

**MINUTES FOR THE  
BELLINGHAM-WHATCOM COUNTY COMMISSION  
AGAINST DOMESTIC VIOLENCE  
June 16, 2009**

**Members Attending:** Anna Carey, Regina Delahunt, Sheri Emerson, Cindy Enger, Kirsten Hammer, Karen Burke, Jon Komorowski, Shannon Meyer, Kathy Ramsay, Todd Ramsay, Linda Storck, Karen Summers

**Members Absent:** Sheila Brillson, Bill Elfo, Nikki Finkbonner, Joan Hoisington, Rebecca Johnson, Mike Knapp, Byron Manering, Dave McEachran, Joy Monjure, Becky Skaggs, Gary Tomsic, Bruce Van Glubt

**Guests:** Bryan May, Violence Intervention Professionals Director

**Staff Attending:** Andrea Cary-Grant, Domestic Violence Commission Director  
Sue Parrott, Program Supervisor  
Linda Ward, Administrative Assistant

Todd Ramsay called the June Meeting of the Bellingham-Whatcom County Commission Against Domestic Violence to order at 10:00 a.m., Tuesday, June 16, 2009 at St Luke's Community Health Center, 3333 Squalicum Parkway, Bellingham, WA.

**1. Welcome**

**2. Public Comment**

None

**3. Consent Agenda**

No quorum present to approve minutes from November Meeting, January Retreat and April Meeting.

**4. Nominations of 2007-2008 Officers**

No quorum present to approve the following slate of officers

**Chair:** Rebecca Johnson  
**Vice Chair:** Todd Ramsay  
**Secretary:** Byron Manering  
**Treasurer:** Anna Carey  
**Past Chair:** Regina Delahunt (no vote required)

**5. Change Commission Meeting Date to 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday (Jan, April, June, Sept & Nov)**

No quorum present to approve change in meeting date.

## **6. Training**

Topic: DV Perpetrator Treatment

Presenters: Bryan May, Violence Intervention Professionals

Bryan stated that he has been working as a Certified DV Perpetrator Treatment Provider for 20 years. He currently facilitates groups for men and women. He has master's degree and is qualified as a treatment provider at a supervisory level. His program typically consists of 45 sessions over a one year period.

Bryan noted that most abuse is a learned behavior that can be unlearned. About 95% of the abusers have either been abused or have seen abuse. In his program Bryan tries to give abusers the tools and skills to challenge their learned behavior. Bryan considers victim safety his greatest priority and colluding with the perpetrator as his biggest danger.

Bryan showed a video of a former abuser telling his story; followed by a short discussion.

## **7. Discussion of Training Topic**

After Bryan's departure the Commission discussed Bryan's presentation. The Commission noted that the DV Treatment Providers each have a different perspective to their manner of treatment.

## **8. Committee Reports**

### EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

The Commission members reviewed the May Executive Committee minutes. The attending Commission members discussed the importance of having a quorum at Commission Meetings. It was noted that the Executive Committee will be reviewing committee and Commission meeting attendances.

### EDUCATION – OUTREACH and VICTIM & CHILDREN SUPPORT COMMITTEE

Sheri Emerson gave the report.

Sheri reported that the DV in the Workplace Policy and Procedures templates have been completed and approved by the Ed-Outreach/Victim & Children Committee. They are now ready to take to the community once they are approved by the Commission. DVSAS will have their board approve the disclaimer that accompanies the templates.

Todd stated that he will meet with Rebecca and Andrea to discuss how to get a quorum of Commission members together to approve the templates prior to the September Commission Meeting.

### LAW & JUSTICE COMMITTEE

Shannon Meyer gave the report

Shannon stated the Law and Justice Committee has discussed the gaps identified in DV and Firearms protocol and the Defense forum and are determining how they would like to follow up. She reported that the Benchmark Report will soon be complete and on the website.

