

STATE OF ALASKA  
Council on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault  
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY OF FEBRUARY 22-24, 2012 MEETING  
DEC Building - 410 Willoughby Room #108, Juneau AK 99801

**Call to order:** By Chair Cushing at 9:05 am February 22, 2012.

**Council Members Present:** Chair **Susan Cushing** (Public Member); **Commissioner Joseph Masters** (Department of Public Safety); **Melissa Stone** (Department of Health and Social Services); **Patti Owen** (Departments of Education and Early Development); **Richard Irwin** (Public Member); **Carmen Gutierrez** (Department of Corrections)

Telephone participation: **Jackie Hill** (Public Member); **Rick Svobodny** (Department of Law).

**Council members absent:** **Stephanie McFadden-Evans**

Welcome from Chair Cushing to new board member, Deputy Commissioner Carmen Gutierrez, new public board member, Jackie Hill and Diane Lanuza, CDVSA Finance Officer also present.

CDVSA Staff present: **Lauree Morton, Debbie Leamer, Diane Lanuza, Bahiyyih Parish, Annie Whittey, and Angela Wells**

Others present: **Peggy Brown** (ANDVSA), **Rep. Anna Fairclough, Jason Hooley** (Boards and Commissions), **Peg Coleman** (SPHH), **Rachel Romberg** (SPHH), **Jessica Lawmaster** (SPHH)

**Council Conflict Inquiry:** None at this time

**Agenda Changes:**

Commissioner Masters asked for flexibility on our agenda, a number of changes need to be made to accommodate the State Council members due to legislation meetings and hearings. This may not affect the schedule, just who may be present for the discussion.

Ms. Stone stated that she will be leaving at noon on Friday and will miss the afternoon portion.

Ms. Owen brought up a conflict at 3:15 and would like to move up the MOU discussion to 1:30 pm (to include Commissioner Masters and Mr. Svobodny) and switch the program spotlight to 3:15.

Ms. Morton: Stated that Mr. Jason Hooley, Director of Commission and Boards, would be in at 2:45, and that she would like the Public member to sit in on potential increments going before the Senate Finance at 8am tomorrow morning. If you haven't been involved with this before, it is a great learning experience.

**Approval of Minutes:** Chair Cushing asked for any changes or corrections to the November 29-30, 2011, 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter meeting minutes. Minutes were approved as submitted on a motion made by Commissioner Masters and seconded by Mr. Svobody.

**\*\*Vote** All in favor: Motion approved unanimously

**Announcement of Chair and Vice Chair Election Friday @ 11:30**

**Executive Director Report:**

**New Staff:** Ms. Morton updated the Council Board on new staff and positions.

Debbie Leamer, Administrative Assistant

Diane Lanuza, Finance Officer

Bahiyih Parish, Research Analyst

Angie Wells' position is now an Office Assistant II

Annie Whittey, Program Coordinator I

Lauree announced that we are now fully staffed and had our staff retreat which focused on providing better assistance to, and building better relationships with our funded programs.

**Program Reports:** Ms. Morton pointed out some highlights from the last quarter.

AWARE - Prevention effort and community engagement. We will be supporting these programs, particularly, Girls on the Run and the boys equivalent, Let me run. Girls on the Run currently have 100 participants, 44 coaches, 3 local elementary schools and 4 rural locations.

AWIC – Tribal Victim Assistance Grant was chosen as Exemplary and was shown at the national level as a model of protocol for working with Tribes.

BSWG – Had an increase use of safe home nights.

CFRC – Nicole Songer, Executive Director of CFRC, was very involved in the SART Guidelines and chaired the Protocols subgroup.

MFCC – Now have a fully functional rotating SART Team. It is good to see the acknowledgment of how hard this work is on the responders, day after day, and make time to talk about it.

SCS – A new DVSA person is on staff now. SCS has rejoined the Network and are getting back on their feet, we are glad to see the progress.

TWC –Nationally recognized for “Teens Acting Against Violence”, one of the first youth interactive groups in Alaska. It is now reaching out beyond Bethel and the Delta and across the Nation.

WISH - Mentioned the November SART training and have received increase interest within the communities from people wanting to know how they can help. Bringing those trainings into communities, not just having them in Anchorage is having a very positive affect.

Commissioner Masters commented on how impressed he was with the Lead On conference in Anchorage, and the ideas that the kids were coming up with. He is also impressed with our funded programs and the work in prevention being done.

Ms. Stone commented on the number of references to mental health issues and will follow up on them.

**Prevention: Representative Anna Fairclough** Chair Cushing Introduces Representative Fairclough.

Rep. Fairclough feels very passionate about respect and believes that violence is unacceptable. Rep. Fairclough is concerned about the area of primary prevention and does not feel that we, as a state, are doing enough. Feeling that we need to put more money behind it, she has been following closely the Governor’s Initiative and the \$3 million, and is concerned in the direction of primary prevention and working to elevate the prevention efforts. “I want to know, what more can we do? I come to you looking for advice. We have the right people at the table to move forward.” On a final note, Rep. Fairclough reported to the Council that the Alaska Children’s Trust, a fund dedicated for child abuse prevention, has been transferred into private hands so that the donor’s intents could be recognized and managed. This may be a good group to partner with for primary prevention efforts.

A discussion began amongst the Board about primary prevention, and how waiting until the 8<sup>th</sup> grade to intervene is too late, signs of needing extra support show as soon as kindergarten.

Also, the topic of accountability and the completion of treatment programs for misdemeanor offenders and prison based batterer intervention programs was debated. Both Commissioner Masters and Ms. Gutierrez gave statistics on offender management and current efforts being done by Department of Corrections.

Ms. Stone added that current statistics show our youth using less alcohol and how prevention efforts are working. Ms. Stone also suggested that Diane Casto, project manager for HSS, speak at the Council meetings to give updates on current prevention efforts.

Mr. Morton clarified that the new program coordinator II position, Ann Rausch, is completely focused on prevention and will be coordinating efforts with other agencies. Ms. Morton added that they would be looking closely at funding streams for prevention and working on a cohesive way to bring more funding into the state and getting the money where it needs to be.

Rep. Fairclough, in closing stated how appreciative she was of Ms. Lauree Morton services, attention and input.

Break

### **Executive Director Report Continued:**

**Program Reports:** Commissioner Masters questioned Ms. Morton and Ms. Brown on the number of bed nights provided and how it compares to statistics from the past couple of years. He feels that showing an increase of safe bed nights would reflect positively on our outreach efforts. Ms. Morton said she didn't have that data at this time but could get it for the next meeting. Ms. Brown commented that there have been increases in the use of shelter nights, increases of length of stay, increases in walk-in community services, increases of people who are not low income and increases of young males seeking and receiving services.

Commissioner Masters stated that we need to be prepared to answer questions like, "If we are investing this kind of money for the last two years, is it working?" We will need meaningful data and outcome measures to continue funding.

Ms. Morton told the Council that Outcome measures were scheduled on the agenda after the RFP discussion. Ms. Morton verified that the work of the Outcome Measures Committee, which was a combination of Council staff and program staff, is looking at short term outcome measures, which we could start right away in FY13, and taking FY13 to develop the mid-term and long term outcome measures.

Ms. Morton updated the Council on the \$60,000 Governors RSA that goes to the Pro-Bono Project. The "Continuing Legal Education Conference" being held in Anchorage has about 80 people attending annually and we hope to have the same outcome as last year (43 attorneys agree to give Pro-Bono services, over \$800,000 in donated hours of services by attorneys).

A discussion began about recognizing and acknowledging those attorneys doing DV/SA pro-bono work with an award separate from the Bar Awards.

The prevention money is allocated with increased services for the mini grants going out into communities, both youth and adult. Commercials are up and running; When I am an Elder and will follow up with sexual assault and domestic violence commercials. The three regional surveys will be started in early March for Kodiak, Bethel and Sitka.

### **Committee Reports:**

**Administrative Committee:** Chair Cushing reported on the Administrative committee meeting and the 2 proposed changes of the bylaws, pages 63 and 64 in the meeting packet.

*Bylaws revision #1*

(c) A commissioner or the attorney general or one of their designees may, when circumstances arise causing them to be unavailable for a meeting, appoint a person to attend the meeting in their stead. Such person is expected to be briefed and has the authority to act on behalf of the absent Council member.

**\*\*Vote**

A motion made to accept bylaws revision #1 by Richard Irwin was seconded by Ms. Stone.

Motion passed, those in favor; Chair Cushing, Melissa Stone, Jackie Hill, Carmen Gutierrez, Joseph Masters, Richard Irwin, Rick Svobodny.

One opposed – Patricia Owen, for the record stated that this would cause the Council to lack continuity, especially if it happened often. Under exceptional circumstances would be different.

*Bylaws revision #2*

Sec. 3. Term. Each officer shall be elected for a term of **two** [ONE] years. Officers are to be elected at the first Council meeting of the calendar year. Their term of office shall be effective the end of the meeting in which they were elected until the end of the meeting of the next election. Any officer may be elected to no more that two successive terms to the same office.

**\*\*Vote**

A motion was made to accept bylaws revision #2 by Ms. Owen and was seconded by Commissioner Masters.

Motion passed and all in favor – Unanimous.

**Governor's Initiative Committee**– Victim Services Recommendations, dovetails with Representative Fairclough's presentation. The Council directed the Gov's Initiative committee to consolidate, prioritize and address our own mission. The committee looked at three areas:

The first category is housing; our priority is victims of domestic violence.

The second category is Civil and Legal services to support DV/SA victims.

The third category is adult and children services. We need more trauma informed services training and more wrap around services.

A discussion among board members began on finding an evidence based model to use or partner with, like Head Start. Ms. Morton pointed out that there could be several programs that we could support at one time.

Ms. Gutierrez mentioned the Washington State Institute of Public Policy (Ms. Gutierrez can provide to the Council at a later date), which is basically a consumers report, doing a cost-benefit analysis of evidence based strategies designed to reduce criminality in Washington through early education and family nurse practitioner program, both have proven to be very effective.

Ms. Cushing gives Ms. Morton a directive to contact Head Start and look at their healthy relationships programs and bring back to us at the next meeting.

Break

**Network Report:** Peggy Brown handed out “Pathways to Prevention”, and gave an update on the Network.

- \*ANDVSA has opened offices in Anchorage and Fairbanks
- \*Brittany Luddington has replaced Patti Bland
- \*New Legal Advocacy Project Director
- \*Lots of grant activity happening at a federal level
- \*Over \$200,000 in requests for mini grants from communities across the state, for Alaska Men Choose Respect.
- \*Doing a lot of work with Canada
- \*We NEED more attorneys
- \*Personnel changes coming within programs

Two things that ANDVSA will be doing:

1. Providing a training of TA need assessment of all victim service agencies.
2. Providing webinars and web trainings to give victim service advocates access to at least 20 hours of training.

Ms. Brown answered questions from Council members about; follow up with victims, advocacy trainings, and what more could be done to get more attorneys.

### **Lunchtime tour of AWARE**

Council Board Members and Council Staff toured the AWARE Program, many thanks to Saralyn Tabachnick and her staff at AWARE.

### **Public Comment:**

Peg Coleman (Executive Director of Haven House) thanked the Council for the noticeable difference in the collaborative efforts being made on the Council.

### **Community SART Guidelines:**

Ms. Morton presents the final draft SART Guidelines on page 68-69 of the meeting packet.

This is a culmination of over a year’s worth of meetings. Looking at the guidelines that were established a little over 10 years ago to see their relevancy to today and come to

some agreements about how the individual disciplines would interact in communities in establishing a sexual assault response team, in the work a SART would do as a collective, what some of the individual responsibilities are and use as a guideline for communities to have some direction about where to start and how to keep going.

We will let people know about the availability of the Guidelines through our website, but people will have to contact us to get them, so that we can get a community contact and offer technical assistance, make them aware of the trainings and interact with them as they go through establishing their sexual assault response teams.

People who are decision makers in their disciplines came together to work on these guidelines and we feel that the document that you have now is the best effort and one that there is agreement on will be implemented throughout the state.

There are still a couple of outstanding items:

\*The development of outcome measures will be done by the outcomes sub-group committee, which will meet in April, and should be submitted to you before the 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter Meeting in June.

\*The payment issue is still not resolved.

Ms. Morton explained that it is not a consistent cost; there is a range of \$500 to \$4,000 depending on where it is taken. We believe that having a single payor will solve this problem.

Currently the state pays for training for sexual assault nurse examiners; we pay for the sexual assault forensic exam kits, the materials that go in the kits and special equipment.

### **MOU between Council member departments:**

Chair Cushing, introduces Rick Svobodny

Mr. Svobodny stated this was a recommendation from the legislative task force that the Council might benefit from having a memorandum of agreement between state departments that are on the Council.

Ms. Owen feels that the MOU should be somewhat generic.

Ms. Stone feels we should find wording from the statute to use within the MOU. There are current MOU's that can be used as models.

### **FY13 Meeting Schedule**

Ms. Morton confirmed that this 4<sup>th</sup> Quarters meeting is in Palmer, June 7-8, 2012 and then the Council decided on their FY13 meeting schedule.

FY13 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter September 6-7, 2012 - Ketchikan

FY13 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter November 8-9, 2012 - Kenai

FY13 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter February 21-22, 2013 - Juneau

FY13 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter May 2-3, 2013 - Barrow

Ms. Morton handed out a list of potential grants for the upcoming year. She suggested that the Council read the overviews of each to see if there was any interest in applying for or supporting any of these different grants. Ms. Morton would like to go over them during the finance portion of the meeting on Friday.

Ms. Morton pointed out that the Council usually goes for the rural grant, grants to encourage arrest, safe havens in conjunction with IAC (state partners). It looks like there are new opportunities for work with elders and prevention. The Network currently has the "Engaging Boys to Men". It is important to remember who is applying for what and being partners instead of competitors.

Ms. Morton answered questions from the Council about current grants, and discussed different grants opportunities and how they could be used.

Break

**Director of Boards and Commissions, Jason Hooley.** Chair Cushing introduces Jason Hooley.

On behalf of the Governor, Thank you for your service. It's an honor to be a part of this system.

Mr. Hooley answered questions from the Council. The division of Boards and Commissions help the Governor make appointments to about 130 different boards around the state, with about 1300 Alaskans serving on those boards. Mr. Hooley stated there are a number of factors involved in selecting public member. The Division of Boards and Commissions tries to get people from all over the state, with a variety of backgrounds plugged into the appropriate spots. They conduct lots of interviews, looking for people who are committed, not so much that they are politically active or know the Governor.

The Council Board introduced themselves to Mr. Hooley, who then answered question from the Board.

**Program Spotlight: South Peninsula Haven House (SPHH)**

Chair Cushing introduces Peg Coleman, Haven House Executive Director, Rachel Romberg, shelter manager and Jessica Lawmaster of South Peninsula Haven House.

Ms. Coleman introduced herself and her staff. She then presented an amazing update on South Peninsula Haven House and all the positive work being done in Homer. Ms. Coleman also reported on some of the trainings attended by her and her staff.

Ms. Coleman informed the Council that she has accepted a job in Utah, but reassured them that Haven House will be left in good hands with Jessica Lawmaster as interim Director.

**Recess: 4:30pm**

February 23, 2012

RECESSING: No webinar. Postponed start of meeting due to the Senate Finance Hearing which was being attended by Public members and State Members.

**Call to Order: 10:00 am** Chair Cushing went over a few agenda changes for Thursday and Friday.

Agenda changes for Thursday

10:00 Committee discussion

Agenda changes for Friday

9:00 MOU discussion

10:00 BIPS self-evaluations

1:15 Legislative update

2:00 Council media presentation

Council comments will be moved to where we have the most Council members present.

Chair Cushing welcomes Public Council Member Stephanie McFadden-Evans and introduces her to our newest staff and board members at the Council.

Chair Cushing reviewed Council committees.

MOU: Richard Svobodny, Commissioner Masters, Melissa Stone, Patricia Owen

Admin: Chair Cushing, Richard Svobodny, Commissioner Masters

BIP: Carmen Gutierrez, Stephanie McFadden-Evans, Melissa Stone

Gov: Chair Cushing, Richard Irwin, Commissioner Masters

Grants: Stephanie McFadden-Evans, Melissa Stone, DeAnna Helwich (DONE)

Richard Irwin will be our liaison for housing coalition.

**Victim Service Outcome Measures:** Ms. Morton provided a handout on the outcome measures.

The outcome measures committee was an offshoot of the grants committee, a combination of council staff and funded program staff, Ginger Baim (SAFE), Cheri Smith (LSC) and Rowena Palamar (AVV).

This group met multiple times to come up with outcome measures for implementation in FY13. We use the guide "Quality Victim Advocacy", which was made available to our grants committee. Each of the programs is receiving this book also, which is recommended for use in FY13 and FY14.

Following along with the book, we looked at Indicators of Quality organizations: access, structure, process and outcomes. We agreed that the access, structure and process are best suited for on-site reviews. The book gives charts to use as well. We are moving away from the 'dot every i' and moving into what will give us the best outcome for victims, are their lives improved by the services and different things they have accessed at the programs.

We looked at lot of options and agree that outcomes can be looked at over time; short term, intermediate and long term. The focus for 2013 will be on short term outcomes. These outcomes will be measured for safety, justice and healing. Restitution was the last outcome, but we did not feel that this was in our funded programs perview. We can help them apply for violent crimes compensation, we can help them talk to prosecutors about restitution, but there is really nothing a program can do to get that payment for the victim.

First two outcomes for safety are FVPSA outcomes and are required from all programs receiving FVPSA funding, so we incorporated them in.

For Safety:

#1. I know more or different intervention strategies for safety than I did before.

#2. I know more about what resources and help are available and how to access those resources.

#3. I am more confident knowing which services to access for my children.

For Healing:

#1. I feel less alone since working with this program.

#2. I have a better understanding of my crisis and trauma.

For Justice:

#1. I know more about my legal rights.

#2. I have a better understanding of how the justice system works.

Ms. Stone followed up the discussion with a couple questions and an ongoing concern with shelter programs identifying mental health needs and making referrals.

Ms. Gutierrez questioned the wording for the outcomes for healing, "I feel less alone since working with this program", and thinks isolated is a better choice.

Ms. Morton explained that these outcomes would be reported quarterly and also in the new Request for Proposal and that we would like to implement these outcomes in FY13 and submit them to you for your approval and some direction to continue.

**\*\*Vote**

A motion was made to approve and implement the outcome measures and continue on with the outcome measures committee by Ms. Stone and seconded by Ms. Owen.

Motion passed and all in favor – Unanimous.

**RFP Structure**

We are trying to streamline the RFP process and are focusing on crisis intervention and prevention. Applicants have an opportunity to describe in detail, their budgets, agency management and a long list of assurances.

The Proposal Evaluation Committee (PEC) has 5 members, two from the Board, Chair Cushing and Patricia Owen. The committee will meet in person, in Juneau. We are developing some instructions for the PEC members to better prepare them for the process.

Ms. Morton discussed and answered questions about the scoring criteria for the RFP.

Chair Cushing commended the grants committee and staff on the efforts put into this new process.

**Budget Increments**

Commissioner Masters gave an update on the DPS finance senate subcommittee meeting from that morning to go over the FY13 increments. Commissioner Masters said he was pleased to see the CDVSA board members present at the meeting. He stated that the subcommittees are very short and you have to present a lot of information in a small amount of time, and try to get the importance across. Commissioner Masters commended Lauree Morton on her presentation. “It was very articulate, very well spoken, very concise, and she did so well that they did not ask her any questions. This is an example that we made the right choice for Ms. Morton being the Executive Director.

Mr. Irwin asked if we have ever had Council Board members acting as ambassadors or lobbyists.

Commissioner Masters answered the question, telling Mr. Irwin that most of the lobbying that happens on the hill is in regards to budget. As a Council we have to be very careful.

Lauree Morton pointed out that public members have been very active with issues in the past, it depends on the council.

Ms. Brown extended an invitation to Council Public members to join her in her lobbying efforts when in Juneau.

Break

### **CDVSA Staff Highlight**

Bahiyiyh Parish is part of the data sub-committee and gave a presentation on her Research Analyst I position that involves data collection (measurements), publications, and the Council power point. Ms. Parish also discussed some of the changes she is hoping to accomplish with our data system, one of which being online entry for BIP data.

Ms. Gutierrez commented on the importance of correct data, need to start research analyst II.

Ms. Parish explained the Dashboard to the Council, which is a new attachment on our CDVSA website. Ms. Morton added that the bulk of the burden to go through the dashboard and change it before the next legislative session lies on the council staff.

Ms. Parish answered questions from Council Board and discussed future projects such as the Council power point, brochure, website and the pursuit for accurate data and statistics that will be vital for future use.

Commissioner Masters commented on the CDVSA website and how it could use a little work and suggested that we bring someone in who can make it more user friendly, yet keep within requirements of the state regulations.

Lunch

### **State Wide Public Hearing on Alaska Housing**

**Virginia Walsh**, AWIC, **Suzi Pearson**, AWAIC, **Mandy Cole**, AWARE, **Michelle Dewitt**, TWC, **Naomi Harris**, OCS community relations manager.

Chair Cushing introduces Mr. Irwin.

Mr. Irwin read his opening statement. A leader is a dealer of hope. We are challenged as leaders to provide hope for many Alaskan people. The availability of safe and affordable housing is critical for our victims of domestic violence trying to obtain safety.

**Brenda Stanfill**, executive director of the Interior Alaska Center for Non-Violent Living, distributed a handout on housing choices in Fairbanks.

Ms. Stanfill explained that they had a very generous donor in Fairbanks that helped them acquire the land and building facilities. Ms. Stanfill stated that they are no longer just a room with a bed, we are meeting people where THEY are at, creatively keeping these housing programs about real life. Due to the merry-go-round effect of housing in most situations, IAC came up with a screening process to help identify barriers for women and by wrapping people in services from many different agencies. IAC is on the forefront of creative housing strategies specifically for domestic violence and sexual assault survivors in our state.

Ms. Stanfill then discussed in detail the different types of housing that are offered at IAC: Pre-Transitional Housing, Transitional Housing, Scattered Site, Permanent Supportive and Emergency shelter. There is no maximum time to be spent at the IAC shelter as long as services are being accessed. It could take up to four years to transition through this whole process, but we are seeing tremendous results. We have also addressed the problem of the 10% of women (taken from IAC statistics) who are in constant need of resources and repeatedly entering the shelter by placing them in the supportive needs (Housing First) program. This program is showing surprising results.

Alaska Housing vouchers are core component in this process and are relied on heavily; 52 families at IAC received vouchers last year.

**Michelle Dewitt** has been the Director at the Tundra Women's Coalition in Bethel since 1997. Bethel is under-resourced for affordable housing. When we work with folks in our shelter they have two primary concerns when you talk about long term goals; child care and housing. Without access to both of these it is nearly impossible to gain employment, stabilize your family and to move forward.

We responded to this housing issue by establishing a transitional housing program, that was about 2002. We were able to obtain two houses in the community that were used for National Guard housing and put in the needed repairs, for two years we operated them at a loss to our organization. We obtained funds in 2005, (\$43,212.00 per year) and get that same funding every year. We help, on the average, 3 to 8 families per year. In terms of outcomes for the folks that we serve, 83% achieved housing stability.

There is no way without housing options, for us to be affectively able to assist people who are trying to rebuild their lives. Housing, child care and employment, educational opportunities, are all major components The more you see that the solutions to really helping families break cycles and move forward are complex and absolutely include housing, child care and employment.

The current rent for a 2 bedroom apartment in Bethel is \$1,350.00, which means you would need to make \$25.90 an hour to be able to afford it. I have 3 people in my organization that make that kind of money. It is extremely expensive and we do not have vouchers in our community. We do have HFC public housing; we have regional tribal housing authority housing and two apartment complexes for elders and vulnerable adults. It is even more difficult to find housing in the villages.

It has proven to be very useful to track where families go when they leave the shelter. 115 families left the shelter in the first half of the year, 52% chose to go back to where they came from, because housing is so bleak, for some people it just isn't a choice.

Break:

### **Public Testimony**

**Virginia Walsh**, executive Director at Arctic Women in Crisis, introduced two community members in Barrow who called in to explain their personal experiences with the waiting list for housing. They stated that people have waited up to 10 years on this list. "There is nowhere to go, so we go back to our abusers."

Virginia Walsh commented that they are seeing more and more people on the street and getting more and more requests for relocation to Fairbanks or Anchorage, due to lack of housing. Barrow has 2 transitional apartments, but they are full and there are 7 families waiting.

**Suzi Pearson**, executive director for Abused Women's Aid in Crisis, explained the AFHC's 6 month policy:

A person will submit a letter of support from a shelter or provide documentation like medical records or a protective order that gives that person their preference and name added to the list.

Then when that name gets called on the list, in order to get the DV preference and voucher, the most recent incident has to have been within the past 6 months.

So, if you've been safe living in a shelter or somewhere else and it's been more than 6 months since you have been abused then your DV preference is no longer valid.

Ms. Pearson stated that AWAIC in Anchorage is 52-bed shelter. 58% of last year they were functioning at full capacity or over capacity. In the last four years the length of stay at the shelter has increased by two weeks. AWAIC also has a 10 bed transitional housing program with a full time case manager. Somebody that has supportive services during the time that they are housed, are much more successful, stay in safe situations, attain healthy relationships and do much better in the workplace and/or school. Supportive services are critical.

Jackie Hill, pointed out that in some areas, like Kotzebue, there is no suitable land to build on.

**Jim Gurke: Alaska Housing Finance Corporation called in and gave a statement.**

We are proposing in our plan to eliminate the preference system in our housing programs. We have examined this over the last couple of years. In Anchorage we have closed the waiting list for the voucher program and as a consequence we have exhausted all the folks who have a preference as a result of displacement due to domestic violence.

Elsewhere in the state, our waiting list is turning over too slowly. We have created over the years this complex system, and it is a point's based system which includes a multitude of preferences; homeless, terminally ill, substandard housing, working families paying over 50% for housing and veterans. Too often what is happening is the waiting list moves so slowly that by the time we get to interview somebody, they no longer have the status that they had as an applicant. The rules have always been that you have to be in the position of homelessness, if you will, in order to be housed at that particular time. If you don't qualify then we re-rank you on the list and call the next person up. It has gotten to the point where, at least in our larger cities, we are now averaging 3 out of every 5 interviewed no longer hold the preference that they originally had. Also, over a quarter of the people on our waiting list have been on it for over two years. It has created a huge amount of frustration among people who are economically eligible but might not have a high number of preference points. They repeatedly climb up the list and get pushed back down.

It's become a situation where we had a consultant look at the way we were doing business, they looked at our Anchorage intake office, and basically came to the conclusion, that we need to do something different. This system we have now is creating a huge amount of work for you and a huge amount of frustration for your customer.

We are going to be proposing to clear the slate of virtually all the preferences, with some exceptions. We recognize the harm factor among victims of domestic

violence. We approached the Governor and we have a \$1.34 million dollar increment in the Governor's budget for a general funded program or voucher system on behalf of victims of domestic violence. In addition, we are proposing that we set aside some of our Federal money and because we are considered a moving to work agency, we can actually ask for a waiver from HUD to set aside a certain amount of our housing assistance payment, exclusively for this population.

The other thing we are looking at is who is the most in need? On the surface it sounds like the preference system should work and that it makes sense. Why not serve people who are most at need, for us the most logical thing to look at is to use the program the way it was designed, based on poverty. We are going to be proposing lowering the income standard, something that Congress is even considering.

What we think we can do in the future is have issues that are very specific that we can address in one fashion or another, using the flexibility that we have under "moving to work", and simplify our intake process. Right now it is driven by paper, verifying documents, sending people to get documents, to prove that they have one preference or another. It's to the point where we have seven people in the intake office and two of them are verifying preferences full time.

So, we are making this proposal. We will have the plan open for a 30 day comment period and a public hearing on March the 7<sup>th</sup>. Then we will be presenting this to our Board at their April 4<sup>th</sup> board meeting.

Council Board members then asked questions and further discussed the housing issue.

### **Recess 4:30pm**

February 24, 2012

### **Call to Order: 10:00am**

Chair Cushing will table the MOU discussion until Mr. Svobodny is able to participate. Ms. Morton postponed BIPs to enable Ms. Stone to be present for the discussion and move to Legislative update.

### **Legislative Update** Ms. Morton distributed a list of House Bills.

Ms. Morton gave background and details pertaining to certain bills that have been introduced this session that the Council might be interested in supporting. Ms. Gutierrez pointed out that some bills are very broad and may have a number of unintended consequences. The Council Board members asked questions and further debated each of these bills along with explaining the procedures to support bills from a state employee and a public member perspective. Chair Cushing tabled the discussion.

## **Legislative Budget Update**

There have been a couple of hearings, both in the house and the senate. We have presented the increment request that were in the Governor's budget.

\$475,500.00 goes for increased cost for the current funded programs; heating/oil, utilities, insurance and worker's compensation.

\$250,000.00 for prevention activities; Green Dot, Girls on the Run and the Statewide Prevention Conference.

\$50,000.00 for data collection for Batterers Intervention Programs.

\$55,000.00 to assume the responsibility for the coordination of the Governor's Initiative DV/SA Big Work Group and all the sub-work groups.

\$60,000.00 for the Pro-Bono Project.

\$30,000.00 goes to continuing legal education

\$30,000.00 goes to Low-Bono Costs; materials, expert witnesses and different aspects of court case costs.

\$400,000.00 goes for research and evaluation. It funds the Alaska Victimization Survey, research on the 4<sup>th</sup> R, some work that we are doing with BIPs.

\$450,000.00 for media campaigns for prevention, community education and awareness. These include commercials, Lead On conference, and mini-grants for Engaging Boys to Men.

Commissioner Masters stated that the Governor talked about leaving room in the budget for legislators to introduce projects of their own.

Ms. Gutierrez said that Representative Fairclough indicated at the hearing yesterday, that she felt there were likely to be additions proposed.

Ms. Stone reported on two increments for HSS that are important and significant to DV/SA. The one directly relevant is a \$400,000.00 request to provide trauma services to unresourced people.

Commissioner Masters asked about possible future training in the area of trauma informed services, what that means, as well as the adverse child experience study and if it was possible to have it at the next meeting.

Following up with what the Commissioner said, Ms. Gutierrez advised the Council that DOC is very interested in creating a program in our institutions to inmate's adverse child

experiences. We talked about contacting Linda Chamberlain, who has a lot experience in this area to see about developing this curriculum. It is a high priority and would welcome any kind of training in this.

Ms. Stone suggests that if we get training it be from the people who are providing it statewide. She also explained the Alaska Screening Tool that HSS uses for all the people that come into the system. It looks at 13 different domains of problems that are being brought into the system. The tool tells us that 61% of the people coming in for behavioral health services have current trauma systems, 69% say they have experienced adverse and 18% say they have experienced intimate partner violence. That doesn't include people who haven't made it into the system yet.

Chair Cushing gives directive to Ms. Morton to set up some future training for the Board.

Ms. Morton advised that a more thorough training may be possible at the fall meeting in Ketchikan; do to the amount of prevention and funding issues that are tentatively on the agenda for the June meeting in Palmer.

BREAK

### **MOU**

Mr. Svobodny wasn't able to draft the whole thing. When the draft is done he will get a copy to each Commissioner of the departments that are on the Council. It should be very simple and will take the 14 points set within statutes saying that each department will work together to reach these goals.

Commissioner Masters added a couple thoughts about insuring the strength of it and insuring that the Council actions be to encourage the facilitation and signing of an agreement.

### **Housing Wrap-up**

Ms. Stone feels that as a Council, we should develop some specific strategies around housing that we want to follow through with, take action on, and promote.

Mr. Irwin wants to strengthen existing alliances, partnerships and relationships, and to be able to share and best utilize resources. This Council should lead the efforts to end this problem.

Commissioner Masters supports and understands the efforts being made on housing, but asked how the housing issue fits into our statutory mandates. Chair Cushing stated that she would look into that.

Ms. Gutierrez stated that a possible starting strategy was to send our housing liaison, Richard Irwin, to more of the housing meetings in order to represent the Council and also to report back.

Ms. McFadden-Evans proposed that the Council ask the Tribal Housing Authority what they are doing to help solve this problem. Commissioner Masters cautioned that it would be a huge and wrong assumption to give that the Tribal organizations are not doing anything.

### **Batterer Intervention Programs**

Ms. Morton referred to the BIP annual self-evaluation that she distributed to the Board. With the new corrections regulation that requires all approved programs to submit data, that we may no longer be restricted to just these four categories. As we are moving toward looking at the revision of the regulation, moving forward with broadening our scope of programming with batterers intervention programs, and looking at data collection and monitoring, this would be one piece that we would want to give some attention to. These four broad statements may afford programs opportunity to examine themselves in a way that might be more helpful.

Ms. Stone says it is helpful to see what is being reported.

Ms. Gutierrez is also on a workgroup under the Governor's Initiative, the offender management group. One of the things they are going to start looking at is this whole notion of this "one program fits all". She feels there is a growing consensus that one model doesn't necessarily work effectively for all perpetrators of domestic violence. We need to be looking at models that may be more affective for Alaska native peoples. Ms. Gutierrez thinks we have a responsibility to ensure that if we are requiring these programs, that they be such that are affective as possible to the various populations that we are dealing with. Ms. Gutierrez has started doing research on some of the work being done in Canada, to see if we can come up with curriculum that may be more affective for Alaska native peoples.

Ms. Gutierrez also wondered if a 36 week model is necessarily appropriate for all offenders, not all perpetrators of domestic violence are necessarily power and control types. Ms. Gutierrez pointed out the research available that talk about "overdosing" the offender. If you are requiring an offender to really jump through more hoops than what is really required for the nature of that individual's dysfunction, you can actually be creating harm.

One thing Ms. Gutierrez is very concerned about is the attendance in our prison programs, it is horrible. It is the Department of Corrections responsibility to figure out

how to increase attendance, while making sure that if we are requiring the program in our facilities, it is one that effective for the people attending.

Ms. Gutierrez is interested in starting a dialogue on what would be a responsible method by which we could start looking at the curriculum in our programs. Currently the Odara tool is used in the PACE pilot program, maybe we should be using it for all DV offenders, figure out what their risk levels are and refer them to treatment based upon their risk assessment.

Chair Cushing then asked for input from Brenda Stanfill, IAC and Peg Coleman, SPHH. Both of these programs have BIPs and use a combination of models.

Peg Brown added that the perception of BIPs needs to change. These programs do work for some people in certain situations and we need to tailor what works, for more people in this state.

In order to move forward Ms. Morton will develop the group consisting of providers that will be working on this subject and start having face-to-face meetings before we branch out.

### **Election of Chair and Vice Chair**

Nominations for Chair:

Commissioner Masters nominated Susan Cushing.

Susan Cushing accepted the nomination for Chair.

**\*\*\*Vote**

All in favor – no opposed

Nominations for Vice Chair:

Commissioner Masters nominated Richard Irwin.

Richard Irwin accepted the nomination for Vice Chair

**\*\*\*Vote**

All in favor – no opposed

Beginning at the end of this meeting, Susan Cushing will be Council Chair and Richard Irwin will be Council Vice Chair.

### **Council Comments**

Chair Cushing commended CDVSA Executive Director, Lauree Morton, for doing an outstanding job.

Lunch

### **View video from SPHH and the “When I am an Elder” commercial**

The Council viewed a short video presentation from Peg Coleman about SPHH, along with other commercials that the Council has helped fund.

### **Financial Report**

Ms. Morton reported that the Council was pretty much on target for expending General Fund dollars and that CDVSA would be using the rest of GF and some DOC money for monitoring BIP and onsite evaluations.

Our federal dollars will transfer over in FY13. We will ask for extensions on 3 VAWA grants or STOP grants. Ms. Morton will also be working with the Commissioner and Mr. Spencer on having the Governor designate the Council as the STOP administrator.

LAW \$667,000.00

DPS \$563,000.00

Court System \$89,000.00

Victim Services \$115,000.00

Discretionary \$200,000.00

We are on track to expend RSA monies.

The \$5 million Earmark is going away.

With program advances, we will do the same thing as last year for the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter; everybody will get two months of the advance if they are 75% spent out, they will get the remainder if they look like they will be totally spent out.

Ms. Morton then answered questions about upcoming grants and discussed possible strategies for applying for them.

### **Media Campaign**

As per a directive from Mr. Irwin in November, Bahiyyih Parish presented the first draft of the CDVSA power point along with a discussion of possible options for the final

product. Mr. Irwin would like to be able to use this media when speaking and presenting to certain groups in order to clarify who CDVSA is, what CDVSA does, and what people can do to help.

Ms. Morton explained that our new media campaign will be geared to bystander intervention. There will be a Facebook page and other social media. Sue Christianson will be brought in to redo our website and also shoot these new commercials.

### **Council Comments/Updates**

Mr. Irwin read a prepared statement on “Healing the Heart” which he gave in Anchorage with great reception. Mr. Irwin has been very active in speaking at many different events.

Ms. Gutierrez commended the Council and the people who do this kind of difficult work day after day. Ms. Gutierrez talked about changes within the BIP programs and within her department that she feels passionate about.

Stephanie McFadden-Evans announced that she will be leaving the Council at the end of her term. Ms. Evans talked about all that she has learned from being on the Council and how she has actively become an advocate for domestic violence in her area.

Ms. Owen stated that she is still working on the 4<sup>th</sup> R, but feels there definitely needs to be primary programs in place from birth on up.

Chair Cushing reminded the Council of items of further discussion; housing and primary prevention. Chair Cushing also thanked Ms. Evans for her years of service and dedication to the Council.

Jackie Hill explained the individuality of different areas of Alaska and how the population, geography and resource availability affects the more remote areas.

Brenda Stanfill pointed out a difference that she has noticed within this particular Council, passion, and she is very excited about the future.

### **Adjourn meeting 3:50 pm**