

**COUNCIL ON DOMESTIC VIOLENCE  
AND SEXUAL ASSAULT  
(CDVSA)**

**Quarterly Meeting**

Land's End

Homer, Alaska

November 21 - 22, 2013

**Committee Members Present**

Susan Cushing – Chair

Richard Irwin – Vice Chair

Rachel Gernat

Donna Erickson

Kelly Howell

Patricia Owen

Duane Mayes

Rick Svobodny

Ronald Taylor

**Guests**

Suzi Pearson

Jessica Lawmaster

Octavia Thompson

Katie TePas

**Staff**

Lauree Morton, Executive Director

Angela Wells

**Minutes Prepared by:** Sheila Garrant, Peninsula Reporting

**Thursday, November 21, 2013**

**CALL TO ORDER**

**ROLL CALL**

Susan Cushing, the chair, called the meeting to order and a roll call was taken.

**AGENDA REVIEW**

Susan Cushing made the following changes to the agenda:

Two presentations were added to the agenda Thursday at 1:30 p.m. in place of Council comments:

- Education and Prevention Intervention for DVSA, by Carol Schwartz
- The Art's Involvement in Intervention Prevention DVSA, by Asia Freeman, the

director of Bunnell Gallery Art Center

A report from Linda Chamberlain regarding Trauma-Informed Training and Parents-As-Teachers Training was added to the agenda on Friday at 11:45 a.m.

### **CONFLICTS OF INTEREST INQUIRY**

Susan Cushing called for any conflicts of interest of Council members related to the agenda items.

Susan Cushing respectfully recused herself from the Executive Session where a discussion of the Maniilaq Association Crisis Center is scheduled because of a past association with an individual within the organization. Richard Irwin will chair the Executive Session.

### **MINUTES REVIEW**

Rick Svobodny **MOVED** to approve the minutes from the May 2-3, 2013 meeting, **SECONDED** by Kelly Howell. Hearing no objections, the motion **PASSED. (9/0)**

Rick Svobodny **MOVED** to approve the minutes from the July 18-19, 2013 meeting, **SECONDED** by Duane Mayes. Hearing no objections, the motion **PASSED. (9/0)**

Rick Svobodny **MOVED** to approve the minutes from the August 13, 2013 meeting, **SECONDED** by Donna Erickson. A correction was made to reflect that Patricia Owen was a nay vote in Executive Session. Richard Irwin **MOVED** to approve the minutes from August 13, 2013 as corrected, **SECONDED** by Ron Taylor. Hearing no objections, the motion **PASSED. (9/0)**

Ron Taylor **MOVED** to approve the minutes from the September 30, 2013 meeting, **SECONDED** by Richard Irwin. Hearing no objections, the motion **PASSED. (9/0)**

### **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT**

Lauree Morton announced that Angie Wells was selected as the new Administrative Assistant II. Interviews were held for the office assistant position, and they expect to be able to offer the position next week, at which point the office will be fully staffed.

Lauree Morton noted that the research on the regional surveys was complete and Council members have received the results of the Kenai, Mat-Su, and Ketchikan surveys. Planning for 2014 includes looking at Barrow, the North Slope Region, Nome, Norton Sound, and Unalaska, and also working with Maniilaq in Kotzebue to possibly include the Northwest Region. The first Institutional Review Board (IRB) is scheduled for mid-January. They are not anticipating any difficulties as this is the fifth year of doing the regional surveys. There is also a contract with Information Insights who will be surveying the Victim's Service Programs (VSP) the Council funds, as well as the Child Advocacy Centers (CAC) to get a snapshot of what is working in their communities and what additional resources they need so that the process can be started for an official gap analysis. They are also going to be sending out surveys to program participants and individuals who have accessed services.

Lauree Morton noted that the Alaska Justice Project (AJP) has a grant, which is one of six demonstration projects in the nation, to research the civil legal needs of crime victims. AJP also received an award from the Office of Victim's Crime for a sex trafficking project, and CDVSA will be coordinating with them on that project. Lauree will update the Council on those projects at the February meeting.

Lauree Morton reported that they held a successful training with Sexual Assault Response Teams (SART). They had six teams with 52 participants. Plans are in effect to gather the trainers for a one-day session prior to the March SART training to coordinate the team training.

Lauree Morton announced that the Prevention Summit is scheduled for the first week of December. There will be 18 community teams attending from around the state. She noted that the First Lady is scheduled to attend and open the Summit, and they are looking forward to having her in attendance.

Lauree Morton announced that the Coaching Boys into Men Training is scheduled January 14<sup>th</sup> in Fairbanks.

Regarding housing, Lauree Morton reported that 115 units have been leased in Alaska; Fairbanks has leased over the 20 that they were originally allotted; and Anchorage has 57. She noted that high-use areas of the state are being able to enter into housing, and that Petersburg is the one area that does not have any housing units leased.

### **FINANCIALS AND 2015-2016 RFP UPDATE**

Lauree Morton reviewed the financial reports that were included in the board packet.

Lauree Morton reported that she met with funded programs during the fall Network meeting about the possibility of extending the current grant cycle for one year instead of going into a full request for proposal (RFP) process, taking this year to look at their mid-term outcome measures that need to be developed and looking at different ways of assigning funding. Funded program representatives agreed with this approach.

Ron Taylor **MOVED** to extend the FY13/14 grant cycle for one year, **SECONDED** by Rick Svobodny. Hearing no objections, the motion **PASSED. (9/0)**

### **CONSULTATION POLICY AND CALENDAR**

Lauree Morton stated that the legislative audit will be reviewed in detail on Friday's agenda. She reported that it went well. The only substantive recommendation was to consult with the Department of Health and Social Services to develop and implement healthcare policies for healthcare facilities as they relate to domestic violence.

Lauree Morton reviewed the consultation calendar of events with the Council members. The Council members had a brief discussion which resulted in a directive to the staff to maintain the consultation calendar with the different agencies as a good way to hold agencies accountable.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT POLICY**

Lauree Morton lead a discussion related to the draft public comment policy developed by the staff, which could be found in the board packet. The Council members suggested allotting at least 15 minutes on the agenda for public comment, and as the number of individuals wanting to participate increases, the time can be adjusted. They can have a sign-in sheet available for individuals to sign in in person before commenting; for teleconference participants, they would articulate before the public comment period that they are there to comment; and written comments would be accepted prior to the meeting and read during the public comment period. Lauree Morton will draft a revision to the public comment policy and have it available for consideration for adoption on Friday's agenda.

### **ANDVSA REPORT**

Suzi Pearson, from Alaska Network on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault (ANDVSA), reported representing the Network. Lori Grassgreen, who appeared telephonically as the acting executive director of ANDVSA, presented the majority of the information related specifically to the activities that the Network and the Council are engaged in together as well as activities the Network is currently involved in. Lori highlighted their training, prevention, legal advocacy, and pro bono projects, as well as the emerging area of technology and media projects. She presented a video, a short digital story from the "Lead On! For Peace and Equality in Alaska" Summit, and a video related to the Pro Bono Project.

### **SOUTH PENINSULA HAVEN HOUSE (SPHH)**

Jessica Lawmaster, the executive director of South Peninsula Haven House, gave a history and an overview of the mission, vision, and core values of SPHH. She stated the service region includes the southern Kenai Peninsula and incorporates remote communities, some of which are only accessible by air or water. Jessica Lawmaster reviewed a PowerPoint presentation outlining the facility, the operations of the shelter, the crisis line, the survivor support group, the conscious discipline parenting classes, and also the counseling, support, advocacy, and referrals through their shelter. She highlighted a survey taken on what women in the community are facing to identify barriers for women leaving abusive relationships and for women to move out of shelters into their own independent and sustainable living situations. She reported that the survey identified housing as the number one barrier; no options for transitional and limited housing options in general; and also barriers related to economic opportunities, employment, and childcare.

### **COUNCIL COMMENTS**

Susan Cushing yielded her time to Asia Freeman, the director of Bunnell Street Art Center, who spoke about the Arts Coalition and Prevention Intervention of DVSA in the area, and also to Carol Schwartz, the executive director of the University Of Alaska Kachemak Bay Campus, who spoke about education and prevention intervention.

Ron Taylor, representing the Department of Corrections, commented that women are the fastest growing population in Corrections at approximately 3-to-1, and it is critical for the Department of Corrections to be able to work with the different organizations to make sure that they are part of their re-entry efforts for women.

Duane Mayes, representing the Division of Senior and Disabilities Services, commented that in his career many of the women with disabilities he has served as a counselor had been abused, and that is a piece that is often pushed to the side.

Rachel Gernat, a public member on the Council, commented that she attended the unveiling of the Alaska Victimization Study in the Mat-Su Borough, which is at 53 percent. She also attended one day of the SART training in the Valley. She met with a member of the Alaska Family Services board to talk about the shelter and service program and why they are not part of the Network. In September she was invited to a roundtable to talk about the Military Justice Act. Rachel brought up the issue of not having a business card when she speaks to people about Council interests.

Rick Svobodny, representing the Department of Law, commented that typically the end of the fiscal year is the timeframe when different statistics are calculated, and the court system's annual report states that from approximately 2010 to now, their reported number of criminal cases, felonies and misdemeanors, were flat; however, the domestic violence cases filed were up about 10 percent, which is fairly significant. Rick also commented on the media spots that 12 of the 13 DV offices did on October 28<sup>th</sup> on the issues involving domestic violence across the state.

Kelly Howell, representing the Department of Public Safety, commented that the Department has gone through a transition with Commissioner Masters leaving and Keith Mallard being appointed as acting commissioner.

Donna Erickson, a public member, commented that she enjoys being on the Council and was inspired listening to Jessica Lawmaster and the other speakers at the meeting. In September she was a speaker at their Regional Youth Leadership Summit in Unalakleet to share her perspective of growing up with abuse and DVSA and the ways that she has personally turned that around for her family and her children and to live a clean, healthy life with healthy relationships and to find healing. In October she organized the Domestic Violence Awareness Walk in Unalakleet.

### **MILITARY RESPONSE TO SEXUAL ASSAULT**

Octavia Thompson, the sexual assault response coordinator for the Alaska National Guard, explained the history and difference between the Guard and the active duty military and how that relates to the response to sexual assault or abuse allegations. She highlighted that under the National Guard's new program to respond to sexual assault or abuse allegations, if a report has been turned down by local law enforcement, the Alaska National Guard does not do any of their own sexual assault investigations. They go through the Office of Complex Investigations, who then call in trained investigators through the National Guard in different states. After a report is submitted, a decision is made whether to revisit the local authorities. If the local authorities continue to turn down the report, the Guard has the ability to react, not in a legal manner, but administratively.

She described her role as the headquarter SART and program manager. She stated that they hold monthly meetings of the Sexual Assault Response Board to review cases to ensure processes are being followed and victim support is offered. She also

described the different types of reporting and gave a brief report regarding military sexual assault victims and trauma. Questions from the Council were tabled until after the 2013 Dashboard Review.

## **DASHBOARD** **ADULT/ELDER VICTIMIZATION**

Ezekiel Kaufman, a research analyst with the Division of Senior and Disability Services, was asked to speak to the Council regarding Nos. 10 and 11 on the 2013 Dashboard Section Review. He reviewed a document called “APS Substantiated Abuse and Neglect Cases for SFY 11, ‘12, ‘13.” He gave a data breakdown for the past three fiscal years on the Adult Protective Services related data. He explained the APS process related to the reporting as follows:

- Report of harm
- Review for criteria
- Intake to investigation
- Information and referral
- Conduct investigation to determine allegations are substantiated or unsubstantiated

The data Ezekiel Kaufman reported on was in the context of the last stage of the APS process of all cases that had a substantiated allegation of abuse, including mental abuse, physical abuse, sexual abuse, or neglect; either self-neglect or external sources. He reported that the numbers of investigations FY10 through FY13 of either abuse and/or neglect are decreasing. He noted that self-neglect is the most frequent type of allegation attached to an investigation.

### **ADULT/ELDER REPORTS OF HARM**

Ezekiel Kaufman reported that reports of harm from 2011 to 2013 have increased, and although investigations have decreased, the information and referral cases have increased. He answered the question posed to him of what APS would like to see in terms of receiving reports of harm, and his response was they always want people to report; when in doubt, report.

### **UTILIZATION OF SERVICES**

Jessica Lawmaster was asked to speak to No. 19 on the 2013 Dashboard Review. She reported that there are 10 funded CAC programs in the state, and Homer administers three CACs that are counted as one funded program. All 12 centers are at different points in their development. There are three CACs in the state that are accredited through the National Children’s Alliance: Juneau, Wasilla, and Anchorage. The way CACs collect data is very consistent in the state and is entered into the secure database that was created in a partnership between the National Children’s Alliance and the Science Applications International Corporation (SAIC), and reports are generated from that system.

Bahiyiyh Parish was asked to speak to how data was collected for Nos. 20-24 on the 2013 Dashboard Review. She explained that for all data that is kept of the 20 victim

service programs under the CDVSA, there is a database in each program, and they enter data on services, incidences, and demographics. Once a year they request a report of the data that measures the number of people who received services during the time period in a particular listing for data shown in Nos. 20, 22, 23, and 24. The data reported in No. 21 is related to secondary victims, who are presumably minors with adults in services.

Lauree Morton stated that Nos. 7 and 8 are from the Victimization Survey from the statewide survey. It's a survey that's only done every five years, so there is no change in those indicators until after the survey is done again, which is tentatively in 2015. The Victimization Survey looks at both the lifetime experiences and experiences in the past year. They do not expect the lifetime experiences to change, but they are anticipating that the prior year numbers would start to trend down. Patricia Owen noted that No. 7 needs to read: Percent of woman receiving physical intimate partner violence in the past year. "Year" is not on the document in the board packet.

Lauree Morton suggested that No. 9 be tabled until the February meeting.

### **OTHER BUSINESS**

Octavia Thompson continued her review of the presentation she began by offering resources that are available, and noted that there is a safe helpline that individuals can call anonymously to get in contact with the National Guard. Octavia answered a variety of questions from the Council members related to reporting incidences of minor abuse, and provided clarification of the reporting process.

### **RECESS**

#### **PUBLIC HEARING: HOMER'S PREVENTION PLAN**

The Council opened the floor for public comment from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m. All Council members were present with the exception of Ronald Taylor.

**Friday, November 22, 2013**

#### **CALL TO ORDER**

#### **ROLL CALL**

Richard Irwin called the meeting to order and a roll call was done.

### **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Ron Taylor **MOVED** to go into Executive Session to discuss issues which may affect the finances of the organization, **SECONDED** by Donna Erickson. Hearing no objections, the motion **PASSED. (7/0)**

Richard Irwin called the meeting back into public order. He stated that there was no action taken in the Executive Session. He stated that the Executive Committee had specific recommendations for funding of Maniilaq.

Rachel Gernat **MOVED** to continue the funding until March 1<sup>st</sup>, **SECONDED** by Kelly Howell. The motion was amended to: Continue funding until March 1<sup>st</sup> with the additional recommendations to be read by Richard Irwin as follows: That there be no funding for a night shelter person unless there's actually somebody in the shelter; that

the program is to contact agencies in the community that have contact with victims to ask that those agencies make referrals to the shelter, and that should include public safety, both the Kotzebue Police Department, the Alaska State Troopers, public health nurses and the paralegal of the district attorney's office; there should be a site visit to another shelter by the program staff that is approved by the Council's executive director; and that there should be a focus on outreach to the community of Kotzebue by the shelter. Hearing no discussion, the members voted by roll call.

Rick Svobodny – Yes, Ron Taylor – Yes, Rachel Gernat – Yes, Donna Erickson – Yes, Duane Mayes – Yes, Patricia Owen – Yes, Richard Irwin – Yes, Kelly Howell – Yes. (Note: Susan Cushing was recused from this vote.)

The motion **PASSED. (8/0)**

Susan Cushing resumed as Chair. She reported agenda has been changed to reflect the move of the Legislative Report from 9:15 to 1:15.

**SERVICES TRAINING OFFICERS PROSECUTORS (STOP)  
COMPREHENSIVE PLAN AND PRISON RAPE ELIMINATION ACT (PREA)**

Freda Westman, a program coordinator at CDVSA, appeared telephonically to speak to the Council members about the STOP Grant. Freda submitted a written report, which could be found in the Board packet that included a summary of the steps of the program and a timeline. She explained that the STOP Grant is a formula grant given to states through the Office of Violence Against Women (OVW) and is used primarily for training for court, law enforcement, and prosecutors and for strengthening victims services. This year the grant award amount was \$785,132, and it is based on a formula and on the population for each state. The award is allocated as follows:

Law enforcement	25%
Prosecutors	25%
Victim services	30%
Discretionary (CDVSA)	15%
Courts	5%

(10% from each category can be used for administration)

Freda Westman reported that they are operating under FY10-13, which is an extension of one year for the implementation plan. The extension was allowed by OVW because of the new requirements under STOP. Freda reviewed the activities relating to the grant and the timelines they will be working with.

Johnnie Wallace, a criminal justice planner for the Department of Corrections, appeared telephonically to speak to the Council members about the Prison Rape Elimination Act. He gave an overview of the program, including the standards that affect prisons, private facilities, jails, police lock-ups, juvenile facilities, immigration, and to a lesser extent community corrections. The purpose behind PREA is to set a zero-tolerance standard for sexual abuse and sexual misconduct, to standardize definitions used for the collection of data on incidences and the prevalence of rape in confinement settings, and increase data and information on incidences in order to improve management in the

administration of jails and prisons. PREA also provides grants, assistance, and training to improve prevention, intervention, and prosecution, and to increase accountability of officials who fail to detect, prevent, reduce, and punish rape in confinement settings, and also to develop mandatory standards for detection, prevention, reduction, and punishment of sexual assault.

Johnnie Wallace stated that PREA has 11 categories of standards that affect each of the facilities or community-based lock-ups.

- Prevention planning
- Response planning
- Training and education
- Assessments and placements of inmates
- Reporting
- Audits
- Official response following an inmate report
- Investigations
- Discipline
- Medical and mental health care
- Data collection and review

The Alaska prison system has 44 separate standards that must be met to be considered to be compliant with the federal guidelines. If the state is not in compliance, they will either forfeit 5% of the total STOP funds, or they will have to use 5% of the total STOP funds to assist the state to come into compliance.

The members discussed issues related to compliance and timelines. The board recommended setting aside 5% in case there is an issue of non-compliance and a contingency of reallocating those funds based on the compliance or non-compliance of the PREA audit. Susan Cushing asked for a volunteer to sit on the STOP Committee, and Kelly Howell volunteered. Ron Taylor recommended that Johnnie Wallace attend the next CDVSA meeting in person.

#### **FOURTH R AND STUDENT ROLE PLAY AND UPDATE**

Patty Owen, with the Department of Education and Early Development (DEED) reported that DEED, in collaboration with Department of Health and Social Services, the Council, and the Network, is currently implementing the Fourth R classroom-based curricula in over 50 schools in 17 school districts in Alaska. Patty Owen submitted a written report, which could be found in the board packet. The Council has funded a three-year evaluation study of the curriculum implementation in Alaska, and they have just completed year two. The evaluation consists of pre-surveys, post-surveys, and a one-year follow-up of students in 9<sup>th</sup> grade. The survey is in the third year of data collection, and the results from the three-year study will be available at the end of spring/summer.

#### **BIG WORKGROUP REPORT**

Lauree Morton directed the board members to the documents presented in the board packet outlining the activities of the workgroup. She noted that the participants were asked for programs recommendations, and although it was clear that it was not a funding recommendations type of meeting, there was a strong opinion that funding had to be tied to the recommendations of the concepts to strengthen or move forward. There was a request for some of the programs to send back information about what their funding sources were and what their funding needs were.

Lauree Morton and Patty Owen reviewed the remainder of the documents in the packet and took questions from the board members. Following a discussion, the board issued a directive of proceeding with social emotional learning as a focus to develop protocols because of its encompassing focus on DV training. Lauree Morton will send a thank-you note to all the participants and let them know that the outcome of their recommendations is that the Council is moving forward with the social emotional learning.

The next Big Workgroup is tentatively scheduled for after the legislative session and the topic will be focused on sexual assault.

### **LEGISLATIVE AUDIT REPORT**

Lauree Morton directed the members' attention to the copy of the audit report, which could be found in the board packet. She reported that overall it was helpful to have the auditors onsite. There were three recommendations; two were housekeeping-type recommendations relating to the filing system and organization within files. Those two areas have already been addressed. The one substantive recommendation was related to consulting with DHSS to assist them in revising and distributing procedures, protocols, and materials into healthcare facilities for domestic violence response. Lauree Morton stated that essentially they agreed with all of the recommendations, and gave some steps for corrective action. The auditors recommended that the Council be extended for eight years, through 2022, which was excellent. They expect that at the beginning of the legislative session, their sunset bill will be introduced.

### **PREVENTION UPDATE WITH FUNDING**

Lauree Morton directed the Council members' attention to the handout developed in response to the request for information that tied the funding to the different projects. She answered questions from the members essentially clarifying or giving background on the programs and projects. The Council members had a short discussion relating to faith-based programs with domestic violence and sexual assault focuses and training.

### **BATTERERS INTERVENTION PROGRAMMING UPDATE**

Susan Cushing stated that because of the lack of teleconference capability, the Batterer Intervention Programming Update was postponed until February. Lauree Morton will send a written report in the interim.

### **CHILDREN'S ALLIANCE/CHILD ADVOCACY CENTERS**

Jessica Lawmaster, the executive director of South Peninsula Haven House, gave an overview of Child Advocacy Centers (CAC) and the Alaska Children's Alliance (ACA), which is the statewide network of CACs. She supplied the Council members with handouts titled:

- The Alaska Children's Alliance: Statewide Child Advocacy Center 5 Year Statistics
- Alaska Children's Alliance: 2012 – 2013, The Year in Review

- Children’s Advocacy Centers: Helping Children Heal from Abuse While Holding Offenders Accountable

Jessica Lawmaster stated that statistically 1 in 4 girls and 1 in 6 boys will be sexually abused by the time they are 18; it is an epidemic problem world-wide. The majority of cases seen at CACs in Alaska are sexual abuse. The criteria for CACs seeing a case is it has to be sexual abuse, severe physical abuse, or severe neglect, and occasionally they see cases of children who have witnessed other types of violent crimes such as domestic violence. CACs in Alaska get referrals from the Office of Children’s Services (OCS) or law enforcement, with the only exception being Alaska Cares in Anchorage, which will occasionally interview children who are referred by their medical providers.

Jessica stated that other important statistics to know about child sexual abuse that research has shown are as follows:

- As few as 10 percent of kids ever tell about the abuse.
- 90 percent of the victims of child sexual abuse know the perpetrator.
- 60 percent of sexually abused children are abused by someone their family knows and trusts. The younger the child victim is, the more likely the abuser is a family member.
- The younger the child victim, the more likely the abuser is a juvenile.
- As many as 40% of victims of child sexual abuse are abused by older or more powerful children.

Jessica Lawmaster stated that child sexual abuse occurs at every socio-economic level, across ethnic and cultural lines, within all religions, and at all levels of education, and it also affects both girls and boys nearly equally.

Jessica Lawmaster reported that a CAC is a community-coordinated approach to responding to child sexual abuse. She discussed the history, purpose, partnerships, processes, and activities of CACs nationally and statewide. There are 12 CACs in Alaska; over 750 nationwide. The core component of CAC is a neutral, child-focused setting.

Jessica Lawmaster reviewed the five-year statistics for the Alaska CACs, and briefly reviewed the Alaska Children’s Alliance history, purpose, advocacy efforts, and activities in Alaska.

Jessica Lawmaster reported that some of the gaps in services in Alaska relate to sexually reactive children, which are children who act out sexually with other kids; primary prevention; funding; and limited access to legal support for families.

### **TOUR OF HAVEN HOUSE**

The tour of Haven House was cancelled due to the Peninsula-wide power outage.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT POLICY, CONTINUED**

Lauree Morton read the revised version of the Council's public comment policy. Donna Erickson **MOVED** to accept the public comment policy as revised, **SECONDED** by Rachel Gernat. Hearing no objections, the motion **PASSED. (9/0)**

### **COUNCIL COMMENTS-WRAP UP**

Due to time constraints, Council member comments were cancelled.

### **ADJOURMENT**

Susan Cushing expressed her appreciation for the Council members' attendance, and adjourned the meeting.

***Minutes Approved 2/26/14 – P.D. – Peninsula Reporting***