

**MINUTES FOR THE  
BELLINGHAM-WHATCOM COUNTY COMMISSION  
AGAINST DOMESTIC VIOLENCE  
January 23, 2007**

**Members Attending:** Cynthia Bauleke, Regina Delahunt, Sheri Emerson, Cindy Enger, Joan Hoisington, Rebecca Johnson, Cheri Kilty, Chi Na Kim, Shannon Meyer, Steve Oliver, Candy Petersen, Karen Summers, Bruce Van Glubt, Kathy Washatka

**Members Absent:** Michele Boudreau, Anna Carey, Randall Carroll, Burton Dickerson, Bill Elfo, Nikki Finkbonner, Mike Haslip, Jon Komorowski, Kathleen Marshall, Dave McEachran, Todd Reutlinger, Linda Storck

**Guest:** Carey James, Whatcom County Sheriff's Office

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

Regina Delahunt, Chair, called the January Meeting of the Bellingham-Whatcom County Commission Against Domestic Violence to order at 10:10 a.m., Tuesday, January 23, 2007 at St Luke's Community Health Center, 3333 Squalicum Parkway, Bellingham, WA.

**1. Welcome and Introductions**

Regina noted that new Commission member Anna Carey, Director, Student Services/Family Outreach, WWU was unable to make today's meeting. She was appointed by the City of Bellingham to fill the major employer vacancy left by Mike Sledge.

**2. Public Comment**

None

**3. Consent Agenda**

**MOTION #07-01 Steve Oliver made the motion to approve the September 26, 2006 Commission meeting minutes. Shannon Meyer seconded the motion. It passed unanimously.**

**4. Committee Reports/Motions**

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:

Regina Delahunt gave the report

- Update on Small Cities Funding Strategy  
Regina noted that the Small Cities Funding table in the packet was an incorrect table and the correct one was distributed to the members. Regina commented that the City of Ferndale approved \$2,500 and the City of Blaine approved \$1,500 in their respective budgets towards supporting the work of the Commission. All of the small cities, with the

exception of Nooksack, passed a resolution supporting working in partnership with the Commission. Regina stated that a press release noting this support was published in yesterday's Bellingham Herald.

- **Commission Membership Update**  
Regina reported that Anna Carey, Director, Student Services/Family Outreach, WWU has joined the Commission. Kathleen Marshall has resigned as the DVSAS Executive Director, unfortunately, she will no longer be a member of the Commission. Regina expressed the Commission's gratitude for all of the service Kathleen has given the Commission since its inception.
- **Reminder: New Member Training Plan**  
Regina thanked the majority of the members for turning in their Training Plans. There are a select few who still need to complete their training plan so that this agenda item can be "checked off".
- **Review 2007 Meeting Schedule**  
This year the retreat will be in April instead of January. There is a committee planning the retreat. Regina urged Commission members to call Commission staff if they are unable to attend any Commission related meetings.
- **2007 Budget**  
The Executive Committee has approved the 2007 budget, pending final 2006 year-end figures, so that it is balanced.

### Strategic Plan

The Executive Committee has determined that the Commission should conduct a strategic planning process in 2007. Kathy Washatka explained that the current strategic plan was developed in 2003 with the expert help of Erin McIlhany. The Commission has not asked for the community's input in the development of the strategic plan since 1999. The Executive Committee has decided that it would be beneficial to go back to the community prior to developing a new strategic plan.

Sheri Emerson, Kathy Washatka and Sue Parrott met with David Webster, Director, NW Youth Services, to discuss the strategic planning process. David has agreed to help the Commission design a planning process and guide the commission through the process. Kathy reported that there is \$2,000 in the budget to hire David if Commission members approve.

Kathy asked Commission members to give Sue any input on what community stakeholder groups should be "consulted" for input, and also to express interest in serving on the ad-hoc strategic planning committee. Members discussed the possibility of focusing on the 9 key recommendations and respective stakeholder groups from the Washington State Coalition Against DV 2006 Fatality Review. Other suggestions included soliciting input from the small cities, tribes and other rural areas.

Kathy also stated that time will be spent on the strategic planning process at the April Commission Retreat.

**MOTION #07-02 Rebecca Johnson made the motion to move ahead with the Strategic Plan planning process as recommended by the Executive Committee. Karen Summers seconded the motion.**

GTEA Re-application

Sue reported that due to canceling the November Commission Meeting and other circumstances, the Executive Committee finalized the scope of the Grants to Encourage Arrest re-application.

Sue reviewed the development of the grant application.

A. 24 Hour On-Call Advocacy

DVSAS has requested \$15,000 per year to continue and enhance the 24 hour on-call advocacy service to the small cities. This will be included in the application.

B. Specialized/Integrated Multi-Jurisdictional Domestic Violence Court

It was decided that more time, work and clarity was needed before this task would be successful. Grant funds would have limited the focus to criminal DV matters and protection orders. This is a project that should be reviewed when another opportunity presents itself.

C. Domestic Violence and Stalking

Sue reported that the Washington State Office on Crime Victims Advocacy (OCVA) has a current GTEA to work on stalking and sexual assault in three Washington counties. They plan to reapply to do training on a statewide level. Although the Commission considered including a stalking component, there were too many uncertainties with the OCVA reapplication and the project was not included in the application.

D. Small Cities System Based Advocate

A full time system based advocate is proposed to work with the five jurisdictions (Blaine, Everson-Nooksack, Ferndale, Lynden, and Sumas) doing follow up with domestic violence victims, providing ongoing criminal case processing information, referrals, safety planning, updates, court accompaniment, recommendations for NCO rescission requests and follow up as requested by law enforcement, prosecution, or probation. This advocate will provide a voice for the victim in the criminal case, keep the victim informed of the process, and link them with services as needed. The advocate will be based in Ferndale but will travel to the other four cities as needed. Due to the fact that no city wanted to take on the hiring and supervision of this position, the DV Commission has agreed to hire and supervise the advocate as an interim 2-year "trial" as part of the grant. Based on that structure, the Commission is also proposing a half time position, titled a Grant Program Supervisor, to supervise the position, oversee all grant compliance and reporting requirements, and work with the five cities to develop the position for the advocate and improve criminal justice system responses to domestic and dating violence. After the completion of the grant the small cities will evaluate the project and research funding to continue the system based advocate position if feasible.

E. Law Enforcement Presence at Bellingham Municipal Court

Sue reported that GTEA funds cannot be used to pay law enforcement personnel to provide security in a courtroom.

The Executive Committee recommended that the Commission pursue 2 projects for the grant: the continuation of DVSAS on-call advocacy and the system based advocate in the small cities.

**MOTION #07-03 Steve Oliver made the motion to proceed with the GTEA grant reapplication as outlined. Sheri Emerson seconded the motion. It passed unanimously.**

#### VICTIM AND CHILDREN SUPPORT COMMITTEE

Cheri Kilty gave the report.

- **Draft of Guiding Principles for DV Commission**  
Cheri reported that the V & C committee has written a draft Guiding Principles for consideration by the Commission. The Commission reviewed the draft document. At the April Retreat the draft will be brought back to the Commission for a more in depth conversation.
- **Meridian School District Model DV Response Policy**  
Cindy Bauleke reported that the V & C Committee has been working on the Meridian School District DV Response Policy for one and a half years. Last week the policy was presented to the school board for discussion and is on the agenda for the next school board meeting for approval. Based on the presentation, approval looks favorable. Next steps will be to develop procedures in the Meridian School District and perhaps promote the policy with other school districts.
- **2007 Work Plan**  
Cheri stated that the committee has completed its 2006 work plan and is developing the 2007 work plan.

Cheri announced that she will be resigning as Director of Womenscare Shelter as of March 15<sup>th</sup>.

Sue reported that another RFP (Enhanced Training and Services to End Violence and Abuse of Women Late in Life Program) was released the same time as the GTEA. Sue has talked with a colleague at Northwest Regional Council and the RFP will be discussed at the next EVAAN (Elder and Vulnerable Adult Abuse Network) meeting, with a suggestion to consider an application one year from now.

#### LAW & JUSTICE COMMITTEE

Bruce Van Glubt gave the report.

- **2006 Highlights**  
Bruce reported that the L & J Committee has been monitoring the GTEA grant and the Safety Audit. In 2006 the grant provided law enforcement and correction officer training, DVSAS on-call advocacy, and video equipment and laptops for officers at the Whatcom County Sheriff's Office.
- **GTEA and Safety Audit update**  
Sue reported that the Commission is currently working on two safety audits. The first audit is of prosecution and probation. That audit is nearing completion. A draft report has been submitted to prosecution and probation for their review. At the end of the week the audit team will make individual presentations of their findings to Dave McEachran,

Joan Hoisington, and Bruce Van Glubt. The draft report has also been sent to OVW as part of the grant requirements. Commission members will receive a copy of the completed report. A press briefing will be held in mid-March. A conference will be held on March 30<sup>th</sup> focusing on audit findings. The target audience for the conference is probation, prosecution, batterer treatment providers, victim advocates, law enforcement, and judicial officers.

The 2<sup>nd</sup> audit is of the City of Blaine's law enforcement, prosecution, probation and court. The audit was delayed due to injury of an audit team member, but the team is now meeting regularly.

- **Benchmark Report Release (2000-2005 data)**  
Shannon Meyer reported that two Benchmark reports were published in 2006. The 2004 data was published in May 2006 and the 2005 data was published in November 2006. In the future the reports will be published in the October following the year's data. The last report provided data for the past 6 years and showed negligible changes. Shannon noted that law enforcement reported more DV offenses than verbals in 2005. The challenge to collecting data is the lack of standardizing reporting. Regina thanked Shannon for all of her hard work on the reports.

#### EDUCATION - OUTREACH COMMITTEE

Kathy Washatka gave the report.

- **2006 Highlights**
  - Presented Outstanding Achievement Award to Dr. Knudson
  - Talked to all small city council's about the work of the Commission. The Executive Committee followed up with asking the cities for funding.
  - Worked with staff to do 2006 Annual Report
  - Worked with staff in promoting DV Awareness Month
- **DV Awareness Month review**  
Joyce Gertler reported that DV Awareness Month was very successful. Nearly 200 people attended the vigil which focused on Stories That Heal. The labyrinth had between 80-90 people in attendance. Publicity included an interview with Sue on KVOS, an Opinion piece in the Herald, a radio interview with Joyce Gertler, and ads in the Herald.
- **2007 Work Plan**
  - Evaluate web site
  - Update Resource Handbook
  - Best practices for Employer DV policies and procedures

#### **5. Staff Report**

Sue Parrott presented the nine key recommendations from "If I Had One More Day: Findings and Recommendations from the Washington State Domestic Violence Fatality Review", which was released in December 2006.

**6. Announcements**

None

**7. Adjourn 11:50 a.m.**

**Next Meeting: RETREAT: Tuesday, April 24, 2007, 8:00 a.m. until Noon  
St. Luke's Community Health Center**