

**BELLINGHAM-WHATCOM COUNTY  
COMMISSION AGAINST DOMESTIC VIOLENCE**

**Tuesday, September 26, 2006**

**10:00 am - Noon**

**St. Luke's Community Health Education Center**  
3333 Squalicum Parkway, Bellingham

**Members Attending:** Cynthia Bauleke, Randy Carroll, Burton Dickerson, Bill Elfo, Sheri Emerson, Cindy Enger, Nikki Finkbonner, Mike Haslip, Joan Hoisington, Cheri Kilty, Chi Na Kim, Dave McEachran, Shannon Meyer, Steve Oliver, Candy Peterson, Michael Sledge, Karen Summers

**Members Absent:** Michele Boudreau, Regina Delahunt, Rebecca Johnson, Jon Komorowski, Kathleen Marshall, Todd Reutlinger, Linda Storck, Bruce Van Glubt, Kathy Washatka

**Guests:** Evan Freedman, Ph.D.; Darlene Peterson, Whatcom County District Court Probation; Mary Rebar, DVSAS

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

Cynthia Bauleke, Vice Chair, called the September Meeting of the Bellingham-Whatcom County Commission Against Domestic Violence to order at 10:00 a.m., Tuesday, September 26, 2006 at St. Luke's Community Health Center, 3333 Squalicum Parkway, Bellingham, WA.

**1. Presentation & Discussion**

Children and Resiliency

Presenter: Evan Freedman, Ph.D.

Evan stated that his goals for the day were to let Commission members know more about the protective factors which help children be more resilient to exposure to DV and to have members feel more optimistic about their good work in this area and how they, as individuals, can think about these problems in a helpful way to lessen the impact of DV on children.

Evan noted that there are ways to look at the problem of DV from a strength-based position. He had each Commission member write down the most difficult or annoying trait in their partner, spouse or child. He read a few statements out loud and encouraged members to think of ways the traits could be viewed in a positive way.

He outlined the following:

1. What is resilience?

In mental health context

- Coping with really bad things which happen and being able to go on and live a relatively successful life as defined by success in areas of functionality first defined by Freud.
  - School/work
  - Solid relationships
- Pattern or dynamic developmental process or progression in which new strengths emerge over time in response to changing circumstances.
- As assets increase, risk decreases.

- In studies of the long-term effects of physical and sexual child abuse, 20 to 40 percent of victims show few signs of behavioral or mental-health problems.
- Many children don't appear damaged later in life.
- The resiliency of abuse victims is rarely a focus, due to fear that if you say abuse isn't always inevitably harmful, you're saying it's not always bad.
- Perhaps for this reason – there is a paucity of strong research data from longitudinal studies that have evaluated the specific protective factors which protect children from DV.

## 2. Protective Factors for Children and Adolescents

### Internal Factors

- Early childhood
  - Secure attachments: In spite of appearances most mothers in DV homes care deeply about their children and have relatively good attachments with them.
  - Positive temperament - energetic
- Middle childhood
  - Intellectual strengths
  - Self regulation - needed for attention, social skills etc.
- Adolescence
  - Social skills - leadership skills
  - Self esteem
  - Engaged with school - a parent engaged in school
  - Sense of hope in the future
  - Appropriate anger management and control
  - Sense of purpose or area of interest or skill
  - Ability to introspect
  - Lack of mental illness
  - Lack of substance abuse

As a community, we are more readily able to influence external protective factors.

### External Factors

- Early childhood
  - MOST IMPORTANT – Someone who really cares about this child
  - Mentors and role models
  - Extended family networks
- Middle childhood - adolescence
  - Religious affiliation - strongly correlated with staying out of trouble
  - Living in supportive and safe community
  - Positive peer culture
  - Availability to resources in community – single most important variable to DV is poverty

Evan emphasized that risk focused strategies are important, however, he agreed that they should be accompanied by strength focused strategies as well.

## 3. Risk Focused Strategies

- Legal strategies: more stringent sentences or mandatory arrest policies to deter offenders
- Safety planning with battered woman

## 4. Strength Focused Strategies

- Developing mentors and role models
- Supporting extended family networks
- Supporting religious affiliation
- Creating avenues for positive peer culture and artistic expression

- Services
  - Mental health
  - Medical
  - Housing/shelter
  - Food
  - Education - early childhood development, Head Start
  - Didactic services around parenting and attachment

Evan completed his presentation by asking Commission members: “What strengths can you draw on in yourself to enable protective factors in children and families you see today?” and “What can you do in your role as community member, in your job, on this Commission to protect children from the negative effects of violence?” Members shared their thoughts on the questions.

## **2. New Members:**

Cynthia acknowledged new Commission members: Steve Oliver, Small Cities Caucus Representative (Ferndale City Council) and Cindy Enger, Congregation Beth Israel (Community at Large). Michele Boudreau, Rising Sun Psychotherapy & Nuevo Amanecer (Human Services Provider) and Jon Komorowski, Whatcom County Public Defender have also joined the Commission.

## **3. Public Comment**

None

## **4. Consent Agenda**

The April 25, 2006 Commission meeting minutes were approved by consensus.

## **5. Grants to Encourage Arrest Application**

In preparation for an anticipated mid-November RFP for the Grants to Encourage Arrest Programs (with a mid-January deadline), Sheri Emerson led a discussion on projects that could be included in the GTEA application. She stated that the City of Bellingham has a structure in place for the current grant, making it likely that they would continue to support grant re-application efforts.

Sue Parrott stated that the current grant is \$304,000 and is primarily for one-time projects, with the exception of the DVSAS 24 hour on-call program. The grant re-application will have more competition this time due to changes in the Violence Against Women Act which adds the crime of sexual assault and stalking in the GTEA award category.

Commission members reviewed the recommendations from the August 23<sup>rd</sup> Executive Committee Meeting, which were:

- The committee agreed that the Commission should re-apply for the grant when the application becomes available, provided the City of Bellingham is willing to be the applicant.
- It was agreed that the Commission should focus its application on projects that support systemic change with community-wide benefit and are consistent with the mission and purpose of the DV Commission.
- Commission members and the Whatcom County Sheriff and Police Chiefs should be solicited for input.
- Projects that require long term funding (such as staff positions) should be carefully considered. One-time projects may be more appropriate.

Sue reviewed the list of projects that could be considered for the grant application as per Commission meeting packet enclosure.

The Commission discussed the possibility of purchasing DAIN, a data-based software. Mike Haslip stated that DAIN is an in-house domestic violence case management program. Data needs to be pulled out manually and could take 10 hours a week to input data. The program can give baseline numbers once parties agree on a matrix. Members commented that DAIN may not be a valuable tool for the Commission's benchmarking report.

Sue stated that the Commission's Strategic Plan includes an audit of the courts. The current GTEA work plan includes time to lay some of the ground work for the audit, however, Sue stated it seemed unlikely we would be ready for a court audit in the next grant cycle. A sub-committee of the Law and Justice Council is looking at a multi- jurisdictional DV Court. Grant funds could be used to assist in this planning process.

Commission members identified several areas of interest:

- Small City Focus to include: Advocacy, Translation, or Audit
- Stalking training
- Advocacy and immigration issues

Cynthia asked Commission members to write down their top 3 preferences for the grant application. Sue will tally the list and work as much as possible with those ideas. A final decision on the content of the grant application will be made at the November 28<sup>th</sup> Commission meeting.

## **6. Committee Reports/Motions**

### EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:

Sheri Emerson gave the report

- Small cities funding strategy  
The members briefly reviewed the small cities funding strategy and requests. Members of the Executive Committee have made presentations to Everson, Lynden and Ferndale and Mike Haslip is covering Blaine. It has was noted that the small cities that have contact with the Commission are more willing to give financial support.
- "New" member orientation reminders  
Members have been reminded via email to sign-off on the paperwork for the "new" member training if they had not done so.
- Planning for 2007 and beyond  
The Executive Committee is discussing the need to revise the Strategic Plan.

### VICTIM AND CHILDREN SUPPORT COMMITTEE

Cheri Kilty gave the report

- Meridian School District DV Response Policy  
The policy is still in draft form. The State School Board Association has been reviewing the legal aspects of the policy. Once Burton has received input from the State School Board Association, he will present it to the Meridian School District School Board.

### LAW & JUSTICE COMMITTEE

Mike Haslip gave the report

- GTEA and Safety Audit update  
Mike stated that the Blaine audit is in progress and that all agencies are “on board”.
- Benchmark Report - updates  
The Law and Justice Committee has held extensive discussions on the benchmarking report and agreed that it should be published annually. It was agreed that the report be published in October of the following year (except this year). This year the report will be completed by the end of the year.

#### EDUCATION - OUTREACH COMMITTEE

Mike Sledge gave the report

- DV Awareness Month update  
Mike encouraged Commission members to attend the October 5<sup>th</sup> Vigil.
- Third Annual DV Outstanding Achievement Award  
Mike reported that Robert L. Knudson, DDS will be the recipient of the DV Outstanding Achievement Award at the vigil.
- DV Month activities in Workplace  
Mike asked members to review the DV in the Workplace letter they received for ideas that may be used in their workplace.

#### **7. Adjourn 12:00 p.m.**

**Next Meeting:            Tuesday, November 28th, 10:00 a.m. until Noon**  
St. Luke's Community Health Education Center