

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

**Quarterly Meeting
Victims for Justice
1057 West Fireweed Lane, Suite 103
Anchorage, Alaska
August 15, 2014**

Committee Members Present

Richard Irwin – Chair
Susan Cushing
Commissioner Gary Folger
Ree Sailors
Rick Svobodny
Ronald Taylor
Patricia Owen - telephonic
Rachel Gernat – telephonic for Executive Session
Donna Erickson

Guests

Susan Sullivan
Katie TePas
Rachel Gaedeke
Angie Rosales
Peg Brown

Staff

Laurie Morton – Executive Director
Angela Wells

Minutes Prepared by: Sheila Garrant, Peninsula Reporting

Friday, August 15, 2014

CALL TO ORDER

ROLL CALL

Richard Irwin called the meeting to order at 11:00, and roll call was taken. He expressed his appreciation to Susan Sullivan for making the VFJ facility available for their meeting.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST INQUIRY

No conflicts of interest were declared by Council members.

CHAIR COMMENTS

Richard Irwin shared his philosophy of moving from good to excellent. He noted that as a Council, if they are going to be part of changing the culture of Alaska, they must move from a place of status quo to a place of thinking as leaders, as the dealers of hope. He quoted Carlyle, "Let him who would be moved to convince others be first moved to convince himself." He posed the question: Are we people of hope, bearers of hope in whatever sphere of influence we have? Are we people who fundamentally believe we can make a difference?

VICTIMS FOR JUSTICE

Susan Sullivan welcomed the board members and gave a history and overview of Victims for Justice (VFJ) and their programs. She was joined by Angie Rosales and Rachel Gaedeke from the VFJ office. Susan highlighted that they served people who are victims of violent crimes. They cover the whole gambit of violent crimes; assault, aggravated assault, drunk driving incidence, kidnapping, domestic violence and sexual assault, and homicide. They serve approximately 270 people per quarter. Their staff consists of three advocates, and each semester they hire one intern.

Angie Rosales, who works for the city prosecutor's office and serves on the board of VJF, reported on some of the statistics of crimes in Anchorage and how VFJ is impacted. The Anchorage City Prosecutor's office handles 2,000 misdemeanor cases a year, and shows an uptrend with the addition of the state's DV/PO violations to their offices. She noted they serve the rural part of Alaska with an ongoing grant project that allows them to serve any victim with a case that begins in Anchorage, but they live in the village. They also do violent crime compensation referrals through non-profits. Rachel Gaedeke, who has a background in psychology and works for VFJ with surviving family members of victims of homicides, spoke about the services they provide for survivors and services for victims of other violent crimes.

UPDATE ON FY2015 BUDGET

Lauree Morton gave an update on the FY15 federal funds that they had requested extensions for. She stated that those requests were granted and extended for another year. Lauree noted that they may have a new award under Grants to Encourage Arrest, which is a continuation of the Language Access Interpreter project with the Network and IAJ. There has been a delay in receiving any information about the award mainly due to a change in personnel of the team who originally applied for the grant, many of whom have moved to other jobs, so they are currently sorting out the discrepancy in contact information.

Lauree Morton reported that in regards to the motion to approve \$250,000 for the children's programs in shelters that was passed in July, they have been in touch with Dr. Sandra Graham-Bermann, and they are looking for dates in September where she

can come to Alaska and work on training people who will be implementing the pilot. They hope to have a pilot up and running in October.

Lauree Morton reported that in regards to the \$1.4 million prevention funding from the Governor's office, they received all of their reimbursable services agreements from the Governor's office and are disbursing the money out to the different areas. \$600,000 of that was set aside for communities to work on their prevention plans and strengthen communities that were ready and engaged in moving forward with their plans. The RFPs are in draft form, and they are hoping to get those finalized in a few days. Patty Owen, who is a Council member and works for the Department of Education, had agreed to be part of the Proposal Evaluation Committee (PEC), so Patty; Kate Reilly, from Health and Human Services and Public Health; and CDVSA staff will form the PEC. They will review the applications and make recommendations to CDVSA board for the disbursement of those funds.

Lauree Morton stated that with regards to the \$287,500 increment, which was the increment for victim's services that the board held off doing anything with because of the uncertainty of receiving the \$367,200 from the Division of Behavioral Health, they have been assured that the \$367,200 will be received, and she believes they can feel confident to move forward with disbursing the \$287,500. She recommended prorating it out to the programs, which is something they have done in the past when they've received increments within a continuous grant cycle, or they could do a special letter of interest of inquiry, which is what they did in April with funds they received. Lauree noted that Maniilaq turned in their grant award conditions and forms and a budget, which shows some forward progress for that program.

After a short discussion, Council members asked questions as follows:

Q: What was the original intent of the \$287,500?

A: It was for the agencies to help with increased costs of utilities, rising fixed costs, and transportation.

Q: How is the proration figured?

A: They look at the allocation as a whole and a program got the same percent as they do of the overall budget.

Q: What was the intent for the \$367,200?

A: Reimbursable services agreement with Division of Behavioral Health (DBH) to provide shelter and services for women and their children who are or at risk of violence due to alcohol/substance abuse.

Q: Are these one-time increments?

A: The \$367,200 is year to year. DBH has indicated that they are not going to provide it in FY16. The \$287,500 is in the base funding.

Susan Cushing **MOVED** to prorate the amount to all of the programs with a consideration for their larger expenses related to transportation and utilities depending on their location tied to their existing percentage. The motion was **SECONDED** by Ron Taylor. During discussion the Council members discussed holding back a percentage

of the funding as emergency contingency funds for programs, which was decided to be unnecessary in light of the accountability for programs according to the grant. A roll call vote was taken and the motion **PASSED. (8/0)**

EXECUTIVE SESSION/WORKING LUNCH

Patty Owen **MOVED** that the Council go into Executive session after the break to discuss something that is an exception to the Open Meetings Act, which is the finances and personnel of a program that could impact the integrity of their organization. The motion was **SECONDED** by Donna Erickson. Hearing no objections, the motion **PASSED. (7/0)**

The Council resumed regular session, at which time Ree Sailors **MOVED** that the decision by the Council in its May meeting related to Maniilaq be added as an attachment to the existing grant and that those conditions extend until Dec 31st, 2014. Ron Taylor **SECONDED** the motion. A roll call vote was taken and the motion **PASSED. (7/0)**

POSSIBLE FY2016 INCREMENTS

Lauree Morton led the Council members through a review and brief discussion on each of the FY16 budget increment requests submitted. The Batterer Intervention Program (BIP), Alaska Network for Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault (ANDVSA) for legal assistance for victims, The Collaborative for Academic, Social Emotional Learning (CASEL), and sustaining the current victim services' requests could be found in the board packet. The Council members asked questions that clarified each of the programs. The following comments were notable:

BIP Request:

- Rick Svobodny recommended that after the conference, they add to study the efficacy of the program going forward.

Legal assistance for victims:

- Rick Svobodny requested a copy of the screening criteria used to choose which DV/SA cases are approved for legal assistance for victims.

Social emotion learning (SEL):

- Ree Sailors requested Alaska-based data relating to performance of the current programs.
- Council members would like to continue the discussion relating to expanding SEL for preschool-aged children and families and also the fundamental family unit.

Sustaining current victim services:

- Council members ranked the requests in order of priority. The following is the members' consensus:
 1. \$367,500 – Transfer from Behavioral Health
 2. \$ 45,000 – BIP training and evaluation
 3. \$300,000 – Outreach and education

4. \$150,000 – Crisis intervention/emergency transportation
5. \$600,000 – Social emotional learning
6. \$100,000 – Legal assistance

Donna Erickson **MOVED** to approve keeping the five priorities areas that are identified in the order in which they were discussed. The motion was **SECONDED** by Ron Taylor. Hearing no objections, the motion **PASSED. (8/0)**

CONTINUE STRATEGIC PLAN REVIEW

This agenda item was not taken up at this meeting.

CRISIS MANAGEMENT & INTERVENTION

This agenda item was not taken up at this meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 4:10 p.m.

Minutes Approved: November 20, 2014 – P.D.