

**MINUTES FOR THE  
BELLINGHAM-WHATCOM COUNTY COMMISSION  
AGAINST DOMESTIC VIOLENCE  
April 25, 2006**

**Members Attending:** Cynthia Bauleke, Randall Carroll, Burton Dickerson, Sheri Emerson, Nikki Finkbonner, Mike Haslip, Joan Hoisington, Cheri Kilty, Chi Na Kim, Shannon Meyer, Jon Ostlund, Michael Sledge, Linda Storck, Bruce Van Glubt, Kathy Washatka

**Members Absent:** Regina Delahunt, Bill Elfo, Rebecca Johnson, Kathleen Marshall, Dave McEachran, Candy Petersen, Todd Reutlinger, Karen Summers

**Guests:** Jeff Parks, Whatcom County Sheriff's Office; Anne Larson, DVSAS; Pam Englett, LAW Advocates; Stephen Gockley, Northwest Justice Project

**Staff Attending:** Sue Parrott, Domestic Violence Commission Director  
Joyce Gertler, Domestic Violence Commission Program Coordinator  
Linda Ward, Administrative Secretary

Randall Carroll, Chair, called the April Annual Meeting of the Bellingham-Whatcom County Commission Against Domestic Violence to order at 10:00 a.m., Tuesday, April 26, 2006 at St Luke's Community Health Center, 3333 Squaticum Parkway, Bellingham, WA.

**1. Welcome to Annual Meeting**

Randall Carroll welcomed all to the April 2006 Annual Meeting.

**2. Public Comment**

Pam Englett from LAW Advocates reported that "Project Safer" has secure funding through June 30, 2006. Beginning July 1, 2006 the Northwest Justice Project will take over "Project Safer". The NW Justice Project will hire a full time attorney for the project. Pam will be moving on to a new private practice, however she will work with the NW Justice Project and their Project Safer clients during the transition.

Steven Gockley from the NW Justice Project reviewed the services of the agency, which is focused on providing legal help to low income individuals. The NW Justice Project has bi-lingual attorneys and staff that will be an asset to Project Safer. Steven stated that he will be contacting domestic violence agencies in the near future to ensure that the transition is successful.

**3. Presentation & Discussion**

Domestic Violence and Impacts on Children  
Presenter: Betsy Gross, M.F.T.

Sue stated that the Commission is trying a new meeting format, which is to follow the regular presentation with a more extended discussion for an additional 30 minutes. The purpose of the discussion is to further explore core principles of a Coordinated Community Response,

similar to the discussions at the January retreat. The new format will be tried at the April and June Commission Meetings and then evaluated.

Betsy Gross began her presentation by stating that she worked for the county of San Diego where she managed a unit that focused on clients/families who were involved in both probation and child protection services and domestic violence was present.

Betsy recommended the following website:

<http://www.mincava.umn.edu/>

Betsy gave a short power point presentation as below.

#### What Is Exposure

- Seeing, hearing
- Involved in batterers attempts to control victim
- Take on “rescuer” role
- Physically intervene in the DV
- Child abuse victims (40% co-occurrence – DV and child abuse)

#### Prevalence

- 10-20% annually, resulting in 7-14 million children exposed/year (Carlson 2000)
- NVAWS: 40.2% of US battered women reported child exposed
- Approximately 40-60% of Child Welfare caseloads contain a battered woman

#### Impact of Exposure

Variability in Response due to:

- Frequency, severity, intensity of violence
- Degree to which child is exposed
- Child’s individual sturdiness/vulnerability
- Presence/absence of protective factor of additional risk factors

#### Emotional Development

- Disruption in acquiring ability to regulate emotions
- Disruption in developing language for emotions
- Attachment disturbances:
  1. Insecure/anxious
  2. Exploitive
  3. Violent

#### Behavioral Development

Gender Trends:

- \*Males: externalized reactions
- \*Females: internalized reactions
- Regressive behavior
- Lower social compendia and failures with mastery

#### Cognitive Development

- Hard-wired changes in the brain
- Lower cognitive functioning
- Over time increased approval of violence
- View violence as socially desirable

- Identification with aggressor  
Or
- Assumption of "learned helplessness", "victim" mentality

### Longer Term Problems

If not ameliorated,, adult problems:

- Depression
- PTSD
- Low self esteem
- Lower social adjustment
- Difficulties in relationships  
Generalized distress, anxiety

### Our Response:

Intervention Continuum

- Primary Prevention
- Early Intervention
- Secondary Intervention
- Tertiary Intervention

Commission members divided into three groups to discuss a scenario. (Children living in a home with domestic violence and a report to CPS.)

Group 1: How should CPS intervene with the family?

- Can mom and children be removed to safe housing – if so how?
- Consider dependency filing – or removal of children if mom is not cooperative
- Ongoing intervention and support – possible dependency – ongoing counseling for mom and kids

Group 2: What Services does this family need? Who should provide them?

- Law enforcement
- Womenscare – emergency housing
- Opportunity Council – housing placement
- Support – DVSA group, legal advocacy – civil protection order – enforcement of release conditions
- Brigid Collins – NW Youth Services – CCS counseling
- Healthcare – prenatal
- School support
- Identified case coordinator to facilitate the above

Group 3: Who is responsible for the safety of these children? What should they do?

- who is responsible?
  - "The system" - CPS in particular "CCR"
  - Parents
  - Probation – courts
  - Extended family
- what should they do?
  - All "pieces" of the system need to coordinate/communicate
  - Risk assessment of mom and kids safety
  - Needs to be a victim advocate in this picture
  - Safety plan and case management which may include removal of children
  - Family psychological assessment and/or intervention

- Investigate prior abuse outside of Bellingham
- Advise and involve schools - also ask for feedback from school about what they are witnessing regarding child's behavior. Schools can contribute to the "big picture"

Time constraints limited the discussion. The value of case coordination was emphasized as well as the need to have a shared understanding and working definition of core values that guide interventions.

#### 4. Consent Agenda

**#06-09 MOTION: Shannon Meyer made the motion to accept the Consent Agenda. Kathy Washatka seconded the motion. It passed unanimously.**

#### 5. Staff Report:

Sue presented the 2006 Key Activities handout for Commission members to use as a reference as to what the Commission is doing in 2006. She also reminded the Commission members to use the Commissions new e-mail address and phone numbers.

#### 6. Committee Reports/Motions

##### Executive Committee

Randy Carroll gave the report.

##### Updates on Commission Vacancies

Randy reported that there is still a small cities caucus representative vacancy. He also reported that Mary Elizabeth has resigned as a Commission member and that Michele Boudreau has been recommended by the Executive Committee to fill Erin McIlhany's term.

##### 2006 Budget Revised/ 2005 Year-End Financial Report

Commission members briefly reviewed the 2006 revised budget and the 2005 year-end financial report.

##### 2006 Committee Work Plan

Randy reported that most of the Executive Committee's 2006 work plan is based on the GTEA grant and the strategic plan.

##### Presentation of 2005 Annual Report

The 2005 Annual Report was distributed to all Commission members.

##### Nomination of 2006-2007 Officers

Randy presented the following slate of officers:

**Chair: Regina Delahunt**

**Vice Chair: Cynthia Bauleke**

**Secretary: Bruce Van Glubt**

**Treasurer: Sheri Emerson**

Immediate Past Chair: Randall Carroll (no vote required)

There were no nominations from the floor.

**#06-10 MOTION: Kathy Washatka made the motion to accept the following slate of Officers for 2006 – 2007:**

**Chair: Regina Delahunt**

**Vice Chair: Cynthia Bauleke**

**Secretary: Bruce Van Glubt**

**Treasurer: Sheri Emerson**

**Burton Dickerson seconded the motion. It passed unanimously.**

Domestic Violence Commission's 2006 Work Plan

Commission members briefly reviewed the Bellingham-Whatcom County Commission Against Domestic Violence's 2006 Work Plan.

**#06-11 MOTION: Cheri Kilty made the motion to accept the Domestic Violence Commission's 2006 Work Plan as detailed in the 2004-2007 Strategic Plan. Mike Sledge seconded the motion. It passed unanimously.**

Sue recognized Kathy Washatka for her work on the Executive Committee since it was formed. She also thanked Shannon Meyer for her service as the Law and Justice Committee Chair and for Randy Carroll for his service as Commission Chair.

**Victim And Children Support Committee**

Cynthia Bauleke gave the report.

2006 Committee Work Plan

Cindy reported that the committee has finalized its 2006 work plan.

Health Care Project

The committee has been talking with different health care agencies to ascertain if they would like to have more education on screening for domestic violence.

Meridian School District DV Response Policy

Cindy thanked Burton Dickerson for the opportunity to work with the Meridian School District on developing policies and protocols for dating and domestic violence. The committee has reconvened.

Safety Audit Focus Groups

One survivor focus group and one advocate focus group were held for the safety audit. Cindy expressed her appreciation to Joyce Gertler for her work.

New Committee Chair

Cheri Kilty has agreed to serve as Victim and Children Support Committee Chair. The Committee still needs to take formal action.

**Law & Justice Committee**

Mike Haslip gave the report.

2006 Committee Work Plan

Mike reported that the Law Enforcement Risk Assessment Training was very well received. Sue Parrott and staff are working very hard on the components of the safety audit.

Benchmark Report

Shannon Meyer is currently completing the final stages of the benchmark report which should be ready for the City and County Council meetings in late May and early June. As discussed in the past there is always the problem of how the data is inconsistently recorded. Sue stated that the final draft of the report will only be

reviewed by the Law and Justice Committee, however, any Commission members who would like to review the final draft should contact Sue.

#### GTEA Update

The Commission members briefly reviewed the GTEA synopsis.

- Goal # 2 - DVSAS has expanded their on-scene advocacy to the Whatcom County Sheriff's Office.
- Goal # 3 –There will be three trainings in May with Corrections staff with Shannon Meyer and Manca Valum, DVSAS, as the presenters.
- Goal # 4 – Jeff Parks, Whatcom County Sheriff's Office, reported that the Sheriff's Office has purchased the laptop computers and are currently looking at purchasing the video cam recorders. Ten officers have been selected to specialize in domestic violence investigations.

#### **Education - Outreach Committee**

Mike Sledge gave the report.

#### 2006 Committee Work Plan

Mike reported that the committee has finalized their 2006 work plan.

#### Committee Presentation Focus for 2006

Mike stated that the committee has decided to focus on presentations to the small city councils, emphasizing the benefits the Commission provides. The Executive Committee will be following up later in the summer with a funding request.

#### Quarterly Commission Meeting Training Topics

Mike reported that the committee reviewed the results of the training topic survey and decided that the focus of the trainings should be on children. For at least the next meeting the presentations will include scenarios that may be linked to core principles of a Coordinated Community Response.

### **7. Adjourn 12:00 p.m.**

**Next Meeting: Tuesday, June 27th, 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.  
St. Luke's Community Health Education Center**