

**MINUTES FOR THE
BELLINGHAM-WHATCOM COUNTY COMMISSION
AGAINST DOMESTIC VIOLENCE
September 25, 2007**

Members Attending: Cynthia Bauleke, Karen Burke, Anna Carey, Dennis Carlson, Regina Delahunt, Sheri Emerson, Nikki Finkbonner, Joan Hoisington, Rebecca Johnson, Byron Manering, Dave McEachran, Joy Monjure, Steve Oliver, Candy Peterson, Karen Summers

Members Absent: Randall Carroll, Bill Elfo, Cindy Enger, Chi Na Kim, Mike Knapp, Jon Komorowski, Shannon Meyer, Linda Storck, Bruce Van Glubt

Guests: Judge Charles Snyder, Whatcom County Superior Court
Marilyn McLean, Whatcom County Public Defender's Office
(representing Jon Komorowski)

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

Regina Delahunt, Chair, called the September Meeting of the Bellingham-Whatcom County Commission Against Domestic Violence to order at 10:05 a.m., Tuesday, September 25, 2007 at St Luke's Community Health Center, 3333 Squalicum Parkway, Bellingham, WA.

1. Welcome and Introductions

Regina introduced Dr. Dennis Carlson, Superintendent, Lynden School District No. 504 as the newest Commission member filling the position of the Designated Representative of Whatcom County School District Superintendents.

2. Public Comment

None

3. Guest Speaker/Presenter

Whatcom County Superior Court Judge Charles Snyder talked about the work of the Whatcom County Domestic Violence and Child Maltreatment Coordinated Response Committee. He stated that the committee has nearly completed its work on developing a Whatcom County Coordinated Response Protocol on Child Maltreatment and Domestic Violence. Judge Snyder thanked Betsy Gross of Domestic Violence & Sexual Assault Services (DVSAS) for providing staff coordination and support to the work of the committee.

Judge Snyder reported that in 2004 Washington State decided to develop a state-wide Coordinated Response Protocol on Child Maltreatment and Domestic Violence. Each region of the state was asked to create a protocol for their region. Whereas, Region #3

included Whatcom County, Skagit County, Island County and part of Snohomish County, it was decided that the protocol would be set up in one county at a time and then taken to the other counties. Judge Snyder and Kathleen Marshall of DVSAS took leadership roles in developing the Whatcom County Domestic Violence and Child Maltreatment Coordinated Response Committee. Whatcom County will be the second county in the state to complete the protocol.

The Whatcom County Domestic Violence and Child Maltreatment Coordinated Response Committee has created a 77 page protocol that will be ready for publication in October. The report will be available on the Whatcom County Superior Court website and will be available to post on other websites. Hard copies will also be available. Judge Snyder gave an oversight of what the report includes along with an example of how a domestic violence case may work its way through the systems using the recommended protocols.

Judge Snyder encouraged Commission members to help put the protocol into practice.

4. Consent Agenda

MOTION: #07- 07 Karen Burke made the motion to approve the June 12, 2007 Commission Meeting Minutes. Nikki Finkbonner seconded the motion. It passed unanimously.

5. Committee Reports/Motions

The Commission met in Executive Session for 10 minutes.

MOTION: #07- 08 Cynthia Bauleke made the motion to give the Executive Committee authority to make personnel decisions as required. Joy Monjure seconded the motion. It passed unanimously.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Regina Delahunt gave the report.

2008 Small Cities Funding Strategy

Regina reported that Sue has contacted all the small cities to request funding for 2008. At this time all of the small cities are still considering the requests. Steve Oliver stated that he has asked the City of Ferndale to increase the funding from \$2,500 to \$3,500, which was the original request for 2007.

Commission Membership Updates (Major Employer Vacancy)

Regina stated that County Executive Kremen is trying to get a representative from BP to fill the major employer vacancy on the Commission. Janice Holt has resigned from Womenscare and Kristen Hammer is serving as the interim director.

Special Thanks to Joyce Gertler, Program Coordinator

Regina expressed the Commission's gratitude to Joyce Gertler for serving for two years as the Commission's Program Coordinator for the GTEA grant. With the conclusion of the grant the position is dissolved. Joyce expressed her thanks to the Commission for the opportunity to serve as the program coordinator.

VICTIM AND CHILDREN SUPPORT COMMITTEE

Candy Peterson gave the report.

Model School District Domestic Violence Policy and Procedures

Dennis Carlson reported that he discussed the idea of developing a model School District Domestic Violence Policy and Procedures at the Whatcom County School Districts Superintendent's Meeting. The superintendents are interested in seeing such a model. Dennis will work with the committee on this.

Guiding Principles in a Coordinated Community Response to Domestic Violence

Candy reported that the Victim and Children Support Committee has been working for a year on developing the Commission's Guiding Principles in a Coordinated Community Response to Domestic Violence, along with the Guiding Principles Implementation Policy. The Commission reviewed the Guiding Principles at the April Retreat. Candy presented the Implementation Policy and the implementation checklist. She noted that these are not just internal documents, but documents that should be used by both the Commission and the community when working on domestic violence projects and policies.

MOTION: #07- 09 The Victim and Children Support Committee made the motion that the Bellingham–Whatcom County Commission Against Domestic Violence adopt the *Guiding Principles in a Coordinated Community Response to Domestic Violence* along with the Implementation Policy. A friendly amendment was made by Karen Summers that Guiding Principle #5 be moved to the top of the list and be rewritten as “Institutions and systems will make the safety of the domestic violence victims and children a priority and will hold the perpetrator of domestic violence accountable for his/her actions. David McEachran seconded the amendment. David McEachran asked that #1 be reworded as “In support of domestic violence victims, consideration is given to specific needs based on the socioeconomic status, culture, ethnicity, religion, age, immigration/citizenship status, sexual orientation or other identified circumstances”. The motion as amended passed unanimously.

STRATEGIC PLANNING COMMITTEE

Rebecca Johnson gave report.

Rebecca reported that the Strategic Planning Committee has completed its external scan. The scan included a review of the Washington State Fatality Review Report, the Women's Funding Alliance report, and a DV sub-report from the Whatcom Prosperity Project Report. In addition, Betsy Gross conducted 9 focus groups with 72 providers/community members and 25 survivors, the results are in the Commission meeting packet. A tremendous amount of information has been collected and now the committee needs to prioritize areas of focus for the Commission.

Strategic Planning Problem Statements

Rebecca stated that the committee developed 16 problem statements based on the information gathered. She read the 16 Strategic Planning Problem Statements. Karen Burke asked for a change in the wording of #1, as DVSAS is holding Healthy Relationship classes for eighth graders in most of the school districts. Rebecca asked Commission members to carefully review the problem statements and rate them in order of importance and to also add any comments about the statements. The scoring sheets should be faxed to the Commission prior to 5:00 p.m., Tuesday, October 2, 2007.

Strategic Planning Parameters

Rebecca referred the members to the Commission meeting packet to review the Strategic Planning Parameters, which will be used to evaluate whether or not an item is included in the plan.

Mission/Vision Statement

Commission members reviewed the original and proposed revised Mission/Vision Statements. Rebecca commented that a Mission/Vision Statement should always be reviewed when conducting a Strategic Plan.

MOTION: #07-10 The Strategic Planning Committee made the motion that the Bellingham-Whatcom County Commission Against Domestic Violence adopt the proposed Mission/Vision Statement to replace the previously adopted Mission/Vision Statement. The motion passed unanimously.

EDUCATION - OUTREACH COMMITTEE

Sheri Emerson gave report.

DV Awareness Month

Sheri reported that Reverend Dr. Marie Fortune will be the featured speaker at the October 1st Vigil. Joyce reported that vigil flyers have been emailed to an extensive clergy distribution list.

Fourth Annual DV Outstanding Achievement Award Selection

Sheri stated that the committee received four nominations for the DV Outstanding Achievement Award. Officer Mark Jones of the Bellingham Police Department is the recipient of this year's award.

LAW & JUSTICE COMMITTEE

Sue Parrott gave the report.

Grants to Encourage Arrest Activities (current grant)

Sue reported that the grant is winding down. The Blaine Safety Audit Report will be published soon. The last project is to work on laying the foundation for auditing the courts.

Probation and Prosecution Audit

Sue encouraged Commission members to review the Probation and Prosecution Audit Recommendation progress reports from Shane Brady (City of Bellingham Prosecutor's Office) and Dave McEachran (Whatcom County Prosecutor's Office) included in the Commission meeting packet. As of this time Bruce Van Glubt (Whatcom County District Court Probation) has not submitted his report.

Benchmark Report Release (2006 Data)

Sue stated that the Benchmark Report with data from 2006 will be released in mid October.

GTEA Technical Training Funds

Sue reviewed the national trainings attended by grant partners, using the GTEA \$15,000 training funds.

STAFF REPORT

Sue Parrott gave the report.

Grants to Encourage Arrest- New Award

Sue referred Commission members to the new GTEA Award Synopsis in the Commission meeting packet. She stated that the new grant will include another \$15,000 to send community members to national trainings. The City of Bellingham will do a press release announcing the receipt of the grant. Sue stated that 5% (about \$14,000) of the grant will be withheld due to the inability of the City of Bellingham to comply with a specific certification around mandatory HIV testing for individuals charged with some sexual offenses.

Appointment to Domestic Violence Advisory Group, Attorney General of WA

Sue reported that she, Randy Carroll and Shannon Meyer have been appointed to Washington Attorney General's Domestic Violence Advisory Group. The group will be charged with recommending some DV legislative issues.

6. Adjourn 12:00 p.m.

**Next Meeting: Tuesday, November 27, 2007, 10:00 a.m. until Noon
St. Luke's Community Health Education Center**