

**MINUTES FOR THE
BELLINGHAM-WHATCOM COUNTY COMMISSION
AGAINST DOMESTIC VIOLENCE
April 29, 2008**

Members Attending: Cynthia Bauleke, Karen Burke, Anna Carey, Regina Delahunt, Sheri Emerson, Nikki Finkbonner, Kirstin Hammer, Rebecca Johnson, Mike Knapp, Byron Manering, Dave McEachran, Joy Monjure, Candy Petersen, Todd Ramsay, Karen Summers, Gary Tomsic, Bruce Van Glubt

Members Absent: Dennis Carlson, Bill Elfo, Cindy Enger, Joan Hoisington, Jon Komorowski, Shannon Meyer, Linda Storck

Guests: Tim Lintz, Bellingham Police Department

Staff Attending: Andrea Cary-Grant, Sue Parrott, Caryl Dunavan, Linda Ward

Regina Delahunt, Chair, called the Annual Meeting of the Bellingham-Whatcom County Commission Against Domestic Violence to order at 10:10 a.m., Tuesday, April 29, 2009 at St Luke's Community Health Center, 3333 Squalicum Parkway, Bellingham, WA.

1. Welcome

Regina welcomed Todd Ramsey and Gary Tomsic as new Commission members.

2. Public Comment

None

3. Consent Agenda

MOTION #08-05: Joy Monjure made the motion to accept the January 29, 2008 Commission Retreat minutes. Karen Summers seconded the motion. It passed unanimously.

4. Nominations of 2008-2009 Officers

The Executive Committee recommended approval of the following slate of officers:

**Chair: Cynthia Bauleke
Vice Chair: Rebecca Johnson
Secretary: Byron Manering
Treasurer: Anna Carey**

Immediate Past Chair: Regina Delahunt (no vote required)

Regina asked for other nominations from the floor. None were made.

MOTION: #08-06 Karen Summers made the motion to accept the slate of officers as presented. Candy Petersen seconded the motion. It passed unanimously.

Regina turned the meeting over to the new chair.

5. Training

Topic: Family Justice Centers (FJCs)

Presenters: FJC Conference Attendees: Andrea Cary-Grant, Cynthia Bauleke, Karen Burke, Tim Lintz

Andrea Cary-Grant

What is a Family Justice Center?

- Co-location
- Multi disciplinary
- Work together
- Under One roof

Based on San Diego FJC - opened in 2002

- Mission statement included "wrap around services"
- Vision statement

How did San Diego's Family Justice Center begin?

Prior to the FJC, victims had 32 places they needed to contact to get help. Victim and survivor focus groups were held to determine victim/survivor needs.

- Partners included law enforcement, prosecution, social services, health services, victim advocates, and probation. Some partners were off site.
- Services offered include: safety planning, support and information, electronic court orders, cell phones, transportation, counseling, medical/dental forensic exams.
- Services most utilized include: civil orders, transportation and spiritual support.

The San Diego FJC is mostly funded by the city. It is also a 501C3 which enables it to raise funds to support the center.

Andrea stated that there are 5 things to say to a victim of domestic violence:

- 1) I am afraid for you
- 2) I am afraid for your children
- 3) You don't deserve to be treated this way
- 4) There is help available (www.dvcommission.org/resources.htm)
- 5) I am here for you

THEN LISTEN

Andrea invited all Commission members to attend the first FJC Ad hoc Committee meeting, tomorrow (April 30th) at 1:00 p.m. at DVSAS.

Cynthia Bauleke

Cindy stated that that San Diego Family Justice Center is very large with a homey feel. The center has plain clothes police officers housed on the second floor.

There are smaller family justice centers around the country. In 2006 Nampa Idaho began its FJC, which currently has 35 staff and 25 volunteers. The city gave the FJC a building and pays 80% of its expenses; the other 20% is by donation.

Prior to starting a FJC the following would need to be considered:

- If services are held in co-location, prosecution would need to be present
- Resources
- Confidentiality
- Transportation

- Creation of best practices and policies
- Victim/survivor focus groups
- Common definition of DV

Cindy noted that every FJC is different to meet the needs of the community. FJCs are developed to make it easier for the victims, not for the agencies. She stated that it would be better to not start a FJC than to have one that fails.

Karen Burke

Karen stated that there are many great FJC's however, some advocates have shown concern over parts of the model. Also, some centers have started and then actually closed so it is imperative that any movement forward be done in a thoughtful way.

She stated that some concerns of having a FJC include:

- Victims may fear of police presence – may be undocumented, on probation, or have outstanding warrants. In some centers police have actually arrested victims when they came for help.
- Funding – need new funds – not take funds from existing service agencies to create more and somewhat duplicated services.
- Perception of confidentiality with so many agencies together.

Karen compared the FJC concept to an ongoing continuum with no communication between agencies at one end to full merging into one center at the other end. She commented that Whatcom County is already far up the continuum in terms of close collaboration. How far do we want to move up? The model of FJC's is for all services to be housed together however, we may be able to modify the model if needed. How well it would work is dependent on the collaboration of agencies.

Karen encouraged all Commission members to attend the May 23rd Casey Gwinn Conference. There is no cost to Commission members since the Commission is one of the sponsors of the conference.

Tim Lintz

Tim commented that he could see the benefit of sending a victim to one location for all of the services she/he may need. He does not know how this could affect law enforcement. An integrated computer system giving limited access to police information would be pricey. Tim noted that he thinks a FJC (to some degree) could work in Whatcom County. He commented that the San Diego Conference left him with more questions than answers.

In summary Cindy reiterated that the Commission does not do direct services. It could however be the catalyst, with the people at this table, to work on the feasibility of a FJC. The Commission could help define best practices and policies. It would also be acceptable to the Commission if the players decided not to pursue a FJC. To determine the needs of victims/survivors focus groups would need to be held. Cindy suggested that the subject be discussed in each of the Commission's committee meetings.

6. Committee Reports/Motions

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Regina Delahunt gave the report.

Regina stated that the Executive Committee is recommending a change in the Commission's Ordinance to add a DCFS and a DSFS representative to its membership.

MOTION #08-07 Rebecca Johnson made the motion to approve the change to the Commission's Ordinance to include a representative from DCFS. Byron Manering seconded the motion. It passed unanimously.

VICTIM & CHILDREN SUPPORT COMMITTEE

Candy Peterson gave the report.

Candy stated that she will be attending the FJC ad hoc committee meeting. The Victim and Children Support Committee is willing to help with whatever the FJC ad hoc committee may need. Right now some of the committee's projects are on hold.

LAW & JUSTICE COMMITTEE

Andrea Cary-Grant gave the report.

The Commission members were referred to the GTEA Implementation & Monitor TA Assistance funds printout in their packet. Andrea reported that the committee has made assignments to collect data for the benchmark report.

EDUCATION – OUTREACH COMMITTEE

Sheri Emerson gave the report.

Sheri reported that the committee is going to be working on 3 projects: Domestic Violence Awareness Month, Stakeholder presentations to city and county, and workplace policies. Sheri asked the members to see if their place of business had DV policies and if possible to email them to her. The committee will be exploring local employer work place policies. Members of the committee will make a brief announcement at the May SHRM meeting to explain the work of the Commission. There may be time at their October meeting to make a presentation about DV in the workplace polices.

Sheri asked the Commission members to fill out a Commission meeting training survey. The November meeting will not be on stalking as planned. Bruce Van Glubt suggested that at some time there could be a presentation on the Washington State Coalition Against DV Fatality Review.

7. GTEA Update

Sue Parrott gave the update.

Sue gave the Commission members a handout summarizing the GTEA goals and activities. The first goal is for DVSAS to continue and enhance 24-hour on-call community based domestic violence advocacy services to rural Whatcom County. The second goal is to increase victim safety and offender accountability in domestic and dating violence cases in the five outlying municipalities of Whatcom County.

DV Specialist

Caryl Dunavan, DV Specialist, reported that she has set up her office in Ferndale, however, much of her time is spent working off site. She currently has 52 cases, 40 of which are from 2008. Caryl and Sue have had the opportunity to meet with each of the five police departments, prosecution and court staff to develop a working relationship. Each city is getting police reports to Caryl in approximately 24 hours. Caryl contacts each victim by letter or phone. She attends court with them when requested and brings back information if the victim does not attend court.

Sue reported that she has been working with the small cities to determine what type of data collection on DV cases might be useful and of interest to the jurisdictions. During the

second year of the GTEA grant, Sue will work with each of the five cities to determine if and how they can support the position of the DV Specialist once the funding has ended.

8. Director's Report

Andrea reported that thanks to the support of the Commission members and staff her transition has gone smoothly. She has had an opportunity to meet with most of the Commission members individually.

Andrea stated that the 2008 Key Activities, First Quarter Report and the 2007 Annual Report have all been completed.

9. Adjourn: 11:35 a.m.