STATE OF ALASKA
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY

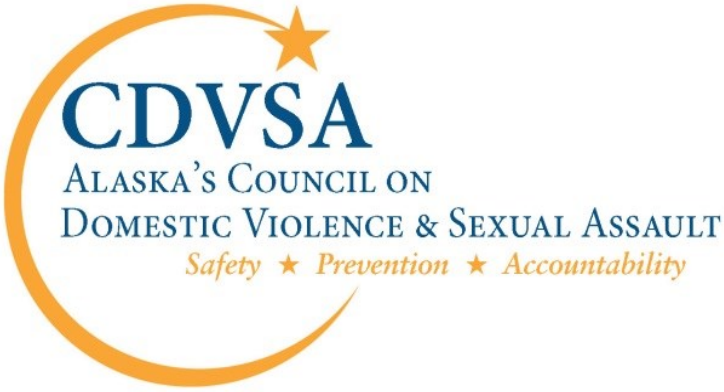
CDVSA
ALASKA'S COUNCIL ON
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE & SEXUAL ASSAULT
Safety ★ Prevention ★ Accountability

FY2009-2019 STRATEGIC PLAN-
Revised FY2015

Gary Folger Commissioner
Department of Public Safety

Richard Irwin, Chair
Council on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault

Cover picture is a healthy community mural created by Dillingham youth courtesy of Safe and Fear Free Environment.



Department of Public Safety

COUNCIL ON DOMESTIC VIOLENCE & SEXUAL ASSAULT
Executive Director, Lauree Morton

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Dear Alaskan:

The Council took the opportunity during state fiscal year 2015 to revise our Strategic Plan. Sections of the plan were reviewed at quarterly meetings and revisions were incorporated into this final version adopted during our June 2015 meeting.

Our Vision remains one in which Alaskans do not suffer from domestic violence and sexual assault. We decided to make a critical change to our vision statement however, which now uses the term "freed" instead of "free"—an adverb instead of an adjective. Freed calls each one of us to take action to ensure the end of these crimes in our state.

The Mission statement now emphasizes the work necessary to prevent domestic violence and sexual assault by listing prevention as the first order of business.

Prevention is defined with an active voice and continues to be the first and second goals of the strategic plan. Crisis management and intervention are better defined to acknowledge short and long-term consequences of domestic violence and sexual assault.

While laudable, after analyzing the conditions and factors required to develop options allowing victims to stay in their homes and removing perpetrators of domestic violence this goal was deleted from the plan; both legal and financial considerations makes this goal unattainable for the foreseeable future.

Great strides have been made over the last six years. The conversations about ending these crimes and preventing new generations of Alaskans from ever experiencing them have shifted from just advocates and first responders to whole communities. As a snapshot for this point in time, nineteen communities have developed primary prevention plans, six communities are implementing Green Dot Alaska bystander intervention strategies, men from eleven communities are working with over 130 12-18 year-old boys through COMPASS, and 72 women mentored 213 girls participating in Girls on the Run across the state this past year. Alaska Native Villages have more access to federal funding streams through the Family Violence Prevention and Services Act (FVPSA) and the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA). Clergy are being supported through Shepherds' Care Forums and first responders to victims of sexual assault are coordinating efforts to support victims through sexual assault response teams (SART).

We challenge each citizen to take up the Green Dot call: No one has to do everything, but everyone can do something. What's your Green Dot? Together, we can make a difference.

Sincerely,
FY2015 Council Members

Richard Irwin, Rachel Gernat, Donna Erickson, Susan Cushing-public members
Gary Folger, Public Safety; Ron Taylor, Corrections; Patty Owen, DEED; Rick Svobodny, LAW; and Ree Sailors/ Chris Ashenbrenner, Health and Social Services

State of Alaska
Department of Public Safety
Council on Domestic Violence & Sexual Assault

Sarah Palin, Governor
Joseph A. Masters, Commissioner

February 5, 2009

Dear Alaskan:

The Council on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault is in its twenty-seventh year of providing domestic violence and sexual assault safety, prevention and accountability services to Alaska. In order to strengthen our capacity to achieve the Council's vision of a Violence Free Alaska, we have crafted a 10-year Strategic Plan. It is our intention that these goals and objectives chart a course for statewide action aimed at eliminating domestic and sexual violence.

Alaska has significant challenges with exceedingly high rates of interpersonal violence. We have the shameful distinction of the highest rates of reported sexual assault in the country. Our rates are 2.5 times the national average with Native women victimized at much higher rates. These are just the reported assaults. National data suggests only 1 in 10 is ever reported. In a 2006 survey, 75% of Alaskans said they have experienced or know someone who has experienced domestic violence or sexual assault. Clearly, we have much work to do to reduce the rates and attain our vision.

In 2008, the Council on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault (CDVSA) Legislative Task Force acknowledged the extent of the problem and the threat it poses to so many Alaskans. Their overarching recommendation to the Council was to develop and implement a strategic plan. The Council wholeheartedly agreed and began the process of developing this plan.

Guided by our vision of an Alaska free from domestic and sexual violence and our mission to provide safety through a system of statewide crisis intervention, perpetrator accountability and prevention services, the plan is built around three program areas: Prevention, Crisis Management and Intervention, and Perpetrator Accountability. A fourth strategic area, Council Effectiveness, is added to ensure solid agency operations. The Council has goals and objectives for each area. We also have a separate action plan to guide Council staff and our partners in accomplishing these objectives. The action plan gives us the tools to keep us on target by monitoring our progress and measuring our performance.

Domestic and sexual violence impacts all of us – victims, children, families, employers, neighbors, abusers, clergy, teachers, and friends. It is going to take a coordinated community response across Alaska to stop it. This plan aims to incorporate best practices for addressing domestic violence and sexual assault and brings our partners to the table in the effort.

We look forward to working with legislators, community and tribal organizations, law enforcement, prosecutors, court personnel, community leaders and Alaskans from all walks of life to focus on prevention of these crimes so that Alaskans will no longer suffer these senseless acts of violence.

Sincerely,

The Council on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault

Ann House, Public Member, Chair
Rick Svobodny, Department of Law, Vice-Chair
Stephanie McFadden, Public Member
Yvonne Sarren, Public Member
Col. Audie Holloway, Department of Public Safety
Beverly Wooley, Department of Health and Social Services
Cynthia Curran, Department of Education and Early Development

"Public Safety through Public Service"

Council on Domestic Violence & Sexual Assault
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VISION

Alaska, freed from domestic and sexual violence

MISSION STATEMENT

The Council promotes the prevention of domestic violence and sexual assault and provides safety for Alaskans victimized or impacted by domestic violence and sexual assault through a statewide system of crisis intervention and support, and by demanding perpetrator accountability.

PURPOSE

There is established in the Department of Public Safety the Council on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault. The purpose of the council is to provide for planning and coordination of services to victims of domestic violence or sexual assault or to their families, and to perpetrators of domestic violence and sexual assault, and to provide for crisis Intervention and prevention programs."
Alaska Statute 18.66.010.

CDVSA
Alaska's Council on Domestic Violence & Sexual Assault
Safety ★ Prevention ★ Accountability

INTRODUCTION - CDVSA 2009-2019 STRATEGIC PLAN

In January 2009 the Alaska Council on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault adopted this ten year Strategic Plan.

This Strategic Plan values and respects the ongoing work and accomplishments of the Council's many partners and recognizes the need for continued collaboration. Our hope is that the Strategic Plan will be a tool that all who are engaged in addressing domestic violence and sexual assault in Alaska use to align missions, point to common goals, and reinforce one another's work.

The Council acknowledges and highly values the work of its partners that is already underway to accomplish some of this plan's goals and objectives. The Council's statutory mandates cannot be accomplished without the collaboration of many partners, including faith communities, Native organizations and tribes, and health care providers. Neither the Council nor any other single organization "leads" this work or is the single "'inspiration" for this hard work. Rather, we must work together and depend on each other to achieve a violence free Alaska.

The Council depends on good coordination and communication. To be effective this must be a statewide effort that reaches all communities and people. The State representatives on the Council* must continue to be two-way conduits of information between the Council and their agencies. Likewise, each public member on the Council must communicate the Council's plans, goals and actions to their communities and organizations. We hope that establishing the 2009-2019 Strategic Plan and corresponding two-year Action Plans strengthens all communication and relationships.

To address the issues of domestic violence and sexual assault in Alaska, this Strategic Plan establishes three program areas for the Council to achieve our vision of a violence free Alaska:

- Prevention
- Crisis Management and Intervention
- Perpetrator Accountability.

The Council, in collaboration with its partners, has identified six goals in these program areas. A fourth strategic area, Council Effectiveness, has three additional goals.

Objectives are also established for each goal. The objectives are more concrete statements that describe how the goals will be achieved. Over the ten year course of this Plan, it is expected that some objectives will be accomplished or will no longer be relevant. New objectives will emerge as the Council and staff stay current with domestic violence and sexual assault research, practices and needs and adjust to the changing needs of new realities.

* State agencies represented on the Council include the Departments of Law, Education, Health and Social Services, Corrections, and Public Safety.

PREVENTION

What is Prevention?
Prevention works to proactively modify or entirely eliminate events, conditions or exposure to risk factors that can result in or cause violence to reoccur. Prevention of interpersonal violence is a systematic process that promotes healthy environments and behaviors. Short-term needs are acute and literally affect life and safety, however successful prevention is cost effective in the long-term.

Goal 1. Coordinate domestic violence and sexual assault prevention efforts in Alaska.

Objective 1A - Promote education and programs to prevent future incidents of domestic violence and sexual assault.

Objective 1B – Identify and adopt evidence-based measures to ensure effective prevention programming.

Objective 1C - Increase community awareness of the need for prevention services.

Objective 1D – Work to shape public policy and attitudes to reduce tolerance for interpersonal violence.

Bethel residents march for peace at home.

Goal 2. Obtain funding dedicated to prevention programs.

Objective 2A - Develop a plan for prevention programming.

Objective 2B - Determine scope and cost of viable, measurable projects.

CRISIS MANAGEMENT AND INTERVENTION

What is Crisis Management?
Crisis management is the immediate and short-term response to domestic violence and sexual assault. Crisis management addresses the immediate issues of safety and support services.

What is Intervention?
Intervention is the long-term response after domestic violence and sexual assault has occurred, following the immediate crisis management response. Intervention addresses the long-term consequences of such violence.

Goal 3. Provide immediate, appropriate crisis response, intervention and shelter.

Objective 3A - Determine the operational costs to provide comprehensive domestic violence and sexual assault victim services including shelter.

Objective 3B - Seek adequate funding for victim service programs to ensure safety and services are available for all in need.

Objective 3C - Increase the knowledge and skills of Alaska's first responders (law enforcement, medical providers, child welfare, etc.)

Objective 3D - Initiate immediate law enforcement response.

Objective 3E - Improve the ability of the justice system to enhance victim safety through appropriate sanctions, orders and judgments.

Objective 3F - Ensure funded programs' compliance with CDVSA regulations and grant conditions.

Objective 3G - Increase access to legal resources for victims of domestic violence and sexual assault who are involved in the civil and criminal justice systems.

"Though I may say it often, this is one official "thank you" for being a very amazing group of people I could not formerly imagine existed in such a setting as this especially. Thank You for restoring much of the hope & faith I often times now have. Thank You for helping me imagine strength & safety could be built by these tattered hands of mine."

Goal 4. Enhance the understanding of the prevalence and impact of domestic violence and sexual assault in the State of Alaska.

Objective 4A - Build public awareness and support for crisis management and intervention services.

Crisis management and intervention services in Alaska are provided locally by community-based shelter and non-residential domestic violence and sexual assault programs with the support of grants provided by the Council.

The shelter pictured above is the Tundra Women's Coalition located in Bethel.

PERPETRATOR ACCOUNTABILITY

What is Perpetrator Accountability? Within the context of the Council on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault programs, accountability is defined as holding perpetrators accountable for their actions through corrective and rehabilitative programs. Accountability includes all components of the criminal justice system holding perpetrators of domestic or sexual violence responsible.

Goal 5. Perpetrators will be held accountable for their actions.

Objective 5A - Determine effectiveness of batterer intervention programs.

Objective 5B - Ensure perpetrator accountability programs are available.

Men fly messages of love, support, and respect about their partners, daughters, mothers. This project is supported by Alaska Family Services (Palmer) and the Sunshine Clinic (Talkeetna)..

COUNCIL EFFECTIVENESS

Why review Council effectiveness? All agencies and organizations must periodically review internal needs, resources, capacity and processes to ensure operations are efficient, equitable and effective.

Goal 6. Implement and maintain best practices in the operation of programs providing domestic violence and sexual assault services.

Objective 6A - Identify core services of and standards for domestic violence and sexual assault programs.

Objective 6B - Assess the effectiveness of domestic violence and sexual assault services.

Goal 7. Define and describe the scope and impact of domestic violence and sexual assault in Alaska.

Objective 7A - Obtain consistent and complete data on domestic violence and sexual assault incidents in Alaska.

Objective 7B – Coordinate with others to compile all relevant existing data on domestic violence and sexual assault

Objective 7C - Support and encourage independent academic research on domestic violence and sexual assault in Alaska.

COUNCIL EFFECTIVENESS - continued

Goal 8. Ensure effective Council administration.

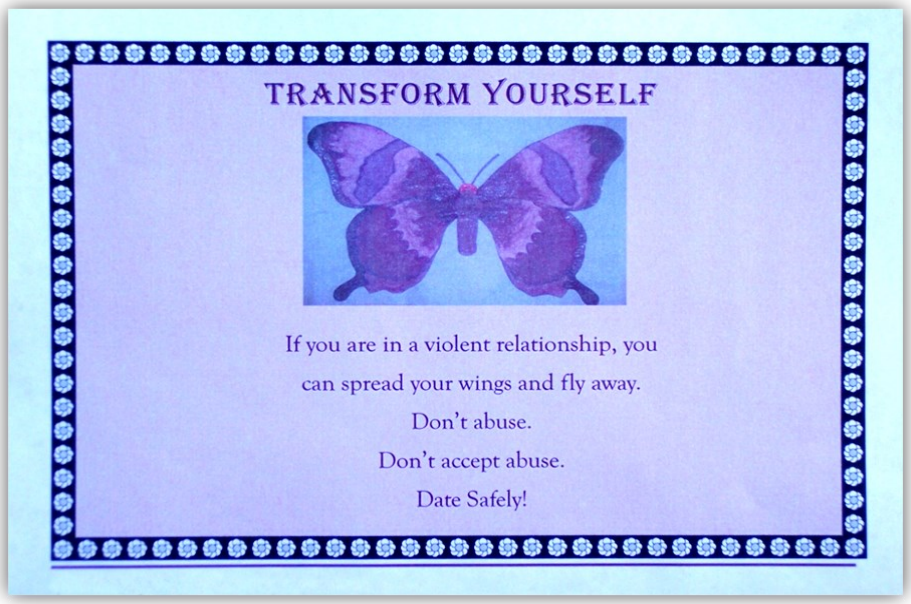
Objective 8A - Council members and staff are knowledgeable and understand current domestic violence and sexual assault issues.

Objective 8B - Distribute funds and grants in an efficient and equitable manner.

Objective 8C - Ensure Council has staff resources and capacity to work effectively.

Objective 8D - Maintain compliance with federal grant requirements.

Objective 8E - Develop Memoranda of Understanding to improve coordination of services between state agencies.



Picture created by program participants at Arctic Women in Crisis, Barrow.