

**MINUTES FOR THE  
BELLINGHAM-WHATCOM COUNTY COMMISSION  
AGAINST DOMESTIC VIOLENCE  
September 23, 2008**

- Members Attending:** Karen Burke, Sheri Emerson, Cindy Enger, Byron Manering, Joy Monjure, Kathy Ramsay, Becky Skaggs, Karen Summers
- Members Absent:** Cynthia Bauleke, Anna Carey, Regina Delahunt, Bill Elfo, Nikki Finkbonner, Kirsten Hammer, Joan Hoisington, Rebecca Johnson, Mike Knapp, Jon Komorowski, Dave McEachran, Shannon Meyer, Todd Ramsay, Linda Storck, Bruce Van Glubt
- Guest:** David Doll, Bellingham Police Department
- Staff Attending:** Andrea Cary-Grant, Director; Sue Parrott, Program Director; Caryl Dunavan, DV Specialist; Linda Ward, Administrative Secretary

Byron Manering called the September Meeting of the Bellingham-Whatcom County Commission Against Domestic Violence to order at 10:00 a.m., Tuesday, September 23, 2008 at St Luke's Community Health Center, 3333 Squaticum Parkway, Bellingham, WA.

**1. Welcome**

Kathy Ramsay and Becky Skaggs were introduced and welcomed as the newest members of the Commission.

**2. Public Comment**

None

**3. Check-in**

- Joy Monjure reported that she has talked with David Webster about implementing a DV in the workplace policy for the City of Bellingham.
- Byron Manering stated that Brigid Collins will be opening a facility in Skagit County with a crime victims center and a children's advocacy center.

**4. Consent Agenda**

**Approve April & June Minutes**

Since a quorum was not present, the attending Commission members reviewed both sets of minutes. A correction was made to the June minutes. Approval of both sets of minutes will be recommended at the November Commission meeting.

**5. By-Laws**

The attending Commission members reviewed the suggested changes to Commission By-Laws. Approval of the revised By-Laws will be recommended at the November Commission Meeting.

**6. Training**

The role of the DV Specialist in the Small Cities  
Presented by Caryl Dunavan, DV Specialist and Sue Parrott, Program Supervisor.

Sue presented a handout that explained how the City of Bellingham, in partnership with the Commission, is the recipient of a Grants to Encourage Arrest grant. The grant period is from July 1, 2007 – June 30, 2009 (the Commission will request an extension to December 31, 2009). The Commission is the grant manager. Sue explained that this grant has two goals: 1) to continue and enhance 24 hour on-call community based DV advocacy services to rural Whatcom County; 2) to increase victim safety and offender accountability in domestic and dating violence cases in the five outlying municipalities of Whatcom County. Sue stated that a DV Specialist position was developed to address goal #2. The grant has also allowed for \$15,000 to be set aside to send local grant participants to trainings and conferences sponsored by the Office on Violence Against Women.

Caryl gave an overview of her responsibilities as the DV Specialist to five small municipalities of Whatcom County. She contacts victims and keeps them updated on their case, works with law enforcement, courts and prosecution. One of the advantages to her position is that she is able to contact the victims in person when possible to discuss their needs. She noted that a lot more information is gathered through personal contact with the victims and their families. Through the grant Caryl stated that she is only able to work with intimate partner DV victims. In the future, if funding is available, the small cities would like to continue the service.

## **7. Committee Reports/Motions**

### EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Andrea Cary-Grant gave report.

Andrea reported that Executive Committee has sent next year's funding requests to the City and County. The committee has been reviewing Commission membership. The Executive Committee is asking all Commission members for feedback on projects that may work for the next GTEA grant.

### VICTIM & CHILDREN SUPPORT COMMITTEE

Karen Burke gave the report.

Karen reported that the committee still needs a chair. She reminded Commission members of the October 3<sup>rd</sup> Networking Opportunities for Domestic Violence, Mental Health and Chemical Dependency Providers Summit. She noted that the committee has been discussing the possibility of partnering with the Family Justice Center Committee to do a community survey in lieu of focus groups. Karen stated that the school district policies and procedures project is on hold.

### LAW & JUSTICE COMMITTEE

Andrea Cary-Grant gave the report.

Andrea reported that Benchmark Report is moving along. The committee is continuing the conversation about grant possibilities including a court audit.

### EDUCATION – OUTREACH COMMITTEE

Sheri Emerson gave the report.

Sheri reported that Domestic Violence Awareness Month Activities were successful. The committee has decided that the DV Outstanding Achievement Award should be presented to Sheryl Hershey who has had a violence in the workplace policy in place for over 15 years. Sheri read a quote from Sheryl's nomination letter. This year the committee approved a new DV Awareness Month banner that was displayed most of October.

### FJC AD HOC COMMITTEE

Karen Burke gave the report.

Karen reported that the committee has been discussing developing a community survey to ascertain if a family justice center would meet the needs of the victims/survivors in Whatcom County. The committee is also suggesting that the focus groups and survey be combined.

**8. Director's Report**

Andrea reported that she enjoyed making the small city presentations. She stated that she gleaned a lot of information from the WSCADV conference she attended.

**9. Adjourn 11:30 a.m.**

**Next Meeting                    Tuesday, November 25, 2008, 10:00 a.m. until Noon  
St. Luke's Community Health Education Center**