulse**

Ms. Stone explained that this presentation was part of the Council exploring how other state departments manage their funding distribution to see if CDVSA could improve its process for giving out grants.

Linda Hulse, a grants manager for the Department of Health and Social Services, reviewed the role of her division where about 17 grant administrators oversee the grants and contracts for the whole department. They are assigned to divisions and/or programs within the department, and they work closely with a program manager in a division to put a grant solicitation together. They have a standard RFP across DHSS so that the grantees and providers will know what to expect from all the divisions. The administrative division does the administrative part of the RFP, which is about 50% of it, and the program managers then add the description and scope of services into that. All the competitive RFPs are posted on-line. The proposals come in directly to the grant administrators, who do a technical review. That initial review takes some of the burden away from the program managers, and they can focus on just their piece. If there is true competition for the funds, her division puts together a proposal evaluation committee (PEC) comprised of at least three people to review the proposals. These people are not necessarily state employees but are picked for their expertise in an area, and her division gives instructions on how to participate in a PEC. The PEC review, scoring and recommendation is totally separate from the department's review, which would be the program manager and the grant administrator. The PEC recommendations are combined with the program staff and grant administrator staff recommendations to come up with a clear picture of which proposals should be funded. That is put forward to the commissioner for final approval. The commissioner signs off on it, and they let the applicants know one way or the other if they are going to receive funding or not. Some applicants have to submit additional information. The department enters into a grant agreement with the applicants, and the grant administrator takes care of the day-to-day administrative piece of it. Some grant programs are on a three-year cycle, so the competitive solicitation is done one year, and then for the two years after that it is a continuation, which is less paperwork for the provider and a lot less paperwork on the department's end also.

Ms. Hulse answered several questions about process from Council members.

Chair McFadden asked if the PEC allowed for applicants to address them directly about their applications in a public meeting. Ms. Hulse replied that it was an option that DHSS does not exercise very often because they have had several problems with that. The direct communication has been used by applicants as a way to sell themselves, rather than focusing on their proposals. Applicants may take the opportunity to talk about other projects and their successes, as well as name drop. It is hard to control a situation like that.

Ms. Hulse described a partnership on a grants improvement project between DHSS, the Rasmuson Foundation, Foraker, and the Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority. It involved a survey of grantees to find out how DHSS could handle its grants process better. DHSS has been implementing quite a bit of the results of that survey, including putting more things on-line and streamlining the reporting.

Ms. Hulse also explained that there is a very streamlined request for proposal process for the smaller grants of \$50,000 and under. The legislative intent language suggested that DHSS also pay all grants that are \$50,000 and under 100% upfront, with no reporting requirement except at the end of the year - where that is allowed. Behavioral Health took it a step further: all grants \$50,000 and less are given 100% upfront, and any grants over \$50,000 are paid 60% upfront. So far, it has been well received by providers and has worked out well, because it gives them the cash flow that they need to get through the first six months plus a little. Behavioral Health still requires the quarterly reporting, but without the programs having a cash flow issue. They will have a better idea at the end of the year how this all worked out.

Ms. Hulse said she looked at the grant regulations for CDVSA and found them very similar to DHSS.

Ms. Stone said the main difference between how DHSS manages their grants and the CDVSA is that for the CDVSA it is the Council members who are acting as the grant administrator. Ms. Griggs added that CDVSA staff provide information on timeliness, reports, and how proposers do business, and forward that to the Council. Ms. Stone said that was a big difference. Chair McFadden said it would be huge difference if the Council did not spend several days scoring proposals because somebody else had already reviewed the packages, and the Council made its decisions based on those rankings and recommendations. Ms. Stone said there is nothing in the regulations preventing it from happening that way.

Col. Holloway stated that the CDVSA did not have enough staff to be able to do that, and there are accountability issues. The

Council is the group that should take the heat for its decisions, instead of the staff. The current process could be modified, but he did not think staff ought to be stuck with this.

Ms. Hulse asked if there was any impediment to the Council looking for volunteers to review the proposals, not that the Council would have to take the recommendations.

Col. Holloway said the Council might as well do it themselves, in light of the work and effort it would take.

Ms. Stone countered that if the criteria for scoring the proposals are clearly laid out, that would address Col. Holloway's point about the Council being accountable. And there would have to be appropriate oversight in the beginning in terms of training and making sure that the administration of the scoring was significant. That is how the DHSS process ensures a level of expectation for scoring.

**Department of Public Safety/Alaska State Troopers - Colonel Audie Holloway**

Col. Holloway stated that DPS has been trying to hire more VPSOs (Village Police Safety Officers) and has been successful to a limited degree. Some have been hired and will be trained as soon as possible. C Detachment Troopers have come up with a video, acquired through grant funds, that is going out to as many people as possible to address teen drinking and the effects of alcohol. The video has been well received, and in fact, KTUU did a story on it last week.

Col. Holloway reported that the Criminal Justice Working Group had mentioned a program that Hawaii is doing whereby the judges hold perpetrators accountable as quickly as they can. He found out today that the Alaska Court System is creating a version of that program as well. He said he was unsure what the effect would be on law enforcement's workload, but he thought it was a good program. It parallels many other efforts, such as conditions of release, and trying to make arrests as quickly as possible so that offenders who have traditionally thumbed their noses at the criminal justice system are now realizing that the chances of getting away with something are a lot less.

Col. Holloway said he had been following up on the program called Alaska Criminal Statistics, an effort to get a statewide idea of how many crimes there are. He has talked to as many chiefs as he has been able to, and they are all for it so far. The statistics on all felonies, all domestic violence, all DUIs, and certain alcohol crimes will come into DPS, and they will compile them. He hoped to have the plan worked out by the end of this year so that

their first year of actual Alaska Criminal Statistics will be 2011.

Col. Holloway stated that in 2011 DPS should be getting three domestic violence follow-up positions that are federally funded through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, and those positions will be going to Fairbanks, Mat-Su and Bethel.

DPS has been having problems with the SART program for about three years, including issues about who should be doing what. The department has been trying to fix the problems with the system, such as evidence handling. One of the problems has been getting the higher up administrators at the hospitals to take the situation seriously. DPS has recently been getting more response from those people, and the department believes they are on the right track to getting the SART problem resolved. Today the attorney general, the DPS commissioner, and a Providence executive met, and they think they can get things worked out. Col. Holloway has been meeting with some administrators from Providence at the lower level and with Dr. Hurlburt from Public Health, and they are trying to find a mediator from an agency unconnected with Alaska who has some expertise in the criminal justice system and with sexual assault to see if they can reach an agreement that satisfies most of what everybody needs.

#### **Department of Law - Rick Svobodny**

Mr. Svobodny said they are working on three pieces of legislation that all passed. He said that tomorrow the federal government will announce what amounts to a concession on some issues that concerned Alaska and other states on the Adam Walsh Act. The regulations will be out tomorrow for public comment for 60 days.

#### **Department of Corrections - Sam Edwards**

Mr. Edwards stated that DOC is heavy into the re-entry for prisoners into communities. Everything is geared toward public safety, a reduction in recidivism, and the offender accountability piece. DOC is trying to balance that with the evidence-based programs that the legislature is talking about, and that DOC is able to draw from nationally and assessment tools that they are looking at a key piece of anything they do. That relates directly to the batterers intervention programs. The information that DOC is getting is that it is vital to get the right person into the right BIP program in order to get a positive outcome, so DOC is looking at that.

Mr. Edwards said that a new Corrections academy is coming on line at the first of July in the Mat-Su Valley.

#### **RECOMMENDATION FOR COUNCIL RETREAT**

MR. SVOBODNY MOVED THAT SOMETIME IN THE NEAR FUTURE THE COUNCIL HOLD A FACILITATED RETREAT IN ANCHORAGE. MS. STONE AND MS. HOUSE SECONDED.

Ms. House added that the retreat would be to study the CDVSA mission statement and how to move forward, set goals, and set the goals as a powerful source of information and action in the state.

Mr. Svobodny said it sounded good to him.

The motion passed unanimously.

**RECESS FOR THE DAY**

Chair McFadden recessed the meeting for the day at approximately 5:00 p.m. The Council had plans to tour the Standing Together Against Rape facility within the hour. Mr. Edwards asked to be excused from the tour because he had a personnel issue to attend to.

Friday, May 14, 2010

**CALL BACK TO ORDER**

Chair McFadden called the meeting back to order at 8:35 a.m. Eight Council members were present.

**RECOVERY ACT S\*T\*O\*P PROGRAM AWARDS**

The Proposal Evaluation Committee (PEC) comprised of Stephanie McFadden, Susan Cushing and Sandy Samaniego met May 13 to review the two proposals for Recovery Act STOP grant funding. The applicants were Alaska Native Justice Center (ANJC) and Alaska Immigration Justice Project (AIJP).

Chair McFadden said the PEC was recommending approval for the AIJP proposal.

Ms. House asked why the ANJC proposal was not approved for funding. Ms. Samaniego stated that ANJC has not been timely with their reporting, and they are significantly underspent on the current project.

Mr. Svobodny sought clarification about what the AIJP position would be doing that related specifically to domestic violence and sexual assault, and Ms. Griggs explained. Mr. Svobodny said he just wanted to make sure that the money would be used for CDVSA-related efforts and not for other services that immigrant victims might desire or require and that AIJP might provide as part of its broader array of services to immigrants.

Mr. Edwards mentioned that yesterday Ms. Bronen of AIJP had stated that she was going to the Old Believers community near Homer, and he gathered that was in case there were victims there. Ms. Griggs explained that Peg Coleman of South Peninsula Haven House in Homer has repeatedly written in her RFPs that the Old Believers is one of the communities that the Homer shelter supports related to domestic violence problems. That community has been hard to access, so the fact that they have asked someone from AIJP to come talk to them is huge.

Ms. Norbert posed the possibility of splitting the grant amount and funding both applicants.

Ms. Samaniego said it is a possibility but not the recommendation of the PEC.

Ms. Morton clarified that the RFP from the Alaska Immigration Justice Center was not related to yesterday's reference to the Old Believers community. This RFP was to fund AIJP's part-time

legal advocate position that is specifically dedicated to immigrants who are victims of domestic violence and sexual assault. AIJP was not asking for CDVSA funding to do some other kind of work. The CDVSA gets quarterly reports from AIJP and monitors them to ensure they use the money for victims of domestic violence and sexual assault.

Mr. Svobodny assured her that he did not have any problem with that; he just wanted to be sure that was what AIJP was using the money for, because the RFP did not specifically say who the victims were. He said he was in favor of voting for the grant, but he asked that staff monitor what AIJP spends the money for. He cited the following language in the RFP, "to provide essential services to low income immigrants, victims most impacted by the recession." He said he assumed AIJP meant victims of domestic violence and sexual assault, but the language indicated that the first goal would be spending money on victims of the recession, and the second goal would be to continue to provide essential legal services to improve functioning of the criminal system to combat violence against women. He thought AIJP had a different agenda – not a bad agenda – but just different than what the CDVSA does. He just wanted to make sure that AIJP would be spending the grant money on the CDVSA's goal.

Ms. Griggs stated that staff would be paying attention to it in the quarterly reports from AIJP.

Ms. Morton commented that AIJP may have included the language about the recession because this was a ARRA grant proposal. So not only do proposals have to meet the criteria of the funding agency, which in this case is the Office of Violence Against Women, they also have to meet the Recovery Act priorities of creating or maintaining jobs or somehow dealing with people who are hurting because of the economic recession.

Responding to Mr. Svobodny, Ms. Griggs said the Council has about 13 months to spend the Recovery Act funding. The Council could go back out for other proposals, but it would reduce the amount of time in which to complete projects.

Ms. Cushing, a member of the PEC, stated that of the two proposals that the committee was given, it was unfortunate that the Alaska Native Justice Center already has something like \$70,000 that they have not spent yet out of a two-year grant (they have spent about 12%). Several of ANJC's financial reports have been late and done on the wrong form, and some of the narrative questions were not answered on any of the reports. She said she and the committee took that information into consideration when making their decision not to split the money

between the two applications that passed the first line of staff review. The winner was the AIJP.

Chair McFadden stated that she doubted ANJP could spend the \$39,000 of Recovery Act money in 13 months, on top of the \$70,000 they have not spent from their other grant.

Ms. Stone asked why ANJP applied for the CDVSA Recovery Act grant if they had not spent their other grant. Ms. Griggs said she did not know.

Mr. Svobodny asked about the amount of ANJP's request. Ms. Morton said it was for \$38,000.

MOTION BY MR. SVOBODNY THAT THE COUNCIL ON DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AND SEXUAL ASSAULT FUND THE ALASKA IMMIGRATION JUSTICE PROJECT (AIJP) FOR \$39,177 FROM THE AMERICAN RECOVERY & REINVESTMENT ACT GRANT TO PARTIALLY FUND A LEGAL ADVOCATE POSITION; FURTHER THAT THE AIJP BE MADE AWARE THAT THEIR REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL LANGUAGE WAS AMBIGUOUS, BUT THE COUNCIL WAS UNAMBIGUOUS THAT THE MONEY MUST BE SPENT ON VICTIMS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AND SEXUAL ASSAULT. MS. CUSHING SECONDED.

Mr. Svobodny added that he was giving AIJP the benefit of the doubt that their RFP really meant the services to be provided were for victims of domestic violence and sexual assault, instead of victims of the recession. He wanted that made very clear to AIJP. Inherent in conveying that information to AIJP was the message that if they do not follow that direction, they would not be getting funding in the future.

Ms. Griggs indicated that CDVSA staff would do that.

The motion passed unanimously.

Responding to Ms. Stone, Ms. Morton stated that she was the program coordinator for AIJP and she would follow up to make sure that the money was going where it should go.

Council members held a brief discussion on what items on the agenda they could get done before attending the Governor's bill signing at noon.

#### **PREPARATION FOR 2012-2013 FUNDING CYCLE**

Col. Holloway requested that whatever rules for distributing funding the Council developed as part of today's or follow-up discussions that the rules be documented so that people do not have to question what the rules are or question the source for why things are done the way they are.

Other Council members voiced agreement with documenting the funding distribution rules for easy future reference.

Ms. Stone indicated that she agreed about the documentation part, but she did not necessarily agree that the Council should continue scoring the grant applications. She felt the Council could still make the funding decisions without actually doing the scoring, and she wanted to keep that discussion point open. She added that relative to the 14 goals in the statute, the Council should of course be accountable for how it distributes funding, but it should also be broadening what it focuses on.

Ms. House asked Ms. Griggs to describe something they had talked about earlier.

Ms. Griggs stated that some years ago a subcommittee of the Council started the process of reviewing how the Council awards grants. The first of two ideas was what they called a continuance, and that was starting with the amount that the existing funded programs had been funded and going from there. So those programs had a very abbreviated RFP. It was going on the assumption that Council members already knew the victim services programs and how they worked because they had funded the programs in the past. The money available to any new programs coming in would be the money over and above the amount that was already given to the existing programs – and the existing programs would be able to ask for additional funding from that money, as well. That would be the way to open the door to new programs so they were not shut off from applying for money from CDVSA. The abbreviated RFP for existing programs asked, among other things, what kind of community support they were getting, and were they applying for additional funding from other sources. The Council did not want the programs to rely just on CDVSA to fund them continually, but wanted them to grow and get support and involvement from their community. The second idea the subcommittee came up with a base or core service theory. They found one or two other states that had tried to do it, and it turned out that going to communities to determine what the core services are in those communities was a long and complicated undertaking, involving public meetings, retaining consultants, and working with the programs. The subcommittee found the CDVSA could not do it with the time and resources available to it. The subcommittee never reached the point of bringing its suggestions to the full Council.

Council members and staff discussed what other states are doing; all have an RFP process but differ in the type of RFP and in restrictions, etc. Some states distribute the federal VAWA, VOCA,

and FVPSA grants through different state agencies, and not all states provide state funds.

Ms. Stone suggested that Ms. Samaniego contact Chris Carson at DHSS for advice about how the CDVSA could streamline its RFP process. She added that it is important, if the Council is going to change the process, to be consistent with the regulations. And there is probably help available through the Rasmuson Foundation, as well. Through this process, the Council also may uncover recommendations for changes to the CDVSA regulations in the future. She noted that Rasmuson solicited input from the providers when it helped DHSS improve its RFP process, and there is enough time to do that for CDVSA before the FY12 two-year funding RFP normally goes out.

Col. Holloway stated that making sure the CDVSA process complies with regulations is the first step. Council members spend a lot of time reading narratives in the RFPs that start to sound the same after four or five of them. He thought he could probably make a funding decision off a matrix of information where he could compare things like number of shelter days among the victim services programs. That might be more beneficial to him, along with a paragraph that described the main problem the program was facing in the next year where it needed help. Further, he preferred to give money to programs that are running efficiently. He said he already knows that programs are trying to do their job and provide services; what he needed to know is the trend – are shelter nights going up or down, are they having any major problems, and do they have anything that is detracting from the major mission, such as lack of efficiency.

Ms. Stone said the funding decision should be based on the performance of the agencies, and that begs the question of how the CDVSA is getting information about performance. The quarterly report narratives that the Council gets are valuable, but they do not really tell her about a program's performance. There is a tendency to think that the domestic violence and sexual assault agencies are not held to a standard of quantity, quality and effectiveness, but she disagreed with that. The Council is just as able to evaluate the quantity, quality and effectiveness of its programs as a mental health program or any other. The CDVSA may have avoided that by believing the programs are providing safety and what more could people want. She thought the Council wanted more than just that and should be able to identify what those things are. She is interested in recidivism and referrals to other services and treatments, so that over time it would be possible to enhance the expectations for quantity, quality and effectiveness. That can be part of the process of review that the scoring committee can look at in making funding decisions.

Col. Holloway said that was a good point. The Council could count that as part of CDVSA's attempt to stop the recidivism, i.e., is the person or family that is having a problem getting the help they need so they don't keep coming back over and over again. It is a type of prevention, so that if the CDVSA is doing the right things, it is not only trying to provide services but trying to keep those families from having to come back with future problems to the shelters.

Chair McFadden asked if CDVSA collects any of the data that Ms. Stone and Col. Holloway mentioned. Ms. Morton said CDVSA collects basic services provided information, that is, the kinds of service the program participant has asked for and that they have needed or received (advocacy, medical accompaniment, law enforcement accompaniment, food, shelter, counseling, group activity, transportation). Starting two years ago, the Family Violence Prevention & Services Act (FVPSA) asked programs to start asking two outcome measure questions, which are: do you know more about the resources that are available to you than you did before you came into shelter; and do you have more information about safety planning and do you feel safer from your interaction with the shelter. CDVSA has been collecting the responses to those two specific questions for about a year and a half. There are federal confidentiality statutes that prohibit the state from having information that specifically identifies people. The programs capture all sorts of individual information, and the CDVSA can get unduplicated counts of people who have accessed services.

Ms. Morton stated that recidivism is an easy term to use because people understand what it means, but usually one of the goals is to have people come back for services as often as is necessary to get to a life that is free of violence. Hopefully when people come back the resources are there for them and they do feel safer. Further, that there is a coordinated community response around the person who has committed a crime of violence to hold them accountable so that the victims have to access the victim services programs less often.

Ms. Stone said it sounded like the Council should be asking the shelters what it is that makes a difference between a victim that gets beat again and comes back and the victim who does not. She thought the Council should be looking at that to say that is what CDVSA should be working on, to help the programs improve that which makes a difference. She said she understood the need for safety and that people should return for services as often as necessary, but if the state was going to stop the epidemic, the CDVSA should be looking at what it could reinforce that makes a difference. She did not think the CDVSA was honing in on that yet.

Chair McFadden remarked that the CDVSA needed a mechanism to check if a shelter is failing or having a problem, so the Council knows about it well in advance of the funding meeting and before it has to say no to a funding request. The CDVSA needs to get a shelter to the point where it can continue funding it.

Ms. Stone agreed that the CDVSA wants its funded entities to perform because it needs them.

Col. Holloway said he appreciated a well-written proposal, but he appreciated facts and figures even more. At some point the Council has given better scores to programs that write better or present better. Just because a program is not good at writing does not mean that they do not need the money. Maybe what the Council could do is get the standard description of what a program provides that is separate from the application, which would be a series of questions. That takes the burden off the shelter directors to have to come up with some unique way to be noticed, because the directors have done just about everything they can think of to get their message through to the Council. It takes a lot of time to read the narratives where they are attempting their best to get the attention so they can provide services. A questionnaire might be a fairer way for the Council to get answers to the questions most important to it.

Responding to Chair McFadden about the last time the CDVSA solicited programs about what the CDVSA could do better as far as the grants go, Ms. Griggs said it was about five years ago. She added that she doubted the answers would have changed much in the intervening period: programs found the RFP process onerous and time consuming.

Ms. Morton clarified that the regulations say that the Council can ask RFP respondents to attend the funding meeting and talk. Originally, it was because Council members thought that some people wrote better and some people presented better, and hearing from applicants in person gave equal weight to both of those skills.

Ms. Griggs mentioned that over time people started thinking that if they did not attend to make a presentation it would impact their awards, and so they felt they had to be there. It is difficult for some small programs and an expensive trip.

Ms. Stone said maybe there are ways to equalize the playing field without it being necessary for everybody to incur the expense to attend the funding meeting. She wanted to do away with the personal appearances because those verbal requests are as unquantified as anything else – and she wanted to see that travel

money go to services. Speaking from experience, she said it takes program people away from their communities and leaves the programs short-staffed to provide services. Dropping that part of the RFP process entirely would be another way of leveling the playing field.

Col. Holloway said that would make it as fair as possible for everybody. If the Council had to reduce funding or take funding away from a program, it could be learned about by sending staff to do spot audits, say, if reports are chronically late or incomplete, signaling there is a problem. He said he did not need to see the program executives in person, but he did want a basic understanding of who the program is and what they do. As much as he tries not to, he is swayed when somebody presents a sensible argument to him in person: it is not fair to somebody else who lacks that skill. He also agreed with Ms. Stone that the personal appearances are too expensive.

Ms. House said she really enjoyed what the programs send in, however, the elephant in the midst is the lack of a good data collection system to keep track of the people yearly to see if they are really being honest with their statistics reporting. The CDVSA has no way to compare at this point. She would like information that lists shelter nights, etc., but also just below the bottom she would like to see staff's comments on whether this person is up to speed and doing a good job (because staff has to go through all the reports anyway).

Ms. Stone again suggested that the CDVSA give its ideas to the Rasmuson Foundation, who would probably help the Council get to where it needs to go. She also suggested creating a group made up of CDVSA staff and providers to come up with meaningful quarterly information so the Council was aware quarterly of how things were going with the programs and fully up to date on things at the two-year funding meeting. Doing away with the narrative reports would be part of that revamped quarterly report.

Col. Holloway expressed support for that idea and for including the staff and provider representatives who really know the business to draft the 10 or 15 questions to be answered in the quarterly report. Except for a short biography of what the shelter is, the question responses would be all the Council got.

Ms. Cushing asked that the questions include things she picked up in the narratives that seemed important to her, especially related to what happens to the people after being counted in shelter nights; do they get referred to the professional social services in the community for co-recurring needs, and is there any tracking system for those referrals. The Council should know if the clients are getting other help for quality of life for

their situation and that they do not repeat coming to the shelters, sort of chipping away at that problem. That would be more documentation, but a question about referrals to other agencies and collaboration could be helpful. The referrals would spread the response to the problem and create networking in a community that, for instance, makes everybody more aware of the terrible problem that a shelter is having. There would be more buy-in and eventually more improvement on the number of shelter nights, hopefully.

Col. Holloway said that if the programs cannot answer a question in a number or a single word, then the answer should be no more than two sentences long. This would eliminate Council members having to read through two boxes of grant applications.

Ms. Cushing clarified that she was talking about the quarterly reports, but it could be both, because the quarterly reports feed into the grant applications.

Ms. Morton suggested that Council members look at what data is already collected, because currently that includes a matrix where programs fill out interactions with community partners. That could be included with hearing from providers about what would be most helpful for the Council to know from their perspective. Regarding a modified grant, that will probably involve modifying the CDVSA regulations because right now there are 17 elements that the CDVSA has to look at as part of the grant application. Even though there is time to make modifications to the RFP by next year, it is not a lot of time when talking about actually changing the regulations. The process for regulation change is quite laborious.

Ms. Stone said the Council should be smart about what those 17 elements are in scoring grant applications so that the basic requirements are minimized in scoring, and what is maximized is what makes a difference. So the Council could streamline the RFP process without having to change the regulations, although it would not preclude making recommendations for changing regulations in the future. She offered to hand out the DHSS scoring format and instructions *[on file at CDVSA offices]*.

MOTION BY MS. STONE THAT THE COUNCIL DIRECT ITS STAFF TO FORM A WORK GROUP WITH A SUBGROUP OF PROVIDERS TO MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE COUNCIL RELATIVE TO WHAT INFORMATION AND DATA SHOULD BE INCLUDED IN QUARTERLY REPORTS AND THAT WOULD ULTIMATELY BE PART OF THE DECISION-MAKING PROCESS FOR GRANTS. COL. HOLLOWAY SECONDED.

The motion passed unanimously, with eight members present.

Chair McFadden called a short break at this point.

**FY11 BIPS FUNDING**

Ms. Griggs stated that FY11 is the second year of the batterers intervention program (BIP) funding. She asked if the Council wanted to distribute the \$200,000 in FY11 funding to the same programs and in the same amounts as FY10.

There was no formal motion, but the Chair asked if there was any objection to doing that, and no one spoke against it.

**PREPARATION FOR 2012-2013 FUNDING CYCLE (Continued)**

Council members and staff reviewed and discussed the score sheet and instructions for proposal evaluation committee members used at the Alaska Department of Health and Social Services that Ms. Stone had handed out as an example of rating RFP proposals with yes/no answers and numerical scores.

Ms. Stone informed fellow Council members of the Public Health nurse response that she received during this meeting regarding Ms. Cushing's earlier question about nurse home visits. The response was that Public Health was focusing on including more of a community and systems based focus for public health nursing service activities to help build larger community capacity. The state will never have enough public health nurses to meet all the needs and demands for home visiting or clinical preventive services, so they need to invest time in other collaborative and capacity building activities to address growing needs. This may mean that some nurses or some public health centers will not be spending as much time doing home visits or clinical services so that some time can be freed up to devote to community based activities. However, Public Health was not stopping home visiting or clinical preventive services. There are funds in the federal reform legislation targeted to states for home visiting services, and the Division of Public Health was planning to submit an application for Alaska when and if an RFP comes out. The chief of Public Health Nursing indicated in her email response that she would be happy to talk to the Council or Ms. Cushing further about any concerns. Ms. Stone indicated that Dr. Hurlburt also sent a response with similar information.

Ms. Cushing thanked Ms. Stone for the timely response to her question.

Ms. Stone suggested, in addition to the work group with providers about reformatting the quarterly reports, that the CDVSA resurvey the providers relative to getting feedback on the whole RFP process, not just the data piece. It might be possible to use the

same survey that DHSS used for its providers, because the issues are much the same. Further, that the executive director seek any assistance it could get from Chris Carson at DHSS and the Rasmuson Foundation, so as not to have to rediscover everything.

Ms. Morton indicated that CDVSA has a survey.

MOTION BY COL. HOLLOWAY THAT THE COUNCIL ON DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AND SEXUAL ASSAULT ABOLISH THE PAST REQUEST-FOR-PROPOSAL AND SCORING PRACTICES THAT HAVE BEEN USED AND FORMULATE AN ABBREVIATED STANDARDIZED METHOD THAT WILL BE DETERMINED BY A SURVEY AND BY CONTACTING PROFESSIONALS FOR ADVICE, AND THE COUNCIL WILL VOTE ON THE NEW FUNDING PROCESS AT THE NEXT MEETING. MS. STONE SECONDED.

Ms. Stone said that would allow three months for staff to get recommendations ready for the Council to act upon at its September meeting. Ms. Samaniego said she thought that was doable.

Ms. Stone commented that the Department of Education may have helpful information about its RFP process that the CDVSA staff could draw upon as well. Ms. Samaniego said she would check with Ms. Curran.

Chair McFadden indicated that, without objection, the motion was passed. Eight members were present.

Ms. Samaniego ascertained that Col. Holloway would be staff's main contact person if she needed clarification about what the Council wanted staff to do in developing a new funding process. Col. Holloway suggested that Ms. Stone could also be a contact.

Ms. Griggs asked if the Council also expected programs not to be making presentations at the two-year funding meeting.

While there was a brief exchange about making that determination as part of the whole package, the Council decided to take formal action on this one piece.

MR. SVOBODNY MOVED THAT THE CDVSA GRANT PROCESS NOT INCLUDE ORAL PRESENTATIONS AT THE FUNDING MEETING. SECONDED BY MS. HOUSE. The motion passed unanimously.

#### **OTHER BUSINESS & WRAP-UP**

Chair McFadden mentioned the need to build into the budget some travel funds so that public members can attend training at least once a year. This would help public members gain knowledge and feel more comfortable about being qualified to sit on the Council and make them the best members they can be. Public members have

to take time off their jobs to get training, but they are on the Council because they share a passion for the field. She said she advocated for the money, but if public members did not use it, the money could be taken back and used for something else.

Ms. Griggs stated that in the past it was not a problem and there have been almost unlimited opportunities for training. But just in FY10 there was a huge legislated contractual obligation that came out of general funds. And because CDVSA has been fortunate enough to have a stable work force and thus a low vacancy factor, there was less carryover in federal administrative funds. Those two things created a limited amount of money available for training.

Chair McFadden said she never wanted something to take away from public members' opportunity for training.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no other business, the meeting adjourned at approximately 11:00 a.m.

Note: An outside contractor prepared the summary minutes from staff's recording of the meeting. For further detail, please refer to the recording of the meeting and staff reports and handouts on file at the CDVSA office.

Confidential Office Services  
Karen Pearce Brown  
Juneau, Alaska