

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

**MINUTES OF SECOND QUARTER FY2011 MEETING
DECEMBER 7, 2010**

**Location
Juneau - Teleconference**

CALL TO ORDER & ROLL CALL

In the absence of the Chair and Vice Chair, Ann House acted as Chair and called the teleconference meeting of the Council on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault (CDVSA) to order at 12:00 p.m. on Tuesday, December 7, 2010. Five Council members were present at roll call to form a quorum.

Council members present: **Ann House** (public member); **Colonel Audie Holloway** (Department of Public Safety); **Richard Svobodny** (Department of Law); **Melissa Stone** (Department of Health & Social Services); and **Cyndy Curran** (Department of Education & Early Development)

Council members absent: Stephanie McFadden, Susan Cushing, Sam Edwards, and Kristine Norbert

Council staff present: **Sandy Samaniego**, (Executive Director); **Ella Nierra** (Administrative Assistant); **Lauree Morton** (Program Coordinator); **Angie Wells** (Office Assistant)

Others present (in person or by telephone): **Peggy Brown** (ANDVSA)

COUNCIL CONFLICT INQUIRY

Chair House asked if anyone had a potential conflict of interest with items on the meeting's agenda.

There were no conflict-of-interest disclosures.

APPROVE MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 23-24, 2010

Ms. Stone said the minutes were incredibly lengthy and needed to be more summarized. Chair House agreed with her and said the minutes should just report the actions taken and not have everything verbatim.

RICK SVOBODNY MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE SEPTEMBER 23-24, 2010 MEETING AS PRESENTED. COL. HOLLOWAY SECONDED.

Ms. Stone had a correction on page 27, as follows: "Ms. Stone reported that DHSS got a small grant from ~~FERSA(?)~~ HRSA to link primary care and behavioral health services in three communities..."

The minutes were approved as amended.

AGENDA ADDITIONS OR CHANGES

The agenda was accepted as presented.

CORRESPONDENCE

CDVSA Executive Director Sandy Samaniego referred to two letters received from the Network on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault (Network) and forwarded to Council members.

Mr. Svobodny said the Council could have been better in how it went into and came out of executive session at the September 23-24 meeting. He had no problems with the Network asking that the Council get training on Robert's Rules of Order or with the suggestion for training on the State's Open Meetings Act. He was fine with asking the Executive Director to arrange that training.

Other Council members indicated their support for education on meeting management.

MR. SVOBODNY MOVED TO HAVE THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR FIND SOMEONE TO PROVIDE TRAINING TO THE COUNCIL ON THE OPEN MEETINGS ACT AND ON HOW THE COUNCIL SHOULD CONDUCT PUBLIC MEETINGS. SECONDED BY MS. CURRAN.

Mr. Svobodny said the Network's letter said the Council did not follow Robert's Rules of Order, but he did not have an understanding that it was required to follow that particular protocol.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Ms. Samaniego had provided a 12-page written report prior to the meeting [*on file at the CDVSA offices*]. She offered, in the interest of time, to answer any questions on the report rather than do a detailed review.

Responding to Ms. Stone's inquiry about the continuing recruitment for the research analyst position, Ms. Samaniego said she would follow up with Dan Spencer of DPS Administrative Services on the discussion at the September meeting about upgrading positions.

Ms. Stone asked if nine teachers attending a two-day Fourth R training was considered a success relative to the number of people invited. Ms. Morton said she thought a total of 26-27 teachers had been trained so far. Ms. Samaniego added that it is limited by the number of communities that are participating in the Fourth R project and by funding.

Ms. Stone asked if October's Lead On Conference for youth on sexual violence prevention was a success, as in, how many people did it reach and what kind of an impact is it making. Ms. Samaniego indicated the Network report would have more details, and she could supplement later if something was missed.

FINANCIAL REPORT Q&A

Administrative Officer Jo Griggs was not available.

NETWORK REPORT

Peggy Brown, Executive Director of the Network on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault, reported on the following items:

- The Network hired a new staff attorney, Katie Russ, to work in the Pro Bono Program.
- Ms. Brown has been asked to be on the transition team for Public Safety.
- The Fourth R Project, which has some CDVSA funding, has trained 27 teachers. The project has been successful thus far in providing education on healthy relationships to school-age children, and the Network is taking steps to try to prove it. The Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium will be evaluating the project.
- The Lead On Conference had about 80 youths and 40 adults from all over Alaska this year (full report available from Network).
- The Network was successful in getting several grants. One initiative, with a one-year planning grant, is to build relationships in four communities between Office of Children's Services workers and advocacy workers.
- The Direct Service Conference took place October 27-29. There is some headway being made, and the Network would send some stats on that.

Ms. Stone asked if she, Ms. Brown and Ms. Samaniego could meet to talk about how to follow up and prepare the domestic violence workers relative to mental health issues. Ms. Brown agreed it was an excellent idea. Ms. Samaniego was tasked with setting up the meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENT

At the appointed time on the agenda, Chair House inquired if any member of the public wished to address the Council. There was no response, and the meeting continued to the next agenda item.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Governor's Initiative Committee:

Col. Holloway, one of the committee members, along with Stephanie McFadden and Kristine Norbert, stated that they had not been able to meet yet.

MOU Committee:

Committee members are Melissa Stone, Sam Edwards and Susan Cushing. Ms. Stone indicated they had not met, and she asked Ms. Samaniego if staff could set up that meeting.

Administration Committee:

Chair House reported that this committee, made up of herself, Rick Svobodny, and Cyndy Curran, had not met either. She indicated that they would schedule a meeting in January.

RFP DISCUSSION

Lauree Morton said the work group of Council members to look at grants management, of which Ms. Cushing was the facilitator, had not met, to her knowledge. When this was discussed in the summer, CDVSA staff and four people from funded programs convened a work group and talked about the process. They surveyed all the CDVSA-funded programs, got 14 responses back, and developed grant proposal recommendations from those responses. The Council did not have an opportunity to take up those recommendations at the September meeting, so the work group distributed a two-page summary *[copy on file at the CDVSA offices]*.

Ms. Morton stated that there is a time constraint, and she doubted the Council would be able to come up with a completely new request for proposal (RFP) to the full extent that members were expecting for fiscal year 2012. The latest that staff could issue the RFP would be mid-January, which would give programs not quite two months to submit their proposals, in time to forward them to Council members for review in time for the May funding meeting. She sought input from Council members on the direction they wanted to go with the recommendations so she could perhaps draft a new RFP that would meet at least some of the Council's concerns.

Ms. Stone raised the notion of extending the current grant cycle by one more year for the funded programs, if there were no program operational kinds of changes in the recommendations.

Ms. Morton said she did not think there were any. She added that if the grant cycle were extended, staff would want programs to submit new goals and objectives for the third year and a new budget. The Council also might want to consider what to do in case a budget increment passes and results in additional funds to provide to the programs. She agreed to check the regulations regarding the length of the grant cycle.

Col. Holloway supported the idea of extending the grant cycle, in order for the Council to have adequate time to figure out a good grant awarding process.

MS. STONE MOVED THAT THE CDVSA STAFF INVESTIGATE, THROUGH THE DEPARTMENT AND THROUGH REGULATIONS, WHETHER THERE IS A RESTRICTION ON EXTENDING THE VICTIM SERVICES GRANT CYCLE FOR ONE YEAR, AND IF THERE IS NOT, THAT THE COUNCIL DO SO. SECONDED BY COL. HOLLOWAY.

Ms. Stone asked if staff was aware of other providers that were trying to get into the CDVSA-funded system. Ms. Morton said yes. Ms. Stone said an extension would be a problem for any provider wanting to compete for the FY12 funds, and could be a reason not to do it.

Chair House noted that with Mr. Svobodny currently off line, reducing the number of participating members to four, the Council could approve the motion without a quorum but have to contact Mr. Svobodny afterward to get his approval and make it binding.

Ms. Samaniego sought clarification, if the motion passed and staff determined that there was no restriction on extending the grant cycle one year, that the Council wanted staff to pursue that course without first going back to the Council.

Chair House recommended that staff come back to the Council first via a teleconference meeting.

On a roll call vote, members Stone, Holloway, Curran and House voted in favor of the motion.

Ms. Stone suggested convening the Grants Committee that Ms. Morton referred to earlier to talk about the RFP for FY13, as well as the quarterly report, which could be changed for FY12.

Chair House said staff would research who was on the committee and start it over again with replacement members, if necessary.

Ms. Samaniego agreed to set up a meeting of the committee.

Hearing Mr. Svobodny on line, Chair House asked if he was in favor of the motion the other four members had just acted upon. He said he was a "yes" vote. That meant the motion passed, 5-0.

BIPS TASK FORCE DISCUSSION

Ms. Samaniego stated that the Governor's Office was anxious to get the Batterers Intervention Program (BIP) Task Force moving. She reviewed the history of the Task Force to date and remarked that it seemed to have lost some of its momentum. *[Brenda Stanfill of Interior Center for Non-Violent Living (IAC) in Fairbanks gave a full report of the Task Force at the September 23-24, 2010 meeting.]* Ms. Samaniego said the Task Force was unable to come up with an evaluation of BIPs, largely because they thought a different model was needed for rural areas and urban communities. The group also could not come up with anything solid about what changes would have to be made to state regulations to help insure the efficacy of BIPs. She said a batterers intervention program is a tool and just part of the criminal justice system response to domestic violence. All the other pieces have to be in place in order for it to work.

Regarding the \$100,000 that has been RSA'd (reimbursable services agreement) from the Governor's Office, Ms. Stone suggested going back to the audit and pulling out the questions the CDVSA Legislative Task Force was requiring the CDVSA to answer by 2013. She recalled that Rep. Fairclough's comments at the September meeting were clear that the task force was looking for some very specific kinds of outcomes as a result of that audit. After that, the Council could decide whether to reconstitute the BIP Task Force.

Ms. Samaniego stated that the BIPs could be different by massively involving people from the different regions to come up with the answers on how to work with batterers in those regions.

Ms. Stone stressed that a group needed to get together to look at the BIP Task Force recommendations in terms of what to do with the \$100,000 funding, and that could not wait until the next Council meeting in March.

Ms. Samaniego said she was fine with that idea, as long as the group could get together soon, before all the momentum is lost.

Chair House asked Ms. Stone, Mr. Edwards, Ms. McFadden and Ms. Samaniego to be on the committee.

Ms. Brown said it would be helpful for committee members to see the RFP for the contract so they could review the parameters and the timeline. Ms. Stone agreed.

OTHER MATTERS

Executive Director Evaluation

Col. Holloway stated that he distributed to Council members the evaluation form and job description for the CDVSA executive director, but he did not get anything back. Some Council members indicated they did not receive the information. In light of his upcoming retirement, Col. Holloway suggested that it might be better for people to simply send him their comments about the ED's performance by December 15, which he would aggregate and forward to the Department of Public Safety commissioner before his last day.

Follow-up to Release of Survey Results

Chair House remarked that the press was gathered for the release of the victimization survey results for domestic violence and sexual assault in Alaska, and everyone has been mute since then. She wondered why there was no response from the State. She thought the CDVSA should have been ready for more action and follow-up.

Col. Holloway said that regardless of whether it looked like nothing happened, release of the survey results was a big deal. Much of that information has not been evaluated yet and will be used for years; plus, more information is still being gathered. He thought there would be several more reports from the data, and there would be more publicity as the University studies it more. Also, the Governor will likely use the information at some point in the DV/SA initiative. He said the data confirmed what the Council already knew but even to a greater degree; the problem is so big that he thought people may not have wrapped their heads around it yet. He did not expect an immediate response or solution to the problem because it is too big.

Ms. Stone said Ms. House's question about what the CDVSA is doing with the data is a good one. Maybe the Council should look at its plan and any strategies already in place in light of the survey results to see how the CDVSA is directing its attention.

Chair House clarified that statistics are always good to get, but she was disappointed that release of the survey results did not seem to have any long-lasting awareness to the public. If something could be done about that, she would like to see it done.

Ms. Brown commented that she liked the Chair's suggestion. She added that the reason why sometimes statistics fall flat is because there is not a coordinated effort to present

them and talk about them. The Governor's initiative has a data work group, and maybe people should get together and look at all the different data to see what they think the public needs to hear on this issue. It is not the Governor's Office only; the CDVSA and the Network, which do much of the work in this area, should frame what statistics are meaningful to people and how to get that out to the public.

Ms. Stone suggested putting that item on the next meeting agenda so the Council could look at the implications of the numbers for the work that CDVSA does.

ANNOUNCEMENTS - None.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 1:40 p.m.

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

Confidential Office Services
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