

**MINUTES FOR THE  
BELLINGHAM-WHATCOM COUNTY COMMISSION  
AGAINST DOMESTIC VIOLENCE  
January 14, 2003**

- Members Attending:** Cynthia Bauleke, Randy Carroll, Jay Clements, Regina Delahunt, William Elfo, Rebecca Johnson, Kathleen Marshall, Dave McEachran, Shannon Meyer, Michael Sledge, Marty Snyder, Linda Storck, Karen Summers, Kathy Washatka, Diane Wood
- Members Absent:** Dale Baker, Natalia Calhoun, Burton Dickerson, George Godzik, Emil Hecht, Joan Hoisington, Carolyn Jensen, Jon Ostlund, Bruce Van Glubt
- Guest Attending:** Tom Dorr, WWU Small Business Development Center
- Staff Attending:** Sue Parrott, Domestic Violence Commission Director  
Linda Ward, Administrative support

Marty Snyder, Chair, called the January meeting of the Bellingham-Whatcom County Commission Against Domestic Violence to order at 8:10 a.m., Tuesday, January 14, 2003 at the **St. Luke's Community Health Education Center, 3333 Squalicum Parkway, Bellingham, WA.**

**1. Comments From the Chair**

2002 Accomplishments

The Commission members were asked to review the 2002 Accomplishments in the Retreat Packet. A great deal was accomplished last year.

Complete Performance Standards Review

Commission members were asked to complete the Performance Standards Review and return to staff.

Safety Audit Recommendations– Presentation/Discussion - Sue Parrott

The final report for the Safety and Accountability Audit is close to completion. The audit team has provided input on two drafts of the report. The completed report is expected by the end of January. A Draft Summary of Recommendations is included in the Retreat Packet. The recommendations were pulled directly from the report, which is still in draft form and should not be distributed. The Commission has no "authority" over implementation of the recommendations, however it can be supportive by facilitating and bringing people together as needed.

Sue reviewed the Audit philosophy and discussed the concepts of a victim-centered response and a coordinated community response.

What do we mean by victim safety?

- If our criminal justice system response is victim centered - what does that mean?
- What happens when an intervention increases risks to victim safety?
- What happens when offender accountability compromises victim safety?

Sue discussed “risk assessment” as a tool that can be used to assess the risk of an offender as well as a way of thinking. Risk assessment should also be viewed as a way to examine the various risks that a victim is facing:

- life generated risks (homelessness, loss of income)
- batterer generated risks
- system intervention generated risks

Sue stated that in order to take into account the full concept of risk assessment, practitioners need to learn more from victims. Responding to the risks victims articulate also requires linkages and coordination with victim service and other resource agencies. A victim-centered response requires that practitioners continually evaluate the impact of our interventions. In this way we can better assure that victim safety will not be compromised by offender accountability.

Sue proposed that the Commission select a number of recommendations in the audit report that would lend themselves to multi-disciplinary discussions and policy development. The Commission could take a lead in bringing the groups together and facilitating discussions and policy development based on the philosophical foundation of the Audit.

Sue distributed a list of proposed topics/issues for DV Commission involvement in the implementation of the Safety Audit.

Commission members discussed these issues and identified a significant gap in offender accountability: a full jail.

## **2. What Guides the Work of the Commission? - Kathy Washatka**

Kathy Washatka gave a PowerPoint presentation reviewing the Ordinance, Commission Functions, and the Mission/Values Statements.

### Review Comprehensive Plan Update - Sue

Sue reviewed the Comprehensive Plan January 2003 Update with the members. An update was included in the retreat packet.

## **3. Committee Presentations of Selected 2003 Priorities (pages 20-26 of retreat packet)**

Each of the four standing committee chairs presented the proposed committee priorities for 2003 as included in the retreat packet.

## **4. Discussion, selection of 2003 priorities - Kathy Washatka**

### Review criteria identified at 2002 retreat

The Commission reviewed the criteria identified at the 2002 retreat for a starting point to evaluation priorities for 2003. The Commission was asked to consider these criteria when selecting the 2003 work plan.

### 2002 Criteria

Align with ordinance, purpose, function  
Reach, serve and involve diverse communities  
Impact of external conditions

Address equally

Health care, community education and outreach, victim support, children/adolescents,  
civil legal system, criminal justice

Uphold Commission's mission, values and principles

Requirements of staff time, finances, and other resources

Budget issues – Present draft 2003 Budget - Marty Snyder

Marty reviewed the 2003 budget (page 27) with the Commission. This budget only reflects City/County funds. There are no funds for special projects in this budget.

Sue updated the Commission on additional funds that will be available in 2003: Bellingham Sunrise Rotary (\$2,500), Conoco-Phillips (\$2,500), and \$1,100 in funds carried from 2002 generated by fees for services.

It was suggested that the Executive Committee discuss and determine the best way to use these additional funds (approximately \$6,000). Kathleen Marshall strongly suggested that the Executive Committee consider using the funds for staff rather than special projects, such as printing another edition of the DV Resource Handbook. Commission members recognized that the budget is very tight.

Prioritize projects

The Commission discussed at length the need for a strategic plan. It will require a time commitment from the ad-hoc committee and Commission staff.

The members discussed the Safety Audit and the involvement of the Commission. Three recommendations (R62, R64, R66) from the audit were reviewed and placed on the list of possible priorities.

**#03-01 MOTION: Kathleen Marshall made the motion to accept the committees' recommended priorities plus the Safety Audit R62, R64, R66 and Strategic Planning as priority projects for 2003. Rebecca Johnson seconded the motion. It passed unanimously.**

**2003 PRIORITIES**

Executive Committee

- Strategic Planning
- Plan to Plan Committee and Implementation

Education - Outreach Committee

- Schedule, deliver annual city/county council presentations
- Develop annual report
- Press conferences
- Presentations to target audiences
- DV Awareness Month

Victim and Children Support Committee

- Continue presenting survey project results
- Work with/support Health Care Action Group in education of health care providers; support grant efforts for health care initiative on routine DV screening
- Safety Audit R64 - Explore ways to provide more immediate victim advocacy, support, and access to community services

- Safety Audit R66 - ground policy and practice in the expertise of domestic violence victims

#### Law and Justice Committee

- Annual benchmarking report
- Monitor DVPT standard evaluation/assessment recommendations
- Safety Audit R62 - Strengthen the overall criminal justice system and community understanding of and capacity for risk/dangerousness assessment
- Law and Justice Council's DV court/judicial response to DV committee

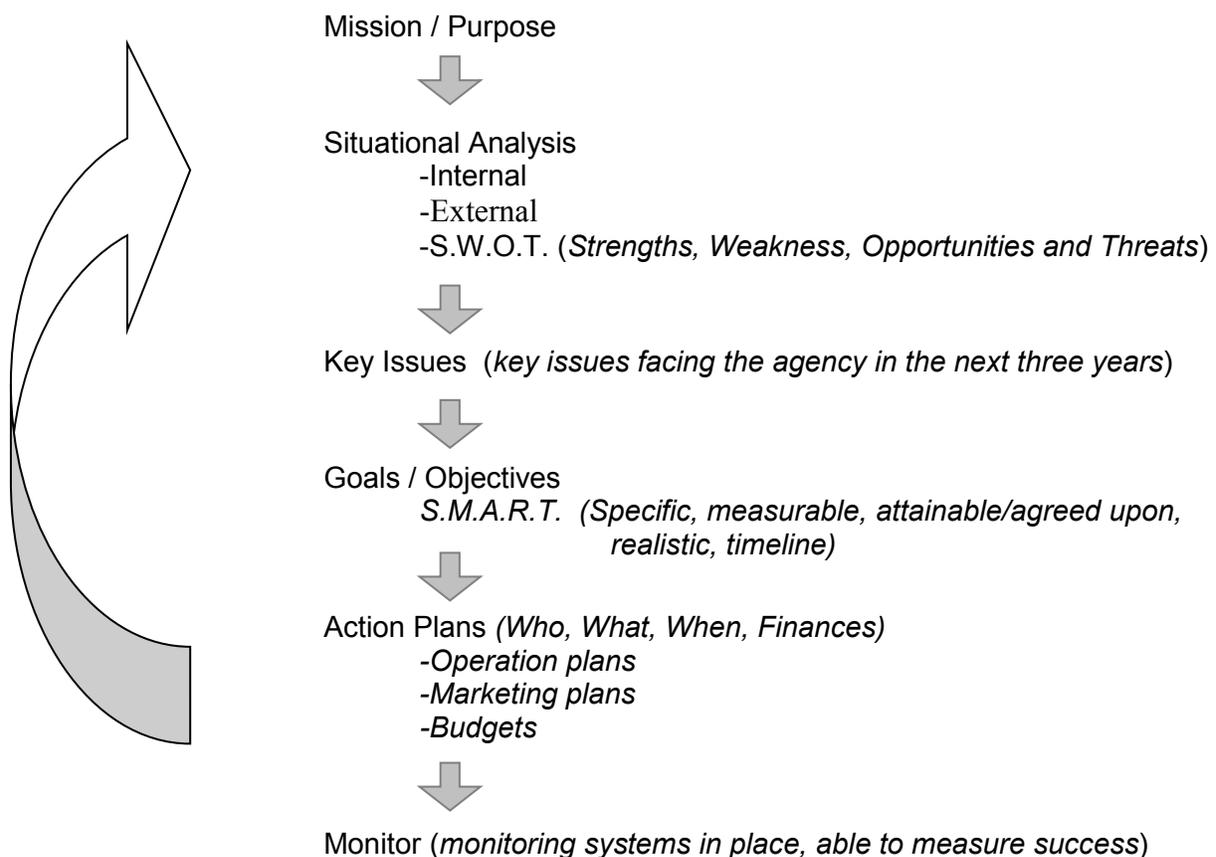
### **5. Presentation on Strategic Planning**

Tom Dorr, WWU Small Business Development Center

Tom explained the importance of strategic planning and noted that those who do planning achieve their goals more often than those who do not. Planning provides a road map of where you are going and how to get there. Tom asked Commission members the question: What does success look like for the Commission in three years? Members discussed and provided their answers:

- ◆ Self sufficient, independent resource center
- ◆ Community Audit of Systems to improve victim safety as a result of Audit and response of Agencies
- ◆ Coordinated response to DV needs by responding agencies and community  
Articulate, communicate, not necessarily implement
- ◆ Audit of probation and prosecutors' office
- ◆ Awareness of Commission within community
- ◆ Education of general public
- ◆ Stabilized funding
- ◆ Decrease in repeat of DV incidents (%)
- ◆ Jail for DV violators through advocacy of community
- ◆ Staff resources
- ◆ DV advocate at CPS
- ◆ DV advocate in healthcare system
- ◆ Better outcome measurements and DV benchmarks
- ◆ Seen as leader in DV issues - influential
- ◆ Money allocated to security in courthouse
- ◆ DV case management as part of court systems
- ◆ Diversity outreach – Commission and community awareness of impact of policies
- ◆ Integrate countywide philosophy on DV services and polices
- ◆ Fully functioning and staffed Commission
- ◆ Expand into civil legal areas
- ◆ Commission housed in government
- ◆ Better coordination with multiple jurisdictions
- ◆ Name change
- ◆ Financial support from other government entities

Tom then provided participants with a structure for the strategic planning process.



Members were next asked: "what does success look like to me personally - why am I involved with the Commission?" Members discussed and provided their answers:

- ◆ Increase awareness of resources
- ◆ Duty to public
- ◆ Lessen pain in court room
- ◆ Help educate to stop DV
- ◆ Resources to do job better
- ◆ Integrate life experiences with victim support and services
- ◆ Be a voice for DV and the homeless
- ◆ Health of community, women and children - proactively / prevention
- ◆ Safer place for women and children
- ◆ Empowerment and safety of victim
- ◆ Systems throughout county in DV
- ◆ Communication and collaboration
- ◆ My own education and awareness translate to WWU community
- ◆ Personal values inline with my time/work
- ◆ Transition from reactive model to proactive/prevention model
- ◆ Share/give back to community - make difference
- ◆ Share expertise to make a difference

Commission members were asked to list constraints facing the Commission:

**Constraints**

- 1) limited resources
- 2) advisory role - define Commission
- 3) not policy making
- 4) no direct delivery of services
- 5) politically sensitive
- 6) community members - volunteer and government members - appointed based on jobs
- 7) no lead agency of organization
- 8) ordinance driven
  - member restrictions
- 9) Challenging topic - DV
- 10) Complex issue with multiple stake holders/ partners/ agencies
  - Urgency in community

Tom encouraged the Commission to consider these constraints as it looks ahead.

**6. Next Steps On Committee Priorities (Develop Committee Work Plans)**

Sue will put together a work plan for each committee and an overall Commission work plan.

**7. ADJOURN**

The meeting adjourned at 11:50 p.m.

**The next Commission Meeting will be April 8, 2003 from 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. at St. Luke’s Community Health Education Center, 3333 Squalicum Parkway, Bellingham, WA.**

Respectfully Submitted

Linda Ward  
Administrative Support

**MINUTES FOR THE  
BELLINGHAM-WHATCOM COUNTY COMMISSION  
AGAINST DOMESTIC VIOLENCE  
April 8, 2003**

- Members Attending:** Cynthia Bauleke, Jay Clements, Regina Delahunt, Burton Dickerson, William Elfo, Emil Hecht, Rebecca Johnson, Kathleen Marshall, Dave McEachran, Shannon Meyer, Michael Sledge, Linda Storck, Karen Summers, Kathy Washatka, Diane Wood
- Members Absent:** Dale Baker, Natalia Calhoun, Randy Carroll, George Godzik, Joan Hoisington, Carolyn Jensen, Jon Ostlund, Marty Snyder, Bruce Van Glubt
- Guests Attending:** Manca Valum, Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Services  
Melanie Engman, Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Services  
Erin McIlhany, Reg. Dir. of Planning & Business Dev. St. Joseph Hospital  
Mary Elizabeth Bisese, Pediatric Dentist
- Staff Attending:** Sue Parrott, Domestic Violence Commission Director  
Linda Ward, Administrative support

Kathy Washatka Vice Chair, called the April meeting of the Bellingham-Whatcom County Commission Against Domestic Violence to order at 10:10 a.m., Tuesday, April 8, 2003 at the **St. Luke's Community Health Education Center, 3333 Squalicum Parkway, Bellingham, WA.**

1. **Welcome to Annual Meeting, Review Agenda**  
Kathy Washatka welcomed all to the 2003 Annual Meeting. She gave a special welcome to Erin McIlhany and Mary Elizabeth Bisese as potential Commission members.
2. **Public Comment**  
None
3. **Domestic Violence Issues Presentation**  
***Teen Dating Violence Public Awareness Campaign and Youth/Adolescent Services***  
**Melanie Engman and Manca Valum, Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Services**

Manca Valum stated that Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Services' (DVSAS) teen program is prevention oriented, giving intervention and support when needed. The Doors of Hope grant gave DVSAS an opportunity to implement a campaign, "It's Not Love", which is designed to prevent teen abuse before it begins. The objective of the campaign is to help young people recognize that subtle control and jealousy are forms of domestic violence.

DVSAS campaign has 4 major components:

- ◇ Posters: "Jealousy It's Not Love", "Control Is Abuse", and "Forcing You...It's Abuse" are now posted in all Whatcom County Middle and High Schools.
- ◇ Bellis Fair Mall has a large display case with large posters.
- ◇ Posters are on bus boards on WTA buses on alternating routes around the county

◇ Television ads will be played through May with the same three themes.

Melanie Engman talked about the "Healthy Relationship" program that DVSAS has been presenting to 7<sup>th</sup> - 12<sup>th</sup> grade girls teaching them how to recognize the warning signs of domestic violence and the qualities of healthy relationships. Melanie reported that 25%-33% of teens are in abusive relationships. The "Healthy Relationship" program is held for 50-90 minutes once a week for 11 consecutive weeks. The first 5 weeks focus on learning to recognize abuse and dating violence. The last 5-6 weeks focus on skills of healthy relationships and boundary setting. Over the last two years the program has been held in 7 middle and high schools in 4 Whatcom County school districts, for a total of 15 groups.

4. Staff Report:

Handout: Key Commission Activities in 2003

Sue Parrott referred to the "Key Activities for 2003" handout and encouraged Commission members to use it as a resource to inform others of the work of the Commission.

Domestic Violence Safety Audit Update

Sue reported that the Safety Audit was the first one held on the West Coast and the 14<sup>th</sup> in the nation, which is a great accomplishment for Whatcom County.

Randy Carroll will be presenting the findings of the audit at the Bi-Annual Washington State Association of Sheriffs and Police Chiefs.

Praxis has asked to put our safety audit on their web site and use it as a training tool. As compensation they have waived Sue's fee for a week long Praxis Safety Audit Conference in May. The more training for staff the less the Commission will have to contract out for other audits.

Sue stressed that one of the Commission's goals for audit implementation should be to lay a firm foundation for future audits. How we proceed with the process is important. The audit is not just a tool it is also a philosophy.

Sue has met with each of the four audited systems to discuss how the Commission could help with implementation of the recommendations. Dispatch at his time has no written policy on how to question callers. Sue has a form from another 911 center to use as a starting point to help What-Comm develop their own form. What-Comm is holding a two-part domestic violence training for dispatchers in May.

5. **Consent Agenda**

**#03-02 MOTION: Shannon Meyer made the motion to accept the January 14, 2003 Commission Meeting minutes. Dave McEachran seconded the motion. It passed unanimously.**

6. **Committee Reports/Motions**

Executive Committee

Kathy Washatka gave the report

- Presentation of 2002 Annual Report  
The 2002 Annual Report was presented.
- Nomination of 2003-2004 Officers:

Kathy Washatka called for nominations from the floor. There were none.

**Recommend Following Slate of Officers:**

<b>Chair</b>	<b>Kathy Washatka</b>
<b>Vice-Chair</b>	<b>Randy Carroll</b>
<b>Secretary</b>	<b>Linda Storck</b>
<b>Treasurer</b>	<b>Bruce Van Glubt</b>
<b>Immediate Past Chair</b>	<b>Marty Snyder – election not required</b>

**#03-03 MOTION: Emil Hecht made the motion to accept the slate of officers. Dave McEachran seconded the motion. It passed unanimously.**

- 2003 Commission Meeting schedule change  
Due to a regular conflict with some Commission members the Commission Meetings have been moved to the third Tuesday of each quarter. The new schedule is included in the Commission packet. Commission members were asked to let Sue know if the change does not work with their schedules.
- 2003 Commission Meeting Training Topics  
The 2003 Commission Meeting Training Topics were reviewed.
- Recommendations for Current Vacancies:  
Erin McIlhany, Reg. Director of Planning & Business Development, St. Joseph Hospital  
Dr. Mary Elizabeth Bisese, Pediatric Dentist
- 2003 Budget  
There is \$7,000 available to the Commission that has not been formally allocated. Part of it will be used for DV Month and for sending Sue to the Safety Audit training in MN. The Executive Committee will present a formal budget amendment in June.
- Update on meetings with Mayor of Bellingham and County Executive  
Sue reported that the meetings with the Mayor and County Executive were very positive. Both indicated support for the Commission's work.

**Strategic Planning Committee**

Rebecca Johnson gave the report

- Update on Strategic Planning Process  
The Strategic Planning Committee has received all of the standing committee's SWOTs. The committee will use the SWOT to assist in identifying strategic issues and goals. All Commission members are welcome to attend the Strategic Planning Committee meeting.

**Victim and Children Support Committee**

Cynthia Bauleke gave the report

- Interfaith Coalition collaboration, letter to clergy  
The letter to clergy and community resource list will be mailed this month. Interfaith Coalition has agreed provide their mailing list.
- Presentation schedule and target audience  
Presentations are still being made on the Survey Project. Commission members are encouraged to let the committee know of other sites that would benefit from a presentation. Providers find the survey results very interesting and thought provoking.

**Law and Justice Committee**

Shannon Meyer gave the report

- Benchmarking progress  
The Commission reviewed the template for a benchmarking report.

- Safety Audit Implementation Quarterly Report  
The Safety Audit implementation quarterly report is designed to monitor safety audit implementation in the participating systems. A risk assessment sub-committee is being formed as a result of the audit recommendations.
- Domestic Violence Perpetrator Treatment Standard Evaluation update  
Sue audited all of the DV Perpetrator Treatment Providers and reported on their compliance with the standard evaluations. The Commission reviewed the Report on DV Perpetrator Treatment Provider Compliance with Standard Evaluation.

**#03-04 MOTION: Kathleen Marshall made the motion to approve the Report on Domestic Violence Perpetrator Treatment Provider Compliance with Standard Evaluation. Linda Storck seconded the motion. It passed unanimously.**

### **Outreach Committee**

Jay Clements gave the report

- Presentation schedule and target audience  
The Commission reviewed the presentation schedule. Presentations have been made to the city mayors and CEO's. The small city councils will be scheduled soon. The committee is looking for new sites that would benefit from presentations.
- Annual Report  
The 2002 Annual Report is completed and ready for distribution.
- Safety Audit press briefing  
The Commission reviewed the newspaper articles that covered the Safety Audit press briefings.
- City and County Council presentation schedule  
This April the Commission will make presentations to the Bellingham City Council both in the Committee meeting (April 14<sup>th</sup> at 3:00 p.m.) and at the public evening meeting. The County Council presentation will be at the Finance Committee Meeting April 22<sup>nd</sup> at 11:00 a.m. All Commission members were invited to attend to show support for the Commission.

### **7. Announcements, Issues & Updates**

Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Services "Victory over Violence" banquet will be April 8<sup>th</sup>. A table has been set up for the Commission and all members are welcome to attend.

### **8. Adjourn**

The meeting adjourned at 11:30 a.m.

**Next Meeting: Tuesday, June 17<sup>th</sup>, 2003, 10 am - noon**  
St. Luke's Community Health Education Center

**MINUTES FOR THE  
BELLINGHAM-WHATCOM COUNTY COMMISSION  
AGAINST DOMESTIC VIOLENCE  
June 17, 2003**

**Members Attending:** Dale Baker, Cynthia Bauleke, Natalia Calhoun, Regina Delahunt, Rebecca Johnson, Erin McIlhany, Michael Sledge, Marty Snyder, Bruce Van Glubt, Kathy Washatka, Diane Wood

**Members Absent:** Mary Elizabeth Bisese, Randy Carroll, Jay Clements, Burton Dickerson, William Elfo, George Godzik, Emil Hecht, Joan Hoisington, Carolyn Jensen, Kathleen Marshall, Dave McEachran, Shannon Meyer, Jon Ostlund, Linda Storck, Karen Summers

**Guests Attending:** Jeffrey Sawyer, Whatcom County Prosecutor's Office  
Jennifer Tepker, Bellingham Prosecutor's Office  
Lynn Barton, member of community

**Staff Attending:** Sue Parrott, Domestic Violence Commission Director  
Linda Ward, Administrative support

Kathy Washatka, Chair, called the June meeting of the Bellingham-Whatcom County Commission Against Domestic Violence to order at 10:10 a.m., Tuesday, June 17, 2003 at the **St. Luke's Community Health Education Center, 3333 Squalicum Parkway, Bellingham, WA.**

**1. Welcome to Meeting, Review Agenda**

Kathy Washatka welcomed Erin McIlhany, new Commission member, to her first meeting. Elizabeth Bisese, new Commission member, was unable to attend today.

**2. Public Comment**

None

**3. Domestic Violence Issues Presentation**

Criminal Prosecution of Misdemeanor and Felony Domestic Violence Cases  
Presenter Jeffrey Sawyer, Whatcom County Prosecutor's Office

Jeffrey provided an overview of how the Whatcom County Prosecutor's Office manages domestic violence cases. He identified four challenges.

One: Time, volume and procedures. Jeffrey described the process as generally reactive rather than proactive. The volume of cases, coupled with some internal and court procedures, create a situation where prosecutors are preparing for cases immediately before going to trial. This does not allow for a lot of contact with victims and witnesses. People are subpoenaed to a trial early on in the process due to current procedures. However, a high volume of cases are continued, with very short notice, so the subpoena process is repeated. When there is so little notice, victims and witnesses often end up in court unnecessarily. This also causes a time lag in case resolution. Jeffrey thought that 9 months might be an average time for a domestic violence case.

Two: Victims are not the best witnesses. Jeffrey described some of the challenges of working with domestic violence victims, specifically, the victims that are reluctant to testify against their abusers.

Three: Jurors. Jeffrey stated that jurors need more education on domestic violence. Their views on domestic violence can affect the outcome of a trial.

Four: Defense Attorneys. Jeffrey gave a number of examples where strategies by the defense bar create additional challenges for the prosecutors.

Jeffrey shared some upcoming changes in court procedures that will address some of the challenges. Trial confirmation will be required two weeks ahead of time, rather than the current situation of the Friday prior to a Monday trial. This change will allow for better trial preparation. The prosecutor's office will also be making some internal changes that will require the prosecutors to thoroughly review the case much earlier in the process.

#### **4. Staff Report:**

##### Domestic Violence Safety Audit Conference (May 19 – 23)

With so many Commission members absent Sue Parrott asked that her report on the Domestic Violence Safety Audit Conference be postponed until the September meeting.

##### DV Month Planning

Mona Locke has been invited to be the key speaker at the DV Month vigil. Her focus would be on children. The committee will not know until the end of July if her schedule will permit her to participate.

#### **5. Consent Agenda**

Due to the absence of a quorum the approval of April 8, 2003 Commission minutes will be on the September agenda.

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

##### Executive Committee

Bruce Van Gulbt gave the report

- Special Projects Funds Budget  
Bruce presented the special project funds budget as approved by the Executive Committee. The DV Month budget has been increased for the hiring of a DV Month Coordinator. The Coordinator will be responsible for setting up planning meetings and coordinating the planning process for all DV Month activities.
- Other Budget Issues (Revised 2003 and 2004)  
The budget for 2004 is a "bare bones" budget. To maintain current activities the Commission would be running at a deficit. Aside from salaries there is no place to cut the budget. The Executive Committee would like to ask the county to match the city's funding. Commission members present agreed with that strategy, but no official action could be taken.
- Plaque presented to DV Commission from DVSAS  
Kathy showed the plaque that was presented to the Commission in April by DVSAS.
- MOU with Praxis International  
The Executive Committee has given approval for an MOU with Praxis International giving them permission to post the Whatcom County Safety Audit results on their web site and

use redacted case files for training and research purposes. The city legal department is currently reviewing the MOU.

### Outreach Committee

Mike Sledge gave the report

- Presentation schedule update  
Twenty presentations have been made since January, including one to the medical society by Ione Adams.
- DV Month Budget and DV Month activities  
The Executive Committee has approved the DV Month Budget.
- Plan to print and distribute new edition of *Domestic and Dating Violence: A Resource Handbook*  
The Executive Committee has approved \$2,800 for the revision of the handbook provided the Outreach Committee raises funds for the printing. The goal is to have the new edition ready for distribution during DV Month.

### Strategic Planning Committee

Erin McIlhany gave the report

- Update on Strategic Planning Process  
Erin presented an update on the process to date. The committee presented five three-year goals, which were approved by the Executive Committee. Commission members present gave informal approval for the committee to continue work on the strategies for the five goals. The committee will develop strategies to be prioritized at the next Commission Meeting.

### Victim and Children Support Committee

Sue Parrott gave the report

- Interfaith Coalition collaboration, letter to clergy  
The Commission cosigned a letter with the Interfaith Coalition, which was sent to 150 clergy. It included information on DV and resource information.
- Presentation schedule update  
Presentations on the survey project are still in process
- Initial efforts to address R 64 (*explore ways to provide more immediate victim advocacy, support, and access to community services*) and R66 (*ground policy and practice in the expertise of domestic violence victims*) in Safety Audit Report  
The committee will begin work on these issues.

### Law and Justice Committee

Sue Parrott gave the report

- Safety Audit implementation Quarterly Reports  
The committee has reviewed the quarterly reports from the four systems that were audited. There has been phenomenal participation in attempts to implement the recommendations, however, some of the recommendations are being set aside due to lack of funding. The committee would like permission to send letters of commendation to lead staff in each of the five audited agencies (Bellingham Police Department, Community Volunteers Against Domestic Violence/DVSAS, What Comm, Whatcom County Jail, Whatcom County Sheriff's Office) to express appreciation for the good faith effort in implementation of safety audit recommendations. With no quorum present the issue will be taken to Executive due to timeliness.

- Benchmarking progress  
Sue Parrott has been working with Linda Storck to evaluate the best procedure for gathering useful and measurable statistics. The benchmarking “pyramid” was reviewed.
- Domestic Violence Perpetrator Treatment Standard Evaluation update  
Treatment providers are working on the recommendations.
- Presentation to Prosecutors and Public Defenders on Standard Evaluation  
A brown bag lunch presentation will be planned in the fall to educate the prosecutors and public defenders on the importance of a standard evaluation for domestic violence perpetrator treatment.

#### Risk Assessment Sub-Committee

The committee is working on a process to gather further risk assessment information from the victim. A form would be attached to the probable cause statement for the prosecutor, summarizing the potential risk information.

#### **7. Announcements, Issues & Updates**

Sue announced that DVSAS will be sponsoring a presentation by Dr. Jackie Campbell, Ph.D. from John Hopkins in October. The focus will be on the link between DV homicide and suicide.

#### **8. Adjourn**

The meeting adjourned at 11:55 a.m.

**Next Meeting: Tuesday, September 16th, 2003, 10 am - noon**  
St. Luke’s Community Health Education Center

**MINUTES FOR THE  
BELLINGHAM-WHATCOM COUNTY COMMISSION  
AGAINST DOMESTIC VIOLENCE  
September 16, 2003**

- Members Attending:** Mary Elizabeth Bisese, Randy Carroll, Jay Clements, Regina Delahunt, Burton Dickerson, George Godzik, Emil Hecht, Rebecca Johnson, Erin McIlhany, Shannon Meyer, Jon Ostlund, Michael Sledge, Marty Snyder, Linda Storck, Karen Summers, Kathy Washatka
- Members Absent:** Dale Baker, Cynthia Bauleke, Natalia Calhoun, William Elfo, Joan Hoisington, Carolyn Jensen, Kathleen Marshall, Dave McEachran, Bruce Van Glubt
- Guests Attending:** Mayor Mark Asmundson, Dick Henry, Corey Hodge
- Staff Attending:** Sue Parrott, Domestic Violence Commission Director  
Linda Ward, Administrative support  
Mary Rebar, DV Month Coordinator

Kathy Washatka, Chair, called the September meeting of the Bellingham-Whatcom County Commission Against Domestic Violence to order at 10:05 a.m., Tuesday, September 16, 2003 at the **St. Luke's Community Health Education Center, 3333 Squalicum Parkway, Bellingham, WA.**

**1. Welcome, Review Agenda**

Kathy welcomed all to the September Meeting. She offered a special welcome to Mayor Mark Asmundson and Dick Henry.

***Message/Welcome from Bellingham Mayor Mark Asmundson***

Mayor Asmundson expressed his appreciation for the work of the Commission. He gave a short history of the Commission, stating that he had been there at the genesis when over 100 people attended a meeting that was the catalyst for social change in our community. He expressed his concern that Commission members may not realize the positive changes they are making in the community. Success in any area is achieved by consistent/persistent effort. The mayor stated that the city will continue to support the Commission.

**2. Public Comment**

Corey Hodge, DVSAS informed the Commission members of the upcoming DVSAS sponsored workshop "Homicide, Suicide and Domestic Violence: The Lethal Connections" presented by Jacquelyn Campbell Ph.D., RN from Johns Hopkins University. The workshop will be held on October 24, 2003 from 8:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

**3. Domestic Violence Issues Presentation**

*Domestic Violence Safety & Accountability Audit Philosophy/Conference*

*Presenter: Sue Parrott*

Sue attended a one week Praxis Conference on how to conduct a safety audit. The group spent two days discussing the philosophy of a safety audit. An audit is essentially an ethnography - learning about what drives practitioners to act the way they do in various systems. An audit identifies problematic practices in the systems and explores the gaps between the "everyday" people and the institutional response (gaps in victim safety and

batterer accountability). The conference reviewed many ways to conduct text analysis, which is a true record of what is happening.

#### 4. **Staff Report:**

##### DV Month:

Mary Rebar, DV Month Coordinator gave the report

- New graphic designed by Terry Drussel
- Mary reviewed the events on the calendar – “Voice to End Violence” is an event put on by DV survivors
- The Body Shop at Bellis Fair Mall is collecting cell phones for victims
- Mary will be working closely with the women’s program at WWU
- A US Postal Stamp promoting the ending of family violence will be released the last day of October or the 1<sup>st</sup> day of November
- All Commission members will receive calendars, posters and buttons
- A recommendation was given to the DV Awareness Month Committee suggesting that a member of the community who has done outstanding work in domestic violence be honored each year.

##### Health Project:

Sue reported that Ilene Stohl has been hired through a St. Joseph grant to do some follow-up work from the survey on educating health care providers on DV screening. The grant includes money to design and distribute a tool to aid in DV screening. The tool will be determined by a health care stakeholder group.

##### Commission Co-Sponsorship of Oct. 21<sup>st</sup> Conference

The conference is geared toward courts and the legal community. Sue recommended that Commission members register early.

##### Coordinated Judicial Response (Law and Justice Council)

Sue reported that the committee is up and running again.

##### Domestic Violence Task Force Monthly Meetings

Sue is attending the meetings and finds them a good place to learn about issues facing domestic violence victims.

#### 5. **Consent Agenda**

Approve April 8, 2003 and June 17, 2003 Commission meeting minutes.

**#03-05 MOTION: Randy Carroll made the motion to accept the consent agenda. Shannon Meyer seconded the motion. It passed unanimously.**

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

##### Strategic Planning Committee

Erin gave an update on the Strategic Planning process. A survey with the five goals and suggested strategies compiled by the committee was sent to all Commission members. Erin stressed the importance of completing the survey to let the Executive Committee know what is important to the Commission over the next three years.

### Executive Committee:

Kathy Washatka gave the report

- The members reviewed the revised 2003 Budget/Special Projects Budget, which shows the money set aside for DV Awareness Month and the handbook.
- The 2004 Budget was also reviewed. The budget includes the extra \$7,000 the Commission hopes to receive from the County. Regina reported that the county budget may move the Commission funding from the Health Department budget to the Executive budget.
- The meeting the Executive Committee had with Pete Kremen & Dewey Desler was successful, as Pete agreed to support the request for a \$7,000 increase.
- Diane Wood resigned from the Commission. Cheri Kilty, Executive Director, Womenscare was recommended to the County Executive for appointment to fill the vacancy.
- A letter to the Whatcom County Council in support of expeditious action to build a temporary jail facility will be sent from the Commission once the land issue is decided.

### Law and Justice Committee

Shannon Meyer gave the report

- Data is still being collected for the benchmarking report. Commission members indicated support with the format of the current draft. It was suggested that benchmarking could also include age, gender, race, repeaters etc. This information could be gathered at a later date. The Commission also indicated that they would like to see disposition of DV cases by jurisdictions. Staff hopes to distribute the report in late October.
- Domestic Violence Perpetrator Treatment Standard Evaluation Recommendation Follow-up Report is on hold due to lack of quorum at meetings.
- The Risk Assessment Sub-Committee is finalizing its work.

### Outreach Committee

Jay Clements gave the report

- Jay reviewed the updated presentation schedule.
- The presentations seem to have a positive ripple effect on the community. They are definitely worth the time and effort.
- The second edition of the Domestic and Dating Violence: A Resource Handbook will be ready for distribution in October. Commission members were asked to make recommendations as to who should sign the cover letters. The members were also asked to help with the distribution of the handbooks to cut down mailing costs. Emil Hecht will check with the medical community about using their courier system.

### Victim and Children Support Committee

Sue Parrott gave the report

- Cindy Bauleke has agreed to chair the Victim & Children Support Committee.
- Northwest Regional Council Draft Area Plan 2004 – 2007 includes objectives and goals on elder abuse.

## **7. Announcements, Issues & Updates**

None

## **8. Adjourn**

The meeting adjourned at 12:00 pm

**Next Meeting: Tuesday, November 18th, 2003, 10 am - noon**  
St. Luke's Community Health Education Center

**MINUTES FOR THE  
BELLINGHAM-WHATCOM COUNTY COMMISSION  
AGAINST DOMESTIC VIOLENCE  
November 18, 2003**

**Members Attending:** Cynthia Bauleke, Jay Clements, Regina Delahunt, Burton Dickerson, William Elfo, Emil Hecht, Joan Hoisington, Carolyn Jensen, Cheri Kilty, Dave McEachran, Shannon Meyer, Michael Sledge, Linda Storck, Karen Summers, Bruce Van Glubt

**Members Absent:** Dale Baker, Mary Elizabeth Bisese, Natalia Calhoun, Randy Carroll, George Godzik, Rebecca Johnson, Kathleen Marshall, Erin McIlhany, Jon Ostlund, Marty Snyder, Kathy Washatka

**Guests Attending:** Marla Bronstein, Northwest Youth Services

**Staff Attending:** Sue Parrott, Domestic Violence Commission Director  
Linda Ward, Administrative support

Jay Clements, Education-Outreach Committee Chair, called the November meeting of the Bellingham-Whatcom County Commission Against Domestic Violence to order at 10:05 a.m., Tuesday, November 18, 2003 at the St. Luke's Community Health Education Center, 3333 Squalicum Parkway, Bellingham, WA.

**1. Welcome, Review Agenda**

Jay welcomed all to the November Meeting.

**2. Public Comment**

Bill Elfo commented on the status of the proposed minimum-security jail as it related to the City Council's consideration of a rezone of properties in the Irongate Industrial Area. The Commission decided to put the topic on the agenda for discussion.

**3. Domestic Violence Issues Presentation**

**Presenter: Sue Parrott**

Marriage Promotion – Federal Policies

Sue reported on a workshop she attended at the annual Washington State Coalition Against Domestic Violence conference; the workshop was titled "Marriage Promotion, Fatherhood and Domestic Violence: A Call for Critical Thinking". The workshop explored pending federal legislation regarding reauthorization of TANF (Temporary Aid for Needy Families), and specifically, it explored the impacts of proposed changes on victims of domestic violence. Sue also introduced a worksheet that can be used to evaluate any policy (federal or local) on its impacts to victims of domestic violence. She stated that the Commission should always consider impacts of local policy change on victims.

TANF was originally approved in 1996 and is now up for re-authorization. The House has passed a bill for re-authorization, but the Senate version has not been passed. A vote is expected in the spring of 2004.

H.R.4 amends one of TANF's four goals to read:

1996 bill: Encourage the formation and maintenance of two-parent families

Proposed bill: encourage the formation and maintenance of healthy two-parent married families and responsible fatherhood.

Up until now, states have not been required to implement the goal noted above, however the current House re-authorization bill will require states to implement the proposed goal and will require measurable ways to show achievement.

The thinking behind the bill seems to be the assumption that married families will reduce dependency on welfare.

The primary concerns of domestic violence advocates and agencies are:

- How will “healthy” be defined?
- Will clients be sanctioned if they do not cooperate, chose to stay single, etc?
- How will this affect a victim of domestic violence who is thinking about leaving a relationship, yet needs welfare?
- Will domestic violence be screened for in the process of offering some of the funded services, such as marriage promotion and divorce reduction classes?
- What are the opportunities here, such as funding for education on healthy relationships? How might domestic violence agencies use this as an opportunity?
- How will success of marriage promotion programs be defined?
- How can we ensure that domestic violence programs are at the table and participate in the programs that are funded by TANF?
- Will the bill further stigmatize single parents?

Overall, domestic violence advocates want to ensure a “do no harm” threshold. Another reason for this concern is that a significant percent of TANF clients report current domestic violence in their intimate relationships.

Throughout the presentation the opportunities and threats of the pending legislation were explored.

#### **4. Staff Report:**

Sue Parrott gave the staff report.

##### Report on Conference Participation

Sue reported that most Whatcom County Judges and Commissioners were present at the October 21<sup>st</sup> "Domestic Violence Impact on Children: State & Tribal Response" Conference. Sue gave the committee an outline of the conference. The October 24<sup>th</sup> Jackie Campbell Conference, which focused on a dangerousness assessment tool, was also very informative with an excellent turnout.

##### Another View Column

Sue referenced the article she wrote for the Another View Column in the Herald.

#### **5. Consent Agenda**

**#03-06 MOTION: Carolyn Jensen made the motion to accept the consent agenda. Shannon Meyer seconded the motion. It passed unanimously.**

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

##### Executive Committee:

Linda Storck gave the report

##### Strategic Planning

Erin McIlhany compiled the 22 completed surveys returned by Commission members. The committee analyzed the information and discussed the possible ways to use the information to

set strategies for the Commission's five goals. The Strategic Planning Committee has completed its work and has turned over its recommendations to the Executive Committee. The Executive Committee is now working on prioritizing the strategies into one, two, and three-year goals, along with proposals for committee structure. The goal is to have a strategic plan ready for the January Commission Retreat.

#### January 20, 2003 Retreat

The Retreat will be held Tuesday January 20, 2003, from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. at the Municipal Court Fireplace Room. At the Retreat the Commission will work on its 1-year work plan in committees. All Commission members will receive a copy of the Strategic Plan before the Retreat. Commission members will also be asked to select a committee for 2004; the current structure may change depending on 2004 strategies.

#### 2004 Budget Status

Bruce Van Glubt reported that Whatcom County has now matched the funding from the City of Bellingham (\$44,500). The County funding is now in the Executive's budget. A portion of the county's allocation is an "Additional Service Request", which means it could receive extra scrutiny in the budget process. Bruce suggested that the Commission address this over the next year.

#### Recommendations for Reappointments to the Commission

Linda referred to the November Executive Committee Minutes.

#### Small City Caucus Vacancy

The Commission thanked Carolyn Jensen for her hard work on the Commission. A replacement will be selected by the Small City Caucus.

#### New Member Training

This will be discussed at another time.

#### 2004 Meeting Schedule

**#03-07 MOTION: Karen Summers made the motion to accept the 2004 Meeting Schedule. Carolyn Jensen seconded the motion. It passed unanimously.**

#### Law and Justice Committee

Shannon Meyer and Sue Parrott gave the report

#### Update on DV Perpetrator Treatment Standard Evaluation

Sue gave an overview of the follow-up report. At this time the treatment providers have decided to use different tests for the same domains. They are currently using the condensed intake document.

**#03-08 MOTION: Dave McEachran made the motion to approve the Update on Recommendations including the current practices of domestic violence perpetrator treatment providers. Emil Hecht seconded the motion. The motion passed with Shannon Meyer abstaining.**

#### Benchmarking Report progress

Sue reported the Benchmarking Report is almost complete. There have been problems in gathering consistent statistics, however, this report will be used as a baseline for future compilations.

### Update on Washington State Center for Court Research Project

The MOU's are close to completion.

### Risk Assessment Sub-Committee progress

Sue Parrott and Shannon Meyer have been training the Bellingham Police Department on risk assessment. Bill Elfo stated that when the Whatcom County Sheriff's Office schedules its training they will invite all of the small cities to participate. The Risk Assessment Sub-committee may be reconvened to look at risk assessment in additional areas, now that law enforcement has completed its work on risk assessment.

### Safety Audit Second Quarter Progress Reports

The reports will be reviewed in December.

### **County Jail Discussion - Added to Agenda from Public Comment**

Bill Elfo reported that if the jail site is not approved at this time, it would need to be postponed to September 2004 due to the city schedule for zoning changes. After a short discussion Commission members decided that it would be appropriate to send a letter to the City supporting the Planning Commission's recommendation to rezone property in the Irongate Industrial Area in order to build a minimum-security jail and mental health triage center on the proposed site.

**#03-09 MOTION: Cynthia Bauleke made the motion that a letter be sent to the Mayor and all Bellingham City Council members, and a press release to the press, supporting the Planning Commission's recommendation to rezone property in the Irongate Industrial Area in order to build a minimum-security jail and mental health triage center on the proposed site. The letter should indicate the need for expeditious action and the impact of jail overcrowding on domestic violence victims and offenders. Carolyn Jensen seconded the motion. The motion passed with Joan Hoisington and Linda Storck abstaining.**

### **Outreach Committee**

Mike Sledge gave the report

### Presentation Schedule Update

The Commission reviewed the presentation schedule.

### DV Month Review

DV Month was very successful. The DV Month Planning Committee will be meeting later in the week to review the month's activities and make recommendations for next year.

### Distribution of Second Edition *Domestic and Dating Violence: A Resource Handbook*

Sue reported that the handbook is currently on the Bellingham Police website and approximately 2,500 hard copies have been distributed. Sue read a few letters thanking the Commission for the handbook.

### Meeting with Whatcom County Sheriff and Police Chiefs - DV Tragedy

The Commission reviewed the letter sent to the Sheriff and Police Chiefs, outlining the Commission's offer to work with local law enforcement in a public response to a domestic violence tragedy.

**Victim and Children Support Committee**

Cynthia Bauleke gave the report

Initial Efforts to Address R66

The efforts are moving slowly.

Health Care Project Update

A focus group of healthcare providers has been formed and has provided input on ways to increase routine domestic violence screening by providers.

**7. Announcements, Issues & Updates**

None

**8. Adjourn**

The meeting adjourned at 11:45 a.m.

**Next Meeting: Retreat, Tuesday, January 20, 2004, 8:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. at the Municipal Court  
Fireplace Room**